**Food Security Cluster/Sector**

**Terms of Reference (ToR)**

***ADD COUNTRY***

The Cluster Approach was adopted in 2005 by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as a strategy to address gaps in humanitarian response. It is a key component of the 2005 Humanitarian Response review and ongoing reform initiative for improved effectiveness, increased predictability and accountability in international responses to humanitarian emergencies.

The global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) was endorsed by the IASC in December 2010 and became operational in April 2011. The gFSC as well as the FSCs at country level are co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Food Security Cluster (FSC) in country provides an action-oriented forum for bringing together government authorities, national and international humanitarian partners to improve the relevance, timeliness and impact of humanitarian food security assistance on the lives of crisis-impacted communities. It helps ensure coherent, coordinated and integrated humanitarian responses driven by need-based approach (the assessed food security needs of the affected population) with respect to humanitarian principles.

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 HC and the ERC in their resource mobilization efforts in this regard.

*Add country specific background*

**Overall FSC Vision:**

The vision of the Food Security Cluster is that the specific food security needs of individuals and communities affected by or at risk of being affected by humanitarian crises (whether sudden onset or protracted) are met. Coordinated preparedness, response and recovery action at community, national and global levels result in saved lives, improved livelihoods and increased resilience of households and communities.

**Overall FSC Mission[[1]](#footnote-2):**

The overall objectives of the FSC is to guarantee:

* A coherent, timely safe and dignifying food security assistance is delivered to the targeted population;
* Food security assistance to the most vulnerable is leveraged to promote early action & response and resilience, therefore properly integrated with livelihoods activities;
* Food security interventions are adequately integrated and complementary with other relevant sectors such as Nutrition, WASH and Health;
* Food security interventions are meant to support and strengthen all the four pillars of food security: access, availability, utilisation and stability.

**Core Functions:**

1. Supporting service delivery to all humanitarian partners with an inclusive approach
2. Informing strategic decisions of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)
3. Planning and implementing Cluster strategies, including contingency planning and preparedness
4. Monitoring and Evaluating Cluster/Sector performance
5. Building national and members capacity in preparedness and contingency planning
6. Advocacy
7. Accountability to affected people

**Country Specific Objectives** *(can be amended depending on context)****:***

* Ensure appropriate coordination with all humanitarian partners (including government institutions, national and international NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and other international organizations), through the establishment and maintenance of appropriate coordination mechanisms for Food Security Sector coordination at national and provincial levels;
* Ensure appropriate coordination with OCHA and the inter-cluster/sector coordination streams, relevant cluster/sectors (ex. Nutrition, Health, WASH, Protection, etc.) and Working Groups (ex. Cash, Targeting, etc.);
* Ensure identification of needs, severity, geographical scope, and People in Need and planning and strategy development in consultations with partners;
* Promote and monitor effective, timely and appropriate response against a common strategic plan;
* Identify priority technical and operational support needs and support efforts to strengthen the capacity of national government, NGOs, and civil society to play an active role in the humanitarian response;
* Undertake advocacy and resource mobilization on behalf of the cluster partners and ensure a neutral approach;
* Ensure mainstreaming of cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issues (e.g. gender, age, HIV and AIDS, human rights, disability, environment, early recovery, protection, nutrition) and appropriate participatory and community-based approaches in cluster/inter-cluster needs assessments, analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring.

**Key Responsibilities and Activities** *(can be amended depending on context and country based workplan – for more info refer to the CC and IMO ToRs)****:***

**Structure***(can be amended depending on context)****:***

* At the IASC level, FAO and WFP co-lead the FSC, with formal accountability to the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator.
* At the country level, a Food Security Cluster/Sector coordinator will work impartially with all members of the FSC and represents the group as a whole, and not a specific agency. The Information Management Officer (IMO) plays a vital role in collecting, analysing, and sharing information that is important for the cluster stakeholders to make informed, evidence based and strategic decisions.
* The FSC-CC leads the FSC and supervises the IMO.
* Cluster Partners (members and/or observers) drawn from international and national agencies (UN, INGOs, NNGOs, Government, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, etc.).
* Membership of the FSC is opened to all organisations/agencies involved in food security activities at country or regional level in respect of humanitarian principles. To be an active member, organisation must attend the FSC meeting regularly and provide the requested information to the FSC team.
* Communication flow between the other Clusters will be undertaken by the FSC-CC with cluster co-leads FAO and WFP, with support from the FSC information manager
* Coordination at sub-national level may be activated based on agreed priority, needs/locations and depending on available resources.
* One Co-coordinator from the NGO community needs to be identified, elected or nominated by the partners through a transparent process to support in the coordination (usually from the NGO). Co-coordinator are elected for defined time, usually 6-12 months. The co-coordinator is seconded by his/her organisation and work in in full collaboration with the FS coordinator. Since the coordinator has the responsibility of the cluster, the co-coordinator will not take any decision or communicate on the name of the cluster without agreement of the coordinator.
* Co-chair can be appointment when possible from the relevant government counterparts.
* A SAG should be established comprised of active partners elected through a transparent process in order to facilitate decision making process. When possible the government and donor community should be part of the SAG. The SAG is responsible of reviewing and providing technical and strategic decisions for the cluster.
* The Technical Working groups, permanent or temporary, may be created when and if necessary. The Technical WG 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. They have no mandate to take decisions. Only the FSC members, can take decision.

1. Based on the 2020-2020 Food Security Cluster Strategic Plan – to be published [↑](#footnote-ref-2)