

Monthly meeting June 2020

Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in Afghanistan



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AFGHANISTAN
FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE
CLUSTER

Agenda of the meeting

S. No	Subject	Presenting Agency	Time
1	Review of the previous action points	FSAC	5 min
2	FSAC revised HRP numbers	FSAC	10 min
3	Results from PSEA survey	FSAC	5 min
3	Results from Impact of COVID-19 on programs survey	FSAC	10 min
4	Cash virtual capacity trainings presentation	CVWG	20 min
5	Presentation by CRS on behavior change programs	CRS	20 min
6	Update on FSAC field missions to the different regions	FSAC	25 min
7	SFSA Workplan and key activities that will require members support	FSAC	10 min
8	Election of SAG results and discussion on NGO Co-chair	All	10 min
9	AoB; - - Next FSAC meeting	FSAC	5 min

Previous meeting action points

AP/N	ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	Status
1	IPC acute analysis report will be shared with all partners after being endorsed by MAIL	FSAC	May	Achieved
2	FSAC will prepare a draft of new PiN, target, vulnerable groups and activities and it will be shared with FSAC partners / SAG for their inputs.	FSAC partners	May	Achieved
3	Partners interested to join Hazard's and Crisis Analysis Group (HCAG) should contact FSAC IMO	FSAC	May	Achieved
4	Partners interested and have resource to support Juvenile released due to COVID-19 should contact FSAC IMO	FSAC	May	Achieved

FSAC revised HRP numbers 2020

Overall Revised HRP Numbers 2020

Before the Revision:

PEOPLE IN NEED

9.4M

PLANNED REACH

7.1M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

733M

After the Revision:

PEOPLE IN
HUMANITARIAN NEED

14M

HRP PLANNED REACH

11.1M
COVID-19: 5.8M
NON-COVID-19: 8M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

1.1B
COVID-19: 396M
NON-COVID-19: 735M

FSAC Revised HRP Numbers 2020

Revised PiN, Target and budget for 2020													
S. No	Vulnerable group	PIN before revision	Revised PIN 2020	Target before revision	Food Assistance				Target before revision	Livelihoods			
					Revised target for food assistance	Unit cost	Duration of assistance/ months	Total budget		Target for livelihoods assistance	Unit cost	Number of months	Budget
1	People displaced due to conflict and natural disaster	375000	400,000	375,000	400,000	19	3	22,800,000	Nil	50,000	35	1	1,750,000
2	People affected by sudden onset natural disaster	170000	115,000	170,000	115,000	19	2	4,370,000	132,866	92,000	20	1	1,840,000
3	Refugee returnees from Iran and Pakistan	45000	22,500	45,000	22,500	19	4	1,710,000	Nil	Nil			
4	Undocumented returnees from Pakistan	61125	30,000	61,125	30,000	19	4	2,280,000	70,000				-
5	Undocumented returnees from Iran	113500	100,000	113,500	100,000	19	4	7,600,000					
6	Number of Pakistani refugees	70000	72,465	70,000	72,465	10	6	4,347,900	Nil	Nil			
7	COVID-19 affected population	7,370,245	12,446,768	4,481,100	3,000,004	10	2	60,000,080	2,230,387	60,000	12	8	743,000
	Seasonal Support				4,601,000	10	4	184,040,000		1,918,092	20	1	38,361,840
	Asset Creation									330,000	20	6	39,600,000
8	Assessment cost for SFSA							200,000					
9	Cluster coordination cost							550,000					
	Total	8,204,870	13,186,733	5,315,725	8,340,969			287,897,980	2,433,253	2,450,092			82,294,840
	Total Target is reduced by one million with an assumption of duplication between food and livelihoods.									9,791,061			370,192,820

