

# ROSA Newsletter

## Views on current news: Updating the CFA: Main challenges and the way forward

The Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) was developed by the High Level Task Force (HLTF)<sup>1</sup> as a means for building a coordinated response by the UN System and partners to the food price crisis in 2008. This document is being updated to take better account of all the dimensions of food security and changes in context. In January 2010, a consultation process was launched to collect input from a wide range of stakeholders. As part of this process, the Dublin meeting held on 17 and 18 May was an opportunity to exchange views with civil society organisations. In this interview with Marianne Muller<sup>2</sup> (HLTF), the discussion focuses on progress made towards strengthening coordination, the challenges of updating the CFA and the way forward for international action.

### *To what extent are the CFA and the work of the task force helping to promote more coordination and synergies at the international level?*

Over the past two years, a lot of progress has been made towards a better organised and more coherent mobilisation of the international community. Many initiatives are in place to strengthen partnerships between the players involved and promote country led approaches. Examples include the reform of the CFS (Committee on World Food Security), the adoption of the five Rome Principles<sup>3</sup> and the African Union's CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme).

The CFA has contributed in many ways to improve coordination, especially within the UN system (including Bretton Woods institutions). It is a common framework that represents agreement between the 21 agencies. This is an important achievement. It makes it possible to identify who is doing what in order to take advantage of synergies, avoid overlap and identify gaps.

<sup>1</sup>The High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF) was created in April 2008. It brings together the UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the World Bank, the IMF, the OECD and the WTO.

<sup>2</sup>Policy director and chief of staff of the HLTF Coordination Team.

<sup>3</sup>The Rome principles are: 1) support country-owned plans; 2) foster strategic coordination of assistance; 3) support a comprehensive approach to food security; 4) ensure a strong role for the multilateral system; 5) sustain a robust commitment of financial resources.

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But the CFA aims to inspire a shared vision beyond the UN system and define common outcomes. That's why the HLTF decided to expand collaborative efforts by updating the CFA through an inclusive consultation process.

### *How has civil society been involved in the updating of the CFA?*

The HLTF contacted more than 300 bodies to seek their input for updating the CFA. We received 51 replies, mainly from non-governmental entities. Some of them submitted consolidated comments that reflect a consensus within organizations. For example, the International Land Coalition (ILC) launched an internal consultation process among its members and partners. These comments were incorporated as far as possible into the draft update CFA prepared for the Dublin meeting<sup>4</sup>.

In Dublin, the discussions were positive and constructive. Most of the working groups<sup>5</sup> came up with a series of common recommendations on both the CFA's expected outcomes and practical ways of working together to realise them. For me, this is a golden moment for coordination. Time is ripe for the involvement of all stakeholders, in particular NGOs, not only in actions but in processes that shape these actions.

### *What is the way forward for international action?*

Coordination implies achieving common goals by moving progressively from i) exchanging information, to ii) harmonising positions to iii) working in synergy to iv) building unity ("working as one"). In food security, we have reached the harmonization stage at the international level and synergy at the national level in some countries. We now need to move forward to operationalise the CFA and to develop and maintain consensus within the UN and beyond.

<sup>4</sup>An unabridged version of the comments and the draft updated CFA discussed in Dublin can be found on [www.un-foodsecurity.org](http://www.un-foodsecurity.org) and ROSA's website.

<sup>5</sup>Six thematic working groups were formed: 1) food assistance, 2) social protection systems, 3) food production and value chains, 4) better managed ecosystems for food and nutrition strategy, 5) trade and taxation policies and international food markets, 6) information and monitoring systems.

# Agenda

## Past events

- **Workshop on food reserves – Brussels:** On 1-2 June, the CSA (*Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires*), Oxfam Solidarity and the IATP (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy) organised a seminar on food reserves. Discussions were on the potential of reserves in a context of volatile food prices and more extreme climate events. >>>
- **Nutrition forum organised by the WFP and the City of Rome:** A two-day forum was organised on 31 May and 1 June to bring together international experts to help advance global efforts to fight against child malnutrition. >>>
- **31th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean:** It was held in Panama City, Panama, from the 26th to the 30th of April. Delegations from all 33 Member States participated, as well as NGOs, intergovernmental organisms, UN agencies, and observers. >>>

## Forthcoming events

- **31 May-11 June:** Second negotiating session of the Convention on Climate Change – Bonn (Germany)
- **15-18 June:** EC seminar/training on sector approaches in natural resources - Brussels
- **21-25 June:** Food security regional seminar in Asia – Vientiane (Laos)
- **25-27 June:** G8 Summit – Huntsville and G20 Summit - Toronto (Canada)
- **7-9 July:** Investment forum for food security in Asia and the Pacific - Manila (Philippines)
- **12-14 July:** EC seminar/training on selected “hot” issues in agriculture development - Brussels
- **15-16 July:** EC seminar/training on pro-poor value chains development - Brussels
- **20-22 September:** Millennium development goals Summit (MDG) – New York
- **11-14 October:** 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – Rome
- **29 November-10 December:** Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP-16) - Cancun (Mexico)

For further information: [Upcoming events](#)

## EC's latest news

### ➤ Briefing session on humanitarian assistance and rural development

The ACP-EU technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ([CTA](#)), the DG Development and EuropeAid, the [ACP Secretariat](#), [Concord](#), and other partners organise regular briefings in Brussels on key issues and challenges for rural development in the context of EU/ACP cooperation. The session on 12<sup>th</sup> May discussed humanitarian needs and responses looking at recent trends and challenges. >>>

### ➤ Agriculture and rural development seminars / trainings organised by AIDCO E6

After years of neglect, Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) are back on the international agenda. Trends of food security, markets volatility and climate change have highlighted the relevance of these domains in pursuing sustainable development.

