

MESSAGE ON NEW GFSC STRUCTURE



Dear Food Security Cluster partners, members and supporters,

We'd like to inform you of some organizational changes recently undertaken within the Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), and the motivation for making these.

Spiraling food security needs and the spectre of famine in multiple countries have underscored the **importance of coordination in safeguarding the most vulnerable people** across the world. In 2021, the magnitude and severity of hunger is alarming, yet humanitarians are working tirelessly to meet the relentless rise in numbers of people in need of help. With funding increasingly stretched despite generous commitments from donors, **food security actors in-country and in local offices on the frontlines** are operating in very challenging environments. For this we cannot express our gratitude enough, and we will continue to assure you our steadfast support throughout.

With a view to doing so, as Cluster Lead Agencies FAO and WFP are committed to **strengthening the gFSC**, leveraging the comparative advantage of its members to offer the best support possible to country-level teams and partners. We are therefore reinforcing the cluster structure and **introducing a new co-leadership arrangement with two dedicated Global Coordinators** – who remain guided by the WFP and FAO Directors of Emergencies.

Rest assured there will be **no change in how the FSC operates at field or global level**. Rather, the reform is aimed at bolstering gFSC management to take full advantage of the experience and expertise of each organization, and at creating a structure whereby continuity of leadership is guaranteed by co-management at a time of ever-increasing humanitarian needs. We are therefore delighted to introduce **Abdul Majid as the newly appointed FAO Global Cluster Co-Coordinator**, who as of 1st November will lead the gFSC alongside **Naouar Labidi in her role as WFP Global Cluster Co-Coordinator**.

At global level, the gFSC will continue to coordinate efforts with other Clusters, UN agencies, partners and donors to align our priorities. **Advocacy, resource mobilization, and information management** for evidence-based decision-making and prioritization will be strengthened – providing a critical lifeline to country operations. The gFSC will also **scale up operational support** to country teams on the cluster core functions, through backstopping, deployments and surge missions.

To be able to continue helping those most in need, we must build and maintain effective, inclusive partnerships across the board: **all actors have a role to play**, from affected populations to local governments, NGOs, UN agencies, academia and the private sector. **The gFSC is a critical fulcrum for this**, facilitating joint efforts to deliver essential services and achieve collective results.

We stand ready to support all partners and Cluster members on the challenging road ahead, and thank you for your continued engagement and dedication.