Terms of Reference for the South Sudan FSL-Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)

Aim & principles of the SAG:
The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) aims to support the FSL cluster coordinator in an advisory role. The SAG supports the achievement of the South Sudan Food Security & Livelihood Cluster (FSL-C) response strategy, highlights new areas of strategic direction for consideration and engages in constructive discussions regarding the implementation of the FSL-C work plan and the Technical Working Groups (TWGs).

Objectives:
The objective of the SAG:
- To provide strategic guidance to the cluster coordinator especially in the development of written documents and strategies;
- To advise on the implementation of the work plan;
- To identify the needs of technical working groups, ensure coherence of their work in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and advise on activation and de-activation of these groups; and
- To support the core FSL-C seven functions as appropriate; and review performance on an annual basis through consultation on the CCPM survey findings.

The SAG will review the work of the FSL-C and support the cluster coordinator especially on the work of the TWGs. The cluster coordinator will regularly update the Cluster Lead Agencies (CLAs) on the work of the SAG and strategic advice emerging from SAG deliberations.

The SAG is the advisory group that, through a multi-stakeholder representation, supports the cluster coordinator in addressing the coordination, management and technical capacity development objectives of the FSL-C. The SAG will consist of 8 members and 2 observers who include:
- Two Cluster Coordinators (CLA & NGO co coordinators);
- Two elected representative of South Sudan NGOs (who serve for two years on a rolling annual basis);
- Two elected representatives of INGOs/International Organisations NGOs (who serve for two years on a rolling annual basis);
- Two Cluster Lead Agencies (CLAs) representatives from both WFP & FAO; and additionally
- Two donors (currently USAID & SDC have been identified) to be included as observer status.

The profile of the SAG members is to have experience in the following areas: providing an advisory role; extensive knowledge of South Sudan (political, socio cultural, livelihood systems, humanitarian

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1 Day to day management and monitoring of the FSL cluster work plan remains the responsibility of the Cluster Coordinators and the FSL cluster secretariat;
2 Seven core functions include: coordination; information management; needs assessment; strategy, planning & appeals; Quality, standards & capacity building; AAP; and advocacy;
3 One NNGO & one INGO SAG member replaced annually;
& development actions etc.); technical knowledge in emergency response of food assistance and livelihood support; and with time available to make a contribution to the FSL-C.

The work of the SAG will build on that of the existing technical units. They may seek the technical guidance of the CLA, NGO and donor technical advisors and as required from other important technical units (e.g. SAFANIS, VAM, IPC TWG and other TWGs etc.).

The SAG aims to meet on a quarterly basis (or as when required).

**Specific Responsibilities**

Specific responsibilities of the SAG include to:

- Review any strategic document to be endorsed by the CLA;
- Review all technical guidance prepared by the thematic TWG’s for dissemination within the FSL-C membership;
- Advise on the FSL-C response strategy (HRP/ pool fund etc.) and other issues and actions identified by the CLA, SAG and FSL members;
- Based on the technical guidance provided by the technical advisors and assessment organisations, advise on the annual strategic priorities for the cluster including the HRP and other strategy type documents;
- Critically analyse and advise the cluster coordinator on a proposed strategy for pool fund allocations ensuring that the plans are in line with the strategic priorities of the cluster and subscribe to its long-term goals;
- When required during the pool fund allocation (now known as the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund) the SAG will operate as the Strategy Development Team and provide a minimum of six persons to the Strategic Review Committee nominating experts from their ranks as required;
- Act, within an oversight function, to ensure that the funding allocation plan of the FSL-C is appropriate and feasible;

**Accountability**

- Recommendations made by the SAG shall be taken to the extent possible on the basis of consensus or by simple majority;
- Decisions will be recorded in minutes;
- Agendas and meeting minutes will be uploaded on gFSC South Sudan website;
- The SAG reports to FSL-C partners’ meetings on the accomplishments of its roles and functions on a quarterly basis;
- The term of SAG members should not exceed 2 years;
- It is anticipated that the SAG members will not ALL be rotated at the same time so as to ensure continuity and institutional learning is preserved.

14th February 2021