Results from PSEA survey

Responses to PSEA Survey

- 29 overall responses showing that FSAC members have good levels of gender-balance and awareness of gender safeguarding
- Close to 60% of respondents have established a confidential and safe incident reporting system for both staff and beneficiaries to make anonymous complaints however training on referral pathways on how to process complaints and ensure a culture of openness to speak up about abuses needs additional work
- Only half of respondents have trained staff available to investigate incidents or ensure support to survivors
- Special distribution systems to ensure access by the most vulnerable needs additional attention along with ensuring that the food basket/quality meets their most urgent needs



Results from Impact of COVID-19 on programs survey

Responses to C19 Impacts Survey

- 32 Respondents out of over 180 members – most respondents was from INGOs and from the areas of Herat, Nangarhar and Kabul, low rate of responses from Kunar, Faryab, Kapisa, Nuristan
- No change in the ability of partners to deliver emergency assistance including agriculture assistance with additional activities of health awareness messaging with 30% of partners having to reduce their staff numbers in country
- Most beneficiaries continue to depend on small shops for the net food purchases
- Partners have had to stagger their distributions/increase crowd management, increase their health awareness messaging, reduce field work, procure PPEs, change PDM modalities/change indicators to C19 related items, increase price monitoring and establish work from home arrangements
- Partners looking to move more towards e-vouchers and remote monitoring to avoid virus spread and protect staff
- Struggle to move staff and materials as private and commercial transporters reduce their operations/increase costs or inability of beneficiaries to find easy/cheap transports



Anticipated Impacts of COVID-19 – as per guidance sheets shared

- Livestock interventions should focus on protecting livestock conditions to limit the sale/destocking at reduced prices, those dependent on transhumance and women dependent on backyard livestock; decentralized markets and health guidance/awareness to be promoted at live animal markets; humanitarians to monitor changes in end-market demand for meat products
- GBV rates are widely expected to increase during this latest crisis, where possible networking opportunities/referral pathways should be explored between protection-FSAC; given your community level access and understanding
- Given the dependence on informal seed exchanges (~90%) the seed access is unlikely to be affected by C19 but access to supply chains and markets will affect what and when farmers plant, such as faster growth food crops instead of higher value cash crops, avoid seed fairs, **Decision-making and planning processes relating to seed interventions need to start much earlier** if seed-related support is to be provided in time – be realistic! Ensure you flag your intent to support seeds through FSAC to reduce duplication of effort.
- Market functionality assessments in your AO require your understanding of the impact on capacities, change in demand and volume of trade for different goods and promoting basic health awareness and guidance is followed at congested market areas
- Help FSAC by identifying which areas you work in are experiencing specific C19 impacts that is affecting on and off-farm livelihoods and need cross-sectoral advocacy



NORWEGIAN
CAPACITY



CASHCAP

FSAC CVA Presentation

24 June 2020



NORWEGIAN
CAPACITY

CASHCAP

Objectives

- Inform the Food and Agriculture Partners of available Cash and Vouchers Assistance (CVA) capacity building available through Cash and Vouchers Working Group.
- Encourage partners to share specific CVA topics they want presented/discussed.
- Share capacity building proposed plan.



Cash and Vouchers Working Group (CVWG)

1. CVWG Co-Leads

- World Food Programme (Toma)
- Danish Refugee Council (Aban).

2. Advisor to the CVWG (Darias, Cashcap)

- One critical need in September 2019: capacity building in CVA.
- Eight regional CVA awareness workshops targeting senior staff in regional offices (need was capacity building for Technical staff).
- Plan was to conduct technical workshops as from March to August 2020.
- Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (need) through virtual trainings (two pilots and final workshop coming in a week's time)

COVID Response

1. Increased needs in food security and agriculture, Protection and NFI/Shelter clusters.
2. Advisor moved to World Food Programme (4th June).
3. Currently consulting on CVA needs for different clusters and will be sending out a tool for partners to identify CVA capacity building topics (already done for CWVG partners). FSAC, NFI/Shelter and Protection are next.
4. Plea to National NGOs to participate in the capacity assessment.
5. Plan for workshops

Expected workshop participants

Group 1: Those with CVA basic training. Gone through CaLP level 1 or similar.

