

Guideline on Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Response Packages

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The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) has been a central part of the humanitarian response in Afghanistan. The FSAC is co-led by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with a Non-governmental organization (NGO, currently WHH) as co-chair. Over 200 partner organizations country-wide are active in the FSAC, including NGOs (international and national), relevant Government ministries (central and regional departments), United Nations (UN) agencies and donors.

FSAC response strategy 2022 includes food assistance through cash and in-kind modalities, agriculture kit, vegetable kit, livestock kit, ruminants, and poultry. It's important to adopt harmonized approaches as per minimum acceptable humanitarian standards across the country where relevant - to avoid inequality, harm, and improper utilization of already limited resources. In case of significant change in the context, i.e. vulnerability or market price fluctuations, the packages need to be better explained to justify humanitarian intervention. These guidelines were thoroughly discussed with FSAC partners, donors, and humanitarian agencies in various FSAC meetings and approved and agreed by all relevant stakeholders.

Food Assistance: Food assistance is the largest intervention in the humanitarian response strategy. Basic rules to design food assistance package are;

- Minimum 2100 Kcal/person/day for emergencies but it varies with climatic conditions, type of work/livelihoods and vulnerable groups
- Family size
- Nutritional balance
- Cultural food habits and practices
- Cost associated with transportation and cooking
- Specific need coming from evidence-based assessment (nutritional deficiency etc.)
- Overall needs vs funding availability
- Logistic constraints
- Equality, equity and do no harm

FSAC partners agreed to have separate food basket for cash and in-kind response because of multiple challenges including logistic constraints associated with in-kind distribution.

In-kind food basket: FSAC undertook a review process and revised its in-kind food basket in consultation with Agriculture and Livelihood Working Group. The changes were presented in the cluster meeting and endorsed by all the partners. In-Kind response food basket must include 100 Kg wheat flour, 8 Kg pulses, 8 liter oil and 1 kg salt to provide 2100 Kcal/person/day. This package provides enough amount of protein, micronutrients, and fat for a household of 7 members for a month. WFP distribute a slightly different food basket and that includes 92 Kg wheat flour, 9.1 Kg

vegetable oil, 12.5 Kg pulses, 1 Kg salt plus 2.1 Kg high energy biscuits and 1.5 Kg plumpyDoz. This package also provides 2100 Kcal/person/day and enough protein, micronutrients, and fat, however, logistically it is not possible for NGOs to distribute this package because wheat flour comes in bags of 50 Kg in the local market. If logistically feasible, partners can decide to distribute either package.

Cash-based food basket: FSAC undertook a review process and revised its cash-based food basket in consultation with the Agriculture and Livelihood Working Group and FSAC partners. The changes were presented in the cluster meeting and endorsed by all the partners. FSAC partners agreed to have below mentioned food basket for cash and vouchers programs.

Cluster recommended basic food basket (100% - 2,100Kcal/person/day for a family of seven) October 2021			
Items	Unit	Quantity	Average Price in USD
Wheat Flour	kg	89	44.50
Rice	kg	21	12.18
Vegetable Oil	litre	7	13.09
Lentil	kg	9	10.08
Salt	kg	1	0.15
Total (USD)			80
Equivalent AFN amount should be based on the prevailing exchange rate			

Cash for work: Cash for work is commonly used in Afghanistan to cover food and income gap for the basic food basket and to rehabilitate basic livelihoods infrastructure. FSAC held several discussions in regional meetings, consultation with national FSAC partners and government to come up with recommended rates. These are 4 USD for unskilled and 7 USD for skilled labor adjusted as per local rates to avoid large pool of labor from formal labor market. To know how many days a person should work to achieve 100% food basket through cash for work, food basket cost (80 USD) should be divided by daily wage labor. The basket cost and each food item amount should be adjusted if a partner wants to support families with half food basket. Half food basket distribution should be justified and supported by assessments and first-hand data.

