Final Report
Meeting of global Food Security Cluster Partners
13-14 May 2015, FAO, Rome, Italy
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Executive Summary

The purpose of the meeting of the global Food Security Cluster Partners on 13-14 May 2015 was to:

- review the work of the gFSC since the last meeting in November 2014;
- inform and explore the strategic direction and priority areas of the global Food Security Cluster for the remaining of 2015-16; and
- continue discussion on governance, which had been partially addressed in previous meetings.

The meeting brought together around fifty representatives from global partner organisations and country clusters. During the rich and informative sessions, it was decided that a number of concrete action points will be taken. These action points are listed below.

Update from Food Security Cluster in Nepal

- Providing support for FSC Nepal in coordination and information management: NGO Partners are asked to determine if they can provide dedicated support to the FSC Nepal for coordination or information management.
- Providing support for FSC Nepal in assessments: Partners are asked to determine and communicate with the FSC regarding potential to support assessments.
- Engaging in Flash Appeal process in future emergencies: In general, in sudden onset emergencies, the gFSC partners know that an initial appeal will come out, often with a very tight schedule. Therefore, partners already established in the country and/or planning to be part of the food security humanitarian response should contact the Food Security Cluster in country as soon as possible to ensure they are included in the appeal.

Report Back from the Technical Working Groups

Inter-cluster Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition

- Inviting global partners to lead specific activities in the work plan: Following the meeting, the chairs of the working group sent an email to all partners requesting expressions of interest against specific activities of the work plan.

Programme Quality Working Group

- Hosting webinars: The Programme Quality Working Group will continue to host webinars to guide how the tools and guidance developed can be integrated throughout the project cycle and operationalized.
- Feedback on existing tools and guidance documents: Feedback on the use of the tools will be gathered from Cluster Coordinators during the upcoming Cluster Coordinator retreat. The guidance documents will be published on the gFSC website and updated regularly.

Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working Group

- Work plan: The Urban working group will continue to implement and carry out activities defined in the work plan for 2015 as well as look for new opportunities and activities.

Technology and Innovation Working Group

- Recognition as formal working group: The Technology and Innovation Working Group was recognised as a formal gFSC Working Group, chaired by Keith Chibafa from World Vision International (Keith_Chibafa@wvi.org).
- Terms of reference and work plan: The working group will create terms of reference based on the current work plan.
Cash and Markets Working Group

- **Deactivation of the working group:** The previous gFSC Cash and Markets Working Group is now transformed into an information sharing platform predominately via email correspondence and website updates and no longer exists as an active working group.
- **CashCap:** With the support of interested donors and under the leadership of Norwegian Refugee Council, the implementation of the CashCap has started. A Steering Committee of five/six organizations including UN, NGOs and the gFSC has been established to advise on technical aspects and oversee the project implementation.

**Feedback from partners on the global Food Security Cluster – the way forward**

**Governance issues and the possibility of Strategic Advisory Group**

- **More information needed to make decision on SAG:** The question if the global Food Security Cluster should have a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) has been discussed during the last two meetings of gFSC Partners. The plenary felt that more information is needed before the partners can make an informed decision about the topic.
- **Small committee will be formed to further work on the topic:** It was proposed that a small group of partners be formed to work with the gFSC Support Team to:
  1. Consult the other global clusters on why they have or do not have a SAG;
  2. Review the pros and cons of having a SAG (including implications on the frequency of global partners’ meetings and the gFSC structure, such as current working groups);
  3. Work on terms of reference proposal for the potential gFSC SAG; and
  4. Based on the above, make a recommendation on if the gFSC should have a SAG or not – to be presented at the next gFSC Global Partner Meeting plenary session.
- After the meeting, the gFSC Support Team sent a message to all partners to seek volunteers to be part of this “committee” to work with the gFSC Support Team.

**Methodology for gFSC consultation processes and information flow (telephone conferences, face-to-face meetings, Technical Working Groups, task teams)**

- **Current methodology of communications will be retained:** It was agreed to retain the current methodology of communications: monthly teleconferences, regular newsletters and email correspondence. Prior to the next global meeting, the gFSC will explore new methods of communications based on feedback from partners to optimize information sharing among all stakeholders.

**Update on the country support mechanisms developed by the Global Support Team**

- **Trainings and identifying staff:** The gFSC will continue to provide trainings and identify staffing solutions for country-level Cluster Lead Agencies’ approval as required.
- **Advocacy and deactivation of clusters:** The gFSC will continue to advocate for and work with partners and Lead Agencies to ensure that country-level clusters have sustainable resources for the appropriate and sustainable coordination solutions. This will be linked with the process of transitioning and deactivating clusters back to government-led mechanisms.
- **Partners’ deeper engagement encouraged:** Partners are asked to discuss with their headquarters if they are interested in taking a more active role in the gFSC for example through the various partnership arrangements. The Global Support Team is happy provide more information on the topic.

**What is the state of food security coordination in humanitarian action?**

- **Informing the Global Cluster Coordinator Group’s background paper:** The discussion of this session will feed into the Global Cluster Coordinator Group’s background document that is being
prepared for the World Humanitarian Summit. The document will be shared with the global partners. Results will help shape the on-going work of the gFSC.

**Update on gFSC Resilience and Preparedness Task Forces and related IASC initiatives**

✓ **Merging the existing Task Forces on Resilience and Preparedness**: It was agreed to merge the existing gFSC Task Forces on Resilience and Preparedness but ensure that both resilience and preparedness aspects remain part of the work plan. The joint gFSC Task Force was requested to:

1. Continue to collect and analyse information from various countries and share the results and lessons among gFSC partners, country clusters, other clusters and IASC groups.
2. Develop specific concrete actions and tools in support of country clusters and partners, including: a checklist of resilience and preparedness activities around the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, an agreed definition of resilience in humanitarian situations and indicators, etc.
3. Review the work plan of the IASC Task Team on Resilience and Preparedness and align the gFSC Task Force Work Plan as appropriate.
4. Explore areas that can be linked with the on-going work of the gFSC Urban Working Group.
5. Send an email to all partners and FSC Coordinators requesting volunteers to join the Task Force, identifying specific areas interest.