- This group to identify specific topics they want discussed/elaborated on (presentations are needs driven).
- Some participants to facilitate sessions.
- Share experiences and lessons in Cash and Voucher Assistance.
- Discuss and share Covid 19 response experiences and learnings.

Expected workshop participants cont....

Group 2

- Colleagues/participants without basic CVA training but have interest or/and are involved in CVA.
- Technical, Support staff (logistics, finance) and Grant writers.
- Start with basic CVA concepts and why CVA.
- Given time trainings on relevant topics.

Proposed topics to be covered

1. Conducting Market Assessments
2. Cash modalities (Cash grants, Vouchers and Cash for Work) and dis/advantages.
3. The Cash and Vouchers Assistance (CVA) risks and how to mitigate the risks.
4. CVA feasibility (How to decide on whether cash or in-kind).
5. Calculation of Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and decision on Multi-Purpose Cash value.
6. How to decide on cash modalities for sectoral/cluster specific objectives.
7. Data protection (how to ensure beneficiary data is protected).
8. Beneficiaries' identification, verification, selection and registration.
9. When and when not to use (Advantages and disadvantages) of delivery mechanisms and instruments.
10. What to consider when engaging Financial Service Providers
11. Setting Cash for Work working hours and wage rates.

Proposed plan

- Complete capacity assessment by first week of July.
- Trainings from second week of July to end July.
- Follow up sessions and support from July to end August.
- CVWG Co-Leads first port of call for any support.
- Refresher trainings in September especially for Group 2 participants.



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Agricultural Behavior Change Approach

FSAC Presentation (June 24, 2020)

Social Behavior Change (SBC) on Agricultural Livelihoods

- In the livelihoods sector, CRS Afghanistan works with farmers in poor and marginalized communities who have limited information and poor agricultural practices.
- CRS work is based on a **Social Behavior Change approach** to encourage farmers to adopt improved practices that meet five criteria:
 - **Immediately relevant to people’s priority concerns**
 - **Simple**
 - **Low-cost**
 - **Low-risk**
 - **Capable of giving measurable increase in productivity (30+%)**



CRS staff with farmers on a training about “positive wheat seed selection”



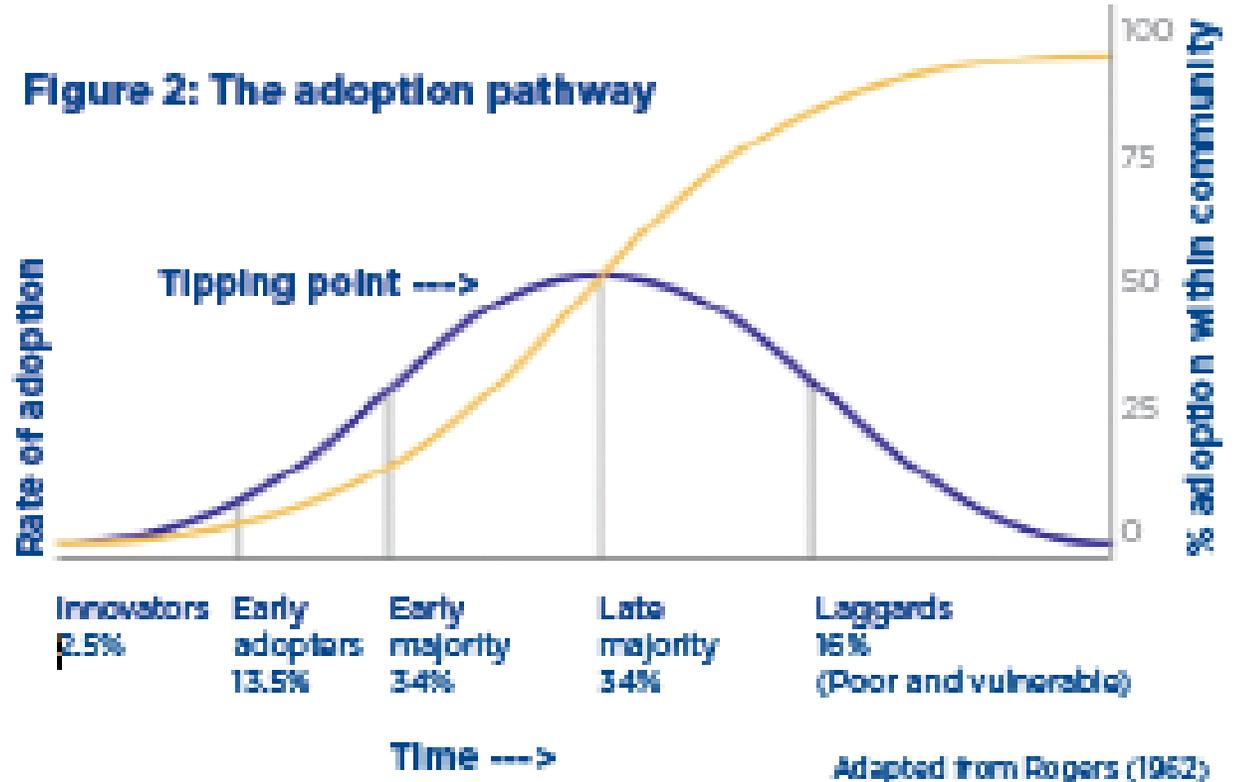
Principles of Training Design & Delivery