AIDCO E6 is organising 3 training/seminars dealing with ARD issues:

1. Sector approaches in natural resources - Agriculture/Rural Development (ARD) and Environment (15-18 June)
2. Agriculture and Rural Development seminar: "hot issues" (12-14 July)
3. Pro-poor value chains development (15-16 July)

For more information >>>



## New online documents

### ➤ Nutrition

***Milk Matters. The role and value of milk in the diets of Somali pastoralist children in Liben and Shinile, Ethiopia, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University and Save the Children – October 2009***

This report is the outcome of the first phase of Milk Matters, a project that ultimately aims to improve the nutritional status of children in pastoralist/semi pastoralist areas in the horn of Africa. In particular, this study reveals the perception by Ethiopian pastoralist communities of important causes of child malnutrition, links between child nutritional status and animal milk supply, and adequate interventions for addressing malnutrition in their communities. >>>

***Hungry for change. An eight step costed plan of action to tackle global child hunger, Save the Children – 2010***

The report proposes a package with eight components designed to improve the diets of pregnant women and children under the age of two, and thereby to help prevent hunger and malnutrition. The package focuses first on the eight countries where 50% of the world's malnourished children live. Save the Children estimates the cost of the package to be US\$8.8 billion per year for those countries. >>>

***When emergencies last for decades, how to improve food security in protracted Crises, FAO Policy Brief – February 2010***

When emergencies continue for extended periods of time, traditional humanitarian and development paradigms are not suitable for guiding effective responses. Interventions should address the underlying causes of food insecurity, follow longer term strategies and build on local institutions. >>>

***Scaling up nutrition. A framework for action, Consultation financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Japan, UNICEF and the World Bank - 2010***

The first purpose of this policy brief is to provide an outline of the emerging framework of key principles and priorities for action to address undernutrition. The second is to mobilize increased investment in a set of nutrition interventions across different sectors. The paper first explains why there should be a major focus now on reducing undernutrition. In the last section, the policy brief makes a series of specific recommendations for action. >>>

***Identifying vulnerable urban groups, ACF - December 2009***

This methodological guide aims at helping people in the field respond to major challenges such as increased food crises in urban areas, the difficult targeting of the most vulnerable groups due to the enormous challenge of urban poverty and social exclusion. The document is only available in French. >>>

### ➤ Social transfers

***External evaluation of the Mchinji Social cash transfer pilot. Executive Summary, Boston University, University of Malawi – August 2008***

The decentralized Social Cash Transfer Pilot Scheme (SCTS) was designed as an instrument of social protection to alleviate poverty, reduce hunger, and improve school enrolment among beneficiaries in the poorest 10% of households in Malawi through regular and reliable cash transfers. The report shows the strengths and weaknesses of the SCTS. The scheme has been largely successful but could still be improved, particularly in terms of operations and targeting. The report makes recommendations. It concludes that the SCTS should be included as a tool within national social protection and development strategies in Malawi. >>>

### ➤ Right to food approach

***Countries tackling hunger with a right to food approach, Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, May 2010***

This briefing note highlights the implementation of the right to food at national scale in Africa, Latin America and South Asia. Various countries gave concrete meaning to the right to food principles in their constitutions, laws, courts, institutions, policies and programmes, and for various food security topics, such as fishing, land, focus on vulnerable groups, and access to resources. >>>

### ➤ Other topics

***The food crisis and food security: Towards a new world food order? C. Golay, 2010***

This article first presents the pre-food crisis context and the causes of the crisis. Then it examines the responses to this crisis that are implemented today. It shows that contradictory proposals are often made. The causes underlying undernutrition and the food crisis (social, economic and political discrimination and exclusion) has gone largely unheeded. The author highlighted that the food crisis might lead to a new world food order based on the three pillars of food assistance, food security and the right to food. >>>

***The long term impact of violence on land tenure and food security. The Guera Region (central Chad), Han Van Dijk – 2010***

This paper examines the long-term impact of violence and the almost permanent political insecurity on agricultural production systems, land tenure and, lastly, food security. Using data collected in three villages in central Chad between 2003 and 2006, a strong correlation was found between the intensity and the type of violence, on one hand, and land tenure and agricultural production, as well as the social and food situation, on the other hand. Several lessons are drawn and questions raised for furthering the research on these processes (available in French only). [>>>](#)

## Network activities

➤ **An information session on ROSA network in Brussels**

The ROSA team and EuropeAid (AIDCO E6 and G4) are organising an information session on ROSA. The lunch-time conference will be held at the Info Point in Brussels in July (date to be confirmed). The meeting will showcase the network's main activities and demonstrate how the extranet works, especially the interactive tools. We will show a video that we're currently producing, with some testimonies on the history of ROSA and the utilisation of the extranet as a working tool for members. Please come and join us!

➤ **Regional seminar in Asia**

On 21 – 25 June, the ROSA team will take part in the regional seminar organised by EuropeAid in Laos. It will be an important opportunity for discussing with delegates involved in food security in Asia. We also look forward to receiving suggestions and recommendations on the network and its future activities. The documents and a summary of discussions from this seminar will be published in newsletter No. 22. Information on food security issues in the region will be added to the library and the agenda in priority. Please feel free to contribute by sharing your document resources, announcing news and/or suggesting key subjects you would like to see discussed.

***This bulletin was written by the GRET team in charge of animating ROSA. The network is an initiative of EuropeAid (Unit E6 – Natural Resources in collaboration with Unit G4 – Training and Knowledge Management).***

***The points expressed do not reflect the official position of the European Commission.***