



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER BANGLADESH

#### I. PURPOSE AND ROLES

In Bangladesh the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) – with the support of Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) – is strengthening its ability to respond to the evolving humanitarian context, keeping in mind the needs of people at risk, the expectations of different stakeholders and coordination requirements. The Food Security Cluster (FSC) recognizes and respects the national Government’s leadership in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and early recovery.

**The FSC enables effective local and international support for the Government of Bangladesh’s disaster mitigation, preparedness and response, including early warning and anticipatory action.** It provides a coordination platform for humanitarian agencies working on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian response in Bangladesh to come together and collaborate with Government before, during and after disasters as articulated in Bangladesh’s Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019.

The Food Security Cluster (FSC) aims to strengthen the collective capacity of food security and livelihoods actors in Bangladesh through coordination and information management for effective humanitarian response, disaster preparedness and capacity building. The FSC will focus in particular on preparedness, whilst providing coordination and information management support to government ministries/departments and the HCTT during both slow and sudden onset emergencies.

The FSC will work closely with and contribute to the Inter cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) on all emergency coordination related activities/issues. Through information exchange, and sharing of guideline and standards, FSC will be in close contact with FSC Strategic Advisory Group (FSC SAG) and the Local Consultative Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development (LCG-AFSRD) chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and co-chaired by FAO.

In Bangladesh, the aim of the cluster approach is to support the Government to ensure a more coherent effective and timely response by mobilizing UN agencies, organizations and NGOs to respond in a strategic manner based on the priorities of people in need and maintaining the humanitarian standards mentioned in the SOD 2019.

## II. RESPONSIBILITIES

**Enhance response interventions:** Strengthen the emergency response system that promotes rapid and accountable humanitarian response, including the efficient distribution of resources.

**Coordination and information management:** Ensure emergency responses are effectively and efficiently coordinated to prevent gaps and duplication. Collect, analyse and share information through high quality information products to assist cluster partners make programmatic, evidence-based and strategic decisions during humanitarian crises.

**Restore community functions:** Facilitate the restoration/functionality of essential community services, livelihood, and food security following a disaster to ensure resilient food system.

**Strengthen preparedness actions:** Support preparedness activities that enable government agencies and local communities to anticipate and adequately prepare for potential disasters (e.g. through minimum preparedness actions, knowledge, tools, and resources).

**Improve mitigation measures:** Support the development of risk assessment and mitigation approaches with a focus on strong early warning systems, common messaging systems, resilient food security infrastructure, and public education and awareness.

### **Coordination With National/Local Authorities, State Institutions, Local Civil Society and Other Relevant Actors**

- Ensure that humanitarian responses build and support national and local capacities.
- Ensure appropriate links and support to state institutions; the HCTT, ICCG, LCG AFSCRD and other coordination bodies; NGOs; local civil society; and other relevant actors; and ensure appropriate coordination and information exchange.
- Provide secretarial support to the FSC Technical Working Group, including for needs assessments; guidelines and standards on agriculture and livestock in emergencies, and general food assistance; SPHERE standards monitoring.
- Coordinate anticipatory actions related to Food Security
- Support local-level Disaster Management Committees with the FSC District Focal Point Mechanism to maintain effective information exchange among government and humanitarian actors.
- Produce common messages, guidance, and standards to support agriculture in emergencies.

### **Information management:**

- Support FSC partners to record response activities in a common 5W system.
- Produce thematic and partner capacity maps, district profiles for FSC partners and cluster bulletins with the support from the member organization.
- Produce Cluster situation reports, identify people in need and targets, and geographical response plans with the support from the member organization.
- Coordinate/lead the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.
- Support the process of the Food Consumption Score (FCS).
- Monitor market, food prices, through FSC partner organizations.
- Prepare and train partners in the use of Food Security assessment tools.

#### **PLANNING AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

Ensure predictable action within the FSC members for the following:

- Identification of priorities, needs and gaps.
- Developing/updating agreed response strategies and action plans
- Drawing lessons learned from past activities and revising strategies accordingly.

#### **APPLICATION OF STANDARDS**

- Ensure that the FSC members 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 human rights legal obligations.

#### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the 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 food security sector, while at the same time encouraging FSC partners 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, cluster 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 HCTT and the RCO 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 displacement coordination.

### **III. CHAIR**

FAO and WFP are co-chairs of the Food Security Cluster globally. FAO and WFP have a strong and collaborative working relationship globally as well as in Bangladesh and, with Government, will co-chair the FSC with support and guidance from the Rome-based global Food Security Cluster. FSC Bangladesh is co-chaired by FAO, WFP and the co-chair of the FSC SAG. The FSC SAG co-chair position rotates among 10 government ministries and departments. The government agency who is co-chair of the FSCSAG will be co-chairing the FSC with the FAO & WFP.

### **IV. Composition**

The Food Security Cluster includes a diverse range of partners who are engaged in the food security and livelihood sector, including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, UN agencies, I/NGOs, networks/platforms, governmental bodies, universities, research institutes, the private sector and donors. Having such a broad and diverse range of partner organizations working on food security and livelihood efforts in Bangladesh emphasizes on common vision to collaborate and share knowledge to achieve "Zero Hunger". The Food Security Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (FSCSAG) will provide the overall guidance.

#### **I. AMENDMENTS TO THE TOR**

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