

FSAC Monthly Meeting

Virtual meeting, 21 June 2023

Minutes of Meeting

Type of meeting	FSAC monthly meeting
Date and location	Wednesday, 21 June 2023, Kabul, 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM (2 Hours)
Chairperson	FSAC
Note taker	FSAC
Attendees	125

Meeting Agenda

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party
1	Early warning information update	FSAC Early Warning Group
2	FSAC Sub-National FPs update	FSAC
3	ACBAR capacity building and training opportunities for FSAC national Partners	ACBAR
4	FSAC achievements and activities reporting	FSAC
5	AHF updates – ongoing projects and coming allocation	FSAC
6	AoB	FSAC

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

The members of the FSAC Early Warning and Information Working Group (EWIWG) updated the FSAC partners on the El Nino/La Nina situation, Cumulative precipitation, Soil moisture, Crop Outlook-Vegetation Indexes (NDVI), Locust in Afghanistan, Upcoming Season Challenges, Use of imbalanced ground water, and Market Prices.

- **El Nino/La Nina situation:** FSAC Early warning information group (EWIG) briefed the partners on the current El Nino/La Nina situation in the country. ENSO neutral condition is observed across the country. A transition of ENSO neutral expected in the coming months. It is projected that it will bring for Afghanistan and central Asia a mean above-average precipitation, however, around the Globe in some other countries it will cause less precipitation than average.
- **Cumulative Precipitation:** Cumulative precipitation was below than average in the last months due to consecutive 3rd year of Al-Nino with drought effect on the country that results in below average precipitation. Large precipitation deficits were observed in the Northern and Western regions of Afghanistan with precipitation deficit as large as 50 percent of the average.
- **Temperature:** In the month of June above average mean temperature is observed across the country, specifically in the north and northeastern part of Afghanistan.
- **Snow Water Equivalent (SWE):** Snow water equivalent situation is not good in the country this is mainly because of above than average temperature and below than average precipitation. It affects snow water equivalent and decreases snow volume. This will likely

affect the availability of irrigation water for the cultivation of second crops such as rice and maize in the major basins across the country.

- **Flood Risk Analysis:** looking at the other existing parameters such as snow volume and expected precipitation, in term of current stream flow, devastating floods in the country are not expected, while localized/flash flooding in the rain forecast basin is expected.
- **Soil Moisture Comparison:** Right level of soil moisture is very important for a successful plantation specifically for the upcoming rainfed winter wheat plantation. In the month of June soil moisture shows little improvement in North-eastern Badakhshan province, while for the rest of country, in the Northern and central part soil moisture is low.
- **Vegetation Health (NDVI):** NDVI shows greenery on the ground through a remote sensing process. In comparison to last year, the NDVI map shows less greenery on the ground in the month of June, specifically in the Northern and Western regions of the country, both in irrigated and rainfed agriculture areas and there is deficit in vegetation in comparison to average. In the beginning of the wet season, a high NDVI peak was observed, however, it dropped with the spell of dry season.
- **Wheat Map:** About wheat conditions in the region, it is good in the central Asia wheat producing hub and Pakistan, however, in Afghanistan the wheat situation is closely watched and monitored due to the possible impact of dry spells on its production and productivity.
- **Locust:** It has been emphasized that Locusts requires specific ecological and environmental conditions for breeding, such as optimum rainfall, vegetation, and favorable temperature. In May 2023 Moroccan Locust infestation was reported in part of North and Northeastern Afghanistan with some damages to crops and pasture areas. This year, season Locusts' damage was bigger in pasture/rangeland areas in comparison to crop areas in the infested areas of the country, and overall, it was under threshold level. Considering the coming El-Nino condition which will improve the rainfall and vegetation growth, Moroccan Locusts might turn into a larger problem in the upcoming season of 2024.
- **Imbalance Use of Ground Water:** In Afghanistan ground water is use both for agriculture irrigation purpose and a primary source of portable water. Unwise use of ground water through deep and shallow wells accompanied with the current dry spell has turned it into a big challenge in some parts of the country, specifically in the Kabul and eastern Helmand River basin. In the Washir district of Helmand province hundreds of families are forced to leave their home due to shortage of ground water.
- **Upcoming Wet Season Challenges and Opportunities:** The upcoming wet season associated with the higher-than-average temperature, precipitation and humidity, might provide a breeding ground for Locust infestation and crop diseases such as Rust. Some opportunities like above average precipitation can utilize through proper water harvesting techniques and by providing early warning information to farmer communities to take maximum benefit of El-Nino conditions. Hopefully, with the ban on poppy cultivation, a larger agriculture area will be allocated to wheat and other cash crops.
- **Price of main food commodities.** WFP colleague for the EWIWG shows the average prices of food and non-food items for the second week of June. The national average prices of basic food items such as wheat grain, wheat flour, rice, cooking oil and pulses slightly decreased in the second week of June compared to previous weeks. However, prices of sugar slightly increased compared to last week. It also shows that in comparison to last year, prices of the mentioned food items decreased, except for sugar. Non-food item prices such as diesel slightly decreased: 1 percent in comparison to last month, and 33 percent in comparison to last year. However, chemical fertilizer (Urea & DAP) prices remain the same as last week.
- **Purchasing power** of unskilled casual labor and livestock keeper slightly decreased by 1 percent and 0.5 percent respectively in comparison to last week. Casual labour wages and

pastoralist terms of trade improved slightly (1 percent) in the last week while significantly increased 66 percent and 47 percent compared to last year.

- **The value of the Afghani (AFN)** Compared to last week, the value of Afghani against USD has negligibly improved. This is mainly due to influx of remittances due to coming Eid, as relatives leaving abroad are sending remittances to Afghanistan for Eid celebration.