- Target both genders to facilitate decision making
- Target all households within community to include innovators and adopters
- Open sessions reach everyone in community to help reach tipping point to convince more conservative/ risk averse poor & vulnerable HHs

Responsive,
Simple,
Low-risk,
Low-cost,
Quick result

VS.

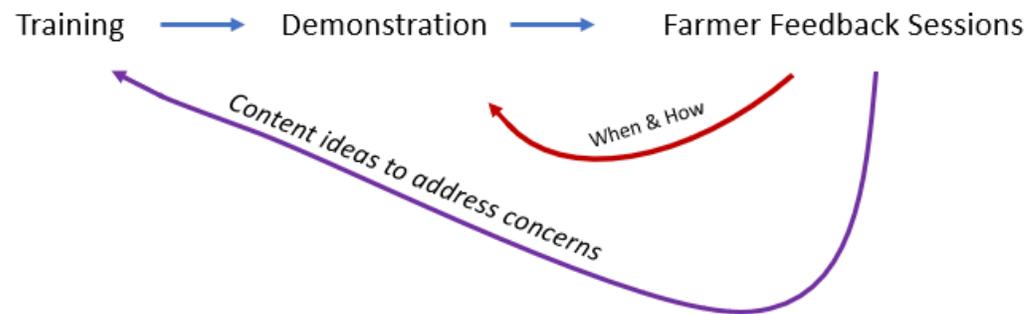
Inappropriate,
Complex,
Time-consuming
Reliant on others
Long-term results



