Cluster lead agencies (CLAs) are selected at country level, taking account of the in-country coordination capacities and operational presence of the agencies working in the sector concerned. Aligning CLAs at country level with those at the global level is ideal and enhances predictability. Likewise, CLAs, in collaboration with the HC/RC are responsible for consulting with the relevant national government authorities (line ministries/departments) to inform them of cluster activation, the cluster approach, and, optimally, concretize government co-chair or co-leadership roles.

**Roles and Responsibilities of both lead agencies:**

CLAs as designated at country level are responsible for appointing a Cluster Coordinator and Cluster support staff, for effective functioning of the Cluster and serve as *first point of call* for the Government and the HC/RC and as *provider of last resort* for the sector¹.

The Country Representative of a designated CLA leads the Cluster (with the support of the Cluster Coordinator) and maintains dual reporting lines: (i) to his/her agency on agency responsibilities; and (ii) to the HC/RC on Cluster responsibilities. She/he is responsible for fulfilling the TOR in Annex I and ensuring a well-coordinated and effective cluster response. In HCT or UNCT meetings, s/he represents the views of the Cluster as well as those of his/her own agency.²

As per the TOR in Annex I, the key areas of responsibility for CLAs, through effective functioning of the Cluster, include:

- Inclusion of key humanitarian partners;
- Establishment and maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms;
- Coordination with national/local authorities, state institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors
- Participatory and community-based approaches;
- Attention to priority cross-cutting issues;
- Needs assessment and analysis;
- Emergency preparedness;
- Planning and strategy development;
- Application of Standards;
- Monitoring and reporting;
- Advocacy and resource mobilization;
- Training and capacity-building;
- Provision of assistance or services as a last resort.
  - NB: The provider of last resort function should be activated when³:

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² Ibid.
- The Cluster agrees that there is an important life threatening gap in the sector response, and
- One or more of the agreed benchmarks for the sector response as a whole are not being met and
- Evidence suggests that a significant proportion of the target population is at risk of avoidable death if the gap is not filled urgently.

**Roles and responsibilities of individual lead agencies**

At country-level, it should be agreed that individual lead agencies provide additional technical backstopping and support to inform the Cluster response, according to the areas of expertise housed within each individual agency. Commonly, this is intended to ensure a sectoral response that integrates food assistance and agricultural assistance and recovery approaches throughout the course of the response, thereby informing a smooth transition to recovery.

For the PNG Cluster, these areas are defined as follows:

**FAO – Advise and inform Agricultural Assistance and Recovery**

- Provide technical guidance to government and cluster partners in the development and implementation of a comprehensive and collectively aligned Agricultural Recovery strategy and response planning;
- Provide technical support in the selection of appropriate assistance modalities (ex. seeds, tools, etc);
- Provide adequate and accurate information to inform the planning of assistance over time that is appropriate and relevant to the agricultural livelihoods of affected populations (ex. seasonal calendars, crop zones, criteria for seeds provision etc);
- Support the design and leadership of assessment in or involving the agriculture sector as a means of informing timely and effective recovery planning.

**WFP – Advise and inform Food Assistance delivery**

- Provide technical guidance to government and cluster partners in the design and delivery of food assistance, including minimum standards, ration design, commodity calculations, etc;
- Provide technical support in the selection of appropriate food assistance modalities (ex. food, cash, FFW/CFW etc);
- Provide operational guidance, including links with the Logistics cluster to ensure timely delivery of assistance, whenever possible;
- Provide adequate and accurate information to inform the planning of emergency food assistance over time, including guidance on timeframes to scale down to accommodate recovery activities;
- Support the design and leadership of assessments to determine food gaps and needs, as a means of informing the timely and effective delivery of emergency food assistance