

	<b>Meeting (Name)</b>	
	<b>Date</b>	Ref: 1/2.1/1/06/ Minutes 1

### Document Information

<b>Meeting :</b>		<b>Operational updates and Livelihood Forum</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2008			
<b>Prepared By/ Date:</b>		Niranjani			
<b>Type:</b>	Conference				
<b>Purpose:</b>	Improve Coordination, Facilitation and Networking among agencies, groups and individuals working in the Humanitarian Sector				
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2008	<b>Start Time:</b>	8.30 am	<b>End Time:</b>	9.45 am
<b>Venue</b>	CARITAS SEDEC				
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Mr. Lionel Munaweera Development Advisor	<b>Facilitator</b>	CHA		
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Niranjani	<b>Phone:</b>	4610943		

### Present

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mercy Corps	World Vision	Malteser Int
ETC Lanka	FAO	IOM
CCF	Muslim Aid	Caritas
IFRC	CASA	Solidar
GAA	CHA	Oxfam GB
JEN	Internews	RDF
Consortium of NGO – Trinco	FORUT	CIDA
SEDCO		

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action by/ date</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Feedback and Updates</b>  <b>Advocacy Update</b>  Presented by Chathuri.</p> <p><b>JJP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A health clinic for the children at the Makola (Boys’) Certified School was conducted on the 10th October 2008. This was conducted specially to treat the children for skin infections as that is the most rampant health issue among them. The clinic was conducted by Dr. Akarawita (dermatologist, gen hospital, Negombo), who volunteered to treat the children. The medicine was provided by Dr. Akarawita and Dr. Nalini (Army Hospital). Afterwards, an awareness raising programme for the children on health habits was conducted by Dr. Akarawita and the MOH of Makola.</li> <li>- An eye clinic for the children in Ranmuthugala and Makola Certified Schools and Ranmutugala Remand Home were conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October by the Roteract Club of Colombo, facilitated by CHA, Ministry of Health and Wickramarachchi Opticians. Glasses will be provided for the 32 identified children on the 2nd of November.</li> </ul> <p><b>Juvenile Justice Forum</b>  The Ministry of Justice and Law Reforms, in liaison with UNICEF and the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA), has taken measures to initiate a Juvenile Justice Forum (JJF), with the primary objective of providing a platform for all institutions, departments and organizations involved in juvenile justice to review existing laws and policies, discuss and share information and expertise and engage in collective advocacy for legal/policy reforms and enforcement in defense of children in contact with the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Secretarial support and coordination for the Forum has been undertaken by the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA). These duties include planning the agenda for meetings, preparing minutes and disseminating them and receiving and processing periodic reports and other reports received as well as the coordination of collective advocacy initiatives as per the objectives.</li> <li>o The preliminary meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September at the MoJ, with the participation of 27 officials from govt and non-govt organizations working on juvenile justice. The Forum was chaired by the Sec, MoJ. A number of pertinent issues affecting children in conflict with the law were discussed, and it was decided to</li> </ul>	<b>CHA</b>

<p>2</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>undertake the expedition of all the No Date cases as the priority task to be accomplished by the Forum. The other prioritized issues will be addressed by the Task Groups into which the Forum will be divided. The JJF will be held on a bi monthly basis.</p> <p><b>CCHA main meeting</b></p> <p>Decisions taken at the CCHA meeting was briefed by Hashim.</p> <p><b>Presentation on World Food crisis and FAO activities - Dr. Premalal Kuruppuarachchi – Assistant FAO Representative – Programmes</b></p> <p>Dr. Premalal made a presentation on the above topic.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Prices of most agricultural food commodities have risen sharply during the past two years. Several factors have contributed to this development: (1) low levels of world stocks (especially for wheat and maize) following two years of below-average harvests in Europe in 2006 and 2007; (2) crop failures in major producing countries like Australia in 2006 and 2007; (3) rapidly growing demand for grain-based bio-fuel production supported by subsidies; (4) gradual changes in agricultural policies of the OECD countries, where reduced levels of subsidies have led to lower surplus production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today over 850 million people go to bed each night without anything to eat</li> <li>• Climate change leading to greater crop and asset losses as well as higher variation in agricultural systems.</li> <li>• Soaring prices related to biofuels, changes in food demand, etc.</li> <li>• New market opportunities for producers if they have access to production inputs, assets and capital</li> </ul> <p>Impact on Farmers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The greatest concern is the impact on their food consumption. Not all of the poor are farmers and even some farmers buy staples.</li> <li>• The poor generally spend large fractions of their budgets on food, so rising prices make them more likely to reduce their food consumption. But this may not have a large fall in calorie intake.</li> <li>• <i>Short-term impacts:</i> income fall by more than 25% and food consumption by almost 20%.</li> </ul> <p>Impact on Farming:</p>	<p>FAO</p>
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- Higher food prices could raise farmers' incomes if global price movements transmit to local markets, and if farmers can respond.
- But, transmission can be muted by policies on domestic prices and by transport costs.
- Experience suggests that farmers may lack the credit and inputs needed to respond in the short term. But they could benefit in the medium and long term.