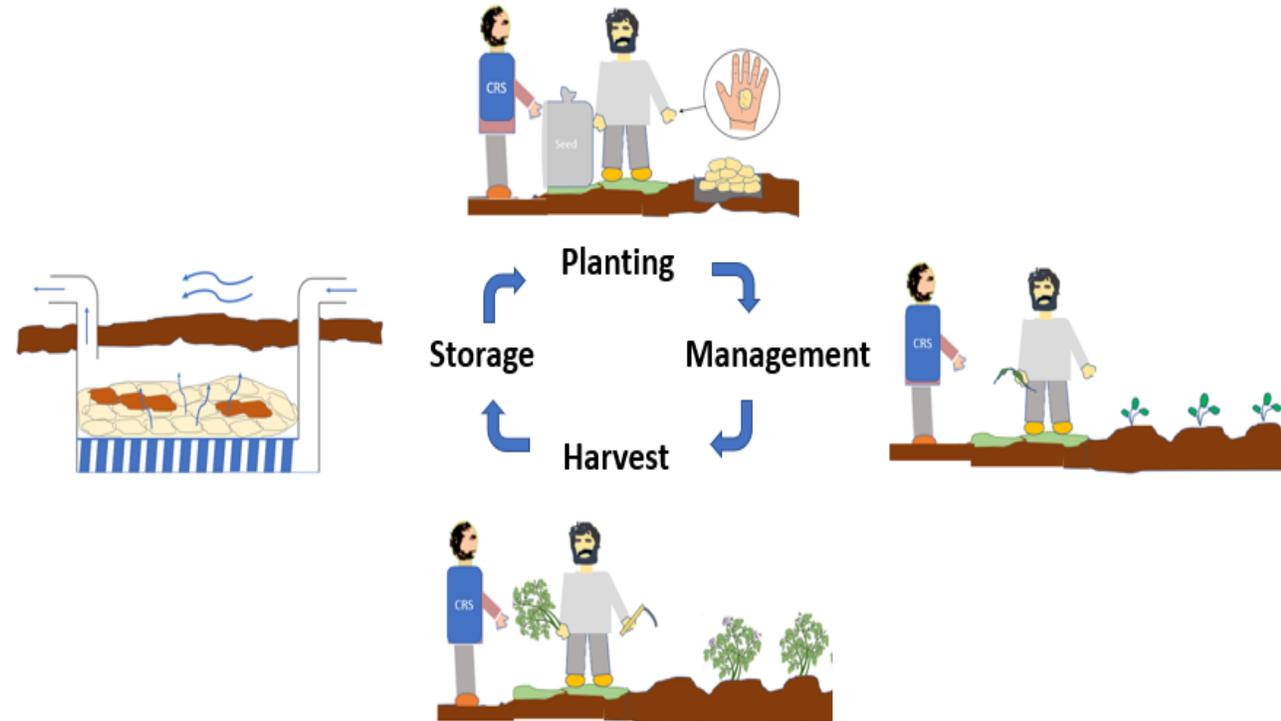
Training and Interaction with Farmers

CRS training sessions are designed based on Adult Learning Principles:

- Participatory approach to identify needs & ensure relevance
- Training sessions:
 - Practical experience when possible
 - Keep it short – less than one hour
 - Stay focused on 2-3 key messages per training
- Accompaniment visit after training
- **Farmer Feedback Sessions** to seek farmer's insights



