

<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	Food Security Sector Coordinator
<b>TYPE OF CONTRACT:</b>	Short-Term Professional
<b>UNIT/DIVISION:</b>	Programme Policy
<b>DUTY STATION (City, Country):</b>	Damascus, Syria
<b>DURATION:</b>	11 months

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## **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:**

The function of the Food Security Sector Coordinator is to ensure a timely, coherent and effective food security response by mobilizing stakeholders to respond in a strategic manner to the humanitarian crisis. The Coordinator will operate in an inter-agency environment that requires high standards of accountability and demonstrable leadership, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills, and in which the principles of partnership and collaboration are essential. The Sector Coordinator will represent the Food Security Sector in coordination mechanisms and will advocate for mainstreaming the integration of crosscutting issues into the sector's work, especially protection, age, gender, and diversity. He/she will work impartially with all members of the sector and its sub-components and will serve and represent the group as a whole, and not as an agency officer.

Syria remains one of the largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies globally with an estimated 6.1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in protracted displacement. The 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the Food Security and Agriculture Livelihoods sector estimates that around 9.8 million people are in need of various levels of food, agriculture, and livelihood-related assistance in Syria. Of the total people in need, it is estimated that 7.9 million people are in high severity districts and are highly food insecure.

Following the adoption of UN resolutions 2139 and 2165 by the United Nations Security Council, humanitarian actors operating inside Syria from Damascus or across the borders from neighboring countries organized themselves around a "Whole of Syria" (WoS) approach in an effort to improve the effectiveness and operational reach of their collective responses.

In May 2014, WFP, FAO and NGO partners reached a common understanding on the need to better coordinate food security and livelihood interventions for Syria, across all hubs and agreed to establish a regional coordination hub in Amman to cover the Whole of Syria related coordination issues including a comprehensive Needs, Response and Gaps analysis. This role has now been moved from Amman and positioned inside Syria in Damascus with the understanding that the Sector Coordinator in Damascus Syria maintains primary responsibility for the overall coordination of the food security sector throughout Syria while ensuring that a support structure at WoS level continues to exist in order to ensure an all-inclusive approach to coordination until such a time when cross border operations cease to exist and coordination structures in Gaziantep and NES are not required.

Under the direct supervision of the Deputy Country Director, Programmes, the sector coordinator will perform the following roles and responsibilities.

## **ACCOUNTABILITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Sector Coordinator will provide overall leadership for the implementation of the six IASC core functions of the cluster throughout Syria and specifically to:

- i. To Support service delivery by**
  - Providing a platform that ensures service delivery is driven by the Whole of Syria Humanitarian Response Plan and transition priorities.
  - Implementing common mechanisms to eliminate duplication of service delivery.
  - Ensuring that the Food Security Sector covers all identified food security needs of the affected population.
  
- ii. To inform the HC/HCT's strategic decision-making by**
  - In collaboration with OCHA, preparing needs assessments and analysis of gaps.
  - Supporting the Food Security Sector or inter-sector level food security needs assessments, including participatory assessments.
  - Identifying and finding solutions for (emerging) gaps, obstacles, duplication and cross-cutting issues.
  
- iii. To plan and implement the strategy by**
  - Implementing sector transition plans that directly support the downsizing strategy.
  - Applying and adhering to common standards and guidelines.
  - Provide transparent direction to the development of common funding criteria, resource mobilization and prioritization within the sector for inclusion in appeals and pooled funds processes.
  - Provide oversight to 4W collection, collation, and dissemination of IM products to partners.
  
- iv. To monitor and evaluate performance by**
  - Periodically assessing the performance of the Food Security Sector through the utilization of the Cluster Performance Monitoring Tool and ensure that the information generated is then shared with partners for further learning and knowledge management.
  - Ensuring that sector coordination mechanisms are adapted over time to reflect the capacities of local actors and the engagement of development partners.
  - Ensure adequate reporting and effective information sharing, with due regard for age and sex disaggregation.
  
- v. Build national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning.**
  - Drawing lessons learned from past activities and revising transition implementation accordingly;
  - Serve as a forum devolving operational coordination and problem solving within the various Food Security coordination groups in the region
  - Ensuring adequate contingency planning and preparedness for new emergencies and seasonal adaptation of responses at partner level at sub-national level
  
- vi. Advocacy**
  - Identifying concerns that contribute to HC and HCT messaging and action.
  - Undertaking advocacy on behalf of the sector, sector members, and affected people.
  - Represent the Food Security Sector in meetings with sectoral and external interlocutors.
  - Co-chair sector meetings with FAO or NGO co-coordinator.
  - Secure from sector participants, minimum commitments on participation in activities.
  - Initiate measures to ensure that Principles of Partnership are fully respected in managing coordination mechanisms.

***Perform any other duties as required.***

## **DELIVERABLES AT THE END OF THE CONTRACT:**

All six core functions of the cluster successfully delivered in line with the IASC guidelines as per the accountabilities above.

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## **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:**

### **Education:**

Advanced University degree in International Affairs, Economics, Agriculture Economics, Nutrition/Health, Agriculture, Environmental Science or other field relevant to food security or international development assistance, or First University Degree with additional years of related work experience and/or trainings/courses. Formal training in Cluster Coordination is required.

### **Experience:**

Minimum of 5 years of relevant (international) professional experience in humanitarian response at mid-senior level including in the Food Security Cluster.

### **Knowledge & Skills:**

Knowledge and expertise in food security modalities, excellent analytical and writing skills; excellent teamwork and management skills; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; and good negotiation and problem-solving skills.

### **Languages:**

Fluency in both oral and written communication in English.

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## **Certified by Hiring Manager (name/title) & signature):**

Simon Cammelbeeck, Deputy Country Director..... **Date:** .....

## **Accepted by Short-Term/Consultancy contract holder (name & signature):**

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