

Food Security Cluster

Phase-Two Capacity Building Workshop

For Response Analysis Project

6 & 7 May 2015

Workshop Summary

INTRODUCTION

As part of its capacity building mandate, the Food Security Cluster (FSC) requested REACH to develop an initiative that builds the cluster partners' capacities to better link Food Security analysis to response. Thanks to USAID/OFDA's funding, this project seeks to make concrete improvements to Food Security Response Analysis in Somalia, by linking field-level inputs to cluster decisions through a highly consultative field-level process. The project is supervised and implemented by the REACH Somalia country team of assessment and information management experts and benefits from the support of experts from the REACH Global team, the FSC, and a working group.

BACKGROUND

This five-phase pilot project, "Response Analysis Capacity Building of Food Security Cluster Partners in Gedo", aims to strengthen the capacities of government and humanitarian actors within Gedo to effectively and efficiently respond to Food Security situations within Gedo Region and, more specifically, Dolow District. Despite Dolow District's long standing government, UN and NGO operation, the Food Security situation in Dolow has remained stagnant across consecutive assessments; as such, Gedo was identified as the pilot area for this project. REACH and the FSC are fulfilling a common objective aiming to enhance the efficiency of the existing Response Analysis procedure in Gedo with the aim to improve the Food Security response. The focus of these capacity building efforts will be to link forecasting & scenario building to Response Analysis.

The project will work through a five-phase approach:

1. **February 2015** – Review the post-Deyr assessment, conduct response planning and determine ways forward for the upcoming post-Gu assessment.
2. **May 2015** – Prepare for post-Gu assessment through review of gap analysis and prepare qualitative data collection during Gedo regional-level assessment.
3. **July 2015** – Review Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and provide contextual insight before regional analysis for FSC Gedo focal point to transmit to Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit's (FSNAU) seasonal analysis and vetting in Hargeisa.
4. **July/August 2015** – Send Gedo FSC focal point to participate in FSNAU seasonal analysis and vetting in Hargeisa.
5. **September 2015** – Conduct in-depth response planning and scenario building from post-Gu assessment through incorporation of inputs from previous two workshops.

Objectives of overall project:

1. Increase capacity of local government and humanitarian actors to plan, prepare for, and withstand Food Security shocks and stresses;
2. Create ownership and increased capacity of humanitarian structures to plan and support coordination of Response Analysis; and,

3. Enhance Food Security partners' capacities to coordinate and respond to localised Food Security situations.

A final report, derived from the phases of workshops, will present and discuss lessons learned during the workshops and potential ways forward for Response Analysis at the district and regional level. The presentation of the report aims to trigger concrete discussion on Response Analysis that will be followed by commitments of the stakeholders in order to enhance the coordination mechanism in Gedo and to trigger interest in donors to further support context specific Response Analysis tool and methodology enhancement. The second workshop will feed into the project through providing partners with the technical capacities to conduct qualitative data, therefore, directly feeding into the 2015 post-Gu seasonal assessment.

Objectives of second workshop:

1. Increase capacity of local government and humanitarian actors to plan, prepare for, and withstand Food Security shocks and stresses;
2. Create ownership and increased capacity of humanitarian structures to plan and support coordination of Response Analysis;
3. Enhance Food Security partners' capacities to coordinate and respond to localised Food Security situations; and,
4. Support participants' abilities to plan, prepare for, and withstand Food Security data collection and management.

Outputs of second workshop:

1. Prepare for post-Gu assessment through review of gap analysis from the February Response Analysis workshop;
2. Prepare Gedo partners to collect quality qualitative and quantitative data in accordance to FSC, FSNAU, FEWS NET and WFP best practices; and
3. Improve ability to transfer contextual information to support post-Gu and future seasonal assessments.

PARTICIPANTS' EXPECTATIONS

After a presentation of the workshop aims and approach, a plenary discussion highlighted the identified needs and expected outcomes of workshop participants. Participants were asked to write and post their expectations onto a board at the back of the room to be used as a reference throughout the workshop. This activity was important to support participants' voices and ensuring their inputs were considered in tailoring the workshop. The group revisited the expectations at the end of the second day to review which expectations were or were not met and what should be prioritized for the following workshop in July. The main expectations were:

1. To understand the humanitarian programme cycle and its relation to agency project cycles and types of assessments;
2. To understand more about Response Analysis in general, and how Food Security and Response Analysis fit into inter-sectoral programme cycles;
3. To understand how project monitoring and indicators are integrated at each stage of the project cycle;
4. To engage in the direct practice of qualitative data from Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII);
5. To be able to effectively utilize data collected for resource acquisition and project implementation; and,
6. To improve inter-agency information and knowledge sharing.

REVIEW OF RESPONSE ANALYSIS AND PRIOR RESPONSE ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

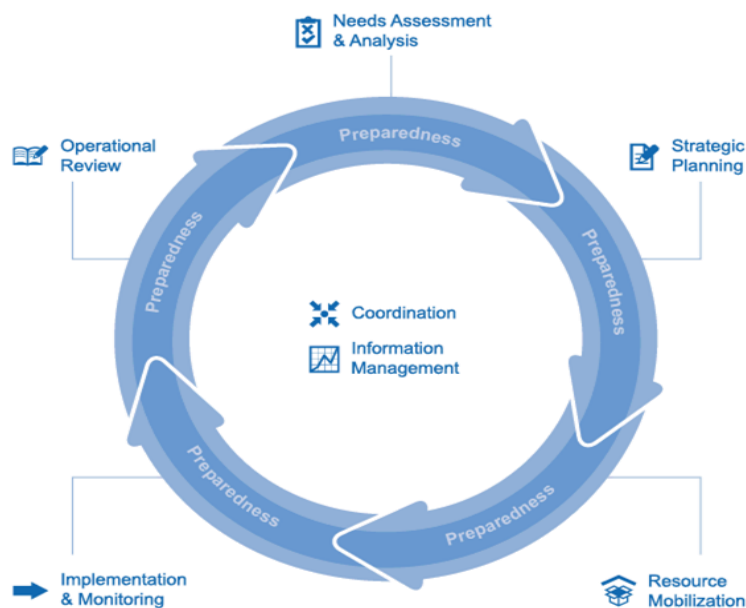
To promote comparable understanding on Response Analysis, REACH provided a review of the prior workshop's presentation on Response Analysis and its implications at agency and cluster levels. As the focus of the May workshop was to support the provision of a quality foundation in understanding qualitative data collection for the upcoming seasonal analysis, it was emphasized to participants that Response Analysis can only be as good as its situational analysis (which is determined by the type and quality of data collected). The presentation further elaborated on the idea that an accurate assessment of needs by itself does not necessarily imply the appropriate response, but rather should be used in conjunction with other available and relevant data and contextual insight. Plenary discussions focused on the importance of Response Analysis at the field level and its impact on the seasonal assessment and overall knowledge within Gedo. Participants were also able to share some of the challenges they face in collecting data, generally, and integrating field knowledge into larger assessments.

Participants were also provided a brief review of phases of IPC to ensure the foundational knowledge by all participants of the phases and their rationales. Participants were also provided an explanation on how IPC informs the cluster's target response, strategic objectives, and priority outcomes. It is, however, worth noting that many participants in the February and May workshops expressed an interest to receive an intensive IPC training. This project hopes to provide a 2-day training on IPC at the end of July.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE

Given the limited knowledge of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), participants were first provided a general introduction to humanitarian space, and humanitarian space affects the HPC. Of the most interest to participants was learning how resource mobilization relates to the various stages of the HPC and how field level contributions affect outcomes across stages.

Figure I: Humanitarian Programme Cycle



Different types and features of assessments were explained to the participants, which opened up dialogue on their strengths and challenges throughout the programme cycle. Participants felt a large disconnect between field and capital offices, including a lack of understanding of the rationale behind some assessments. Participants discussed ways in which they could better target their data collection to be of the most use, including improving data collection coordination and determining key objectives and relevant indicators.

CURRENT DATA COLLECTION AT AGENCY LEVEL

After the HPC presentation and a review of assessment types, participants were split into groups to discuss their own agencies' data collection mechanisms and triggers. As seen in Annex III, participants disaggregated assessments by type of assessment, source of data, purpose of data collection, and sharing platforms. The aim was to get a better understanding of the different data captured by agencies and to discuss the potential for coordination and information sharing.

