Lessons Learned from Recent Drought Crisis

views from the field

Panel discussion at the 2nd Annual Aid & Development Africa Summit 2017 - Nairobi

February 28th 2017

Philippe Carette
Country Director Action Against Hunger

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Our capacity onto triggering action and triggering early action

- Lesson learnt: Local, National and Regional leadership in drought response improves response;
- Lesson learnt: Data collection and analysis has improved tremendously over the past decade;
- Lesson learnt: but we are still responding to droughts by firefighting and with reactive mode

While we improved data analysis, we need to strengthen our capacity to trigger action when needed (and mostly trigger early-action) to get the most impact

Nutrition as a core outcome indicator: Treatment vs preventing, are we doing enough?

- Lesson learnt: Quick and rapid onset of episodes of acute malnutrition should have been prevented. While we can respond to acute malnutrition episodes when they occur, are we doing enough on preventing these to happen and mitigating them?

We need to scale up nutrition-resilience, making peoples and communities more resilience to acute malnutrition. To do so, we need to scale up nutrition-sensitive production interventions in-between the episodes of droughts as to prevent and mitigate negative impact of drought

Developing more sustainable and cost-effective alternatives to MAM/SAM treatment

- Lesson learnt: There <u>might</u> be an overreliance on LNS which might be hardly sustainable. RUSF, RUTF are expensive. Recently, the RUSF pipeline in Kenya has broken down, leaving numbers of MAM cases risking falling into becoming SAM cases... Is there alternatives?

We need to acknowledge that LNS/RUSF/CSB++ is our main treatment protocol and LNS/RUSF/CSB++ are currently needed in the Horn as to save life;

We may also need to explore and start developing/assessing lower-cost options, which, if available, would then make treatment more affordable and more sustainable, at least for MAM treatment. This would be a major step toward a sustainable prevention mechanism of malnutrition.

In conclusion,

…we are clearly moving ahead….we need to continue learning and improving response capacity…