FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response
Introduction to the global Food Security Cluster and Information Management

gFSC IM Training
19-22 June 2017
What is the gFSC?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2wifpLS-lg
Overview of the IASC Cluster Approach

• The independent review commissioned by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) in 2005 found significant gaps in humanitarian response – gaps in geographic coverage and in the types and levels of assistance and service provided. There was also a recognition that organisations needed to work together in a more harmonized and coordinated way so as to maximize the impact of the resources for the response.

• The Cluster Approach was adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee the same year to increase predictability and accountability in all the main sectors of international humanitarian response and ensure that gaps in response do not go unaddressed.

• The designation of Cluster Lead Agencies (CLAs) with clearly-defined responsibilities and accountabilities – including the responsibility to identify gaps in humanitarian response in their sector and take action to fill them – is the principal difference between the “cluster approach” and other sector coordination mechanisms.

• Three sets of principles underlie the Cluster approach and are expected to be adhered to by all Clusters and Cluster partners: Humanitarian principles; Principles of partnership; Accountability to affected populations.
IASC Clusters
The Food Security Cluster (FSC) was established to coordinate the food security response during a humanitarian crisis, addressing issues of food availability, access and utilisation.

Food Security Cluster coordinates partner responses to ensure that planning and implementation of responses avoid gaps and duplications, and are comparable and timely to affected populations.

The gFSC was formally endorsed by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on the 15 December 2010 and became operational in April 2011.
Food Security Clusters at Country Level

- 31 clusters/sectors
- 75 staff at country level (CCs and IMOs) and 12 at the gFSC
gFSC Partners, Observers and Associates
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result 1: Strengthened and developed national clusters’ capacity</th>
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<td>Result 2: Harmonized and globalized information management</td>
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<td>Result 3: Improved operational and surge support to national clusters</td>
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<td>Result 4: Scaled-up advocacy, communication and resource mobilization</td>
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<td>Result 5: Deepened and diversified global partnerships and operational collaborations</td>
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<td>Result 6: Systematized learning and knowledge-management processes</td>
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FSC Information Management (IM)

IM involves collecting, analysing, and sharing information through high quality information products designed to assist cluster partners make programmatic, evidence-based and strategic decisions regarding aspects of a humanitarian crisis. Sound and effective Cluster Coordination relies on IM.

Reliable decision making is based on sound IM systems and analysis.
What is the role of the FSS Information Management at the country level?

1. The role of information management at the country level is to build on existing relevant information systems in place in-country and support the Government’s efforts to coordinate and harmonize IM activities of all humanitarian partners.

2. FSS IM involves the collection of partner activity details (who, what, where, when), management and analysis, and the dissemination of products to inform effective FSS programming (avoiding gaps and overlaps) and communication to stakeholders of FSS operations.

3. The sector IMO also serves the secretariat function for the sector by keeping accurate records of meetings, assessment details, and communication through the humanitarian network.
Working in a team, the **FSC IMO reports to and supports the Cluster Coordinator** by:

- Setting up an IM system
- Collecting, analysing and processing data
- Producing and disseminating information products, including reports and maps.
- Providing other information as required
Responsibilities of Partners for IM

The “minimum commitments” proposed by the IASC for cluster partners includes that partners will: subscribe to the overall aims of the cluster approach; be proactive in exchanging information, highlighting needs and gaps, and reporting progress, participating in lessons-learning processes, and building local capacities; share responsibility for Cluster activities including assessing needs, developing plans and guidelines, communicating information and agreed messages, mobilizing resources and organizing joint training; and respect and adhere to agreed principles, policies and standards, and implement activities in line with agreed priorities and objectives.
The Role of the gFSC in IM

**Standardization & Guidance:** Ensure standards and guidance for IM processes and tools in place.

**gFSC IM Team Support:** Ensure coordination and support amongst IMOS, including through regular teleconferences.

**FSC Website:** The FSC website includes both global level and country-cluster information, including meeting minutes, tools, guidance, documents and information on current activities.

**FSC IM Tool & IM Databases:** IM “3/4/5 W” tool for cluster systems and partners to use to collect, analyse and report on food security response.

**Surge Support & Backstopping:** gFSC may deploy staff for new crises and chronic emergencies as IMO, and provides on demand IM backstopping. gFSC roster for IMOs can help to identify an IMO when there are capacity gaps at country level.

**IM Help Desk:** [Helpdesk@FSCluster.org](mailto:Helpdesk@FSCluster.org) - Email and operating procedures for managing & tracking IM support requests.
Use of Country-level IM

- Identify critical gaps and overlaps of ongoing and planned interventions; ultimately leading to better programming
- Ensure needs of most vulnerable are highlighted and addressed
- Advocacy on behalf of FSS partners to secure financial resources
- Information sharing results in focused coordination meetings, enhanced collaboration and increases transparency/accountability within the cluster
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Please note all columns that are highlighted in Row are mandatory for Food Security and Livelihoods Sectors.
Gap Analysis Map
Advocacy Templates

Title of advocacy cluster

On 25 April 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, followed by multiple aftershocks, struck Nepal, which resulted in over 8,700 casualties and 32,000 injuries. The Nepal Food Security (FSC) was activated following the earthquake and led by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and co-led by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The FSC’s mission was to provide food and regular access to food for the most vulnerable populations through food and cash assistance; maintain and protect livelihoods of the most vulnerable through emergency reporting, early warning, and maintaining basic social services in institutions (e.g. health centers).

The damage caused by the earthquake, lack of infrastructure, and difficulties to access food, put pressure on already vulnerable populations living in areas affected by conflict, poverty, water insecurity, and environmental hazards. The FSC will support the following:

- Provide and prioritize assistance that addresses the needs of vulnerable communities; particularly in the压前 areas, such as food and nutrition.
- Ensure that food is received by the intended beneficiaries and that it is used appropriately and within communities.
- Strengthen food systems across sectors and prevent overall hunger by providing a phased relief and food support to meet the immediate needs of the affected population, taking into account the long-term food security needs and capacity building of local communities.

In addition, the FSC will focus on the following key objectives:

1. Strengthen food security and livelihoods by providing food assistance to the most vulnerable populations through food and cash transfers, maintaining and protecting livelihoods of the most vulnerable through measures, and maintaining basic social services in institutions (e.g. health centers).
2. Ensure that food is received by the intended beneficiaries and that it is used appropriately and within communities.
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Thank you!

Questions?