

## **Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Emergency Livelihood Assistance Guidelines**

### **Effective 1st April 2023**

#### **Background**

The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) Emergency Livelihood Assistance (ELA) Guidelines came into effect in December 2020 with the last update done in August 2022. The FSAC Livelihoods Technical Working Group (LTWG) made a recommendation to further review and update the guideline according to the evolving food security situation and operational context in the country.

The following areas have been extensively discussed and revised based on emerging evidence:

- The ELA kits developed per livelihood zone.
- The composition and prices of the ELA kits.
- The wording of a few sections of the document to provide more clarity.

#### **Key considerations**

1. **The ELA Guidelines comes into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.** New FSAC ELA projects should be designed using this revised ELA Guideline. For the on-going projects, FSAC partners should align with the ELA Guidelines as soon as possible, by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023. **The ELA Guidelines will remain valid until the next update.**
2. **The ELA Guidelines focus on short-term emergency assistance;** therefore, they are not covering longer-term, development-oriented projects. The ELA main goal is supporting vulnerable households, aiming at safeguarding and meeting their short-term food and basic livelihood needs.
3. **The composition of ELA kits is the following:**
  - Agriculture kit (details of kit / livelihood zone available in the annex) comprising of cereal and vegetable kits.
  - Livestock kit (details of kit / livelihood zone available in the annex).

- Fishery kits (details of kit / livelihood zone available in the annex).  
There are specific ELA kits / each livelihood zone across the country as indicated in the annex.
- 4. **ELA activities target vulnerable households with access to productive assets** such as Returnee households and households hosting IDPs, with access to land and / or any other productive assets.

**Specific targeting Criteria for ELA Activities include;**

**A. Agriculture kit**

- Vulnerable households (Returnee households, households hosting IDPs, host communities, with access to land and / or any other productive assets.
- Households with access to at least 0.50 to 2 ha (2 to 4.5 feddan) of agricultural land for cereal and enough water for irrigation.
- Households with access to at least 0.4 to 1 ha (0.75 to 2.4 feddan) of agricultural land (the exact land size depends on the amount of seed entitlement).

**B. Livestock kit**

- Households owning less than five animals (small ruminants) or Households with 3 to 10 small ruminants, which consider livestock production as the primary source of livelihood.
- Households with no or minimal access to land for cultivation (less than 0.10 ha), but with at least 4m<sup>2</sup> of land for poultry production.
- Households with a condition (favorable area/terrain) to engage in beekeeping.

**C. Fishery kits**

- Households engaged in fishery, with the main income for the household derived from fishing activities.
- Households that own or have access to a fishing boat.

#### **D. Other considerations**

- Vulnerable Households not included in any other Livelihood interventions of FAO.
- Households led by women (female-headed households) and young farmers directly involved in running their farm.
- Households that have one or more members dedicated to growing cereals/legumes.
- IDP households or host community households living in areas with high concentrations of IDPs.
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- Households that have seven and more members
- Households with a member with disabilities or elderly (>60 years)
- Households with children below five years suffering from moderate or severe malnutrition.
- Households with pregnant or lactating women
- Households with a chronically sick member.

#### **ELA cannot be provided to;**

- A. Displaced families living in camp-like settlements, spontaneous settlements, and collective centers.
  - B. Newly displaced conflict induced IDPs.
  - C. Vulnerable returnees and families hosting IDPs with specific needs or without access to land and/or any other productive assets.
5. **FSAC partners should assess before implementing any ELA activities** to ascertain community preferences and kits suitable to the specific livelihood zone, soil type, climate and other contextual considerations.
  6. **FSAC partners should consult the relevant line Ministries and relevant authorities before implementing<sup>1</sup> any ELA activities.**
  7. **Based on assessment findings and considering suggested items, the composition of ELA kits can be adjusted. The most effective implementation modality (in-kind, cash, hybrid) should be identified considering the feasibility of either and from an operational and conflict sensitivity approach.**