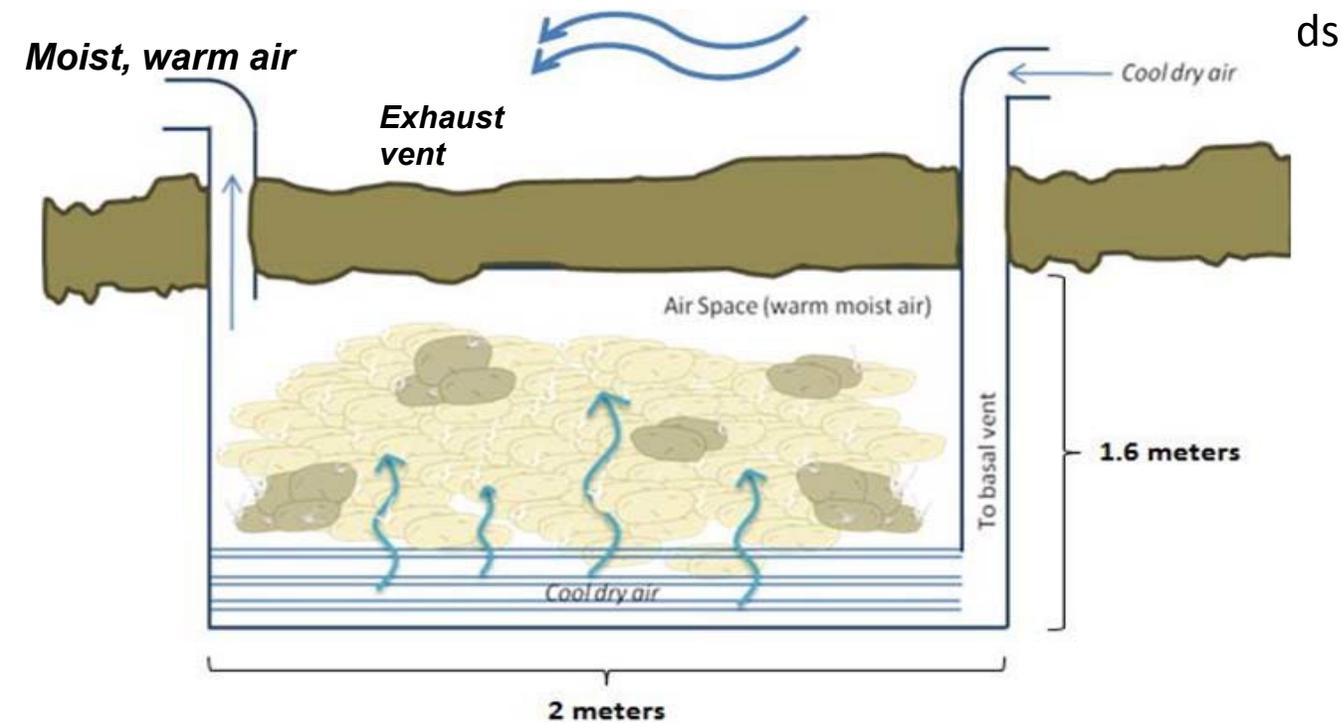
- **Catalytic moment** to see the result:



Example: Potato storage – behavior change in practice

- Potato is a primary cash crop in Central Highlands
- Storage loss of 30% to 100% over winter

- Demonstration and visual materials
- Low cost and local materials



Underground storage with ventilation system



Healthy potato seed in a collective storage in early spring

Example: Potato storage – behavior change in practice

- Improved ventilated potato storage, decreased potato losses from over 30% to less than 5%.
- Storage time increased from 2-3 months up to 6-9 months.

- **Farmer feedback:**

Haji Abdul Hussain from Nawor village, Panjab district of Bamyan province, who built a potato pit in 2017 “Now I can store potatoes after harvesting time [late September] for 9-10 months up to spring for seed and consumption.



Abdul Hussain on his potato pit/ storage



CRS has applied the same SBC approach across both crop and livestock management, as well as on natural resource management (NRM). For further information, please see the following learning briefs:

Introduction: [Introducing social behavior change to agricultural development](#)

Brief 1: [Improved storage transforms potato crops](#)

Brief 2: [Efficient fertilization and well-timed irrigation boost potato yields](#)

Brief 3: [Reallocation of feed doubles livestock productivity in a year](#)

Brief 4: [Improved stable conditions boost livestock productivity](#)

Brief 5: [Reduced seed rate and fertilizer adjustments build wheat resilience](#)



Update on FSAC field missions to the different regions



Overview on FSAC meetings with Regional Focal Points - NE

- The remote areas of NE have limited arable land and depend on rainfed agriculture however the strength of these areas is the access to good quality rangeland in good precipitation years
- Animal husbandry interventions and support to SWC can increase access to arable land and the food security situation/access to remote districts remains difficult particularly given higher level of violence this year
- Variable rainfall and late snows has impacted upon the fragile and limited agricultural crops in NE and intermittent border closures with Tajikistan



Overview on FSAC meetings with Regional Focal Points - South

- Cultivation/production of high value crops such as pomegranate, grapes, plums, figs require export market linkages, particularly given recent closures/limited cold storage options in Kandahar
- Border closures/interruptions have caused a level of product wastage
- Crop pests such as wheat rust are causing concerns in terms of this year's yield for local wheat grain varieties, limited availability/use of certified wheat grains
- Cross border movement through informal crossings causing less domestic access to some staples and high value crops