Agriculture Kit: Agriculture package was discussed in detail with both MAIL (ministry of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock) and FSAC partners and everyone agreed on below package:

Crop package (per HH)	Units	Price per 1MT (USD)	Price per KG (USD)	Cost per unit (USD)
Certified wheat seed	50kg	570	0.57	29
DAP fertilizer	50 kg	770	0.77	39
Urea fertilizer	50 kg	360	0.36	18
Transportation cost	150 kg			4
Total Package Cost (USD)				89

Prices for certified wheat seeds, DAP and urea fertilizers include transportation cost up to the district centers in all provinces. Most of the distribution are taking place at district level so additional 3 USD are included for beneficiaries to transport inputs to their homes as per community demand. Basic guidelines must be provided to farmers to make good use of the inputs for better production. For the areas where farmers are cultivating maize or for summer crops cluster and MAIL recommend providing 12.5 Kg maize seed, 50 Kg Urea and 50 Kg DAP. Variety of seeds and types of fertilizers may change in some areas, so cluster recommends partners to have discussion with FSAC Regional Focal Points and MAIL directorates before planning input distribution. In cash 90 USD should be provided if certified seeds and quality fertilizers are available in local markets.

Vegetable Kit: FSAC packages are designed to address nutrition challenges in the country as data shows that Afghanistan has one of the worst nutrition indicators across the globe. FSAC is aiming to provide nutritious vegetable seeds and tools to grow nutritious vegetables at the household level for own consumption. Detail of the package is:

Vegetable package (per HH)	Units	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
Minimum 4 different types of vegetable seed	1 KG (250 grams seeds from each vegetable type)	40	40
Basic tool kit including spade, rake, and hoe	Kit	10	10
Total Package Cost (USD)			50

Livestock Package: FSAC partners agreed to include livestock protection activities in the cluster response plan especially for natural disaster context where livestock depletion is very high. The package includes below activities, but it can be adjusted based on needs and justification. Like in 2018 drought because of the harvest loss wheat straw was not available in local markets. Wheat straw can be adjusted with additional animal feed.

Livestock package (per HH)	Units	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
Animal feed	100 Kg	0.35	35
Straw (where possible and logistically feasible)	200 Kg	0.2	40
De-wormer	2 liters	8	16
Transportation cost			4
Total Package Cost (USD)			95

Emergency livestock treatment and vaccination campaign will be carried out in close coordination with MAIL and FAO in case of major disease outbreak where government have no or limited capacity to response. This package is proposed for only vulnerable households having maximum 2 large ruminants and 8 small ruminants.

Poultry package: Poultry play an important role in improving daily food consumption and increasing income for poor rural communities. FSAC designed below package in consultation with NGO partners and government to improve food security and nutrition status, especially for women and children. Same package can be provided in cash where markets are functional and poultry package is available in local market.

Poultry package (per HH)	Units	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
Chicken (3 roaster & 27 hens)	30	6	180
Feed	150 Kg	0.55	82.5
Drinker	3	2	6
Feeder	3	2	6
Chicken coop support for material	1 coop	120	120
Total Cost (USD)			395

All agriculture-based food security and livelihoods intervention outlined in the FSAC strategy is integrated with food assistance and nutrition programme and the purpose of the intervention is to reduce overtime the direct food support and ensure resilience building and protection asset depletion.

Small ruminant package: Small ruminant packages offer an important way to diversify household income for poor families and improve food consumption. As multiple sectors have delivered small ruminant packages in the past it is important to standardize this intervention and to ensure that inputs are delivered in a way to ensure sustainability.

Small ruminant package	Unit	Unit price (USD)
2 local available goats with 2 kids or pregnant	200	400
2 Bags concentrated animal feed (100 Kg)	35	70
2 Bottles de-wormer (200 ml)	2	4
Total Cost (USD)		474

Large ruminant package: Large ruminant packages offer a high value asset that can greatly improve household income. This intervention should carefully consider the household's access to additional resources such as water, adequate rangelands, and winter fodder.

Large ruminant package	Unit	Unit price (USD)
1 local available cow with 1 calve or pregnant	800	800
2 Bags concentrated animal feed (100 Kg)	35	70
2 Bottles de-wormer (200 ml)	2	4
Total Cost (USD)		874