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1. 1 In the North: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; Ministry of Fishery Wealth. In the South: Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery Wealth

8. Yemen's land size varies from location to location, with significant differences between highlands, lowlands and Tehama. The average land size is smaller in highlands, due to high population density. **According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) statistics, the average size of land is 0.9 - 1 ha.** Before implementing any projects FSAC partners should undertake a needs assessment to establish actual land sizes and determine the exact needs and preferences of the farmers.
9. **Local seeds should be provided.** The selection of seeds should consider the project location, water availability, seasonality, soil type, drought resistance, pests, and disease tolerance. It must be endorsed by the local Ministry Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI). **Seeds should undergo a test** <sup>2</sup>(moisture percentage, germination rate, purity, impurities, foreign materials) to determine their viability. The provision of cereal kits focuses on rain-fed agriculture, the main form of agriculture for most vulnerable households. Concerning vegetable seeds, most farmers prefer hybrid ones, they should be recommended by the local MAI according to community preferences.
10. **Regardless of the land size, cereal seeds should be provided for a maximum of 1 Ha, legume seeds for a maximum of 0.5 Ha, and vegetable seeds for a maximum of 0.25 Ha.** That notwithstanding, seed rates can be decreased depending on available resources and the need to support more beneficiaries. Other considerations for reduction include context, soil type, climatic conditions, advice/guidance from relevant line Ministries, community preferences, project objective e.g. supporting women with vegetable gardens and further assessments.
11. The formula to calculate the seed rate is  **$SR = X * SSR / 1Ha$** . where SR: Seed Rate X: the amount of seeds required for the actual area under cultivation, SSR: Standard Seed Rate per hectare and 1Ha: 1 hectare.
12. **Chemical fertilizers and pesticides are not part of the ELA kits** due to the inherent risks involved and in line with the FSAC “do no harm” principle. Compost / organic fertilizer and bio-pesticides should be utilized because they benefit the environment.
13. **Agriculture kit.** FSAC partners are requested to provide a maximum of 3 types of cereal or vegetable seeds. The choice of seed sources will be based on community preferences, and distributions must be in sync with the seasonality. The crops of

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2. <sup>2</sup> Seed test certification: this should be conducted through Ministry of Agriculture or it related bodies.

local cereal and vegetable short cycle (maximum 4 four months should be prioritized. Each household should receive only one set of tools. Tillage support should be ensured via cash.

14. **Livestock kit.** Local livestock should be prioritized. Feed concentrate: 200 gm \ day (sheep and goat, 30 days). Anti-parasites: 1 liter / 100 animals. 2-5% Internal Parasites: FSAC partners should provide two animal treatments/animal. Vaccines: 1 vial / 100 animals. Blocks: 1 / 10 animals/month. FSAC partners should select either feed concentrate or wheat bran, as they serve the same purpose. Feed & mineral blocks or molasses are used for fattening purposes; hence it is optional to provide all of them or feed & mineral blocks only.
15. **Fishery kit.** One set of fishing nets / 3 fishermen; one set of ice boxes / 3 fishermen. One life jacket/fisherman
16. FSAC partners should carry out market assessments to determine correct prices in each season and specific geographical area. **A Fifteen percent buffer could be added as a top-up to average prices** (for more information, please consider the annex).
17. Considering the YER / USD exchange fluctuations, FSAC partners should use the latest exchange rate. FSAC shares updated exchange rates every quarter.
18. Some livelihood zones are made by districts being part of both the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) and the Sana'a Based Authority (SBA) Areas of Control (AoC). Unit costs suggested by the annex take into consideration the predominant AoC.
19. FSAC partners should factor associated costs into the ELA kits, e.g., cost of seed certification, cost of seed treatment, cost of technical support from relevant specialized line Ministries, cost of veterinary support, cost of assessment and monitoring, other cost expenses.