Generic ToR for sub national Food Security & Livelihood (FSL) coordination forum

Background
Since December 2013 crisis in the past 5 years, the humanitarian community in South Sudan has responded to a series of major emergencies on top of a protracted chronic crisis driven by conflict related insecurity (political/ communal/ resource based) and associated displacement, an economic crisis (high food prices/ devalued currency); climatic shocks (floods & dry spells), pests (notably Fall Army Worm) and diseases (crop/ livestock & human), protection crisis, public health crisis and chronic lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene practices. As a result of this cocktail of shocks and events food and nutrition insecurity has reached unprecedented levels in 2017 (when famine was declared, the first since 1998 and 1988), 2018 (with the highest ever recorded cereal deficit) and 2019 (with the highest ever recorded number of people severely food insecure in IPC phase 3, 4 and 5).

The overall goal of the South Sudan FSLC is to contribute towards the Humanitarian Response Plan in addressing humanitarian needs through a clear and effective strategy; and by doing this through being a primary source of information on the on-going humanitarian crisis to address food insecurity and facilitate a coordinated needs based response that considers protection (security/ GBV) and ensures an inclusive approach (age/ gender/ disability). At the field level, critical information is exchanged including constraints around operations and understanding of potential response gaps. To that end, sub-national (State and County) level forums are essential to allow food security actors to meet regularly and in a structured manner to discuss on-going operations of partners, highlight challenges, identify gaps in response, avoid duplication, support more integrated responses (with the other clusters), develop contingency response plans to anticipated localised shocks, and support scale up when and how required in a rapidly changing context.

Accountability
The sub national FSL clusters are accountable to the FSLC Secretariat and its membership at the National level. Establish clear accountability lines between national and sub-national clusters, thus enabling the decentralization of operational decisions. The FSLC Secretariat is a service delivery entity that serves the needs of its members and is beholden to the trust and willingness of those members to share and contribute towards a greater collective good and response.

Objective
The purpose of the sub national FSL coordination forums are to provide a field level forum for the discussion, coordination (identify gaps/ avoid duplication), promote more integrated actions, share essential information, and where possible identify capacity gaps (even training needs) etc.

With the State level ICCG and Solutions Working Groups the FSL cluster will contribute towards the development of contingency plans around ‘likely’ localised shocks and resultant humanitarian needs especially in relation sudden onset emergencies.

Specific Responsibilities
Under the leadership of the sub national FSL Focal Point (see draft TOR below) and with support from the National FSLC Secretariat the FSLC forum will:
• Be the FSLC Secretariat’s main channel for disseminating and collecting information in the geographical area: e.g. minutes of meetings, emergency alerts, context updates, contingency matrices and participatory cluster mapping of response/ gaps etc.

• Lead coordination meetings at either the State or County level.

• Act as a mechanism for updating and encouraging FSLC members in needs assessments and other related activities within the geographical area.

• Act as the primary conduit for dissemination of strategic decisions, undertaken by the National or State level cluster, to operational partners and members within the identified region

• Act as the focal point, for ensuring, that operational partners’ monthly report and plans match with activities in the field

Suggested draft TOR for a sub national FSL Focal Point

**Accountability**

The sub national FSL focal point works on behalf of their members (operational partners: UN, NGO, CBO, Government etc.) and liaises on a periodic basis with the Juba based FSLC Secretariat. At many State level forums this will involve supporting the formal chairing of the coordination body by the Ministry of Agriculture (in line with pre crisis/cluster activation coordination forums).

**Objective**

The purpose of the FSL focal point, is to provide a field level forum for the discussion, coordination and advocacy of all FSLC activities at their State or County locations (in many instances this is across a number of counties as coordination across whole States is often not feasible in South Sudan).

As there is limited access in many locations the capacity of individual/ organisations taking on the role of focal point will vary from place to place, however, focal points should have an understanding of the situation, geography, local actors, etc. and must have a field presence in their respective area.

**Specific Responsibilities**

- FSL focal points to maintain close cooperation with international, national and local NGOs and authorities in implementing FSL Cluster Strategies (HRP 2021).

- Focal points will act as the FSLC's local 'representative' in specific geographic areas, e.g. State or County, and will be the cluster coordinator's main channel for disseminating and collecting

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1 The FSLC focal point recognizes the willingness, ‘good will’ and the voluntary nature of this role – and therefore this TOR in no way prescribes what anyone must do; they can only do what is possible in combination with their existing agency position and role;

2 In Somalia for instance they also have a Vice Focal Point to cover when the Focal Point is away and/ or provide additional support to their forum;
information in the geographical area – particularly minutes of meetings, emergency alerts, contingency matrices and the FSLC products: gap analyses, dash boards, presence maps etc.

- Focal points should encourage coordination meetings at either the State or County (and even sub County level where possible). To the extent possible, focal points will keep the FSLC Secretariat informed of any major new developments of relevance to the FSL cluster as;
  - Greater Upper Nile focal points to Alistair Short at alistair.short@wfp.org
  - Greater Bhar El Gazal focal points to Isaac Jebaseelan at Isaac_jebaseelan@wvi.org
  - Equatorias focal points to Nyachangkuoth Rambang Tai (nyachangkuothtai@gmail.com)

- Focal points will also if possible facilitate joint needs assessments and other related activities within the geographical area and send the assessment reports, sitrep, updates to the FSL Cluster IMOs Justus Vundi (justus.vundi@wfp.org) and Monika SHRESTHA (monika.shrestha@wfp.org) with a copy to the relevant CC mentioned above.

- As required liaise with OCHA (e.g. State ICWG) and other local level coordination mechanisms where available (supporting local contingency planning & multi sector integrated responses);

- Any other tasks that may be required to achieve better coordination within clusters and integration between other cluster/ sectors;

Focal points must be from experienced operational FSLC partners with a strong presence on-the-ground and could be the Cluster Lead Agencies (WFP & FAO) or any other national registered NGO.