By the end of 1st quarter 2021, FSAC partners provided food assistance to 2,060,552 people or (17%) against a revised target of 11,853,335 people and livelihoods assistance was provided to 357,532 people or (11%) against a revised target of 3,353,449 people. Total funding received is USD 16 Million + 82 Million USD carry over fund from 2020 against a revised requirement of USD 553 million.

FSAC is co-led by FAO & WFP in Afghanistan and co-chair by Welthungerhilfe. The cluster includes strong representation of government, national and international NGO’s, donors, red cross/red crescent movement, UN agencies and research institutes. At current FSAC has 178 members with electronic reach to almost 452 partners/members in the country.

FSAC Achievements in 2021

Due to potential La Nina-driven drought-like conditions, intensifying conflict, the continued impact of C-19 and imminent flooding, OCHA developed the spring disaster contingency plan. Based on FSAC plan, 13 million people are in need, 6.3 million planned reach and USD 266 million funding is required.

FSAC partners plan to respond in all 25 provinces identified as being most affected by the consequences of the dry-spell and other disasters (floods and conflict). Click here to download the plan.

FSAC Pre-Lean Season Assessment 2021

FSAC with the financial support of WFP and FAO successfully completed the pre-lean season baseline survey in 1,125 villages of 34 provinces with total 11,250 HHs being surveyed.

Main Findings:
- According to Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), 20% of the population is severely food insecure, 20% marginally food secure, 54% moderately food insecure and only 6% food secure.
- 38% of the surveyed households reported poor food consumption and another 41% reported borderline food consumption
- About 20% of households reported resorting to crisis strategies, 37% to emergency coping strategies and 30% relying on stress strategies
In line with the evidence-based information provided by FSAC, OCHA allocated USD 4.8 million under CERF for livelihood support. The focus of this allocation was to directly target people in the 25 provinces identified as most at-risk over the upcoming spring. Guided by the 2021 Spring Disaster Contingency Plan, the CERF allocation would assist all population groups in Afghanistan’s HRP with specific attention given to vulnerable households dependent on agriculture and those with eroded livelihoods and high debt burden.

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

Country Cluster Performance Monitoring (CCPM) workshop was held on 31 March 2021 and 30 partners participated in this workshop.

This workshop was the key component of the CCPM process and aims at identifying actions to address areas for improvement in overall coordination performance.

Based on partners feedback and recommendations, FSAC needs to improve the following areas:

- To encourage equal participant of male and female partners in its meetings.
- To make the quarterly dashboards make more easy use for all partners.
- To improve coordination with partners on the development of response plan, such as HRP, etc.
- To provide support to FSAC’s new members to access the information and tools that FSAC developed.
- To update partners on emergency/contingency plan to address potential need of Food Security as result of hazard or risk.
- To build capacity of partners in the areas where gaps exist.
- To update partners on advocacy messages adopted and activities undertaken.

FSAC will developed an action plan to accomplish these recommendations throughout the year.

IPC 2021 Acute Analysis

FSAC has successfully completed the IPC analysis from 7th to 18th Mar 2021. Representatives from central and provincial government, UN organizations, technical agencies and NGOs participated in the workshop.

Analysis Results:

Current period: (March – May 2021):
- Total 14.1 million people are estimated to be food insecure (crisis and emergency) (IPC phase 3 & 4).
- Out of 45 analysis units, 4 units of analysis (Badakhshan, Faryab, Ghor and Daykundi) have been classified in IPC Phase 4.

Projection period: (June – November 2021):
- Total 12.2 million people projected to be food insecure (crisis and emergency) (IPC phase 3 & 4).
- Out of 45 analysis units, 4 units of analysis (Badakhshan, Faryab, Ghor and Daykundi) have been classified in IPC Phase 4.

[Click here to download the full IPC report]
In mid-2020, FAO and MAIL jointly conducted a COVID-19 rapid assessment in 18 provinces (113 districts) to generate new evidence and increase understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector.

Ms. Fatima is 58 years old, has 8 children and is living in the Anar Dara district of Farah province. Her household source of income was fully dependent on agricultural activities. Due to recent floods, she lost her agricultural land and crops. Ms. Fatima did not have seed stock to replenish, cultivate and fertilize a new crop cycle and increase her crops' productivities.

CHA selected Ms. Fatima through an FAO funded project to receive 50Kg of certified seeds and fertilizer (50 Kg DAP and 50 KG urea). She was able to cultivate the certified seeds and apply the fertilizer schedule to a new crop cycle on her lands. The cultivated seeds showed very good germination and proved resistant to diseases and pests and are anticipated to provide a high yield.

Ms. Fatima said: I am very happy for the assistance and contributions of FAO and CHA organizations. Their activities were on time and very effective, and as a result, I obtained a lot of wheat and stored 100 kg of seeds for next year. Today, I am mentally very comfortable and calm.

Success Story by CHA (FAO Project)

Case Study by OXFAM

Mr. Shah Mahmood suffers from a chronic illness, his household was displaced and forced to flee their home along with 12 family members to Nangarhar due to conflict between the Taliban and ISK in Kunar province.

They are living in a makeshift room provided by the community. Their lack of regular access to water or sanitation hygiene is compounded by their lack of regular income. The family is facing a shortage of food, as they do not have a primary bread winner.

During the months of June 2020 OXFAM-OHW through the AHF funded project assessed and selected Mr. Mahmood for a one-month lifesaving cash for food assistance.

Funding constraints: Funding is not available at the level needed to meet current FSAC targets. Thus, while FSAC continues to implement all planned activities, assistance scope is limited by less funding than is needed to reach all vulnerable populations identified as in need of assistance.

Cross-border constraints: The C-19 pandemic has resulted in border closures delaying the timely import of food items into Afghanistan. Delays in the arrival and distribution of some food commodities occur as a result of import delays at the border with Pakistan, particularly affecting deliveries of vegetable oil and other staple food items. These challenges can cause interruptions or delays in the delivery of assistance to populations in need or impact on their access to nutritious food. Border closures also impact Afghan producer's ability to export goods and lack of cold-storage options limits overall flexibility.

Access Constraints (Weather and Insecurity): Access to some areas was reduced by harsh weather conditions and road blockages during the winter period at the start of 2020, resulting in some delayed food deliveries and distributions. In addition, access restrictions tied to insecurity led to delays in deliveries or distributions.

Trainings: Due to COVID-19, trainings under different activities (agricultural and livestock support programs and vocational skills) continue to be suspended.

FSAC Challenges and Key Messages

FSAC is funded by: USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FSAC Website: http://fscluster.org/afghanistan/