

FSAC Monthly Meeting
Virtual meeting, 22 February 2023
Minutes of Meeting

Type of meeting	FSAC monthly meeting
Date and location	Wednesday, 22 February 2022, Kabul, 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
Chairperson	FSAC
Note taker	FSAC
Attendees	140

Meeting Agenda

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party
1	Early Warning Updates	FSAC Early Warning Group
2	IPC Post Monitoring Key Messages	IPC/FSAC
3	Updates from regions on the female ban/ presentation of the FSAC monitoring tool	Open discussion
4	AoB; - AHF coordination - Review of the FSAC Strategic Advisory Group TOR - Selection of new NGO chair	FSAC

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
1	Early Warning Updates	FSAC Early Warning Group

The members of the Early Warning and Information Working Group (EWIWG) updated the FSAC partners on the climate outlook, prices, agriculture, livestock, and pasture condition.

- Cumulative precipitation for the winter wet season, from October 2022 to February 2023, is most likely to be below average across western and southern Afghanistan, with closer to average precipitation for northern, central, and eastern areas.
- Cumulative precipitation from March to May 2023 in Afghanistan will likely be average throughout most of the country.
- Given current snow water volumes and expectations for precipitation snow water volumes are anticipated to be near and below average in most basins through May 2023. This may limit water availability for second season crops and will likely negatively impact winter wheat and second-season crop planting.
- Hydrological drought is likely to be ongoing and will most likely persist through at least May 2023 across parts of the west, south, and north.

- Above-average mean temperatures are most likely to persist throughout most of the country through September 2023.
- Vegetation conditions are expected to remain at seasonally low levels during the remainder of the winter months, as is typical. Vegetation conditions are likely to improve, although remain below average in the March to May season, due to the lingering effects of two consecutive droughts (2020/21 and 2021/22).
- In the second week of February 2023, the prices of wheat grain, wheat flour, sugar, pulses, rice, and cooking oil saw negligible change compared to the first week. However, these prices remain significantly higher when compared to the 2-year average — except for cooking oil.
- The FSAC food basket trigger analysis shows that the national average basket cost reached the 7th consecutive week being \leq AFN 85, 00 out of 8 weeks sat as the threshold for change. According to WFPs' VAM market monitoring data, the FSAC basket has sustained 7 weeks -10% price change.
- Winter wheat has been cultivated very extensively except for some reduced area investment in the Eastern part of the country and germinated very well. The recent cold wave affected some standing wheat crops, especially in the northern, western, and southern parts of the country, and higher elevations in the eastern part of the country. In these impacted areas the frost damage compounded by the inability of farmers to procure and use fertilizers could likely affect the final yield.
- Pasture growth is better this year in comparison to the last year but still vegetation conditions are lower than in a normal year, resulting in potential fodder shortage in case of overgrazing. In some areas, the snow cover is still present, and likely will help the initial development stage of pasture ([For more detailed information, please click here to refer to the meeting presentation](#)).

Action point:

- 1. FSAC- EWIWG will provide a regular update to the FSAC partners through national FSAC meetings.**
- 2. FSAC keeps monitoring the prices and will review the transfer value for the food basket if needed.**
- 3. Partners to provide inputs on the early warning information they would like to receive from FSAC**

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
2	IPC Post Monitoring Key Messages	IPC/FSAC

FSAC presented the findings IPC post-monitoring exercise with the partners. FSAC reviewed the available secondary datasets, observations provided by FSAC regional focal points, and EWIWG key messages related to the climate outlook, agriculture, livestock, prices, and natural disasters. The results indicate that the IPC assumptions made for the projection period are still valid throughout February 2023, therefore the projection made for **19.9M, and 46%** in IPC Phase 3 and above (FLM) to be in IPC Phase 3 and above is still valid. ([For more detailed information, please click here to refer to the meeting presentation](#)).

Action Points:

- 1. FSAC will share the IPC post-monitoring checklist with the partners and request them to provide a snapshot of the food security situation from their operational presence.**

	Agenda	Facilitator
3	Updates from regions on the female ban/ presentation of the FSAC monitoring tool.	Open Discussion

FSAC regional focal points updated the impact of the female ban and other challenges partners faced in their operating environment.

Key challenges highlighted across regions include.

- The level of flexibility of the local DFA is different province to province.
- Partners continuously facing challenges in reaching female beneficiaries.
- Some of the partners verbally agreed with the local authority to conduct the training and distribution with female staff.
- In some provinces the local DFA agreed to allow female staff to do the training and distribution when the female staff with a Mahram and Hijab and also male beneficiaries can select female beneficiaries or male staff can distribute to the female beneficiaries who have Mahram and Hijab.
- The local DFA allowed some partners to implement activities with a low profile and visibility.
- Torkham border has been closed in the last three days which will affect the food commodities prices.
- Partners are still facing delays in the signing process MoU for some it is taking up to 2-3 months.
- There is an outbreak of animal diseases reported by the DAIL directorate of Nuristan. FAO take necessary action for a quick assessment, and the FAO implementation partner staff deployed to Nuristan districts for the quick assessment.

Action Points:

- 1. FSAC will share a survey to collect partners' feedback on a female ban in their operating environment. Link survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/vqmhwjkb>**

4	AOB:	FSAC
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AoB;

1. AHF coordination:

- FSAC is receiving information on different level of interference in various projects. FSAC noticed that some of the partners are not coordinating with FSAC regional focal points and the OCHA coordination mechanism.
- FSAC is encouraging all FSAC partners having projects to coordinate with these mechanisms to ensure their projects and challenges are known.
- To be selected for future AHF allocation, FSAC will check if the partners have actively participated in the regional coordination mechanism.
- Whenever partners encounter challenges, they need to first request support from the regional focal points and OCHA coordination mechanism.

2. Review of the FSAC Strategic Advisory Group TOR:

- FSAC is currently reviewing the process of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), which is normally renewed every year. The SAG is composed of two national NGOs, two International NGOs, and two UN- agencies (FAO and WFP) representatives. The objective of the strategic advisor group is to guide the cluster to ensure the cluster planning is strategically aligned with HRP and needs on the ground. FSAC will share SAG TOR with partners to review and will invite the partner for nomination in SAG membership next week.

3. Selection of new NGO chair

- FSAC will elect the new NGO Co-Chair. The election process normally conducted on annual basis. The term for the current NGOs Co-Chair is ended. The role of NGOs- Co-Chair is to share the NGOs concerns and priorities to the FSAC attention and at the same time encourage NGOs to participate in FSAC events and reinforce the effectiveness of FSAC coordination. FSAC will share the NGO - Co-Chair ToR with the partners and call for nomination and election for 2023.3.

Action Points:

- 1. FSAC will share SAG TOR with partners to review and will invite the partner for nomination in SAG membership next week.**
- 2. FSAC will share the NGO - Co-Chair ToR with the partners and call for nomination and election for 2023.**