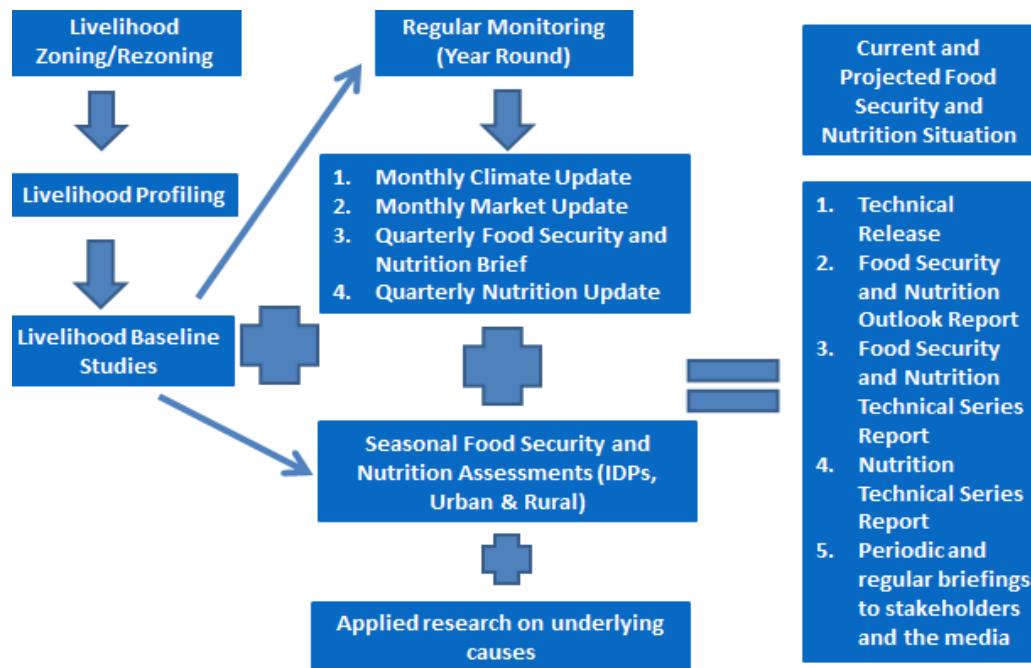
Currently, the sharing of data is limited to donors, project stakeholders, the FSC, and government, as necessary. While many of the assessments discussed were agency specific (i.e. registration, monitoring, evaluation, etc.), information from ongoing data collection could be shared for the benefit of the Food Security community (i.e. crop yield assessments, market data evaluations, etc.). Participants explained that data was often not shared for fear of competition amongst agencies. However, Participants expressed interest in receiving information from relevant assessments. Therefore, while participants expressed their apprehension toward sharing data, they were in agreement that a way forward for information sharing should be determined. Further discussions should be held between partners to support their ability to share information without jeopardizing agency implementation.

Participants indicated that most data collection is done to meet minimum donor criteria at the onset of project implementation. Several forms of contextual or qualitative data collection are often ongoing at the agency level (crop assessments, harvest assessments, etc.) and participants expressed an interest in sharing those findings between Food Security actors in Gedo. However, this information is done very much on an ad hoc and ill-trained manner. While REACH/FSC Response Analysis project touches on qualitative data collection, a robust data collection training would need to occur to improve the synchronicity and validity of this data collected.

FSNAU AND FEWS NET APPROACH

A presentation on FSNAU and FEWSNET's overall approach and outputs supported participants' capacities to connect field-level data collection to strategic outcomes. The review included a synopsis on how, why and when various types of data are collected and to inform what purpose. FSNAU's nutrition focal point in Gedo also presented in detail on the process and uses of the seasonal nutritional assessments; this presentation helped clarify the linkages between Food Security and nutrition (as this was a key point raised by participants during the first workshop) through reviewing the overlaps of nutrition and Food Security data collection and the implications for both sectors.

Figure II: FSNAU Approach



As many participants had not accessed FSNAU's website, participants were particularly engaged in reviewing FSNAU's core indicators and tools to see how their agencies could best complement the indicators and tools with their agencies' interests needs. Given the limited time of the workshop and scope of the project, participants focused on qualitative indicators and tools for crop and pastoral FDG and KII data capture. See Annex IV for the participants' expansion on some of FSNAU's indicators.

During the group work session, participants aimed to expand indicators to be specific and measurable at the agency level. Through presentation and discussion, participants were able to build consensus and summarize their core indicators. Participants agreed that much of the information relevant to their identified indicators could be captured through FSNAU's crop and pastoral FDG and KII tools, and while the qualitative information gathered should be entered into the FSNAU database, the information collected through these tools can have broader outcomes beyond the seasonal assessment. Participants discussed the benefits of improved collaboration and coordination of data collection, particularly in areas of multiple agency presence. It is hoped that the upcoming post-Gu data collection will inform how best to coordinate this data collection and support collaborative contextual analysis in July, before the regional and all-teams analysis.

