



UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Center of Innovation: Science, Technology, & Peacebuilding

Workshop on Using Data to Enhance Food Security August 16, 2012

USIP Headquarters Building
Washington, DC

AGENDA

Food security is a product of coordinated activity from food production through processing and storage to distribution, marketing, retail, and consumption. Disruption at any point across this chain of activity can render a region's food supply insecure and thereby increase the risk of conflict. In detecting and responding to such disruptions, how can the work of agencies addressing food security be enhanced by more effective sharing of information among them? What kind of technology platforms and associated protocols for providing and sharing data would advance this objective?

Specifically, in the process of developing programming to respond to diminished food security in a given region, how can data sharing enable greater program effectiveness? What data would provide a better understanding of needs in country and help identify those intervention activities most likely to enhance food security? How can collaboration and data sharing platforms and technology help to build the stakeholder networks necessary to generate the political will, monetary support, and operational capability necessary to support interventions? And finally, what is the role of data sharing in supporting monitoring and evaluation, learning, and the dissemination of best practices in food security?

This workshop will bring together a range of food security specialists, technologists, and data specialists working in food security to investigate these issues and explore various ongoing data sharing and technology initiatives working to improve the performance and impact of food security interventions.

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Goals for the Day (B241)

*Co-Chairs: Elmer Roman, DoD
Sheldon Himelfarb, USIP*

9:00 a.m. Identifying Data for More Effective Programming in Food Security (B241)

To support a data-driven approach to developing programming for food security requires a broad data set to capture the complexity of the food security problem. Market prices (for input, outputs and agricultural services), rainfall, soil characteristics, vegetation cover, capacity building activities (by NGOs, IOs, and local government), and even measures of political stability are potentially relevant to better detecting and responding to food crises. How can improved acquisition, wider sharing and better application of data assist in capacity building, heightened collaboration, and increased food security?

*Speakers: Shukri Ahmed, Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Allan Jury, World Food Programme (WFP)
Kristin Penn, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)*

Moderator: Sheldon Himelfarb, USIP

10:45 a.m. Break

- 11:00 a.m. Shared Data, Analysis and Standards for Enhanced Food Security (B241)**
Technology is improving the international community's capacity to respond to food crises. For example, USAID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET) has long been the *de facto* standard for detecting emerging food crises. With online resources like InterAction's [Food Security Aid Map](#) and the [Sahel Food Crisis mapping project](#), tools are emerging that offer better situational awareness and heightened capacity to manage an integrated response. How were these approaches developed and how have they affected the international community's response to food security crises? What other tools, maps or databases, such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) highlighted in last year's Busan conference, can enhance effective data-sharing?
Speakers: Julie Montgomery, InterAction
Felix Lee, FEWS NET
Gabriel Accascina, Consultant; Former Director, UNDP Knowledge Management Group
Moderator: Elmer Roman, DoD
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. Demonstrating the Impact of Shared Data (Farooq Kathwari Amphitheater)**
By making the scope and scale of humanitarian and development activity in an area visible, collaboration software can improve coordination between actors and thereby improve outcomes in targeted society. This session will use the UNITY platform in a scenario-based demonstration to show how even limited information sharing can positively affect intervention outcomes.
Facilitators: Mark Hainsey, USACE
Brandon Pustejovsky, USAID
Steve Wood, Integrasure
- 2:45 p.m. Break**
- 3:00 p.m. Assessing Future Directions (B241)**
Given the morning discussion on how to organize to share data and exploit technology in support of food security intervention, and the table top exercise, what types of functionality and data sets are necessary to support engagement by governments, IOs, and NGOs performing work to enhance food security? Finally, what sort of activities can create the working relations between organizations necessary to share information?
Moderators: Elmer Roman, DoD
Sheldon Himelfarb, USIP
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn**