



**FAO-Netherlands Partnership Program -
Program Entity 2, Objective 1
*'Food Security Policy for Poverty
Eradication in Cambodia'***

Mainstreaming of Food Security and Nutrition in Policies and Programmes

First Draft

November, 5th 2007

Martin Strele
Kairos - Impact Research & Development

Content

- What is “Food Security and Nutrition Mainstreaming”? 3
- Methodology 3
- Criteria for food security and nutrition 4
 - Food availability 5
 - Access to food 5
 - Utilisation of food 6
 - Stability / Sustainability 6
- Facilitation guidelines 7
 - 1. Defining the item (policy and programme) to be mainstreamed 7
 - 2. Setting up the group of participants 8
 - 3. Undertaking the mainstreaming exercise 9
 - 4. The results 11
 - 5. Recommendations 11

List of Figures

- Figure 1: validity of results related to diversity of group 8
- Figure 2: Screenshot of the spreadsheet with individual estimations already entered 10
- Figure 3: Profile showing the estimated effect of the analysed policy or programme on food security and nutrition. 11

List of Tables

- Table 1: List of goals and guiding questions of the mainstreaming tool 6
- Table 2: Identification of item to be mainstreamed (fictitious example of a policy) 7
- Table 3: Identification of item to be mainstreamed (fictitious example of a programme) 7
- Table 4: Example of the estimation of one goal and guiding question. 9
- Table 5: Continuation of the estimation of effects (in this example with 3 participants) 9
- Table 6: Example of recommendations for a fictitious programme to display possible results of the application of the tool 12

What is “Food Security and Nutrition Mainstreaming”?

Mainstreaming food security and nutrition involves mobilising general policies and programmes specifically for the purpose of achieving food security and nutrition for the target group of poor and food insecure people. This should be done both by actively and openly taking into account at the planning stage the possible effects of the policies and programmes on the respective situation of the poor and food insecure people. This means systematically examining programmes and policies and taking into account effects on food security and nutrition when defining and implementing them.

To achieve this, applicable and simple tools are necessary. These tools can be seen as a sort of “glasses” helping to look at policies and programmes with a perspective of food security and nutrition.



With this food security and nutrition “view” on the policies and programmes recommendations for any necessary changes or amendments of them can be derived. Thereby the policies and programmes would better focus on the poor and food insecure people.

Methodology

The tool proposed for the mainstreaming of Food Security and Nutrition in national and sub-national policies and programmes is an adaptation of a participatory impact monitoring and planning tool. This approach brings together the principle of the “wisdom of crowds”, “multi-criteria planning” and creates a rapid-appraisal tool with high applicability at both national and sub-national levels.

Multi-criteria planning

In planning or implementing activities or projects with an integrated approach or holistic view, the different goals to be met are often contradictory. Achieving one theme of objectives often opens up problems to be met in other themes. In the case of food security and nutrition a typical example for such contradictions would be the issue of market prices of agricultural goods. High prices are bad for consumers and have therefore negative effects on the “market prices” in the theme “access to food”. But high prices are good for agricultural producers who raise their household income thereby. So it simultaneously has a positive effect on the “household income” under the same theme.

The aim of multi-criteria planning is to observe all such objectives – even if contradictory – at the same time and find solutions with the optimum positive impact on all objectives.

Wisdom of crowds

A principle saying that decisions of a **group** of people are (under certain circumstances) better than a **single** member of the group could have made. Nevertheless, important framework conditions have to be met. Otherwise the group result will not be better but worse than individual expertise. The key criteria to tap the wisdom of a crowd are:

- Diversity of opinion: Each person should have private information even if it's just an eccentric interpretation of the known facts.
- Independence: People's opinions aren't determined by the opinions of those around them.
- Decentralization: People are able to specialize and draw on local knowledge.
- Aggregation: Some mechanism exists for turning private judgments into a collective decision.

Criteria for food security and nutrition

To ensure sustainable improvements of the Food Security and Nutrition situation, it is necessary to observe the effects of policies and programmes within multi-criteria objectives (see above). Based on a widely accepted conceptual framework for food security the mainstreaming tool simultaneously observes effects in the following four areas:

- Food availability
- Access to food
- Utilisation of food
- Stability / sustainability

With this in mind it can be assured, that the impacts of activities can be optimised according to all four themes given the fact that the specific objectives some time contradict each other.

For the mainstreaming tool for food security and nutrition different sources have been used to identify the most relevant goals for each of the above themes. Each goal was then formulated into a question, asking about possible effects of the item (policy or programme) on the respective goal.

Sources for the goals were Progress Report of FNPP (November 2007), the Training Course Reader “Achieving Food and Nutrition Security” by InWent (2005), and the draft of the Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia 2007-2010 (2007).

The goals are still subject to changes and adjustments. The most recent version of the list of goals is presented below:

Food availability

1	Agricultural intensification	What effect does the item have on the agricultural intensification for the benefit of the poor and food insecure?
2	Agricultural diversification	What effect does the item have on the diversity of agricultural production for the poor and food insecure?
3	Land availability and land rights	What effect does the item have on land availability and land rights for the poor and food insecure?
4	Management of water resources and irrigation	What effect does the item have on improved water management and irrigation for the benefit of the poor and food insecure?
5	Enhancing of fishery and forestry	What effect does the item have on enhancing of fish production and forestry accessible for the poor and food insecure?
6	Agricultural knowledge	What effect does the item have on the improvement of agricultural knowledge of the poor and food insecure?
7	Food Stocks for disaster preparedness	What effect does the item have on sufficient stock-keeping of food and seeds for disaster management?
8	Food Imports	What effect does the item have on the imports of food in case need to import arises? (incl. Food Aid in Emergencies etc.)

Access to food

1	Household Income	How does the item influence the household income of the poor and food insecure?
2	Household Labour Force	How does the item influence the household labour force? (positive: growing labour force, negative: decreasing labour force in households)
3	Market Prices for Food	How does the item influence the market prices for food (positive: decreasing prices, negative: rising prices for food items)
4	Community organisation	What effect does the item have on the promotion of community self-organisation and formation of CBOs?
5	Wage employment opportunities for the poor and food insecure	What effect does the item have on wage employment opportunities for the poor and food insecure?
6	Increasing micro-enterprise opportunities for poor and food insecure	What effect does the item have on the micro-enterprise opportunities for the poor and food insecure?
7	Infrastructure for the poor and food insecure (roads, access to markets etc.)	What effect does the item have on the infrastructure needed by the poor and food insecure (roads, market access, loans etc)?
8	Household food purchase	How does the item influence the ability of poor and food insecure households to purchase needed food items?

Utilisation of food

1	Improving child nutrition and mortality	What effect does the item have on improving child nutrition and mortality of the poor and food insecure?
2	Improving maternal nutrition and mortality	What effect does the item have on improving maternal health and mortality of the poor and food insecure?
3	Improving the protein-energy nutrition	What effect does the item have on improving the dietary intake of the poor and food insecure?
4	Improving the intake of micro-nutrients of children and women	What effect does the item have on reducing the micro-nutrient deficiency of children and women?
5	Access to Health Services	What effect does the item have on the access to high-quality health service for the poor and food insecure?
6	Improvement of health status	What effect does the item have on the improvement of the general health status (e.g. immunization etc.) of the poor and food insecure?
7	Food Safety / Food fortification	How does the analysed item influence the food safety and (where applicable) food fortification (salt, iron etc.)?
8	Improving water and sanitation situation	What effect does the item have on improving the water and sanitation situation (toilets, wells, drinking water etc.)

Stability / Sustainability

1	Price Stability: Fluctuation	How does the item influence the price stability for food items? (positive: stable prices, negative: fluctuating prices)
2	Equal Regional Distribution	How does the item influence an equal regional distribution of food?
3	Access to loans for poor and food insecure people	What effect does the item have on easily accessible loans for the poor and food insecure?
4	Reliable savings system	How does the analysed item influence the reliability and stability of a savings system (interest rates, safety, inflation rate etc.)
5	Disaster management safety nets	What effect does the item have on the availability of suitable and rapid safety nets in case of disasters?
6	Vulnerable group social safety nets	What effect does the item have on social safety nets for vulnerable groups?
7	Risk resilience	What effect does the item have on the resilience against risks of the poor and food insecure population?

Table 1: List of goals and guiding questions of the mainstreaming tool.

Facilitation guidelines

The proposed mainstreaming tool is simple. Nevertheless it should follow some important steps to ensure success and viability of the results.

1. Defining the item (policy and programme) to be mainstreamed

First of all the item (policy or programme) to be mainstreamed has to be clearly identified and described. This item can be of different nature. The mainstreaming tool can be applied for

- Draft policies or programme drafts to assist in planning stages
- Ongoing programmes or projects to monitor food security and nutrition and suggest adaptations
- Policies, programmes or projects to evaluate the effect they had on food security and nutrition to draw lessons learnt for possible future steps.

It is important to clearly define the item and the phase in which the mainstreaming is applied. An example of such a definition could be:

For a policy:

Item	Phase	Responsible	Stakeholders
Sector Strategy for Agriculture and Water	First draft by MAFF-consultant	MAFF, Dep. For XY, Mr. YZ	MAFF, MOWRAM, MoP,.... FAO, WFP, AFD, AUSAid, etc..

Table 2: Identification of item to be mainstreamed (fictitious example of a policy)

Or for a programme:

Item	Phase	Responsible	Stakeholders
National Programme on Food Security and Nutrition	Project document by FAO consultant	MAFF and FAO, Mrs. XY and Mr. YZ	MAFF, MOWRAM, MoP, Provinces X, Y, Z,, POLA, etc..

Table 3: Identification of item to be mainstreamed (fictitious example of a programme)

The methodology itself comprises simple checklists of goals according to the four themes of food security and nutrition and a simple excel-spreadsheet to summarize the results and automatically aggregate the result.

The tool can be applied by only one organisation/ person or by a group of people. The more diverse and the bigger the group undertaking the mainstreaming is, the better and more valid the results are.

2. Setting up the group of participants

The crucial factor for the validity of the mainstreaming tool is the diversity of the group of participants applying it. One single person can apply the tool but the more divers the group of people applying it is, the more valid the results are (see “wisdom of crowds” above).

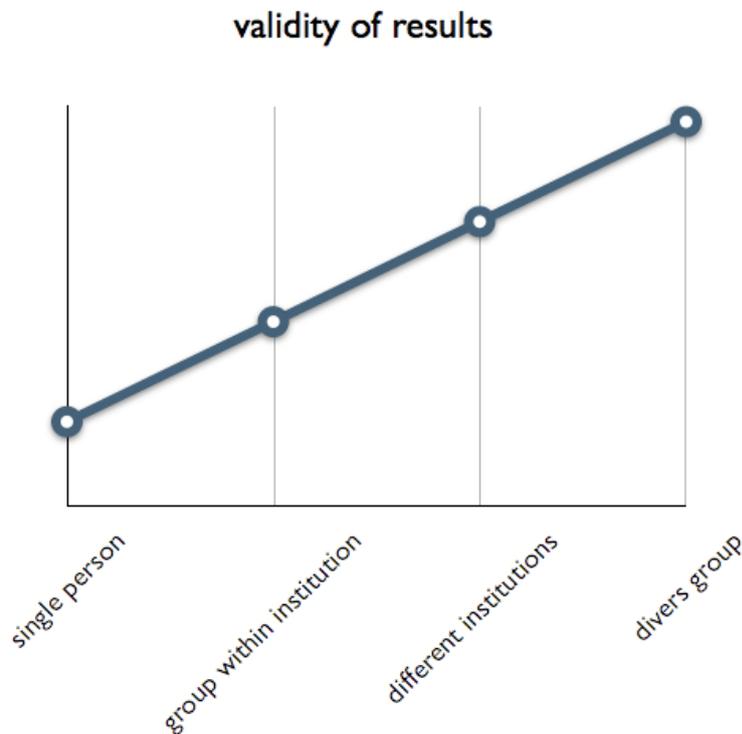


Figure 1: validity of results related to diversity of group

After defining the item to be analysed the resulting table can be used to set up the group of participants. Minimum requirement is, that representatives of the responsible institution for the item are present (see third column in tables 2 and 3 above).

If chances to apply the tool for a divers group are there, representatives from the institutions identified in the fourth column could be invited. This also depends on the phase in which the mainstreaming is applied, the importance of the item and the available time and resources.

3. Undertaking the mainstreaming exercise

The mainstreaming exercise itself starts up with presenting the item (policy or programme) to be “mainstreamed”. The table above can be used and it is advised, that in case representatives of the responsible institutions are present, they do the presentation. The presentation itself should only set the scope for the exercise and should not take longer than 5 minutes.

After this, the participants present themselves in case they don’t already know each other.

The next step is a very brief presentation of the mainstreaming tool and the next steps. This can also be done very brief in approx. 5 minutes.

After this the exercise itself starts. Depending on the size of the group, sub-groups are formed and in each sub-group the prepared questionnaires are filled. It is advisable not to have more than 3-4 people working on the same questionnaire. In case there are more than 4 participants break up the group into sub-groups.

Within the subgroups the first sheet of the questionnaire is distributed. One person is made responsible for entering the data and documentation of remarks and points raised by the participants.

Each goal is separately analysed. The guiding question being read and each participant estimates the impact/effect of the policy/ programme on the respective goal according to a scale from “+ +” (strong positive effect), “+” (positive effect), “no impact” (no effect or not relevant for the policy/programme), “-” (negative effect) until “- -” (strong negative effect). For each individual estimation the respective field is marked (see example below). The overall points raised in the discussion are documented briefly in the column “remarks”.

		++	+	no impact	-	--	Remarks
1	Agricultural intensification What effect does the item have on the agricultural intensification for the benefit of the poor and food insecure?	I	II				The major objective of the programme is the

Table 4: Example of the estimation of one goal and guiding question.

This exercise is continued for all goals on the questionnaire. After completion of the first sheet the facilitators distribute the second sheet and collect the filled-in versions to enter the data into the Excel spreadsheet.

2	Agricultural diversification What effect does the item have on the diversity of agricultural production for the poor and food insecure?		I	II			The programme focusses on staple food production, no new.....
---	---	--	---	----	--	--	---

Table 5: Continuation of the estimation of effects (in this example with 3 participants)

As soon as the first sheet of the questionnaire is filled out and collected, the facilitator can enter the data into the spreadsheet. Thereby the individual estimations are all entered into the respective fields in the prepared spreadsheet (see Screenshot below).

Item (Programme, Project, Strategy etc)

Food Availability

		++	+	no impact	-	--
1	Agricultural intensification	1	2			
2	Agricultural diversification		1	2		
3	Land availability and land rights		1	2		
4	Management of water resources and irrigation	2	1			
5	Enhancing of fishery and forestry	2	1			
6	Agricultural knowledge		1	2		
7	Food Stocks for disaster preparedness	2	1			
8	Food Imports			3		

Remarks

Comments, Reasons, Arguments...

Figure 2: Screenshot of the spreadsheet with individual estimations already entered.

Each sheet of the questionnaire is entered into the spreadsheet accordingly, so after the last of the 4 sheets is entered, the spreadsheet file directly displays a graphic profile on the estimated effects of the analysed item on the 4 themes of food security and nutrition.

4. The results

This profile as a first result gives a good overview about how good food security and nutrition is covered by the policy or programme. The positive and negative effects on the different themes are presented and provide a good basis to derive and prioritise recommendations.

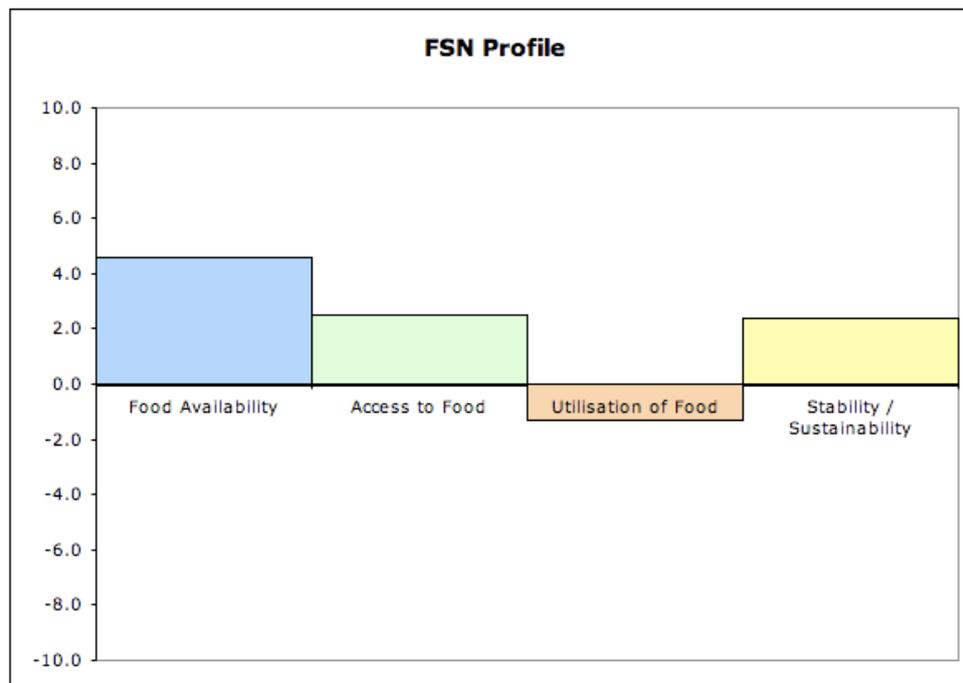


Figure 3: Profile showing the estimated effect of the analysed policy or programme on food security and nutrition.

This profile is then discussed among the group of participants. Reasons for negative and positive effects are discussed and the validity of the displayed profile assessed.

5. Recommendations

After discussing the profile, the final – and most important – step of the mainstreaming tool is the identification of recommendations to optimise the food security and nutrition outcome of the policy or programme.

Thereby each and every person is asked to formulate concrete recommendations for the improvement of the analysed policy/ programme respectively. Basis for these recommendations are the goals in each of the 4 questionnaires and the results as displayed in the FSN profile (showing themes with no or with negative effect to be improved).

The recommendations are documented and summarized in a list of recommendations representing the final result of the mainstreaming and showing concrete next steps and recommendations for the optimisation of the policies or programmes regarding food security and nutrition.

The recommendations are documented by the facilitator either by handwriting, on flip-chart or directly into the spreadsheet file.

Recommendations

1	Create strong links to MoH-Programme in the same Province to target the same districts and communes with their immunization programme
2	Meet GTZ-officials for agricultural value-chain project: Identify possible linkages
3	Include two indicators for „utilisation o food“ in the programme
4	...etc...

Table 6: Example of recommendations for a fictitious programme to display possible results of the application of the tool

After completion of this step, the exercise ends. All together the exercise will need approx. 2-3 hours time.

The facilitator will then collect all questionnaires and summarise all remarks, results and the recommendations in a short summary report. This report should be made available to all participants and – more importantly – to the responsible persons or institutions for the analysed item (policy or programme).