

### 3.1 Food Aid & Food Security Problems

Trainer's Note

#### Session at a Glance:

Content	Activity	Time
1 Introduction	Brief Oral Presentation	5 minutes
2 Recurrent problems	OH presentation with mini-exercises	75 minutes
Exercise 2A.	"A Food Aid Problem" - 40 minutes	
Exercise 2B	"Distribution Pros and Cons" – 20 minutes	
3 Conclusions	Brief Oral summary of main points	10 minutes
		<b>Total Session Time: 90 minutes</b>

**Required Materials:** 3.1 OH set, flipcharts

#### Trainer's Notes:

##### 1. Introduction

This session, like the other "problem" sessions, is intended to show the types of recurrent problems that seem to persist in disaster-affected, and particularly, refugee and IDP camp populations. Explain that the point of these "problem" sessions is to show very practical ways to address these problems in a realistic rather than theoretical way. The Sphere guidance that follows for each sector can then be discussed as "solutions". This introduction also includes a short discussion about the distinction in the Sphere materials between nutrition, food aid, and food security. The distinction is that although they are closely related, different "experts" and the scale of the program focus generally carry them out varies from the micro- level for *nutrition* to the macro- level of tons of food and mass logistics in *food aid*, as well as the immediate nature of emergency food aid versus the longer term vision of *food security*.

##### 2. Recurrent Problems

Using the OH slides prepared for this session, present each problem and read out the associated questions as well as the possible answers. Use your own examples and stories to enhance each of these problems and call for examples from others in the group who have experienced them. Keep the session lively and moving quickly. Use the mini-problems to engage the group and to illuminate issues of context, market vulnerability, and logistics trade-offs often required in food aid programs.

Use the OH to explain the exercise instructions for problem #3 – "A Food Aid Problem" - dealing with self-sufficiency. It works well to divide the group into four or five sub groups and then declare a competition. Each group should name their own food-aid oriented NGO. The first NGO to submit their proposal to you – "THE DONOR" has the best opportunity to get the grant. However, the proposal must be sound, as an expert review panel will critique the proposal. Key points must be clearly written on a single flipchart sheet. After the first proposal meeting the requirements is submitted, all other groups are immediately invited to sit on the DONOR REVIEW PANEL to evaluate the proposal. Prompt the review panel to evaluate the proposal using the Sphere Standards and Indicators for Food aid. This exercise will take about 45 minutes to complete.

The second short exercise in the session is called “Distribution Pros and Cons”. It requires having the participants fill in the pros and cons on the matrix of different types of food distributions. The exercise can be done quickly in plenary in about 15 minutes. Alternatively if 5 groups are ready-made, the assignment could be given to small groups to each answer for only one of the target groups in the matrix. If you use this option, give only about 10 minutes for the groups to quickly reach their conclusions. Your debrief will have to be quick as well – allow another 10 minutes to quickly collect the main points for each pro and con from each group. A short answer guide is provided below.

<b>Distribute to:</b>	<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
<b>Heads of families</b>	Easier to administer, encourages family cohesion, allows for “balancing” of rations within the families.	Definition of “heads of families” may prove difficult for some, unaccompanied minors, female headed households may have difficulties
<b>Group or social leaders</b>	Easier logistics and administration for distribution agent Encourages social grouping and cohesion of the social group	“Outsiders” may be left out of the distribution Possibility for corruption
<b>Individuals</b>	Highest level of targeting, each gets what they need	Very administratively difficult, and time consuming for both families and distributors
<b>Students</b>	Targets possibly vulnerable group of children, encourages education	May miss the youngest who are not yet school age, but who may be in greater need, may miss girls if they are not encouraged to attend school
<b>Workers</b>	Promotes work on needed infrastructure or other projects Promotes work ethic, is not a “hand out”	May miss more vulnerable groups. Does not address those unable to work.

#### **4. Conclusions**

“Wouldn’t it be great, if there was a kind of guide or standard that provided real practical advice on how to deal with some of these tricky food aid problems?.....Hmmm... Maybe Sphere has something to offer. Come back to the next session to find some solutions.” Review the basic points of the session, particularly concerning the difficulties of logistics, targeting, distribution, and attainment of self-sufficiency.