**Tentative Dates for the Next Global Partners’ Meeting**

✓ Tentative dates for the next Global Partners’ Meeting are Wednesday and Thursday 25-26 November 2015 at the World Food Programme Headquarters in Rome, with Tuesday 24 November reserved for the Working Group face-to-face meetings.
1. Day One: Wednesday 13 May 2015

The purpose of the first day of the meeting was to review the work of the gFSC since the last meeting in November 2014, inform the strategic direction for the remaining of 2015 and continue ongoing discussion on governance, which had been partially addressed in previous meetings.

1.1. Opening and welcome

Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Coordinator and Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergency and Rehabilitation Division of FAO, welcomed participants and thanked Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe, for accepting the role of Meeting Chair. The agenda of the meeting was presented and agreed. The new gFSC team members Christine Ouellette and Rajendra Aryal were welcomed and the departing member Ariella Glinni was thanked for her contributions to the Global Support Team.

Regards from the WFP Emergency Director Stefano Porretti were shared with the participants as he was unable to attend due to pressing response load. The work of gFSC Support Team and the demands of current crisis situations (in Nepal, Yemen, Southern Africa, Pacific inter alia) were briefly reviewed.

1.2. Update from Food Security Cluster in Nepal

Presenters

Elena Rovaris, Food Security Cluster Coordinator, Nepal; Rajendra Aryal, gFSC coordination support, Nepal, and FSC Nepal Team

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the session were to:

- Identify partner support for the FSC coordination in Nepal;
- Suggest way forward for Nepal’s revision of the Flash Appeal (e.g. timeline, funding limitations, guidance from the HCT, support from the ICWG, and guidance from the HCT etc.)
- Collect FSC messages and lessons learned for future sudden onset crises and the development of initial appeals.

Key points

The Nepal Food Security Cluster representatives, led by the Cluster Coordinator Elena Rovaris, joined the meeting via video, providing an opportunity to present and discuss the response to date. The Nepal FSC had called for a small extraordinary meeting of partners that included representatives from the government, NGO partners, the two Cluster Lead Agencies (FAO/WFP) and the gFSC support team member to join the video call.

Resource mobilization and funding processes were highlighted as a key initial and remaining challenge for the cluster.

- The Flash appeal was only funded at four percent with around US$4.9 million received. All partners were seeking further funding.
- The Flash appeal process and low number of stakeholders included in the initial appeals were highlighted. Only four partners were included initially as the deadline in the process was very tight - partners were only given twenty-four hours to submit initial inputs and the process for the revision had yet to be fully clarified by OCHA. The question on how to ensure partners’ involvement was raised to the plenary for discussion.
Plenary discussion

Plenary discussion was active and partners appreciated the opportunity to ask questions directly from the FSC team in Nepal. Topics included flash appeal process, cash coordination, urgency of agricultural response given the seasonal calendar, assessments, possibility for CERF funding and inter-cluster coordination on cross-cutting issues. Overall, FSC Coordinator Elena Rovaris highlighted three main areas where global partners’ support was needed:

- Could NGO partners provide dedicated support to FSC Nepal for coordination or information management?
  ✓ ACTION POINT: Partners to determine potential support with their own agencies.
- The gFSC partner focal points are requested to encourage their country-level colleagues to engage in the revision of the Flash appeal.
  ✓ ACTION POINT: In general, in sudden onset emergencies, the partners know that an initial appeal will come out, often with a very tight schedule. Therefore, partners already established in country and or planning to be part of the food security humanitarian response should contact the Food Security Cluster in country as soon as possible.
- Could partners provide temporary support through enumerators, etc. for assessments?
  ✓ ACTION POINT: Partners to determine and communicate with the FSC Nepal regarding their potential to support assessments.

1.3. Report back from the Technical Working Groups

The gFSC Working Groups met on Tuesday 12 May 2015, the day prior to the Meeting of Global Partners, to review work, identify and reaffirm priority areas for 2015. Summary feedback from the working group chairs and co-chairs was presented to the plenary to provide an overview of achievements and strategic directions for the next six months.

1.3.1. Inter-cluster Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition

Co-Chairs: Anne Callanan, global Food Security Cluster; Josephine Ippe, Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator

Key points

Often, there is little interaction between the fields of nutrition and food security at country-level as each field is focussed on its specific needs and targeted response. However, to bring the fields closer together, there is continuous cooperation between the global Food Security Cluster and Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC). Recent projects include integrating nutrition aspects into the FSC checklist on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in all phases of the humanitarian programme cycle. A consultant will work with the GNC to expand AAP checklist to cover nutrition and gFSC will be consulted on the process.

Plenary discussion

Partners expressed interest in contributing to the current work plan and in exploring funding possibilities for the joint food security and nutrition cluster project focusing on ensuring stronger AAP. It was decided that an active working group would continue, and the two chairs would invite partners to contribute to the specific activities of the work plan.
Next steps

Following the meeting, the chairs sent an email to all partners requesting expressions of interest against specific activities of the work plan.

1.3.2. Programme Quality Working Group

Chair: Gaia van der Esch, Impact Initiatives

Key points

Gaia van der Esch (gaia.vanderesch@impact-initiatives.org) was welcomed as the new Chair of the Programme Quality Working Group (PQWG). The Global Support Team will continue to provide secretariat and technical support for the group.

