

SUMMARY OF THE FSN FORUM DISCUSSION No. 40  
**REVISING THE FOOD SECURITY COMPONENT OF THE  
SPHERE HANDBOOK**  
FROM 14 JULY TO 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

Proceedings available at  
[http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fsn/docs/PROCEEDINGS\\_Sphere\\_handbook\\_revision.doc#\\_Toc241315239](http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/PROCEEDINGS_Sphere_handbook_revision.doc#_Toc241315239)

## **I. ISSUES RAISED**

---

Members were invited to give their feedback on the Food Security component of the Sphere Handbook.

Comments were received regarding the general structure, the food security standards to be integrated, and food security indicators to be included. Further, members pointed to informational guidelines which they would like to be incorporated in the handbook.

## **II. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE STRUCTURE AND THE CONTENT OF THE CHAPTER**

---

Overall it was felt that the 3 appendixes concerning the Food security component should be strengthened and better linked with the 2 others components of chapter 3 (Nutrition & Food aid). More specifically the following changes were proposed:

- It is important to ensure that the indicators included have valid scientific evidence supporting their use
- The handbook structure should be revised as it is complex to read.
- The importance of optimizing the use of local foods should be highlighted
- Food safety should be included

## **III. FOOD SECURITY STANDARDS TO BE INCLUDED OR STRENGTHENED**

---

According to the users further Food Security Standards need to be added to those already present in the Sphere Handbook in order to allow for a comprehensive picture of the Food Security Situation to be gained.

- Cash Transfer Programming
- Access to food and markets
- Diet quality and diversity
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Response Coordination
- Grain Banks as food shortage mitigation tool
- Cultural background and traditional practices
- Sustainability dimension
- Income and employment
- Micronutrients including food based approaches

## **IV. NEW INDICATORS AND TOOLS PROPOSED TO BE INCLUDED**

---

Members proposed the introduction of new and the updating of current Indicators and Food Security assessment systems. These included:

- Food consumption
- Measurements of household food insecurity
- HDDS (Household Diet Diversity Score) FCS (Food Consumption Score)

- CSI (Coping Strategies Index)
- Household Hunger Scale which will replace HFIAS (Household Food Insecurity Access Scale)
- IDDS (Individual Diet Diversity Score)

## **V. INFORMATION AND OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE**

---

Members suggested an expansion of the indicators/guidance notes and annexes of the Handbook through the inclusion of further aspects related to the appraisal of the Food Security Situation.

- Use of safety nets in emergencies
- Linking emergency response to rehabilitation and recovery
- Analysis of remittances
- Right to food
- Protection of breast feeding in emergencies
- Community planning
- Sustainability of interventions
- Inter-sectoral and sectoral coordination
- Food distribution and School feeding in emergencies
- Responses regarding livestock in communities affected should be clearly developed with the recently released LEGS – Livestock Emergency Guidelines Standards

## **VI. REFERENCES**

---

The Sphere Project

<http://www.sphereproject.org/>

The Sphere Project Revision Process

<http://www.sphereproject.org/content/view/476/278/>

The Coping Strategies Index Field Methods Manual

[http://www.ennonline.net/pool/files/ife/coping-strategies-index-manual-second-edition-\(final\)%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.ennonline.net/pool/files/ife/coping-strategies-index-manual-second-edition-(final)%5B1%5D.pdf)

Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project (FANTA-2)

<http://www.fantaproject.org>

Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) for Measurement of Food Access: Indicator Guide, Version 3

[http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/hfias\\_intro.shtml](http://www.fantaproject.org/publications/hfias_intro.shtml)

The EC-FAO Food Security Information for Action Programme

<http://www.foodsec.org>

Nutrition Assessment Tools

[http://www.foodsec.org/tools\\_nut.htm](http://www.foodsec.org/tools_nut.htm)

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards

<http://www.livestock-emergency.net/development-legs/index.html>

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

<http://www.wspa.org.uk/>

Case study: Protecting livelihoods and food security: animal welfare in disasters  
<http://www.udaw.org/gov/pdf/Protectinglivelihoodsandfoodsecuritydisasters.pdf>