

**Main points of discussion:**

To what extent should humanitarian actors get involved in longer term

- **depends on whether conflict driven crisis**; in which case there are only a limited number of actors, humanitarian actors may be obliged to enter into these type longer-term interventions, protection and livelihoods – need to take it further, building on participation and also funding local capacity building (should be part of smart, context-based humanitarian intervention)

Re methodology consensus – why hasn't cluster approach addressed this issue?

Before building one gold standard, make sure each tool is systematic to compare country to country.

How do we analyse underlying mechanisms? Very complex – not clear, influenced by political interests to define situations as “crisis”.

Safety nets – do they keep vulnerable groups in chronic hunger? Do safety nets make the situation worse by keeping people aid dependent?

Are we bad hum donors if we keep pouring money into mechanisms that don't work? Alternatively, do we have the level of engagement allowing us to seek innovative mechanisms as donors? Are we structurally challenged to seek these innovative mechanisms to address underlying causes, forward looking measures?

We need someone who can make interventions in the area between humanitarian and development – still need to convince donors that we can tap into both hum and dev pots.

Capacity of national actors is important

Emergencies keep occurring because someone hasn't done something they should be doing – not so much that humanitarian actors keep reacting to the crisis that occurs because of these lack of actions.

We pretty much know what to do with humanitarian interventions, but have we found the right tools to deal with development assistance to take care of issues before we move into humanitarian crisis? We need to think what we are good at, how can these tools help our development colleagues in dealing with the long term structural issues.

Is there risk for humanitarian intervention getting more and more involved in chronic crises, preventing national governments taking longer term, sustainable action? (Don't want to suggest conditionality on humanitarian assistance.....but how to ensure the needed action?)

- even locally, taking resources from longer-term activities for food distribution (example DCA in Malawi – local partner : “it should be forbidden to provide humanitarian food aid for more than one year”. Need to adjust what you are doing, if you are not having impact.

Fragile states; Countries with two tracks: development on-going, but at the same time humanitarian crisis. Does the government have interest in compartmentalizing development in parts of country – and should we continue to provide humanitarian assistance when government not interested in expanding

development to whole country.

Need to help people make their voice heard, help people, often political interest in not empowering people to help themselves.

**Advocacy role of humanitarian** actors in making development colleagues and national governments address structural issues.

### **Twin track approach – humanitarian and livelihoods**

**Build capacities – humanitarian actors need to find their** role of

Addressing political causes – need to get different actors together to get critical mass, moral authority to speak out. Our duty and imperative to keep dialogue open, ensure humanitarian diplomacy.

**At what point do you stop humanitarian assistance** because it absolves others from their responsibilities – have we given twin-track approach enough of a chance? Do we have funds enough to invest in both? Humanitarian accountability.

One policy option is to focus hum asst to the point where we only have countries on our list where we have both hum and dev assistance. But too difficult, politically. Need to put humanitarian assistance into context – need to increase donor dialogue/coordination. Maybe at partner-level, could focus on agencies/organizations that have both hum and development arms.

Opportunities to cultivate in midst of humanitarian situation missed if specialized agencies are not in position to provide funds to actors who can reach beneficiaries.

The divide short term/longer term interventions is artificial –  
Like you could set aside certain percentage of humanitarian assistance to prevention, development assistance could set aside per definition certain percentage for safety nets.

**Main challenges:**

How measure hunger/vulnerability?

- conflicting analysis and recommendations from stakeholders. Various debates on-going 20-30 years re methodology to measure food insecurity.
- How do we achieve consensus on methodology? Need to address institutional challenges to achieving consensus. (institutional, political vested interests) (Basic if we want to base interventions according to need)

Chronic underinvestment in small scale ag production, safety nets – can we increase, i.e. help people help themselves? Is this a development issue? Is there role for humanitarian actors to play here? (i.e. presently humanitarian assistance is filling a gap that it shouldn't need to fill)

Inadequate and inappropriate conditions – funding, major donors still restrict ways of funding (40% of WFP's assistance is provided in kind by donors)

Assistance needs to be based on governments, assisting local capacities and ownership – humanitarian assistance has been criticized for not doing so – resulting lack of coordination and governance.

Emerging consensus – but how do decisions get made at national level, how do we ensure these are in interest of poorest, neediest.?

Coordination of global initiatives , designed and initiated in isolation, missed opportunities to capitalize on inter-linkages.

Even if all other challenges are met, limited capacity of national actors to deliver hamper implementation of programmes. What are roles of humanitarian actors in

### **Suggested actions:**

Food security analysis: Integrated Phase Classification.

Allows for comparison over time and decision making re appropriate policies/measures. Different phases allows for flagging need to intervene before all out emergency. Powerful advocacy tool.

Multiple stakeholders, analytical and institutional rules of engagement. (Oxfam global steering committee – ECHO investing in steering committee and coordination unit)

Integrated plans – both good and bad; gives opportunity for national governments to direct assistance to politically opportune, maybe leaving other areas underfunded.

Coordinated, integrated plans – if supported from outside, questions of ownership. Will governments set up their own systems to deal with? Are the systems predictable (funding, delivery, timeliness of response)?

Reform of Food Aid Convention; follow up to Berlin. Divergent opinions on whether workable.

Questions is whether it could be funding mechanism for addressing longer term, predictable safety nets? Currently does not have prominent role.

More aid, untied food assistance.

Global partnerships

National food and agricultural platforms. Food security is absent from Cluster Approach system – linking up to livelihoods. Forum for food security – context based interventions. IPC could be this forum. (Early Recovery cluster could focus on building up structures to deal with

National and local level capacity building – combine various aspects, ensuring that there is link.