The Programme Quality Working Group has developed guidance tools including guidance on FSC Strategic Objectives and Indicators, FSC Indicator Handbook, monitoring templates and checklists for integrating people centric issues and energy in the humanitarian programme cycle. It was noted that tools developed to support country clusters must be flexible enough to be adapted to changing environments.

Next steps

The working group will continue to host webinars to guide how the tools and guidance developed can be integrated throughout the project cycle and operationalized. Feedback on the use of the tools will be gathered from Cluster Coordinators during the upcoming Cluster Coordinator retreat. The guidance documents will be published on the gFSC website and updated regularly.

1.3.3. Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working Group

Chair: Allister Clewlow, Samaritan’s Purse

Key points

The Working Group Chair Allister Clewlow (allister.clewlow@samaritans-purse.org.uk) started by providing an update on the gFSC/WFP project Adapting to an Urban World, which aims at developing food security vulnerability assessment tools and guidance specific to urban settings. The second case study/pilot assessment of the project was conducted in April 2015 to capture the scenario of Syrian refugees living in urban areas in both Jordan and Lebanon. Initial findings were presented at the working group meeting. Report was finalized after the meeting and is now posted on the gFSC website. Two further urban assessments are scheduled for Madagascar and Somalia before August 2015. Locations in Asia and LAC will be identified.

Case studies are being collected specifically on urban food security and livelihoods programming through the working group and country-level FSC partners. Best practices and recommendations for the humanitarian response in urban settings including Nepal Earthquake are being considered. Direct links are being implemented with the CaLP Cash Atlas and the IM Global Tool to ensure mainstreaming of regular and up to date data into the WG mapping.

The Urban WG has continued to provide support to country clusters involved in urban crises through the development of tools and learning, which are shared with country clusters. TORs have been produced for possible endorsement and fundraising of an Urban Coordinator in regional hubs such as Nairobi and Amman. In addition, an Advocacy and Communications strategy has been drafted and a thematic workshop on “Urban Food Security & Livelihoods in Emergencies” has been discussed.
**Next steps**

The Urban working group will continue to implement and carry out activities defined in the work plan for 2015 as well as look for new opportunities and activities to engage in.

### 1.3.4. Technology and Innovation Working Group

**Chair:** Keith Chibafa, World Vision International

**Key points**

The Technology and Innovation Working Group was formed at the beginning of 2015 as a reference group for new, current and emerging technologies and innovations for the FSC. To map what technologies and innovations exist and are currently being used, the WG has produced a survey matrix of technologies and innovations, across sectors, to record each tool's core purpose, advantages and/or disadvantages, and use and impact on affected populations. After the meeting, the survey was shared with global partners and country clusters to complete according to experience with different technologies. The objective is to identify most appropriate technologies and innovations for FSC actors in different contexts to meet relief, recovery and development goals, and incorporated into future gFSC Cluster Coordinator trainings.

Building on work of the OCHA led Information Management Data Sub Group, a Field Guide to Data Sharing will be developed as a platform for the FSC to tap into for information on data, privacy issues, standardization and information sharing.

**Next steps**

The plenary agreed to formally recognise the Technology and Innovation WG was a formal gFSC WG chaired by Keith Chibafa from World Vision International (Keith_Chibafa@wvi.org). The Working Group will create terms of reference based on the current work plan and continue implementing activities as specified in the work plan.

### 1.3.5. Cash and Markets Working Group

**Chair:** Quentin Legallo, Norwegian Refugee Council

**Key points**

The Cash and Markets Working Group was initially created in November 2013 with the specific aims of 1) facilitating the mainstreaming of capacity building in cash transfer programming and market based programming; and 2) the creation of a roster for cash and markets experts to be deployed on a need basis, the CashCap. The gFSC Working Group held a facilitation role until it was decided that Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) would lead the process, as it has a multi-sectorial approach and expertise in roster/CAPs management.

With the support of interested donors, implementation of the CashCap has started. A Steering Committee of five/six organizations including UN, NGOs and the gFSC has been established to advise on technical aspects and oversee the project implementation.

Given the increased use of cash as a modality in crises responses, the CashCap will fill a significant gap in terms of providing dedicated cash experts to be deployed in major emergencies.

**Next steps**

The previous gFSC Cash and Markets Working Group will be transformed into an information sharing platform predominately via email correspondence and website updates.
1.4. Review of gFSC achievements

**Presenter:** Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator

**Expected Outcomes:** To provide an update on gFSC achievements and challenges faced from November 2014 to April 2015.

**Key points**

Cyril Ferrand provided an update on the past six months of the gFSC, including a quick update on evolving humanitarian crises.

Achievements were presented along the six results areas:

1. **Result 1: Strengthened and developed national clusters’ capacity**

   Providing trainings is a key area of the Result 1, with a focus on capacity development. In total, three L3 Cluster Coordination trainings are scheduled for 2015. The German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) supported one training in April in Stuttgart and will host a second training in November. The gFSC organized one training in Rome on 6-10 July.

   Since last November, there have been backstopping missions from gSFC Support Team to the Central African Republic, Whole of Syria (WoS) and Somalia, and geographical focal points have been in contact with around thirty countries.

   The gFSC is increasing engagement and links with existing Inter-Agency Standing Committee groups on preparedness and resilience.

2. **Result 2: Harmonised and globalised information management system**

   The main focus of Result 2 has been finalising and rolling out the web-based FSC Information Management Tool. The tool development was finalized in October 2014 and two global level trainings were held in Rome. In 2015, the Global Support Team has conducted in-country trainings in several countries, including Ukraine, Niger, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh in order to
better cater for the country-specific situations and to increase national capacity by providing support
to FSC staff, cluster partners and government focal points.

