

### FSAC Monthly Meeting

Virtual meeting, 23 February 2022

#### Minutes of Meeting

<b>Type of meeting</b>	FSAC monthly meeting
<b>Date and location</b>	Wednesday, 23 February 2022, Kabul, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM
<b>Chairperson</b>	FSAC
<b>Note taker</b>	FSAC
<b>Attendees</b>	95 partners

#### Meeting Agenda

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party
1	WFP market monitoring	WFP
2	Presentation on climate outlook	FAO
3	Feedback from the regions	FSAC
4	Update on PLSA	FSAC
5	FSAC January achievements	FSAC
6	IM capacity assessment feedback	FSAC
7	IPC planning	FSAC/IPC
8	FSAC coordination structure	FSAC
9	AoB FSAC monthly reporting Date of next meeting	FSAC

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
<b>1</b>	<b>Market price update</b>	<b>WFP</b>
<p>Prices of various food commodities in 3rd week of February 2022 increased significantly compared to June 2021 and February 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compared to February 2021, wheat prices increased by 37%, wheat flour 36%, rice (high quality) 20%, rice low quality 9%, cooking oil, 28%, pulses 22% and sugar 26%. Compared to June 2021, wheat prices increased by 30%, wheat flour 26%, rice (highly quality) 23%, rice (low quality) 9%, cooking oil 47%, pulses, 25% and sugar 27%.</li> <li>The prices for wheat flour, oil, and rice slightly decreased in February 2022 compared to December 2021.</li> </ul> <p>The Number of days of work available for daily wage laborers has also decreased by 43% compared to June 2021 and by 33% below compared to February 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compared to the 5 years average, the number of workdays available dropped by 26%. The number of days of work available improved in the 3rd week of February compared to December 2021.</li> </ul> <p>The Afghani currency has lost its value against the dollar in the past one year. The Value of the dollar against Afghani increased by 17% compared to June 2021 and by 19% compared to February 2021.</p>		

Compared to the last 5 years average, dollar value increased against Afghani by 26%. Compared to December 2021, the Afghani value increased by 10% against USD.

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
<b>2</b>	<b>Presentation on climate outlook</b>	<b>FAO</b>

As per the latest available forecasts in February 2022, key global and regional climate prediction centers indicate that the La Niña phenomenon is currently active going into the winter of 2021-22 and the spring of 2022. ENSO and Climate modelling suggests that La Niña is near or at its peak, with a return to neutral ENSO likely by April or May 2022. Forecasts suggest a weak to moderate La Niña event hitting Afghanistan in the wet winter precipitation season of Nov-21 to Mar-22, which will be a consecutive event (“double-dip LN”) following a moderate-severe La Niña in 2020-21 that resulted in a severe drought in Afghanistan. A Weak La Niña event does not necessarily mean a lower impact in Afghanistan because impacts are a function of existing hydro-agrometeorological conditions, exposure, underlying vulnerabilities, and coping capacities at both household and agriculture sectoral levels in Afghanistan.

This La Niña event will most likely result in a back-to-back drought in 2022 and the 3rd drought in 5 years (2018, 2021, and 2022) with severe adverse impacts possible in 2022 on crop production, livestock health, local ecosystems, and agricultural and landless rural households’ coping capacities.

Various climate forecast modelling highlight that slightly below average precipitation will continue in Afghanistan until April 2022. In terms of the long-term forecast (6-months), below-average precipitation is likely to continue onward to the summer of 2022. Provinces in the north, northeast, east and south are the areas which received below average precipitation so far in the wet season. Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and Vegetation Health Index (VHI) anomalies have also been recorded in these regions. The VHI anomaly is especially visible in Kunduz, Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, parts of Badghis, Herat and Nimroz provinces.

Looking at the precipitation and above average temperature, poor soil moisture conditions are anticipated during critical cereal cultivation months, which along with the reduced precipitation may result in below average wheat production and pasture vegetative conditions in rainfed areas. This will in-turn have cumulative adverse effects on pasture vegetative conditions and fodder availability in the spring and summer months.

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
<b>3</b>	<b>Feedback from the regions</b>	<b>FSAC</b>

Update received from the FSAC’s Regional Focal Points was presented in the meeting. The update responded to 4 key questions:

1. How is FSAC partners operation in the new environment,
2. What are the access constraints?
3. Are there any emerging needs and gaps?
4. Support required from the national FSAC.

Despite some challenges, the overall operation in the new environment is good. Humanitarian organizations can provide assistance to the most vulnerable people in need. Some of the challenges mentioned by partners included de facto government personnel interference in the response process, issues with the banking and hawala systems, and excessive price fluctuations. Coordinating activities

with the de facto authorities is difficult because the majority of them are new and don't understand the scale and scope of humanitarian response.

Access constraints due to the presence of ISK and the National Resistance Front are a concern in some areas of the east region. Access to few districts in central highlands and west region has also been hampered due to recent snow and rainfall.

The Regional Focal Points collectively echoed that the overall need in their respective regions has increased, as such, urgent food and livelihood assistance needs to be provided to vulnerable people.

