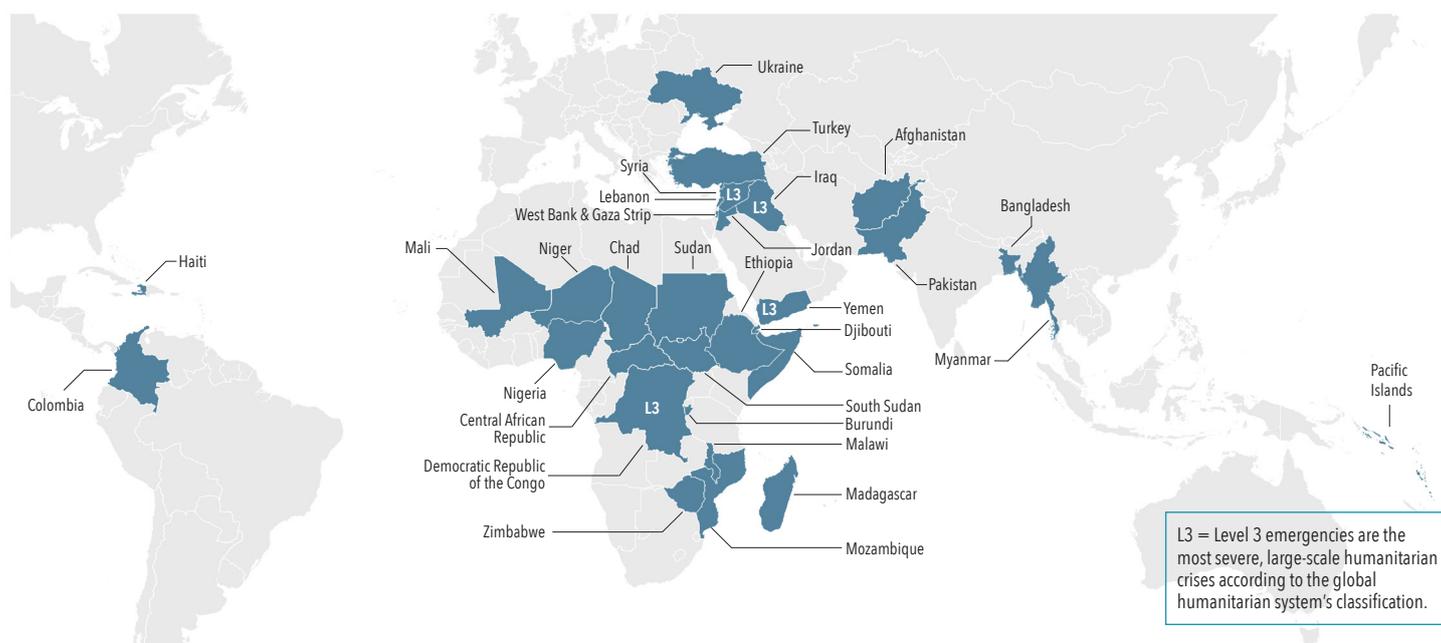




A Year in Review: 2017 Summary

Coordinating the food security response in emergencies

Country Food Security Clusters and Coordination Solutions in 2017



2017 Overview

The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), established in 2011 to coordinate the food security response during a humanitarian crisis, is headquartered in Rome and co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP). The gFSC is committed to saving lives through the effective coordination of food security responses in major emergencies and in 2017 supported some 30 in-country Food Security Clusters.

FAO and the WFP, other United Nations agencies and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, resource partners and government representatives work closely together to assist needy people with the objective of reaching as many people as possible with available funding. During 2017, gFSC coordination efforts involved more than 1,700 partners at the country level, more than half being national entities.

At the start of 2017, more than 108 million people in emergencies were classified as severely food insecure and 78.6 million people were targeted through Humanitarian Response Plans. At gFSC supported main operations in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, food assistance was provided to over 25 million people and agriculture and livelihoods assistance to more than 15 million people, one third of which being reached through cash and voucher programmes.