3. Result 3: Improved operational and surge support to national clusters

Result 3 covers operational and surge support. By 13 May 2015, there had been 27 deployments supported by the gFSC. The gFSC continues to develop the roster for Cluster Coordinators and a structured selection process has been put in place (please see the presentation slide on gFSC Roster).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of deployment</th>
<th>No. deployments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gFSC Roster Deployments</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand-by partner deployments</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership deployments</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-lead agencies’ deployments</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Result 4: Scaled-up advocacy, communications and resource mobilization

Result 4 focuses on advocacy, communications and resource mobilization. The summary of key products and funding requirements for the gFSC Support Team was presented, with existing funding gap of around US$1.02 million out of the yearly requirement of US$4.09 million.

![Required (2015): USD 4.09 million](image)

5. Result 5: Deepened and diversified global partnerships and operational collaborations

Result 5 focuses on deepening partnerships and operational collaborations. The Global Support Team has worked to establish mechanisms to second staff to FSC teams at country and global levels; participated actively in the Global Cluster Coordination Group; worked to strengthen inter-cluster collaboration at global and national levels and participated in various IASC working groups and task teams.

There have been some major achievements accomplished over the past six months: the gFSC Support Team has managed to avoid coordination gaps at country-level by increasing the support from stand-by partners including the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and RedR Australia. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently renewed with Samaritan’s Purse for deployments of Information Managers, and a partnership with HelpAge International has continued with the secondment of an Inclusion Expert in Liberia for six months. Finally, the capacity of the Global Support Team is now increased by the recent secondment of a Senior GenCap adviser for one year.
6. **Result 6: Systematised learning and knowledge management processes**

The main focus of Result 6 is learning and knowledge management, which takes place largely via the technical Working Groups; continued membership of the gFSC in the IPC Steering committee and participation in Senior Transformative Agenda Missions. A first Cluster Coordinator Retreat for current Country-level Food Security Cluster Coordinators is planned for 28-30 July 2015 in Rome, Italy – a milestone for the gFSC which may be repeated regularly, funding permitting. Tailored to the specific needs of the current Cluster Coordinators and focal points, the retreat will provide a platform to learn and share experiences more thoroughly than in global meetings and trainings. The purpose of the retreat is to collect lessons learned and good practices from experienced Food Security Cluster Coordinators and to improve leadership, coordination and performance of the food security sectors during crises by strengthening the skills of Food Security Cluster Coordinators.

1.5. **Update on response to the recommendations of the FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of the Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action (2009-14)**

*Presenter:* Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator

*Summary of Key Points*

A summary of the gFSC progress to implement the recommendations stemming from the FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of the Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action (2009-2014) was presented. Participants appreciated the update and look forward to receiving periodic updates.

1.6. **Feedback from partners on the global Food Security Cluster – the way forward**

*Purpose of the session*

Based on previous discussions at global partner meetings, teleconferences and the results from the 2015 gFSC consultation survey, the purpose of the session was to discuss the method of work for the gFSC in 2015-16, including governance issues.

*Facilitators:* Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe; Cyril Ferrand, global Food Security Cluster Coordinator

*Presenter:* Kaisa Antikainen, gFSC, presented a summary of the 2015 gFSC consultation survey results.

*Next steps*

After a plenary discussion, the following was decided regarding 1) governance issues and the possibility of establishing a Strategic Advisory Group and 2) the methodology for gFSC communications and information flow (telephone conferences, face-to-face meetings, Technical Working Groups, task teams):

- **Governance issues and the possibility of establishing a Strategic Advisory Group**

  The question if the global Food Security Cluster should have a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) had been discussed during the last two meetings of gFSC Partners. The plenary felt that more information is needed before the partners can make an informed decision on this topic.

  It was proposed that a small group of partners be formed to work with the gFSC Support Team to:

  1. Consult the other global clusters on why they have or do not have a SAG;
2. Review the pros and cons of having a SAG (including implications on the frequency of global partners meetings and the gFSC structure, such as current Working Groups); 
3. Work on terms of reference proposal for the potential gFSC SAG; and 
4. Based on the above, make a recommendation on if the gFSC should have a SAG or not – to be presented at the next gFSC Global Partner Meeting plenary session.

After the meeting, the gFSC Support Team sent a message to all partners seeking volunteers to be part of this "committee" to work with the gFSC Support Team.

- **Methodology for gFSC consultation processes and information flow (telephone conferences, face-to-face meetings, Technical Working Groups, task teams)**

It was agreed to retain the current methodology of communications: monthly teleconferences, regular newsletters and email correspondence. Prior to the next global meeting, the gFSC will explore new methods of communications based on feedback from partners to optimize information sharing among all stakeholders.

1.7. **Update on the country support mechanisms developed by the Global Support Team**

*Presenters: Ariella Glinni, gFSC; Roberta Canulla, gFSC*

**Key points**

The purpose of the presentation was to provide an update on the country support mechanisms developed by the Global Support Team, (roster, trainings, deployments, stand-by-partners and partnerships etc.,) and recurrent constraints/needs to enhance the response to country needs. The focus of the presentation was on how to further improve support to country-level food security coordination and effective partner contribution at global and country levels.

Since the inception of the gFSC in 2011, the Global Support Team and partners have provided support to the country-level Food Security Clusters. The gFSC has continued to provide up-to-date trainings for Cluster Coordinators. In total, 77 percent of all the candidates who have undertaken the training have been included in the gFSC roster. Additional support mechanisms include:

- **Back-stopping missions** by the Global Support Team to support existing country-level FSC teams;
- **Deployments of staff from the gFSC roster**, from stand-by partners (with funding from stand-by partner organizations), through other partnership arrangements (with staff selection and funding from partners or jointly with gFSC), or use of existing resources from within the country’s Cluster Lead Agencies.

In 2015 there has been a remarkable increase in the support requested from country clusters to identify appropriate coordination staff through stand-by partner deployments. This seems to reflect the diminishing resources available for sustained coordination from donors and within the Cluster Lead Agencies’ budgets. There has also been a shift from partnership arrangements at global level to country level, with funding completely or partially provided by partners.

At the end of the presentation, participants were asked to: 1) provide feedback on existing support mechanisms to the country-level clusters; 2) discuss which options/business models could make the gFSC support more effective and sustainable; and 3) discuss how partners could have a more active role at global and country levels in supporting FSC.

**Plenary discussion**

The following key points were raised during an active discussion:
Partnership and roster arrangements need to be continually reviewed to adapt to the current demand and available resources. It is important to share knowledge and experiences among other clusters.

The role and responsibility of national governments should be explored, especially in terms of transitioning coordination back to the national government.

It was agreed that as the value of coordination is generally appreciated and as a team of a Cluster Coordinator and an Information Management Officer is required as a pre-condition for strong coordination, there should be a way to find the resources needed to send this team to the countries.

**Next steps**

- The gFSC will continue to provide trainings and identify staffing solutions for country-level Cluster Lead Agencies’ approval as required.
- The gFSC will continue to advocate for and work with partners and Lead Agencies to ensure that country-level clusters have sustainable resources for the appropriate and sustainable coordination solutions. This will be linked with the process of transitioning and deactivating the clusters back to government-led mechanisms.
- Partners are asked to discuss with their headquarters if they are interested in taking a more active role in the gFSC, for example through the various forms of partnership arrangements. The global support team is happy provide more information on the topic.

**Summary of Day One**

The final session of the meeting provided a brief summary of the first day's action points and next steps (please see the Executive Summary for summarised actions points).
2. Day Two: Thursday 14 May 2015

The objective of the second day of the meeting was to explore the future direction and priority interventions of the Food Security Cluster at national and global levels in 2015-16.

2.1. Introduction to the World Humanitarian Summit: What is the state of food security coordination in humanitarian action?

Presenter: Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief, Inter-Cluster Coordination Section, OCHA

Loretta Hieber-Girardet from OCHA provided a brief overview of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) together with a quick introduction to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. The presentation was followed by break-out group discussions.

Update on the World Humanitarian Summit

In September 2013, the United Nations Secretary General called for a World Humanitarian Summit following a collective feeling of communities affected by humanitarian crises that the responses are failing to adequately meet their needs, especially in South Sudan and Syria.

In general, there is a need for a more people-centric approach for humanitarian action and an inclusive, consultative approach (bottom-up). The WHS is a collective opportunity to reflect on what could be done better, bringing the global community together to propose solutions to most pressing challenges and set the global agenda. In the lead up to the summit, a series of regional consultations have already brought together individuals and groups, giving them a chance to identify humanitarian challenges and promote solutions.

The main issues that are arising from the global consultations are:

- humanitarian effectiveness,
- reducing vulnerability and managing risk,
- closing the financing gap (global fund, humanitarian bank?)
- transformation through innovation, and
- serving the needs of people in conflict.

More information about the WHS can be found on the dedicated website worldhumanitariansummit.org

To contribute to the WHS discussion, the Global Cluster Coordinator Group (GCCG) has started to develop a consolidated concept paper on the role of coordination, documenting lessons and challenges faced from over ten years of cluster experience in humanitarian crises. The conclusions and recommendations from the break-out group discussions will feed into the background paper.

2.2. Break-out group discussions: What is the state of food security coordination in humanitarian action?

Purpose of the session

Building on national experience, the recent gFSC evaluation and partners’ expertise, the purpose of this session was to discuss and agree on the gFSC response to the debate on the state of coordination within humanitarian action. The results of this session will feed directly into the Global Cluster Coordinator Group’s background document that is being prepared for the World Humanitarian Summit. Results will also help shape the on-going work of the gFSC.
Three break out groups discussed and reported back on the following topics:

1. What is meant by: fit for purpose? Is the gFSC fit-for-purpose?
2. Are the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) and related guidance adaptable to the different coordination solutions faced (from Syria to Ebola to cyclone response)? What areas can be improved and how? (aligning funding requests with seasonal requirements)
3. Are we meeting the needs of the affected populations?

Each group was tasked to address one of the topics above. If they identified need for change, they were asked to define what (who and how) could be realistically done to achieve this change.

**Facilitators:**
Each group had a facilitator to lead the discussion and to report back to the plenary.

**2.2.1. What is meant by fit for purpose? Is the gFSC fit-for-purpose?**

**Facilitator: Jacopo D’Amelio, FAO Syria**

Overall, the group agreed that there is evidence from recent global and country-led evaluations to support the statement that the Food Security Cluster is “fit for purpose”. However, improvements can and should be made in order to continue improving the humanitarian response and to ensure that the affected populations remain at the centre of the response. Moreover, the group agreed that many of the existing tools and systems need to be better shared and understood in a systematic way.

According to the group, it is important that clusters do not undermine existing coordination systems. A key area that needs development is the de-activation of the cluster / transitioning to government-led and owned coordination structures. It was noted that exit strategies for clusters do not have to mean halting all coordination and support. Strategies should focus on progressive handing over to government with the continued support from partners as appropriate.

Some concrete action points include:

- The FAO/WFP Joint Evaluation of the Food Security Cluster should be more widely circulated and used as a point of reference highlighting the importance of coordination.
- The generic tools and guidelines developed at the global level need to be further rolled out and systematized (i.e. IM Tool) at the country-level.
- Lessons learned, guidance and knowledge sharing from global to country-level and in-between countries need to be enhanced.
- Inter-cluster cooperation needs to be enhanced and further strengthened; good examples from some countries should be systematized (for example the cooperation between Health, WASH and Food Security Clusters.)
- Advocacy/messaging for donors needs to be enhanced – this is a particular challenge especially when “double hatting” – representing one agency and the cluster at the same time.
- There is a need for more solid, evidence-based response plans.
- More efforts should be made to measure the value of coordination in quantitative terms. This would be especially useful for donor messaging.
- At t FSC partner meetings, the appropriate level of partner staff should be involved in order to ensure solid and informed decision making.
2.2.2. Is the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and related guidance adaptable to the different coordination solutions faced from Syria to Ebola to cyclone response? What areas can be improved and how, aligning funding requests with seasonal requirements?

Facilitator: Francesco Baldo, Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster Co-coordinator, Gaziantep, Turkey

Overall, it was noted that although there is extensive guidance concerning the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) and the development and implementation of strategic plans, very few people are aware of the HPC process, why it is implemented, that guidance exists, and how to use the accompanying tools.

When adapting the HPC to country strategy development, it is important to ensure that - to the extent possible - all decisions take into account the crisis and country-specific challenges (sudden onset or protracted, conflict or natural disaster). The Humanitarian Needs Overview should identify the priority areas and then be used as the basis for the definition of the strategic vision.

There is a risk of focusing on details (and budget) at the expense of a broad strategy. An ideal sector strategic document should detail 1) the capacity required to meet the overall objectives, 2) the current capacity available and 3) to what extent partners can scale up in order to contribute to meeting the objectives (if resources are provided).

Additional work on developing monitoring systems on how results achieved contribute to the overall strategic objectives is needed. Work is also required to encourage more complete donor reporting in the FTS. A point was made on the fact that the sub-national coordination structures do not need to fully mirror the national structures. In general, coordination solutions should be adapted to the unique needs of each country response at both national and sub-national levels.

2.2.3. Are we meeting the needs of the affected populations?

Facilitator: Davide Rossi, Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster Co-coordinator, Gaziantep, Turkey (GOAL)

The group recognised that there are several solid tools and guidance already produced and circulated to more effectively meet the needs of the affected populations. The question raised was what is hindering the transition from guidance to implementation. It was proposed that additional adapted guidance is needed to ensure moving from theory to practice.

Ideas to more effectively connect with grassroots movements and local organizations, who are often the best equipped to increase social awareness and respond to crises, were also discussed and experiences shared. It was felt that it is essential to continue to increase the capacity and knowledge at all levels of the community, government and partners before, during and following an emergency.

It was suggested that multi-sectoral responses can help in preserving the dignity of people. However, integrated planning requires integrated funding. It was highlighted that there is a need to stop competition among humanitarian actors for resources, and reduce inter-agency power struggles as this can shift the focus away from the needs of people.

Plenary Discussion

An active plenary discussion followed the presentations from each group. During the discussion, it was noted that although the divide between humanitarian response and development seems to have
reduced, there is an on-going need for building the bridge between development and humanitarian actors, building resilience and focussing on transition, working with governments and the private sector.

It was noted that although it is easier to find funding for emergencies than for recovery or development, integrated planning needs integrated funding. Participants noted that similar challenges are being faced in other clusters both at global and national levels. Overall, there is a need to ensure that we adapt different models for different contexts from sudden onset responses (such as in Nepal) to the Whole of Syria response and Niger with over ten years of on-going crisis.

Budget and donor frameworks should be aligned to determine the critical points in different countries when assistance is needed. A more integrated manner of work is needed including looking at seasonal calendar, threats, opportunities and risks. Finally, it was agreed that all clusters should be activated more strategically for more limited time periods.

**Next steps**

The discussion of this session will feed into the Global Cluster Coordinator Group's background document that is being prepared for the World Humanitarian Summit. The document will be shared with the global partners. Results will also help shape the on-going work of the gFSC.

### 2.3. Update on gFSC Resilience and Preparedness Task Forces and related IASC initiatives

During the Global Partners’ Meeting in November 2014, partners requested the establishment of two task forces to determine the gFSC role in preparedness and resilience.

#### 2.3.1. Preparedness Task Force: update on progress

**Presenter: Marina Angeloni, gFSC**

Following the November 2014 global meeting, a call for expressions of interest to join the gFSC Task Force on Preparedness was sent to global partners and Cluster Coordinators. Six NGO partners, a few country-level coordinators and representatives from FAO and WFP expressed their interest.

The first call was conducted to share information on respective activities and to discuss the relevance and interest by gFSC partners to move forward with the platform. Participants agreed that having a dedicated group looking at preparedness was important, highlighting that a few interesting and useful activities could be implemented. However, the identification of a Chair and a significant commitment by partners was needed.

To take the work forward, a starting point would be to map what country clusters are already doing in terms of preparedness and based on the results, draft a work plan and identify gaps/needs that could be facilitated and/or addressed at global level. The idea was to collaborate with the gFSC Resilience Task Force and avoid duplicating mapping exercises.

The group also highlighted the importance of aligning the work with the IASC Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience.

Recently, WFP asked the gFSC to update their preparedness guidelines (first version drafted in 2012) as an annex of WFP related guidance and to align these with the revised IASC guidelines. The work is currently ongoing and the final document will be shared with all gFSC partners.
2.3.2. Resilience Task Force: update on progress

**Presenter:** Quentin Legallo, Norwegian Refugee Council

The first task of the Resilience Task Force was to undertake a comprehensive mapping of who is doing what, where and when in terms of resilience. This was conducted through a survey with a total of sixty respondents including a wide range of organizations, country-level Food Security Clusters and other clusters from around the world.

Based on the survey results, it is clear that resilience is a concern and a priority, and it is generally reflected in country-level cluster response plans. However, not all clusters and organizations have the same, if any, definition for resilience.

The Task Force will continue to analyse the results of the survey and identify areas where the gFSC can provide support to country clusters.