DIRECT PRACTICE OF QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

After a review of the factors that may affect data collection (security, access, capacity, and availability of resources), participants reviewed the potential uses of qualitative data collection within Gedo. Through several practical exercises, participants reviewed and practiced conducting qualitative data collection using several FSNAU tools (crop and pastoral FDG guides). Given the limited time of the workshop, the practice should not be seen as a comprehensive training for participants, although it did afford them with tailored training which will provide act as a foundation for the upcoming FSNAU training for the post-Gu data collection. Participants committed to being able to support the FSNAU qualitative data

collection in June/July. Additionally, this training provided participants with the improved ability to provide direct contextual insight for the upcoming seasonal assessment.

LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As this project is the first of its kind within Gedo and the FSC, there were notable limitations of the project and ways to strengthen the workshops:

- Not all of the participants attended the first workshop, so a brief review of the first workshop was presented in order to support a foundational knowledge of Response Analysis. This was done through an overview of the process involved rather than an in-depth activity.
- More time to focus on the intricacies of Response Analysis would have likely yielded greater comprehension on the Response Analysis process; however, the focus of this workshop was on technical training related to qualitative data capture and an in-depth and inter-sectoral Response Analysis is planned for August.
- Response Analysis is ideally conducted with a wide-range of stakeholders, while this workshop was comprised of Food Security actors and two nutrition specialists. The upcoming and final workshop of this five-phased project will aim to integrate a larger pool of participants.
- Improved integration of the local government would support the sustainability of these efforts. It is worth noting that a representative of the local government was present for the first half of the second day. The FSC and REACH will continue efforts to engage the government in this project to increase the government's capacities and support the project's sustainability.
- To improve the efficacy of the entire Response Analysis continuum, further efforts should be made to integrate contingency planning within the project, including a review of ongoing contingency planning efforts within Gedo.
- Further workshops should consider including sessions on theory of change so that participants can analyse gaps and inform future responses.

WAYS FORWARD

This was the second-phase of the five-phase approach, with three more elements of the project to be conducted later in 2015. The next workshop will review the qualitative data collected from partners for the post-Gu assessments and collate contextual insight to inform the regional analysis in Hargeisa. This contextual insight will be informed through conducting a gap analysis and providing IPC training to participants. The FSC and REACH will continue to work closely with FSNAU and FEWS NET to support the improved integration of Gedo stakeholders in the upcoming post-Gu seasonal assessment.

These workshops should be seen as part of a cumulative process, and it is imperative that the same participants attend the forthcoming workshops to promote collective capacity building of Food Security actors in Gedo to conduct Response Analysis activities. However, it is well-noted that not all stakeholders are able to attend each workshop, and all efforts will be made to allow relevant and interested stakeholders to participate in the upcoming workshops.

Annex I: Attendance List

Name	Organization	Email
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Annex II: Agenda

Time	Activity
Wednesday 6th May 2015	
8.30 – 9.00 am	Welcoming and reception
9.00 – 9.30 am	Participant introduction
	Review of project and past workshop
9.30 – 10.00 am	Objective and overview of the workshop
	General remarks and expectations
10.00 – 10.15 am	Review of FSNAU recommendations from first workshop and plenary discussion
Coffee break	
10:30 – 11:30 am	Introduction to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle
	Plenary discussion on the role of various data collection mechanisms throughout the
11.30 – 12.00 pm	Review of FSC Response Analysis
12.00 – 12.45pm	Overview of FSNAU process and timeline
	Plenary discussion of how to best provide contextual insight for Gedo post-Gu
Lunch break	
02.00 – 03.45 pm	Review of FSNAU tools and key indicators
	Plenary discussion of key indicators and replicability at field agency level
	Group work session: Expand upon FSNAU core indicators to determine specific and key
Coffee break	
04.00 – 04.55 pm	Group work session: Brainstorming on how agencies can better incorporate indicators in
04.55 – 05.00 pm	Review and planning
Thursday 7th May 2015	
09.00 – 10.00 am	Purpose of decision tree for data collection mechanisms
	Group work and plenary discussion: Draft decision tree
10:00 – 11:00 am	Introduction to qualitative data collection – practicalities, implications, uses
Coffee break	
11.15 – 12.45 pm	Best Practices: Qualitative data collection
	Group work: Direct practice of qualitative data collection through FGD
	Plenary discussion: Lessons learned from direct practice
Lunch break	
02.00 – 02.30 pm	Qualitative data collection considerations
02.30 – 03.15 pm	Group work: Direct practice of qualitative data collection through FGD
	Plenary discussion: Lessons learned from direct practice
03.15 – 03.30 pm	Group work session: Brainstorming on how agencies can better incorporate indicators in
3.30 – 3.45 pm	Reporting and analysing qualitative data
3.45 – 4.00 pm	Review of the action points, workshop evaluation and closing remarks

