

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) – Terms of Reference 2023

The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) aims to strengthen partnerships and active participation of all FSAC partners in all the strategic decision-making processes. For that reason, FSAC is clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of involved actors, including UN agencies and national and international NGOs. Considering the many different members of the FSAC, a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) is being established to facilitate timely and effective decision making as a more focused group in addition to the wider cluster coordination meetings.

I. Objectives of the SAG

- Provide ongoing strategic direction to the Cluster
- Develop and adjust the strategic framework, priorities and work plan of the Cluster
- Provide support to the finalization of key documents issued by the Cluster

II. Structure and membership of the SAG

The SAG will be chaired by FSAC coordinator, and co-chaired by one of the other elected members according to the decision taken by the SAG members. The membership will comprise of:

- Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Coordinator(s)
- Food Security and Agriculture Cluster NGO co-chair
- UNFAO – 1 person
- WFP – 1 person
- International FSAC partner – 2 persons
- National FSAC partner – 2 persons
- IPC representative – 1 person

The SAG members representing the NNGO and INGO FSAC partners will be elected by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster partners, for a period of 12 months. Only organizations members of FSAC will be eligible for election. SAG members are expected to be represented by senior staff of elected organizations, who will be consistently available to attend regular and ad-hoc meetings, as well as consultation via email when required. Other organizations may be invited to SAG meetings on an ad-hoc basis, upon agreement of the SAG members.

III. Role of the SAG

The SAG will provide strategic direction to the cluster. Decisions will be taken following a transparent and inclusive process. The SAG should contribute to the following cluster core functions:

- Supporting service delivery
- Planning and implementing cluster strategies
- Monitoring and evaluating performance
- Building national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning

- Supporting robust advocacy
- Support HNO/HRP decision
- Discussion with FSAC partners about strategic decisions
- Providing directions on FSAC messaging
- Reviews the monthly and annual reports of the FSAC and provides necessary inputs and feedback
- Identifies the needs of thematic working groups / task teams, ensures coherence of their works with the Strategic Plan, and advises on activation and deactivation of these groups / teams
- Assists the FSAC in identifying and addressing gaps and trends in humanitarian policy and practice that could impact food security service delivery in Afghanistan
- Representation on behalf of FSAC partners

IV. Indicative tasks of the SAG

- Facilitate and oversee the development of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster’s Strategy and Humanitarian Response Plan in line with identified priorities. Review regularly and update when needed.
- Agree performance indicators, and methods by which these will be measured.
- Provide strategic oversight on inter-Cluster planning and inclusion of cross-cutting issues.
- Collectively represent the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster’s interests and position, including advocating for the necessary resources and provisions.
- Provide inputs & support in conducting quality coordination meetings at national and regional levels.
- Extend discussions on topics identified in the National Cluster meetings when additional details and decision-making is required.

V. Coordination and information sharing

- The SAG will meet every 2 months or ad-hoc when there is a need as determined by the FSAC Coordinator. If there is an urgent task or decision to be taken, the SAG may meet or be consulted via email more often (for example, during the preparation of the Humanitarian Response Plan).
- Extraordinary meetings may be called by the (co-)chairs, or at the request of at least 3 other members.
- The draft agenda will be circulated to SAG members in advance of each meeting.
- Draft minutes will be shared with SAG members for their comments. Final minutes will be shared with SAG and Food Security and Agriculture Cluster members.