



## **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 protection<sup>1</sup> 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.

### **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 ensuring cross-cutting dimensions (gender, AAP and PSEA) are reflected in all activities supported and coordinated by the Food Security Cluster.
2. Ensure effective cross-clusters linkages and collaboration with relevant actors at global level

### **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.**

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**These are some of the possible activities the PTF could undertake under this objective:**

- Improve the inclusion and mainstreaming of protection, gender, GBV risk and disability concerns in the HNO and HRP process (e.g. suggest or reinforce simple but meaningful indicators, develop a short video on how to reflect disability inclusion in the HNO/HRP process etc.)
- Improve the integration of protection, gender and disability concerns in FS assessments (e.g. building on / disseminate the work of the CP-FS Reference Group, providing guidance / examples to carry out integrated protection risk analysis, gender analysis and disability inclusion)
- Improve the integration of protection, gender and disability concerns in the response analysis and implementation (e.g. providing guidance on key considerations when choosing response modality, targeting, etc.)
- Improve internal and intersectoral coordination on operational issues including incorporating global guidance: targeting, harmonisation of indicators, harmonisation of the response, interoperability, common/coordinated referral systems, data and information collection/sharing in conformity with data protection standards. This should ensure that protection cases are part of food assistance programmes and that food partners have the capacity to refer cases noticed during their activities to protection partners.
- Improve AAP (communication with communities, community feedback mechanisms) processes set up, functionality and adequate use for reviewing current programming/future programming
- 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.)
- Ad hoc support to FSC field teams in case of urgent matters related to Protection/Gender/AAP, etc

How?

- Create a FSC teams protection helpdesk (in coordination with existing gFS cluster, Protection cluster, CP AoR help desks)
- Develop webinars/ trainings / tip sheets
- Facilitate lesson learning exercises and exchanges (gather good practices, revise them and share with country FS cluster teams)
- Conduct surveys and/or country specific consultations to better understand the field needs/gaps
- Support collecting and sharing best practices / examples (to be contextualized) on referral systems to ensure adequate referral mechanisms from FS to protection, and from protection to FS

**Objective 2: Ensure effective cross-clusters linkages and collaboration with relevant actors at global level**

**These are some of the possible activities the PTF could undertake under this objective:**

1. Ensure collaboration with Cluster Lead Agencies (CLAs, i.e. FAO/WFP) respective units
2. Collaborate with the Child Protection-Food Security Reference group to improve integration of Child Protection and Food Security Sectors
3. Collaborate with the HLP teams globally and increase collaboration at country level on issues such as land property and agriculture, etc.
4. Establish communication with the IASC Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, the IASC Gender Reference group, AAP and PSEA task force to assess potential involvement in Protection TF
5. Track all the relevant global level initiatives: surveys done by CP Ref Group, work on child labour done by FAO, online GBV prevention and mitigation course by GBV Reference group, the UN

Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and its accountability framework, IFRC guidance on integrating protection consideration in the response to COVID-19

6. Create a tracking system to improve GFSC reporting on protection: gender accountability framework, Centrality of Protection (CoP) review, GBV Call to Action reporting, UNDIS reporting including UN Country Team (UNCT) Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion. Information included in the tracking system should be effectively disseminated with interested practitioners at field level. Dissemination and use of this information should be regularly monitored to document the effectiveness and impact of the tracking system on protection mainstreaming and integration in the FS sector.
7. Include gFSC partners in the IASC Results Group 2 (RG2) on Accountability and Inclusion Service Directory. Disseminate the RG2 collective accountability framework and collective results tracker to FSC CC
8. Development of messaging/user friendly products for ICCGs

#### **D. Method of Work:**

A focal person in the gFSC support team will support the PTF lead 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;
- Working Group face-to-face meetings during the bi-annual Meeting of Global Partners;
- Meeting minutes circulated to all WG members
- Regular updating the PTF Google Drive shared folder and the dedicated page on the gFS cluster website (to be discussed)

#### **E. Working Group Structure**

The PTF will be led by 1 focal point and is supported by the gFSC secretariat.

- The focal point shall be elected or agreed through consensus on an annual basis during the second annual meeting of the gFS partners (November-December every year)
- Priorities will be identified on a yearly basis and agencies will be assigned to lead on different initiatives.
- The following activities are required from member/participating agencies:
  - o Help set the strategic direction of PTF through reviewing TORs and identifying key gaps in guidance or learning.
  - o Provide technical inputs during the conceptualization, development, and dissemination of the PTF related products.
  - o Actively participate in the regular virtual (teleconferences) and face-to-face meetings
  - 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 policy and guidance documentation on behalf of their organisations.

It is also essential that once members commit to the programme of work, consistent and substantive engagement is respected to follow through on the agreed work plan. Agencies in the lead role of implementation of work plan activities should endeavour to provide useful solutions, tools and guidance for field level issues that are in the realm of cluster work. Agencies in support roles on implementation of work plan activities should show commitment, provide inputs and assist those taking an active lead.

## **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.