Annex III: Agency on-going and planned data collection

What type of data	Qualitative/ Quantitative	When	Purpose of collection	Shared with whom	Agency
Baseline survey	Both	Before the start of a project	-To understand the needs of the community -To know existing gap	-Donors -SMT -Project stakeholders -Local Authorities	Joint (FSC)
Mid term evaluation	Quantitative	At middle of a project	To measure the impact of the project	- Donors -SMT -Project stakeholders	All agencies involved in implementing project
Short term evaluation	Quantitative	At the end of a project/ program	To measures the effectiveness ,efficiency and impact outcomes	-Funding agency -Project stakeholders	All agencies
Crop yield assessment	Both	During harvesting	-To know the performance of farming season -To measure expected yield	- Funding agency -Donors	FAO
PDM	Both	After distribution of seeds	To evaluate the impact of distribution	-Funding agency -Donors	All agencies
Season assessment	Both	Gu and Deyr	-To know rain performance -To identify needs and gaps	-Donors -FSC -Project stakeholders	All agencies
Periodic agency assessment	Both	-Monthly -Weekly -Quarterly review	-To measure success of the project -To identify risks -For activity follow-up and verification	-PM -M&E officers -SMT	All agencies
Situation assessment	Qualitative	When an emergency occur	-To know the level of the Food Security and nutrition -To know hh consumption score - For situation analyses -To assess the priority and gaps	-FSNAU -OCHA -FSC -Project stakeholders	All agencies
Rapid assessment	Qualitative	When an emergency occur		-FSNAU -OCHA -FSC -Project stakeholders -Donors	Joint(FSC),Community /Local authority
Market data	Qualitative and Quantitative	-Monthly - Quarterly -During emergency -Yearly	Project based	-Local authorities -Project stakeholders -Ministries -Cluster partners	All agencies

Annex IV: Expansion on FSNAU indicators (FSNAU indicators bolded, participant indicators bulleted)

Agriculture

Seasonal and off-season crop harvest estimates

- Number of Hectares planted during season, by crop type
- % of Hectares cultivated during season, by crop type
- % of crops infected by pests and decrease, by type and location

Annual Cereal Balance

- Number of cereal stock (in metric tons) available in the store
- % change in cereal stock in store
- %/number of households with access to food, by season and type

Cereal Market Price (major markets)

- % change in cereal price in the market
- %/number of cereal available, by source
- % change in sales for crop in the market, by type
- % change/cost of inputs

Rainfall monitoring in major growing areas

- Amount, timing and distribution of rainfall, by area
- %/number of farmers prepared to cultivate their farms within expected timing
- Number of floods/droughts, by location and timing

Pastoralism/Livestock

Seasonal migration

- % /number of livestock migrated between designated points
- % /number of livestock which diverted from typical migration patterns, by location and type
- % of livestock death, by type and reason

Livestock market price (major markets)

- % change in livestock price, by type
- % change in availability of livestock on the market, by type

Livestock export figures

- % change in livestock export, by type, reason and location
- % change in rate of exchange, by type (currency or Terms of Trade (ToT))

Rainfall monitoring in major grazing areas

- % change in rainfall
- % variation in expected rainfall, by location
- % variation in rainfall timing, by location
- Number of rainfall crises reported, by type and location

Market Analyses

Prices of major imported commodities

- %/number of commodities imported, by type and location
- % change in imports, by type and location
- % change in price of commodities

Terms of Trade analysis

- % change in ToT, by type and location
- % change in labour wages
- Primary mode of exchange

Currency exchange rates calculations

- % change in currency exchange rate, by currency and location

Annex V: REACH/FSC Response Analysis Project - Area of Partner Presence