RESULT 1: EFFECTIVE FOOD SECURITY COORDINATION AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

The global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) supported in-country clusters and sectors through discussions, training, missions to improve the coordination systems to enhance the performance of its country teams. This includes gFSC support on the information management tool, the so-called 4Ws, to ensure that in-country coordination is built on who is doing what where and when. gFSC also increased its readiness to deploy qualified and trained staff to sudden-onset emergencies and protracted crises.

Cluster Coordinators: From training to deployment



* Includes participants who were already deployed, deployed as NGO co-facilitators or co-chairs and deployed through stand-by partners.

Information Management Officers: From training to deployment



* Includes participants who were already deployed and those deployed through stand-by partners.

Deployments



Support missions by the Global Support Team



gFSC technical support and guidance

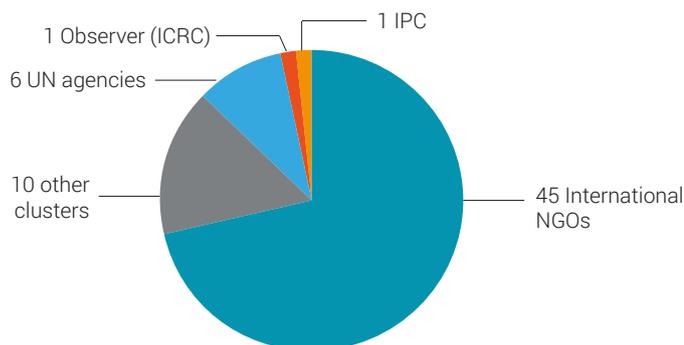
- Training on the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) for 20 Food Security Cluster Coordinators and Information Management Officers;
- Launch of the [e-learning course](#) on cluster coordination;
- Publication of the [Food Security Cluster Terminology](#).

RESULT 2: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

The gFSC has established partnerships with 63 organizations at the global level based on complementary expertise and comparative advantage and with 1,700 partners in countries with Food Security Clusters/Sectors, of which 60 percent were NGOs and 40 percent international NGOs.

Regular dialogue with global institutions

63 global institutions



1,700

partners at country level in all humanitarian scenes



Partnerships with non-traditional partners, among which 2 universities

Providing guidance and information through Technical Working Groups

20 global partners provided technical support through the five [working groups](#) that documented best practices, developed tools and guidelines and facilitated exchanges among global partners.

- 2 training packages developed
- 4 webinars organized
- 2 workshops co-organized
- 3 case studies developed
- 2 guidance notes developed
- 1 side event organized

➔ Cross-cutting dimensions were integrated throughout for high-quality humanitarian responses and [best practices and lessons learned](#) were published from Food Security Clusters/Sectors.

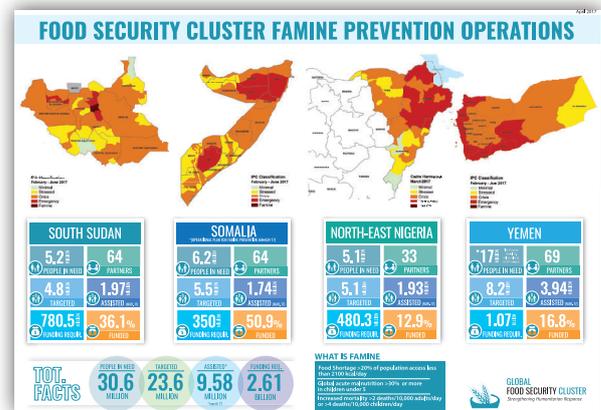


RESULT 3: ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATION, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS

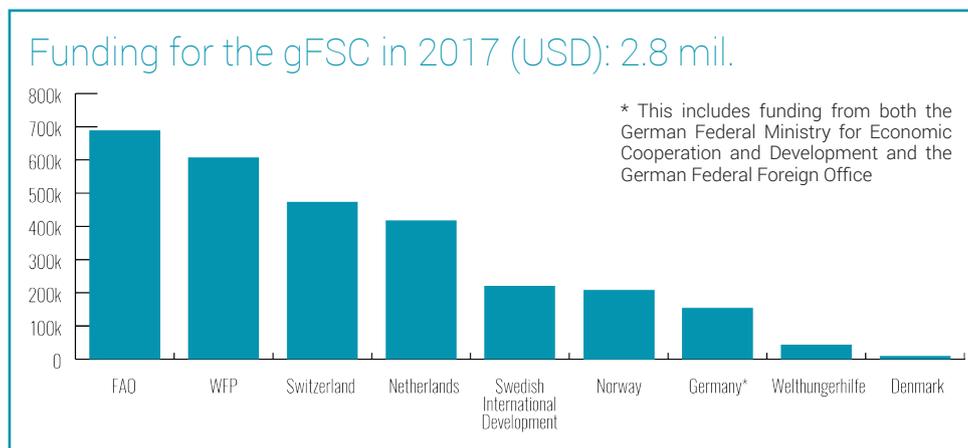
As crises become more protracted and frequent, the need for coordination is paramount. Because the gFSC supports also countries in which clusters are not active, the cluster system is stretched and resource mobilization, supported by advocacy and communication, is hence fundamental to humanitarian responses.

Advocacy

- 12 global humanitarian events attended by the Global Support Team to strengthen coordination with partners and to enhance the inter-cluster work and linkages with the IASC.
- Joint global Food Security and Nutrition Cluster event on the four countries at risk of famine: North East Nigeria, Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia led to an [Integrated Famine Prevention Response Package](#).



Food security cluster famine prevention operations dashboards





Communication tools

- [Annual report 2016](#)
- [Strategic plan 2017–2019](#)
- [Global Food Security Cluster snapshot of 2015–2016 results](#)
- [gFSC Performance Surveys 2016](#)
- [Global Dashboard 2017](#)
- [Food Security Component Global Humanitarian Overview 2017](#)



[Quarterly newsletter](#)

>1,000 readers



[gFSC website](#)

50,000 user visits monthly



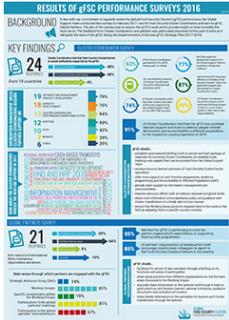
[gFSC Twitter channel](#)

80% growth in terms of followers



[3 gFSC/Welthungerhilfe videos](#)

were launched on the importance of local partnership in humanitarian crises coordination



RESULT 4: PROGRAMMATIC COORDINATION ACTION

The World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain call for a revision of humanitarian working practices. The gFSC has clear comparative advantages and hence potential as an agent of change in terms of linking humanitarian and development actors, decentralizing preparedness and improving joint needs analyses.

Engagement with humanitarian and development actors

The concept of food security involves short-term and long-term activities that contribute to peace building in that food-insecure communities are supported through food assistance, cash-based transfers and initiatives focusing on agriculture, animal production, fisheries, livelihoods, nutrition and food systems with a view to promoting sustainable development. The gFSC and its partners have agreed that the food security concept must take the humanitarian-development-peace nexus into account to link short-term and long-term activities.

Decentralization and localization of preparedness

Localization is a gFSC focus: 60 percent of the 1,700 partners of the country-level food security clusters and sectors are national-level organizations.

With financial support from the German Federal Foreign Office, in June 2017 gFSC and Welthungerhilfe published three [videos](#) on partnerships from [Bangladesh](#), [Iraq](#) and [Mali](#) that show the importance of coordinating with local actors during humanitarian crises and present coordination solutions for sudden-onset disasters and protracted crises.

Improving joint needs analysis

Country cluster and inter-cluster coordination groups are well placed to lead in changing the dialogue and dynamics of needs analysis and response programming. The global clusters will therefore scale up their engagement in Grand Bargain workstream 5 on joint and impartial needs assessments in 2018, with financial support from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

gFSC CONTRIBUTORS:

