



gFSC Programme Quality Working Group (PQWG) Protection Task Force (PTF) Terms of Reference

A. Purpose

The purpose of the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Protection Task Force (which is part of the wider Programme Quality Working Group - PQWG) is to:

- a. improving strategic approaches in mainstreaming of protection¹ in the gFSC work.*
- b. ensuring cross-cutting dimensions (gender, AAP and PSEA) are reflected in all activities supported and coordinated by the Food Security Cluster.*
- c. confirming to upholding the rights of the individual in accordance with the International human rights law, international humanitarian law, international refugee law encompassing clear and common understanding of the grounds of discrimination such as age, sex/gender, refugees and internally displaced persons.*

This work has to be based on a clear and common understanding of the grounds of discrimination such as: age, sex/gender, disability, displaced/migrant status and minority status, to enable to achieve an inclusive humanitarian response for a diverse population. The taskforce is tasked to promote and ensure that humanitarian response effectively integrates all of these dimensions throughout the coordination processes and partners' project cycle to ensure that the services provided have the ultimate goal of an increased positive impact for all affected populations.

The task force does not meet regularly but is **demand driven**: whenever there is a need or interest to develop key documents or organise info sharing initiative, the gFSC focal point will activate the task force with clear objective for the ad hoc function.

B. Objectives

The Task Force presently focuses on two main objectives:

1. Support gFS Cluster and FSC country teams on improving the mainstreaming of protection and cross-cutting dimensions (gender, AAP and PSEA)
2. Ensure effective cross-clusters linkages and collaboration with relevant actors at global level, when relevant

¹ To be interpreted in the sense of all protection activities, including in four specialized Areas of Responsibility (AoRs): Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Housing, Land and Property and Mine Action.

C. Activities

Objective 1: Support gFS cluster and FSC country teams on improving the integration of protection concerns / lens into the response, and ensuring cross-cutting dimensions (AAP and PSEA) are reflected in all activities supported and coordinated by the Food Security Cluster.

These are some of the possible (not limited) activities the PTF could undertake under this objective:

- Ad hoc support to FSC field teams in case of urgent matters related to Protection/Gender/AAP, etc
- Update the documents already developed by the Task Force or previous documents related to inclusion and mainstreaming of protection, gender, GBV risk and disability concerns, AAP and PSEA in the food security response and coordination (based on needs identified in the field and or at global level); develop further guidance if / as needed (based on demand and capacity)
- Support FSC teams to keep abreast of protection, gender and disability frameworks and commitments at the global level, focusing on implications for their work (e.g. gender equality, centrality of protection, PSEA, etc.)

How?

- Develop webinars/ trainings / tip sheets
- Facilitate lesson learning exercises and exchanges (gather good practices, revise them and share with country FS cluster teams)
- Support collecting and sharing best practices / examples (to be contextualized) on protection and cross-cutting issues' mainstreaming and integration

Objective 2: Facilitate effective cross-clusters and cross-actor linkages and collaboration at global level

Under this objective, PTF members commit to share relevant global or country initiatives with the group, using it as a platform to gather feedback and/or ask and provide collaboration and support towards their implementation. The PTF provides a forum for the interaction of global FSC partners with the Global Protection Cluster and AoRs, and viceversa.

Examples of relevant initiatives and groups to be discussed at PTF meetings:

- Child Protection-Food Security linkages (e.g. by the CP-FS Reference group, CP AoR)
- IASC Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action
- IASC Gender Reference group
- IASC AAP and PSEA task force
- GBV Reference group
- UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and its accountability framework
- gender accountability framework
- Centrality of Protection (CoP) review
- GBV Call to Action reporting
- GBV prevention in cash operations

D. Method of Work:

A focal person in the gFSC support team will support the PTF to manage and ensure the communications with the rest of the protection force through:

- Regular e-mail correspondence, including updates on partners' activities, events, knowledge sharing and learning activities;
- Webinars on specific thematic areas of interest;
- Teleconferences on demand;

E. Working Group Structure and way of working

The PTF will be led by 1 focal point at gFSC secretariat.

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- Areas of work will be identified “on-demand” and discussed with PTF members to evaluate capacity
- The following activities are required from member/participating agencies:

O pro-actively flag any possible need for producing documents, info sharing initiatives, etc (see above) and support the process and implementation of those

- o Provide technical inputs during the conceptualization, development, and dissemination of the PTF related products / events.
- o Actively participate in virtual (teleconferences)
- o Share, analyse and compile relevant learning documents, good practices and technical material (tools, manuals, guidelines etc..) with other members

F. Membership

In order to execute the programme of work outlined for the PTF work plan, it is essential that members engage systematically in the objectives agreed upon by members and to fulfil the roles and responsibilities for participation.

Members of the PTF are self-selected representatives of organisational members of the gFSC and/or experts on the topics covered by the PTF from organisations that are not members of the gFSC. Participants in the PTF are expected to:

- a. Have programme experience in the area of food and nutrition security and/or in at least one of the dimensions covered by the task force i.e protection, gender, disability, diversity and inclusion, Accountability to the Affected Populations (AAP) and Prevention of/Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- b. Be in a position to take decisions on guidance documentation on behalf of their organisations.

It is also essential that once members commit to any area of work, consistent and substantive engagement is respected to follow through on the agreed task.

G. Rules of Participation

Views expressed by participants during meetings will not be treated as the formal position of the organisation they are representing. Verbal contributions at working group meetings can also be assigned an information sharing level. Members who wish their contributions to be considered as formal should clearly state this before making their point.