2.3.3. Plenary Discussion on Task Forces – the way forward

**Facilitator:** Ruco Van Der Merwe, Cluster Co-coordinator, Somalia FSC

The plenary requested that the Task Forces continue their important work in clarifying the role of the Food Security Clusters and, in particular, Cluster Coordinators in preparedness and resilience. Should the Cluster Coordinator's role be information gatherers, disseminators, programmers, or a mixture of all three?

It was suggested that the Task Forces could create a tool around the Humanitarian Programme Cycle to guide clusters and partners. The participants considered that at minimum, country-level clusters should understand the basics and be equipped to discuss resilience and preparedness and have an understanding of what is happening in other countries.

The question of merging the two Task Forces to be in line with the IASC Task Team on Resilience and Preparedness was discussed. As there are many areas of overlap between resilience and preparedness, it was agreed to merge the groups but to ensure that the specific needs of resilience and preparedness are included in the work plan.

**Next steps:**

It was agreed to merge the groups but ensure that both resilience and preparedness aspects remain part of the work plan. The joint gFSC Task Force on Resilience and Preparedness was requested to:

- Continue to collect and analyse information from various countries and share the results and lessons among gFSC partners, country clusters, other clusters and IASC groups.
- Develop specific concrete actions and tools in support of country clusters and partners, including: a checklist of resilience and preparedness activities around the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, an agreed definition of resilience in humanitarian situations and indicators, etc.
- Review IASC Resilience and Preparedness Task Team work plan and align the gFSC Task Force Work Plan as appropriate.
- Explore areas that can be linked to the on-going work of the gFSC Urban Working Group.
- Send an email to all partners and FSC Coordinators requesting volunteers to join the Task Force, identifying specific areas of interest.
2.4. Closing Remarks

Presenters. Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergency & Rehabilitation Division of FAO; Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe, Meeting Chair; Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator

Speaking on behalf of FAO and WFP, Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergency and Rehabilitation Division of FAO, thanked all participants for their active contributions and acknowledged the commitment and the frank discussions that took place during the two days. He highlighted the importance of appropriate coordination mechanisms that are needed to respond to continued crises and to prepare for new ones, noting that even during the time of the meeting, Nepal faced powerful aftershocks while a coup was reported to have occurred in Burundi. Just recently, the IASC had decided to extend South Sudan and Iraq as IASC Level 3 (L3) emergencies, while deciding that the Central African Republic no longer met the IASC L3 classification. However, Mr. Burgeon stressed that both FAO and WFP as Cluster Lead Agencies will continue to ensure appropriate humanitarian coordination and support the response of partners in C.A.R.

Mr. Burgeon extended special thanks to the Nepal Food Security Cluster members for their hard work and availability to attend the meeting via videoconference – this was especially appreciated by the meeting participants. Partners were thanked for their active leadership in the various working groups, partnership arrangements and MoUs.

Mr. Burgeon thanked Priya Behrens-Shah from Welthungerhilfe for her strong role in chairing the meeting. Appreciation was extended to the Global Support Team for their work throughout the year and for the good organization of the meeting.

Cyril Ferrand noted the value of face-to-face meetings in providing feedback for the Global Support Team and in ensuring that the priorities reflect the needs of the country clusters. Suggested areas for discussion at the next global meeting and volunteers to develop sessions were requested. Cyril closed the meeting by thanking all partners for their continued support and participation.

Tentative dates for the next Global Partners Meeting are Wednesday and Thursday 25-26 November 2015 at the World Food Programme Headquarters in Rome, with Tuesday, 24 November reserved for the Working Group face to face meetings.
## Annex 1: List of Participants

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<th>Surname</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alam</td>
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<td>Alvarez</td>
<td>Maite</td>
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<td>Baldo</td>
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<td>Behrens-Shah</td>
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<td>D’Amelio</td>
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<td>Van Der Merwe</td>
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<td>Van der Esch</td>
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**Global Support Team**

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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Ferrand</td>
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## Annex 2: Meeting Agenda

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| 09.00-09.30   | **Opening remarks and welcome**  
   *Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergency & Rehabilitation Division of FAO*  
   *Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator*  
   *Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe, Meeting Chair*  |
| 09.30-10.30   | **Update from Nepal**  
   1. Current situation, context and achievements, and operational challenges  
   2. Current and foreseen coordination structures  
      a. Supporting sub-national coordination mechanism – are there roles that the partners can take on (co-coordinators, sub-national and or IMO support)?  
      b. The role of FSC partners in supporting existing coordination mechanisms.  
   3. Nepal Flash Appeal  
      - Initial Flash Appeal Process  
      - Challenges faced in the process in Nepal  
      o Recognising that all crises are different, and it is the HCT who determines the timelines structure of a Flash Appeal (Preliminary Response Plan/revision of the SRP, what can the FSC (global and national) cluster do in order to maximise the identification of gaps and ensure that all appropriate partners have an opportunity to contribute to and be part of Initial Appeals?  
   **Presenters:** Elena Rovaris, Food Security Cluster Coordinator, Nepal  
   Rajendra Aryal, gFSC coordination support, Nepal  
   **Expected outcomes**  
   - Identification of partner support for the FSC coordination in Nepal  
   - Suggested way forward for Nepal revision of the Flash Appeal [what do we need to know (e.g. timeline, funding limitations, guidance from the HCT, support from the ICWG, support guidance from the HCT etc.)]  
   - FSC messages and lessons for future sudden onset crises and the development of initial appeals.  |
| 10.30-10.45   | Coffee Break                                                                |
| 10.45-11.15   | **Review of gFSC achievements against Strategic Plan 2015-2016 (Results 1-5)**  
   **Presenter:** Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator  
   **Background documents:**  
   - gFSC Strategic Plan 2015-16 and the associated work plan  
   - gFSC Annual Report 2014 |
| 11.15-12.30   | **Review of gFSC achievements against Strategic Plan 2015-2016 (Results 6 - Technical Working Groups)**  
   - Report-back from the Programme Quality Working Group  
   - Report back from the Technology & Innovation Working Group  
   - Report-back from the Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working Group  
   - Update on the evolution of the Cash and Markets Working Group  
   **Presenters:** Working group chairs and focal points  |
| 12.30-13.30   | Lunch  |
### 14.00-14.45
**Presenter:** Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator

**Background documents:**
- Final Summary Report of the Joint FAO-WFP Evaluation of the Food Security Cluster Coordination (the document available both at [WFP website](http://www.wfp.org) and [FAO website](http://www.fao.org))

**Feedback from partners on the global Food Security Cluster – the way forward**

**Purpose of the session:** Based on previous discussions at global partner meetings, teleconferences and the results from the 2015 gFSC consultation survey, the purpose of this session is to discuss and decide any new groups or task teams and the method of work for the gFSC 2015-16.

**Summary of the 2015 gFSC consultation survey results**

**Presenter:** Kaisa Antikainen, gFSC

**Plenary Discussion**

Implications and concrete recommendations will be made for the following areas:
- Governance
  - Final decision on the creation of a Strategic Advisory Group
  - Method of work of gFSC 2015-2016 - Aligning the gFSC consultation processes and information flow with the governance systems (telephone conferences, face-to-face meetings, Technical Working Groups, task teams)

**Facilitators:** Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe; Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator

**Background documents:**
- gFSC Survey results (attached)
- gFSC Work plan 2015-16

### 14.45-15.00
**Coffee Break**

### 15.00-16.30
**Feedback from partners on the global Food Security Cluster – the way forward, cont’d**

**Presenters:** Ariella Glinni, gFSC and Roberta Canulla, gFSC

**Plenary discussion:** What is needed to further improve support to country food security coordination? How can partners effectively contribute at global and country levels?

**Update of the country support mechanisms being developed by the Global Support Team (roster, training, deployments, stand-by-partners and partnerships etc.) and recurrent constraints/needs for enhancement to meet country needs.**

### 16.30-16.50
**Wrap-up of Day 1 and Introduction of Day 2**

**Presenters:** Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe, Meeting Chair and Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator

### 17.00-18.00
**Reception, FAO, Aventino Room**
### DAY 2: 14 May 2015

The objectives of Day 2 of the meeting are to explore the future direction and priority interventions for the food security cluster at national and global levels from 2015 – 2016.

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| 09.00-9.15 | **Introduction to the World Humanitarian Summit: What is the State of Food Security Coordination in Humanitarian Action?**  
**Presenter:** Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief, Inter-Cluster Coordination Section, OCHA |
| 09.15-10.30| **Break-out groups – What is the State of Food Security Coordination in Humanitarian Action**  
**Purpose of the session:** Building on national experience, the joint evaluations and partner expertise of this purpose of this session is to discuss and agree on the gFSC response to the debate on the state of coordination within humanitarian action. The results of this session will feed directly into the Global Cluster Coordinator Group background document that is being prepared for the World Humanitarian Summit. Results will also help shape the on-going work of the gFSC.  
**Three break out groups** will discuss and report back on one of the following topics:  
1. What is meant by: fit for purpose? Is the gFSC fit-for-purpose? (Malaysia Room)  
2. Is the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) and related guidance adaptable to the different coordination solutions faced (from Syria to Ebola to cyclone response)? What areas can be improved and how? (aligning funding requests with seasonal requirements) (India Room: A-Building, 3rd Floor, A-327)  
3. Are we meeting the needs of the affected populations? (Gabon Room: A-Building, Ground floor, A-024)  
**Methodology:**  
Each group will be tasked to address one of the topics above and if there is an identified need for change, define what (who and how) can we realistically do to achieve this change?  
**Facilitators:**  
Each group will have a facilitator to lead the discussion and to report back to the plenary.  
**Background documents:**  
1. Humanitarian Summit  
2. Humanitarian Programme Cycle  
| 10.30-11.00 | **Coffee Break** |
| 11.00-12.30 | **Working Groups - World Humanitarian Summit**  
Report back from the break out groups and plenary discussions. |
| 12.30-13.30 | **Lunch** |
| 13.30-14.45 | **Update gFSC Resilience, Preparedness and Accountability to Affected Populations Task Forces and related IASC initiatives**  
- Update from the gFSC Preparedness Task Force  
**Presenters:** gFSC support team  
- Resilience Task Force, preliminary update from the resilience mapping exercise and main FSC needs identified.  
**Presenter:** Quentin Legallo, NRC  
**Questions for Plenary discussion:** |
Should the gFSC Task Team on Resilience be merged with the gFSC Preparedness Task Force (to be in line with the IASC)? What is needed to ensure that our work is in support of the IASC Task Team?

*Facilitator: Ruco Van Der Merwe, Cluster Co-ordinator, Somalia*

**Expected outcome of the session**
- Identification of specific practical tools and steps needed to support country clusters (resources, needed checklists, trainings etc).
- Identification of focal points, roles and responsibilities.

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<tr>
<td>14.45-15.00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>15.00-15.30</td>
<td><strong>Questions for clarification - AOB</strong></td>
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<td>Time is allocated to explore issues arising throughout the two days of the meeting that require further explanations, discussion and action points.</td>
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<td>15.30-16.00</td>
<td><strong>Conclusions and closing remarks</strong></td>
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<td><em>Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergency &amp; Rehabilitation Division of FAO</em></td>
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<td><em>Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator</em></td>
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<td><em>Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe, Meeting Chair.</em></td>
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**End of the Meeting**