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
4	Update on PSLA	WFP
<p>Pre-lean season assessment data collection has been completed. During the 2 weeks of data collection, around 11,300 households have been enumerated in 34 rural and 11 urban analytical domains. Currently, the team is undertaking the data cleaning and data normalization process. PLSA tabulated data will be ready for the IPC analysis workshop by the first week of March.</p> <p>Action point: PLSA tabulated data to be shared with IPC for the analysis workshop by 1<sup>st</sup> week of March</p>		

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
5	FSAC January achievements	FSAC
<p>In the month of January 2022, FSAC partners assisted 8.2 million people with food and 193,051 with livelihood assistance. Food assistance was provided to 7.9 million people in IPC Phase 3 and 4, 72,000 Pakistani refugees, 11,753 natural disaster affected people, 3,927 conflict affected IDPs and 980 undocumented returnees from Iran and Pakistan. Additionally, 135,497 IPC Phase 3 and 4 have been assisted with agriculture and livestock support, 39,928 people were assisted with asset creation, and 17,267 prolong IDPs were assisted with vocational skills training. FSAC presented the January achievement data using its recently developed online interactive dashboard.</p> <p>Action point: link to the interactive dashboard to be shared with all the partners</p>		

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
6	IM capacity assessment feedback	FSAC
<p>FSAC has recently conducted an Information Management capacity assessment of its partners. The result of the IM capacity assessment will be used for designing capacity development trainings for the FSAC partners. In total, 27 organizations from 6 different regions took part in this online assessment.</p> <p>Out of the listed tools in the survey questionnaire, FSAC partners ranked ArcGIS, KoBo/ODK and PowerBI as the 3 main tools they would like to receive training/support from FSAC. ReportHub, QGIS and Microsoft Excel received the lowest ranking, respectively. Using the survey result, FSAC has planned to conduct a 3-hour virtual training on QGIS on Sunday, 27 Feb from 13:00 hrs. – 16:00 hrs. Additionally, FSAC will conduct 4 IM trainings at national and regional level in 2022.</p>		

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
7	IPC planning	IPC

IPC is planning to conduct the lean season IPC analysis workshop in March 2022. Given the high demand for fresh data, the analysis workshop is tentatively planned for mid-March 2022. An AWG and IPC TWG meeting is planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> February - a meeting which the exact date for the IPC workshop will be decided. The IPC team is working to collect additional key food security and nutrition data from partners that will be used in the IPC analysis.

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
8	FSAC coordination structure	FSAC

Co-led by FAO and WFP, FSAC is operating at national and regional levels through its focal points. FSAC is present in 6 different regions, namely the north, northeast, east, west, south, and central. Along with FSAC's FAO and WFP regional focal points, regional NGO Co-chairs are supporting FSAC work at the regional level.

FSAC recently launched an online voting process for selecting the NGO Co-chair. Six NGOs showed interest in the role – with nominations coming from WHH, AKAH, OCHR, DELTA, HSO and ABR. Through the online voting process, WHH was elected as the new NGO Co-chair for a period of 12 months. The overall objective of the NGO co-chair role is to ensure the FSAC is functionally achieving effective humanitarian coordination of food security and agriculture response in Afghanistan, while the specific objectives are to ensure;

- NGOs concerns and priorities are adequately brought up to FSAC attention;
- NGOs food security stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the FSAC activities;
- FSAC coordination effectiveness is reinforced.

Additionally, to better support and coordinate humanitarian food security and livelihoods responses in the country, FSAC currently has the following active Working Groups:

1. Hazards and Crisis Assessment WG (**HCAG**): Monitor winter wet season, natural hazards, and market prices
2. Assessment Working Group (**AWG**): Oversee SFSA and PLSA processes, as well as providing technical support to any other assessment being carried out by FSAC partners
3. Agriculture and Livelihood WG (**ALWG**): Provide technical support to the cluster members on the design of strategies, approaches, plans, and activities related to agriculture and livelihood activities
4. IPC Technical Working Group (**IPC TWG**): Oversee the IPC analysis processes in the country

#### **Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)**

The FSAC aims to strengthen partnerships and ensure the active participation of all partners in all the strategic decision-making processes. Considering the many different members of the FSAC, a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) was established to facilitate timely and effective decision making outside of the wider cluster coordination meetings. The Objectives of the group is to provide ongoing strategic direction to the Cluster and develop and adjust the strategic framework, priorities, and work plan of the FSAC.

The SAG will be chaired by the FSAC coordinator, and co-chaired by WHH as the NGO Co-chair. Members of the SAG include:

- Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Coordinator
- Food Security and Agriculture Cluster NGO co-chair
- UNFAO – 1 person

- WFP – 1 person
- International NGO – 2 persons
- National NGO – 2 persons
- IPC representative - 1 person

FSAC received expressions of interest from 11 partners to be members of the SAG. An online voting link will be shared with all the partners. Partners will be asked to elect 2 NNGOs and 2 INGOs. The SAG members representing the NNGO, and INGO will be elected by the partners for a period of 12 months. SAG member organizations are expected to be represented by a senior FSAC staff member who will be consistently available to attend regular and ad-hoc meetings. After completing the voting process, a short orientation session will be conducted to the SAG new members.

**Action points:**

- Names of SAG new members to be announced in the next FSAC meeting
- A short orientation session to be conducted for the SAG new members

**AoB**

Minutes No	Agenda	Action
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FSAC Monthly reporting</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Strategic Response Plan (SRP)</li> <li>- Date of next meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FSAC has moved to a monthly partner reporting schedule instead of quarterly which was the previous practice. Due to the huge scale of need and response, monthly response and gap analysis will help FSAC to better guide the response. All partners are encouraged to report monthly by the 15<sup>th</sup> for both HRP and non-HRP activities</li> <li>- FSAC has so far received responses from 66 partners as part of the CCPM survey. The data has been shared with the global cluster for the analysis. The result of the CCPM survey will be shared with all the partners once it's ready.</li> <li>- FSAC has developed the SRP for 2022. The plan will be shared with all the partners soon.</li> <li>- 4<sup>th</sup> week of March, 2022</li> </ul>