**FAO's activities** To improve agriculture productivity

- To fight hunger and improve nutrition
- To improve the lives of the rural population

**FAO's initiatives on Food crisis**

- World Food Summit (1996):
  - Plan of Action - Commitment Three (out of Seven):

“ We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture ”

- WFS:fyl (2002):
  - Anti-Hunger Programme
  - International Alliance Against Hunger
  - Voluntary Guidelines on Right to Food

It is clear that the impact of high food prices in developing countries - especially low-income, food importing countries - is of serious concern. This is more so when the poor spend 50 to 80 per cent of their meager income on food. Farmers also suffer. International prices of fertilizers have doubled in one year.

Urgent action is needed on two fronts - making food accessible to the most vulnerable, and helping small producers raise their output and earn more.

As early as July last year FAO warned of the impending crisis, and in December it launched an initiative to boost food production in the short term. Known as the ISFP - the initiative on soaring food prices - it had simple but effective goals: distribute seeds, fertilizer, animal feed and other farming tools

and supplies to smallholder farmers. This has to be done quickly before the next planting seasons so farmers get a better harvest this year and more food is available in the local markets.

Part of the initiative is advising governments on policy measures in response to the crisis. The FAO Country Guidelines provides an overview of different policy responses to higher food prices, their possible effects, advantages and disadvantages.

FAO is currently engaged in 35 countries supporting food production with the supply of improved seeds, fertilizers and other agriculture inputs for this summer planting season. In addition, FAO has approved a series of projects in 54 countries under its Technical Cooperation Programme for a total value of close to US\$24 million but more funds are needed urgently to help the most affected countries increase production in the upcoming planting seasons.

**Q:** What are the challenges in Sri Lanka?

1. record high petrol / diesel prices
2. rising costs of agricultural inputs
3. soaring food prices
4. global warming and changing climatic patterns
5. non-economical agriculture as some imports are cheaper than local production
6. large numbers of internally displaced people and abandoned farm lands
7. improving income for farmers
8. reinvigorating research and extension services

#### **Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation**

1. Emergency assistance to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the North: Jaffna, Killinochichi / Mullaithivu, Mannar and Vavuniya (9,950 households – CERF funded)
2. Immediate agricultural assistance in support of household returnees to west Batticaloa (5,265 households – Spanish funded)
3. Agriculture assistance in support of the returnees, IDPs, host families and other vulnerable families in the north and east provinces (10,000 households for the 2008 Maha season – Swedish funded)
4. Provision of paddy seed and other inputs for 6,150 hectares in Batticaloa, Ampara, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura districts –

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p>	<p>2008 maha season (TCP) ( More information could be found in the presentation)</p> <p><b>Presentation on “Sustainable Socio economic development” ( Rice based production) – Lakshi Maliyadda - Program Officer - Relief and Rehabilitation Unit – CHA</b></p> <p>Nimal and Lakshi from CHA made a presentation of An Enterprise Approach to Sustainable Livelihoods Dev. in Sri Lanka. Key points of the presentation as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project Goal is, To increase and ensure targeted families receive sustainable means of livelihood, enabling community economic development</li> <li>2. The programme aims to achieve sustainable livelihood to investors (focus on people becoming “investors”, not “beneficiaries) actors, and interested organizations to centre stage the people for a life in dignity, now and in future, yet to recover a viable livelihood.</li> <li>3. This project is implemented in 6 districts such as Kaluthara, Galle, Matara, Hambanthota, Ampara’ and Batticaloa. They produce rice based products, Mushroom products. Pottery/handicraft work also has taken place in the districts.</li> </ol> <p><b>Specific objectives are,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve the incomes of “investors” (beneficiaries) and enabling maximum profit through introducing/ assisting to start and improve the potential livelihoods options</li> <li>○ Form a district advisory committee comprise of sector experts, owner communities and interest organizations to get specific expertise, knowledge, and competence to drive the process</li> <li>○ Improved market linkages for the products generated by the projects in close coordination and networking with BDS providers and interested agencies</li> <li>○ Empowering and strengthening owner communities through training on leadership, entrepreneurship development, communication, project management, technical and vocational skills, innovation, value addition, operational efficiency, maximizing profit, sustainability, etc</li> <li>○ Experience sharing for influencing development partners (government and non-government) on approach</li> </ul> <p><b>Why ? Rice based products</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHA</b></p>
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- Availability of rice in Districts
- Transforming raw rice into a variety of rice based products would create high productivity value
- Good market for rice based products
- Additional income for rice producers
- Creation of new entrepreneurs/ opportunities

**Our Products are**

- Rice bread
- Rice puff pastry
- Rice chocolate chiffon cake
- Rice sesame cookies
- Rice base normal cake
- Rice hot dog
- Rice swiss roll
- Rice cinnamon roll
- Rice base biscuit (not using egg)
- Rice base coconut roll cookies
- Rice baby and many cookies
- Rice banana chiffon cake,
- Mushroom Pickle
- Mushroom Chutney
- Battered mushroom
- Mushroom Sausages
- Mushroom Soup
- Dried mushroom

**Following activities were undertaken**

- Training on vocation - CathiRich
- Training on business start-up – SIYB
- Advisory committee
- Business plan preparation – Business Creation
- Business place, purchasing of equipments and setting-up
- Business start-up and continue

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|--|---|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreement for partnership</li><li>• Business registration – DS office/ Tangalle</li><li>• Branding &amp; marketing – “Urumaya</li></ul> |  |
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( More information could be found in the presentation)