



## FSC IM TRAININGS: OUTPUTS & LESSONS LEARNED

The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) based at WFP Headquarters in Rome, Italy, includes a small team focussed on information management (IM) who provides remote backstopping and surge support to country level clusters.

In order to improve the production at country level of FSC IM products in terms of both quantity and quality, during the past year the global IM team undertook a review of the 'minimum operational reporting requirements'. This process led to the identification of minimum reporting requirements, the creation of a set of standard reporting templates for the IM Officers (IMOs) to use at country level, and culminated with the development and execution of IM trainings for cluster staff, stand-by partners, and cluster lead agencies colleagues.

The overall process of developing the gFSC IM agenda would not have materialised without the immense support and guidance received from the WFP Operational Information Management (OIM) team. From the conceptualisation, to the development of products, and participation in the development and facilitation of trainings, the OIM team was extremely present.



*Participants and facilitators at the THW centre, Stuttgart.*

The trainings took place at the THW Training Centre near Stuttgart, Germany, from 6 to 10 June 2016; and at WFP Headquarters in Rome from 4 to 7 July 2016. The purpose of the trainings was two-fold: to ensure that FSC IMOs are equipped with the capacity and knowledge to fulfil their professional role, and to train other suitable candidates from partners to contribute to the pool of deployable IMOs.

The agenda of the trainings was structured to reflect the skills and processes required for FSC IMOs to deliver high-quality IM products.

The first subject to be treated during the trainings was data collection and processing, notably how to set up IM databases, and what analyses are required for the necessary FSC reporting outputs. Secondly, participants were trained on GIS and mapping, learning the basics of ArcGIS to cartographically represent the information collected (partners presence and gap analysis).



*Practicing with ArcGIS.*

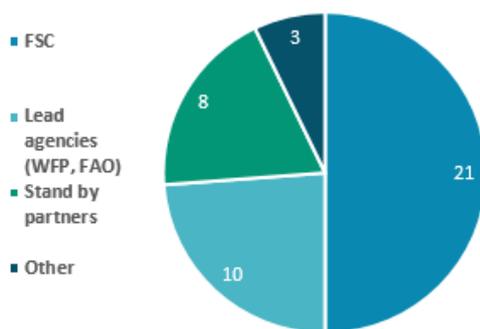
Thirdly, a session on communication and data visualization taught participants how to effectively visualise data and maps through the use of infographics in key FSC IM products. Lastly, the participants were asked to apply the tools and skills taught to prepare a FSC IM product, choosing amongst the standardised templates: an emergency dashboard, a quarterly bulletin or an advocacy piece.



The facilitation team was composed of members of the global IM FSC team in addition to a seasoned Cluster Coordinator<sup>1</sup> with strong IM skills and a colleague from WFP OIM.

Overall, 42 people participated to the trainings (19 in Stuttgart and 23 in Rome). Of these, 21 were working with the FSC at country level; 10 from FSC cluster lead agencies (8 WFP and 2 FAO); 8 from stand-by partners (three from NORCAP, two from Samaritan's Purse and one each from RedR, CANADEM and CMC Finland); there was also one participant from IFRC and two from the Logistics Cluster.

### Participants per Organization



It should be noted that prior to the training, FSC IMOs coming from clusters were asked to bring up-to-date datasets with validated data from countries. This was done with the intention of sending IMOs back to their country clusters with an IM product (dashboard / bulletin / advocacy piece) ready to be cleared by cluster coordinators and externally distributed.

At the end of both trainings, participants completed a survey to provide feedback and comments. Results indicate that most participants considered the trainings to be excellent, and the mapping skills, the data collection and analysis, and the creation of IM

products as the most important elements they learned. The competence of the facilitation team and the practical nature of the training were identified as the most helpful elements of the training, allowing them to learn as much as possible.



Participants and facilitators at WFP HQ, Rome.

Participants agreed that the subjects covered were what they needed to learn, that the trainings met their objectives and, most importantly, that they were ready to start producing FSC IM templates in their countries.

## NEXT STEPS

The global FSC IM team has established a tracking system of all countries and the three key information products to be produced on a regular basis. Countries have been prioritised based on L3/L2 status, and those that are high profile (Somalia, Lake Chad), though all country clusters/sectors are included.

These countries will be monitored for the remainder of 2016 and remote follow-up will be offered on a targeted basis to determine how well the training has materialised into production of IM products in country. The outcome of this effort will determine the future structuring of the gFSC IM team as of 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Cluster Coordinator currently deployed in Ukraine.