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## **Guideline on Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Response Packages**

**January 2019**

The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) has been a central part of the humanitarian response in Afghanistan since 2008. The FSAC is co-led by the World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with a Non-governmental organization (NGO, currently WHH) as co-chair. Over 172 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 2019 includes food assistance through cash and in-kind modalities, agriculture kit, vegetable kit, livestock kit and poultry. It's important to use uniform approach as per minimum acceptable humanitarian standards across the country where relevant to avoid inequality, harm and improper utilization of already stretched resources. In case of significant change in the context like vulnerability or market price changes, the packages need to be better explained to justify humanitarian intervention. These guidelines are thoroughly discussed with FSAC partners, donors and humanitarian agencies in various FSAC meetings and approved and agreed by all relevant stakeholders including government.

**Food Assistance:** Food assistance is one of 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
- Host government technical ministry recommendations

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 agreed for Afghanistan is:

1. *In-Kind response food basket must include 100 Kg medium quality wheat flour, 7.5 Kg pulses, 7 liter oil and half kg salt to provide 2100 Kcal/person/day. WFP also include 2.1 Kg high energy biscuits and 1.5 Kg plumpyDoz.*
2. FSAC partners agreed to have below mentioned food basket for cash and vouchers programs. Price of the same basket is different in different regions, so cash programs

needs to be adjusted as per the prices in the local market with same commodity and quantity of the food items. This is agreed between WFP, ERM and all other partners to use same cash food basket for cash as below and same food basket for in-kind as above.

| Cluster recommended basic food basket (100% - 2,100Kcal/person/day for a family of seven) December 2018 |  |       |          |            |                    |
|---|--|-------|----------|------------|--------------------|
| S. No   | Name of the commodity  | Unit  | Quantity | Unit price | Total price in Afs |
| 1   | Wheat Flour  | Kg    | 60       | 30         | 1,800              |
| 2   | Local Rice   | Kg    | 29       | 95         | 2,755              |
| 3   | Vegetable Oil  | Litre | 6        | 83         | 498                |
| 4   | Pulses   | Kg    | 14       | 78         | 1,092              |
| 5   | Salt   | Kg    | 1        | 15         | 15                 |
| 6   | Sugar  | Kg    | 6        | 42         | 252                |
|   | Total  |       |          |            | 6,412              |
|   | Total in USD @ 75 Afs=1USD<br>FSAC partners agreed to keep 90 USD or 6,500 Afs for one-month food basket |       |          |            | 86 USD             |

**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. Cluster had a discussion in regional meetings, consultation with national FSAC partners and government to come up with recommended rates. These are 300 AFs to 350 Afs for unskilled and 650 AFs for skilled labor adjusted as per local rates to avoid large pool of labor from formal labor marker. To know how many days a person should work to achieve 100% food basket through cash for work, food basket cost (6,500 Afs) 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   | 600                 | 0.60               | 30                  |
| DAP fertilizer            | 50 kg  | 750                 | 0.75               | 38                  |
| Urea fertilizer           | 50 kg  | 340                 | 0.34               | 17                  |
| Transportation cost       | 150 kg |                     |                    | 4                   |
| <b>Total Package Cost</b> |        |                     |                    | <b>89 USD</b>       |

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 300 Afs (4 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 recommend partners to have discussion with 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 tackle with nutrition problem in the country as Afghanistan shows one of the worst nutrition indicators across the globe. Cluster is aiming to provide nutritious vegetable seeds, tools and basic fertilizers to grow nutritious vegetables at 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               |
| Fertilizer  | 10 Kg   | 1               | 10               |
| Basic tool kit including spade, harrow, sickle and digger | Kit   | 30              | 30               |
| <b>Total Package Cost</b>                                 |   | <b>80 USD</b>   |                  |

**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. 69% people are associated with livestock, so government is advising to support small scale subsistence livestock farmers. Package includes below interventions, 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                                      | 100Kg    | 0.60            | 60               |
| Straw (where possible and logistically feasible) | 200Kg    | 0.15            | 30               |
| De-wormer  | 10 dozes | 0.2             | 2                |
| Transportation cost                              |          |                 | 4                |
| <b>Total Package Cost</b>                        |          | <b>96 USD</b>   |                  |

Emergency livestock treatment and vaccination campaign will be carried out in close coordination with MAIL 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 3 large ruminants and 7 small ruminants.



**Poultry package:** Poultry play an important role in improving daily food consumption and income to 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 (2 roaster & 8 hens)      | 10     | 6               | 60               |
| Feed                              | 100Kg  | 0.5             | 50               |
| Drinker                           | 2      | 3               | 6                |
| Feeder                            | 2      | 4               | 8                |
| Chicken coop support for material | 1 coop | 50              | 50               |
| Total Cost                        |        | 174             |                  |

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 minimize direct food support and ensure food security and nutrition in remote targeted locations on long term basis.