Overview on FSAC meetings with Regional Focal Points - East

- The market access for Spring/Summer crops including okra, beans, squash has been difficult given movement restrictions
- Limited lockdowns have had a significant impact on the most vulnerable particularly IDPs and day labourers
- Concerns about the risk for increased criminality in Jalalabad to due lack of durable livelihood opportunities
- Cross border movement including export of Afghan goods to gradually increase but the impact has already been felt by producers



Overview on FSAC Meeting with Regional Focal Points - North

- Mazaar market activities continue as per normal with low levels of adherence to health guidance
- Livelihoods of the urban poor have been disrupted and IDP communities have seen their purchasing power drop and arable lands were affected by flash flooding, concern as to support levels to IDPs
- Cross border cargo movement working as normal given the multiple transport options and direct rail access to central Asian markets working well, a reliable high-flow crossing point
- Smarter harvesting and cultivation practices are required for better NRM including more communal asset creation opportunities
- Explore women's access to value chains or scale-up of their home based economic activities



Overview on FSAC Meeting with Regional Focal Point - Central

- Zero energy storage options using local construction materials are more durable and sustainable particularly given the remote access and limited energy options
- Prior large scale SWC projects are sometimes not sustained due to the lack of behavior change or community ownership
- Balancing livelihood activities with protection of historical sites
- Large scale losses in tourism sector for this year, good precipitation and delayed snow melt has caused an abundance of available irrigation, storage and promoting alternative practices to be approached carefully



Overview on FSAC Meeting with Regional Focal Points - West

- High levels of returnees continues to put pressure on transit and host communities in the west along with increasing caseload of C19
- Projects in VST for urban poor have had to be adjusted or postponed
- Producers unable to move seasonal products or forced to sell at low price points, reoccurring yearly issue
- Assistance to drought affected IDPs is increasingly politicized with a low level of durable solutions, quick impact IGA to be explored
- Pull factor back into Iran increasing, low levels of health screening of transporters



Participation of FSAC Members

- There are approximately 78 Members who have had low levels of participation in the cluster recently (2019-now)
- This is measured by level of participation in FSAC coordination, reporting and contributions to SFSA
- 32% of these are INGOs and 68% are NNGOs
- ABM, ACOO, AFDARO, ALO, AIRO, ANHDO, AOM, AMRAN, ARAA, AREA, ARPD, ASMO, AWARO, AWDREO, CA, CEVSI, DACAAR, ECW, GAA, GIZ-SEDEP, GWO, HDO, HIA, HIHAO, HOAD, HSDEO, IAM, IOW, IRC, JDA, KSRO, LEADO, LSO, MercyCorps, MORA, MTDO, M&R, MHO, MWA, NCA, NRC, NRDOAW, OFRD PiN, PORWA, RoP, RAADA, RCSHO, RORA, RC-SW, RSDOA, SADAAT, SAB, SCA, SDO, SDP, SEARCHO, SH, SI, SRP, STARS, SWNHO, Tearfund, WCC, WDOA, WMSSO, VOPOFA, YEDAWO, ZCO

**SFSA Workplan and key activities
that will require members support**

Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2020

- SFSA 2020 will be conducted in 34 provinces and 11 urban areas to capture post-harvest food security situation.
- Capturing the impact of COVID-19 on peoples' lives and livelihoods will be one of the main objectives of this assessment.
- SFSA 2020 data will be fed into IPC, HNO and HRP processes.
- Hybrid approach for data collection: remote data collection as well as in person interviews.
- Data will be collected (for in person interviews) by MAIL extension workers and NGOs.
- SFSA tools are currently under review and will be finalized soon.

SAG Election Results

International NGOs:

1. OXFAM
2. ACTED

National NGOs:

1. CoAR
2. ORCD

Discussion on FSAC NGO co-chair selection

Thanks 😊

FSAC website: <http://fscluster.org/afghanistan/>

FSAC contact: Javedkhan.Bazargkheil@fao.org