



FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

TERMS OF REFERENCE BANGLADESH FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER

The Food Security Cluster (FSC) has been established globally to coordinate the food response during a humanitarian crisis, addressing issues of food availability, access and utilisation. The FSC was established by the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) and is co-lead by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Food Programme (WFP).

In Bangladesh the Local Consultative Group Working Group on Disaster and Emergency Response (LCG-DER) is strengthening its ability to respond to the evolving humanitarian context, keeping in mind the needs of the people at risk, the expectations of actors and coordination requirements. Humanitarian response coordination requires special attention to ensure adequate preparedness before a disaster strikes and an effective humanitarian response as well as early recovery after disaster strikes.

The Food Security Cluster (FSC) aims to strengthen the collective capacity of humanitarian actors working in the area of food security in Bangladesh. The FSC will focus in particular on preparedness whilst providing support to the Government and LCG DER on response efforts during times of both slow and sudden onset emergencies.

The FSC will work closely with the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) on all emergency coordination related activities/issues and will be in close contact (information exchange) with Local Consultative Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, (LCG-AFSRD) chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and co-chaired by FAO.

I. THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER CONTEXT

1. CLUSTER INTRODUCTION

In Bangladesh, the aim of the cluster approach is to support the existing Government structure and LCG DER and to ensure a more coherent and effective response by mobilizing groups of agencies, organizations and NGOs to respond in a strategic manner across all key sectors or areas of activity, each sector having a clearly designated lead.

Humanitarian actors who participate as members in the FSC are expected to be proactive partners in assessing needs, developing strategies and plans for the sector, and implementing agreed priority activities. Provisions should also be made in sectoral groups for those humanitarian actors who may wish to participate as observers, mainly for information-sharing purposes.

Sector/cluster leads at the country level are responsible for facilitating a process at the sectoral level aimed at ensuring the following:

2. INCLUSION OF KEY HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

- Ensure inclusion of key humanitarian partners for the sector, respecting their respective mandates and programme priorities, including the Resident Coordinator that would act as Humanitarian Coordinator in times of a major emergency.

3. COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL/LOCAL AUTHORITIES, STATE INSTITUTIONS, LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER RELEVANT ACTORS

- Ensure that humanitarian responses build and supports national and local capacities;
- Ensure appropriate links and support to the LCG DER and other national and local authorities, state institutions, NGOs, local civil society and other relevant actors and ensure appropriate coordination and information exchange with them.
- Given the complexity of many issues, an inter-cluster approach is necessary whose role will be played by the HCTT . Explore best options collectively with other relevant actors for coordination mechanism that will ensure cross cluster coordination, including the FSC link with the early recovery cluster.

4. ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF APPROPRIATE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION MECHANISMS

- Ensure appropriate coordination with all humanitarian partners (including national and international NGOs, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and other international organizations), through establishment/maintenance of appropriate sectoral coordination mechanisms, including working groups at the national and, if necessary, local level.
- Ensure effective links with the LCG DER, the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), other humanitarian clusters and relevant LCG Working Groups;
- Ensure effective and coherent sectoral needs assessment and analysis, involving all relevant partners including Government partners.
- Support continued mapping of existing capacity (who is doing what and where - 3W) in a pre-emergency time and who is doing what, where and when (4W) to track assistance during an emergency – including maintaining corresponding matrices and maps – to avoid, when/where possible, overlapping and duplication of efforts, which will also contribute to identification of the gaps;
- Secure commitments from humanitarian partners in responding to needs and filling gaps, ensuring an appropriate distribution of responsibilities within the sectoral group, with clearly defined focal points for specific issues where necessary;
- Ensure the complementarity of different humanitarian actors' actions;
- Promote emergency response actions while at the same time considering the need for early recovery planning as well as prevention and risk reduction concerns and the development of exit strategies and eventual handover to Government or other involved actors;
- Ensure that sectoral coordination mechanisms are adapted over time to reflect the capacities of local actors and the engagement of development partners; and
- Represent the interests of the sectoral group in discussions with stakeholders on prioritization, resource mobilization and advocacy.

5. PARTICIPATORY AND COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES

- Ensure utilization of participatory and community based approaches in sectoral needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response.

6. ATTENTION TO PRIORITY CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- Ensure integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in sectoral needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response (e.g. age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights); contribute to the development of appropriate strategies to address these issues; ensure gender sensitive programming and promote gender equality; ensure that the needs, contributions and capacities of women and girls as well as men and boys are addressed.

II. COORDINATION SOLUTIONS

FAO and WFP have a strong and collaborative working relationship globally as well as in Bangladesh and will manage, with support and guidance of the Rome-based Global Food Security Cluster the process in close coordination with the Government of Bangladesh, in particular, LCG- DER and with day to day support from a Information Officer.

In order to effectively address the delivery of a wide range of services across the food security spectrum, the management of the cluster will, in preparation for and in response to an emergency, be organized into a FSC Technical Team that will address the food and cash assistance as well as the agricultural production components including crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture. to address food security holistically, ensuring flexibility, in order to draw in technical expertise when needed. The Technical Team will report to the FSC.

Communication flow between the other Clusters will be undertaken with cluster co-leads FAO and WFP, with support from the FSC information manager. The Information Manager may also represent the FSC at the other Cluster's meetings and report back to the FSC members including the Technical Team.

The Technical team will report to the food security cluster members on the progress made and to update on future trends or needs in the humanitarian situation.

The FSC will be responsible for developing a 4W (who is doing what, where and when) matrix that incorporates the activities of all actors in both TWGS.

All relevant information will be posted on the following web portal for dissemination and reference: <http://foodsecuritycluster.net/countries/bangladesh>

III. COORDINATION RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

The FSC is expected to deliver coordination guidance and support in a number of different areas including program design, development and implementation. This is manifested in coordination support for common/joint assessments, planning and strategy (analysis), program response, M&E and advocacy.

PLANNING AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Ensure predictable action within the sectoral group for the following:

- Identification of gaps;
- Developing/updating agreed response strategies and action plans for the sector and ensuring that these are adequately reflected in overall country strategies);
- Drawing lessons learned from past activities and revising strategies accordingly;
- Developing an exit, or transition, strategy for the sectoral group.

APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

- Ensure that sectoral group participants are aware of relevant policy guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government has set/established;
- Ensure that responses are in line with existing policy guidance, technical standards, and relevant Government human rights legal obligations.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the sectoral working groups' project/activities and progress against implementation plans;
- Ensure adequate reporting and effective information sharing, with due regard for age and sex disaggregation.

ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- Identify core advocacy concerns, including resource requirements, and contribute key messages to broader advocacy initiatives of the HCTT, HC and other actors;
- Advocate for donors to fund humanitarian actors to carry out priority activities in the sector concerned, while at the same time encouraging sectoral group participants to mobilize resources for their activities through their usual channels.

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE OR SERVICES AS A LAST RESORT

- As agreed by the IASC Principals, sector leads are responsible for acting as the provider of last resort (subject to access, security and availability of funding) to meet agreed priority needs and will be supported by the HC and the ERC in their resource mobilization efforts in this regard.
- This concept is to be applied in an appropriate and realistic manner for crosscutting issues such as protection, early recovery and camp coordination.
- Note: To date, considerable efforts have been made for provision raising to establish the members, determine the accountability and reporting framework, in an effort to "get prepared" for a potential formal activation of the cluster.,

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE TORs

The current TORs are subject to periodic review, modification and amendments, as agreed by the FSC members.