Terms of Reference for the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster (FSLC) South Sudan, 2012

Background

The overall goal of the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster (FSLC) is to improve food security responses in humanitarian crisis situations.

The purpose of the Food Security Cluster (FSLC) is to promote responses that are:

- **Proportionate**: The humanitarian imperative comes first – and the needs of disaster affected communities should be the primary determinant of a humanitarian response. The FSLC will promote proportionate needs-based responses and advocate for adequate resources and support.

- **Appropriate**: The FSLC will promote appropriate – and therefore more effective – emergency food security interventions, which incorporate food assistance, emergency agricultural support, cash and voucher transfers, and time-critical and urgent support to the protection and rapid restoration of agricultural, pastoral and fishing livelihoods.

- **Timely**: There have been significant investments and improvements in early warning systems – yet there is too often a gap between early warning and early response. The appropriate timing of phasing down or out of responses is also important. In South Sudan, the FSLC will aim to improve timeliness of responses in order to provide both a more effective and cost-efficient response.

The aim of the FSLC is to plan and implement proportionate, appropriate and timely food security responses in humanitarian crisis situations which will address both the immediate needs of the affected populations while looking at the integration of livelihood stabilisation and strengthening responses. This will be achieved through providing predictable, systematic and country-driven services.

Objectives of the FSLC

- Support coordination in strategy development, assessment planning, preparedness and response.
- Advocate for entire food security community, not just specific partners.
- Strengthen national/local systems for emergency and recovery programming.
- Promote use of appropriate standards and best practices in delivery of food security and livelihood services
- Build partnership and promote inclusiveness in all aspects of the cluster.

Sub-clusters/Technical working groups

Owing to the success of the thematic working groups in contributing to the cluster inputs for the South Sudan CAP for 2012, it was unanimously agreed that the thematic groups be
strengthened and institutionalized within the overall FSLC structure. It was agreed that the FSLC will have four sub-clusters:

1. Food assistance
2. Agriculture support
3. Livestock and fisheries
4. Urban livelihoods

The food assistance sub-cluster (FAS) was established on 23rd February following the endorsement of its priorities agreed upon at a special FSL meeting held on 9th February (see Annex 1). The FAS will operate within the overall strategic framework of the FSLC whose objectives outlined above.

The priorities of the FAS agreed upon by members include (derived from the generic priorities of the gFSC):

- Ensuring the inclusion of key humanitarian partners and coordination with national/local authorities
- Leading emergency preparedness and contingency planning
- Ensuring predictable responses within the cluster, including the identification of gaps and the updating of cluster response plans and CAP strategy accordingly
- Strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors through training and capacity investment

The FAS will focus on the following areas:

- Transition to recovery and development
- Context-specific programmatic approaches to increase food access:
  - Market-based transfers-cash/vouchers
  - Targeted and/or conditional in-kind transfers where markets do not work
  - Income generation activities
  - Supply side/market interventions
- Disaster risk reduction: Early warning and preparedness.

The Livestock/Fisheries sub-cluster will focus on the following priorities:

- Coordination with national/local authorities, state institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors
- Strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors through training and capacity investment.
- Providing a forum for advocacy and resource mobilization
- Ensuring adequate monitoring and reporting mechanisms are in place & Developing, revising, disseminating technical standards and best practices

The Crop/Agriculture sub-cluster will focus on the following priorities:

- Coordination with national/local authorities, state institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors
• Providing a forum for advocacy and resource mobilization
• Developing, revising, disseminating technical standards and best practices
• Leading emergency preparedness and contingency planning

Urban livelihoods support are in the process of formation the ToRs will be published after endorsement by the FSLC.

**Governance structure of the FSLC**

The FSLC is managed by a secretariat comprising of full-time cluster co-coordinators from FAO and WFP assisted by two NGO co-coordinators and information manager. The cluster coordinators report to the Country Representatives of FAO and WFP. The FSLC meets every last Thursday of the month for the regular monthly coordination meetings. Special purpose meetings are also convened as required. Similarly the sub-clusters meet regularly at least once a month or as required to discuss specific emerging issues pertaining to the cluster. Issues discussed at the sub-cluster level will be presented to the FSLC level for consideration and endorsement. Due to the robust structure of the FSLC, the sub-cluster management consists of a chair and a rotating minute taker.

**Key Priorities in 2012**

Key priorities for the cluster in 2012 are: (i) to improve household food availability among at-risk populations; (ii) to boost household incomes to improve food access by vulnerable households (iii) to strengthen livelihood strategies for at-risk populations; and (iv) to strengthen food security and livelihoods cluster coordination and response.

**Cluster Strategy**

Given the multifaceted challenges perpetually causing food insecurity and eroding the capacity of households to feed themselves, the FSL cluster strategy in 2012 will ensure an integrated food security and livelihood response to achieve its objectives by concentrating in four key thematic areas:

(i) provision of food assistance;
(ii) provision of farm level household support to food production;
(iii) provision of preventive and treatment/control of animal diseases;
(iv) support to rural and peri-urban livelihood strategies and reintegration of returnees; and
(v) strengthening food security coordination and response.

Key to this response strategy is ensuring a clear monitoring mechanism; effective targeting criteria; and enhanced vulnerability mapping and preparedness by the cluster partners.