

“Linking Short and Long Term Food Security: Humanitarian and Development Perspectives”

BACKGROUNDER ON HC/FSPG EVENT MORNING PANEL

Many actors (Canadian and international NGOs, Canadian government, multilateral agencies, national governments) are involved in both humanitarian relief and long term development, but it is often different departments of each organization carrying out each set of activities. Those involved in long term development may see disasters building, but may have little ability to prepare or respond. When a disaster occurs and humanitarian actors get involved, their immediate goal is saving lives and they are not always well placed to consider long term solutions.

This lack of integration between relief work and development work was evident most recently in the 2011 Horn of Africa crises, and it raises several questions that are relevant in other regions of the world:

- What can development actors do to reduce the risk and impact of disasters?
- What can humanitarian actors do to facilitate, or at the very least, do no harm to, long term development?
- How can NGOs, donors and multilateral agencies best support national governments to ensure long term food security for their citizens?

Panel background

This panel builds on ongoing work by the FSPG to facilitate a dialogue between the Canadian humanitarian and development community, on the issues of better integration and/or transitions between short term and long term approaches to food security. This event will make a significant contribution to this ongoing dialogue and as such, is designed to focus on the ‘in-between spaces’, the largely artificial ‘space’ between humanitarian and development action, particularly in regions/areas that experience chronic food and nutrition insecurity, like the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

Objective

This event aims to facilitate dialogue between participants on key priority food security issues from humanitarian and development perspectives to further bridge the knowledge gap between actors, share best practice and identify any collective priorities.

Three key questions that the morning panel will try to answer/ reflect upon:

1. What approaches can most effectively coordinate food assistance and long term approaches to food security (and livelihoods) in chronically food insecure countries?
2. What are the enabling conditions required to transition from food assistance to long term food security and sustainable livelihoods? What can we do to help build those conditions during or after a crisis?
3. How can humanitarian actors best leverage existing development programs, or national safety net / social protection programs, to promote best humanitarian outcomes?

Event Format

- 3 case studies from development practitioners (each presenter should focus on answering key questions, from a development perspective) (1 hour) – FSPG
- 3 case studies from humanitarian practitioners (1 hour) (each presenter should focus on answering key questions, from a humanitarian perspective) – HC
- ‘Small group’ discussions on key questions (if possible—this is where the dialogue happens. Each small group should contain a mix of humanitarian and development actors

Case Study Outlines

“Building Resilience in the Sahel”: The Need for a Change in Approach

Presented by: Miriam Booy, Regional Program Manager: East Africa, World Vision Canada.

How development programs responded differently than in the past to the 2012 food crisis in Niger and how the overall approach to development programming in Niger is changing to be more risk-averse, adaptable, seasonal, collaborative, and focused on building resilience. Will also highlight challenges still faced and lessons learned.

From Emergency to Long Term Programming Interventions – CHF’s Approach to Building Resiliency

Presented by: Sohel Khan, Climate Change Specialist, CHF Partners

Through the sustainable livelihoods approach, CHF works with smallholder farmers around the world to improve their resiliency in the face of challenges brought on climate change. Although most of CHF’s programming is longer term, we have also worked in countries following natural disasters, such as droughts, floods and earthquakes. CHF will compare two case studies -- one programming intervention from a slow onset settings (Ethiopia) and one from a rapid onset setting (Pakistan).

Benishangul Gumuz Food Security and Economic Growth Project (Ethiopia)

Presented by: Cristy McLennan, Program Manager, Humanitarian and Emergency Response, Save the Children Canada

Save the Children is the lead agency for a six-member consortium of Canadian NGOs that aims to directly reach 20,500 households in Ethiopia. The project’s objective is to improve household food security and strengthen economic growth in a way that equally benefits women and men. This case study will outline how the project has dealt with several emergencies it has faced in the recent years, including drought-related migration, building of dams and villagization.

Pakistan Sunflowers: Out-of-the-box programming in Early Recovery

Presented by: Plan Canada (person TBC)

In response to the monsoon flooding in 2011, Plan Pakistan worked with FAO to implement an innovative early recovery intervention of rehabilitation of livelihoods through sunflower production. Sunflower seeds can be planted between the two main traditional cropping periods and yield high incomes compared to traditional crops. Plan worked with a value chain approach linking the beneficiary farmers with industry and markets. After earlier challenges to obtain funding for recovery programs, sunflowers are now a ‘hot commodity’ in the transition between relief and recovery.

Meeting short-term needs, while working towards a long-term impact: CARE Ethiopia's Chronically Food Insecure Rural Women Program

Presented by: Jessie Thomson, Director, Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Team, CARE Canada

Recognizing that short-term project-based approaches are, in most cases, an ineffective medium for achieving sustainable impacts for Chronically food insecure rural women (CFIRW), CARE has identified this target group as central to its overall programming in Ethiopia. CARE has sought to continue to target CFIRW in the context of its emergency response programming, including through the provision of emergency food aid, emergency nutrition and recovery programs, integration with other long term interventions such as emergency seed and small ruminants distribution and Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and PSNP+ programs, and strong linkages to preparedness measures by CARE and community groups including saving groups, asset creation groups, crisis modifier and contingency plans.

Cash Transfers in Niger and Mali - Lessons for the future from Oxfam's Sahel food crisis response (2011-2012)

Presented by: Ann Witteveen, Humanitarian Manager, Oxfam Canada

The presentation focuses on Oxfam's cash responses in Niger and Mali. Specifically, it will look at the design and implementation of cash for work and unconditional cash grants and their potential to contribute to resilience.