[For more detailed information and maps, please click here to refer to the meeting presentation](#)).

Action point:

1. In the next EWIWG meeting, EWIWG members will update the FSAC partners on the coming El-Nino in details by providing key messages.

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
2	FSAC Sub-National FPs update	FSAC

FSAC presented the updated National and sub-national FSAC representatives mapping and details including NGOs co-chair, for coordination and communication at sub-national level. FSAC classified Afghanistan in six (6) sub-national zones. The classification is done based upon agro-ecological and other parameters. These zones are (a) Northern region (b) Northern-Eastern region (c) Eastern region (d) Central region (e) Southern region and (f) Western region of the country.

In each sub-national region FSAC has representatives from the lead agencies of FAO & WFP, and NGO co-chair, and these sub-national representatives work with FSAC by-double-hatting with their own agency role. In each sub-national region these FSAC existing sub-national coordination structures cover certain number of provinces, ideally engaging with all organizations implementing FSAC humanitarian and livelihoods activities. These sub-national FSAC structures provides sub-national coordination, arranged ad-hoc and monthly coordination meetings with humanitarian actors engaged in these zones, perform field level implementation coordination and validation to avoid any duplication and mishap of activities among humanitarian partners. Each partner implementing FSAC activities must be in contact with the respective FSAC representative at sub-national level for proper field level coordination, and this is also a pre-requisite for being considered a FSAC Partner as well as for having access to AHF funding managed by OCHA.

Action Points: FSAC National team will support the Western region sub-national FSAC team to select their sub-national western region co-chair.

	Agenda	Facilitator
3	ACBAR capacity building and training opportunities for FSAC national Partners	ACBAR

In the national FSAC meeting ACBAR presented its mandate, past humanitarian activities, its national and sub-national offices presence for coordination among NGOs and its steering committee structure to the participants.

It presented to the meeting participants the core services ACBAR is providing to NGOs. Their core services cover:

- Coordination and Information sharing
- Advocacy and enabling environment
- Capacity Building/Twinning Program

- Hosts AAP and Human Resource working groups meetings at the national level.

In the FSAC meeting, the focus of discussion was ACBAR’s capacity building/twinning program services to FSAC Partners. Twinning program history, achievement, and available opportunities to NGOs in capacity building were elaborated. Thematic areas and activities in which ACBAR provide capacity building services and trainings to NGOs were also presented.

FSAC Partners showed quite an interest in the capacity building opportunities offered by ACBAR and asked a series of questions on how to receive and enroll in these training opportunities, and the eligibility criteria. It is suggested to ACBAR not to keep ACBAR membership as an eligibility criterion for NGOs to attend and enroll in the offered capacity building and training opportunities to the FSAC partners, as many national NGOs cannot afford to pay for the membership fees, or have a lower than requested funding turnover, yet they are in need to benefit from the training opportunity and the twinning programme.

[*For more detailed information, please click here to refer to the meeting presentation*](#)).

Action Points:

- 1. FSAC will follow-up with the ACBAR on arranging capacity building training to FSAC partners and their eligibility criteria.**

Agenda		
4	FSAC achievements and activities reporting	FSAC

Mr. Herve’ from the gFSAC presented the new Interactive dashboard to partners. He presented the blueprint of new dashboards to the partners. The work is still in progress, and it will be finalized in the coming month. He presented the food and livelihood figures of HRP’s people targeted against people reached in the interactive dashboard. The number of partners (23 partners) engaged in response to food assistance with 64 percent in-kind (food) and 36 percent in voucher/cash. Similarly, in livelihood support the number of partners (13 partners) engaged in response to livelihood support with 26.9 percent in agriculture inputs, 51.9 percent in livestock support and 21.2 percent in other livelihood support.

About the funding status, \$0.12b (8 percent) of fund received against \$1.57b required based upon the HRP FSAC budget.

He highlighted the new interactive dashboards will be updated on monthly basis, and it will be more focused on quality of response and qualitative gaps analysis of food assistance delivered. In the meeting it was communicated that the key figures of Acute food insecurity population in Afghanistan from the latest IPC analysis conducted in April 2023, are uploaded to and available from the FSAC dashboard. The IPC report instead will not be published. However, it may be accessible to partners for specific reasons, upon their request, through formal bilateral communication channels.

[*For more detailed information, please click here to refer to the meeting presentation*](#)).

Agenda		
5	AHF updates – ongoing projects and coming allocation	FSAC

The FSAC presented the AHF updates that the coming allocation is a reserve allocation (RA), and that is why not all partners are invited, but only those that have passed the due-diligence process and are eligible for the implementation of FSAC activities due to their presence in the selected areas. This RA is only for national NGOs and the allocation paper is not out yet. It is expected that the allocation paper will be finalised and launched in July.

It is also highlighted that a number of current AHF projects are not finalized and delivered within the planned timeframe and need no-cost extension (NCE). It is emphasized that in case an implementing partners need no-cost extension for any reason of delay, it must communicate and report with the

FSAC regional and national Teams in advance (i.e. not later than one month before the end of the project, preferably earlier).

Also, partners that are implementing AHF funding projects or any other HRP related activities should report in the Report-Hub, and it is mandatory. Properly reporting contributes to track the on-going project activities and their operation presence, thus better informing advocacy processes and related decisions. FSAC cannot be aware of unreported activities.

[For more detailed information, please click here to refer to the meeting presentation](#)).

	Agenda	
6	AOB	FSAC

FSAC Team asked Partners to share their very success stories and good practices. In return, FSAC will share these success stores and good practices with all other partners through newsletter and other available communication channels.

FSAC discussed the IPC-post monitoring Kobo survey with the partners and its importance in tracking the post IPC situation monitoring in the country. It asked the operational Partners to regularly report through this survey.