

A Year in Review: 2021 Summary

Coordinating the food security response in emergencies

Country Food Security Clusters and Coordination Solutions in 2021



2021 Overview

The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), established in 2011 to coordinate the food security response during a humanitarian crisis, is headquartered in Rome and co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP). The gFSC is committed to saving lives through the effective coordination of food security responses in major emergencies and in 2021 supported some 30 in-country Food Security Clusters.

FAO and the WFP, other United Nations agencies and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, resource partners and government representatives work closely together to assist needy people with the objective of reaching as many people as possible with available funding. During 2021, gFSC coordination efforts involved more than 1,500 partners at the country level, more than half being national entities.

At the start of 2021, 168.7 million people in emergencies were classified in acute food insecurity and 123.9 million people were targeted through Humanitarian Response Plans. Food assistance was provided to almost 75 million people and agriculture and livelihoods assistance to more than 21 million people.*

*Reached and funding figures up to September 2021. Yearly achievements available in February 2022

EFFECTIVE FOOD SECURITY COORDINATION AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

The global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) supported in-country clusters and sectors through discussions, meetings, webinar, missions to improve the coordination systems to enhance the performance of its country teams. This includes gFSC support on the information management tool, the so-called 4Ws, to ensure that in-country coordination is built on who is doing what where and when. gFSC also increased its readiness to deploy qualified and trained staff to sudden-onset emergencies and protracted crises.

Support missions by the Global Support Team



AFGHANISTAN

During the month of September the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) deployed one staff member to Afghanistan to help the country office in preparation of the HNO/HRP.



HAITI

Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on the 14th of August, the gFSC scaled up its support to the country cluster by sending an information management officer (IMO) on a 2-month surge support mission.



LEBANON

The gFSC deployed staff on mission to Lebanon for one month to assist with implementing the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and the recently launched Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Operational coordination, advocacy and de-duplication exercises are ongoing, with newly-approved ERP projects for which FSS partners have appealed for USD 115.4 million.



MADAGASCAR

A gFSC support team member was sent on a 6-week mission to Madagascar to support the Food Security Sector. With a focus on the planned response for the upcoming lean season, the gFSC also strengthened collaboration with the Nutrition and WASH sectors to ensure a multi-sectoral response for drought-affected populations.



NORTHERN ETHIOPIA

The gFSC has been providing remote information management surge support to the FSC team based in Mekelle for the Tigray response, while a new IMO was being recruited. Support included mapping, weekly 5W datasets, gap analysis, dashboards, building of a database on Sharepoint and beneficiaries counting.

gFSC technical support and guidance

- The gFSC led the identification and deployment of staff to support the major crises, such as Northern Ethiopia for cluster coordination, Afghanistan for the IPC, HNO and HRP process, and DRC for the FSC response prioritization strategy

FOOD SECURITY COMPONENT OF THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2021



Reached and funding figures up to September 2021. Yearly achievements available in February 2022

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

The gFSC has continued to establish partnerships with organizations at global level based on complementary expertise and comparative advantage. In 2021 we reached partnerships with 76 global institutions, a 10% increase from the previous year. Many more applications are pending review for the upcoming year. We count about 1500 partners (average of 50 partners in each country) in countries with Food Security Clusters/Sectors, of which 60 percent were NGOs and 40 percent international NGOs.

76 global institutions
(52% NGOs, 39% INGOs, 7% UN, 2% Red Cross entities)



2 virtual Global Partners Meeting were conducted in 2021.

The first one in May covered the need for stronger advocacy for food security and looked at the Mid-term review of the FSC strategic Plan. [REPORT HERE](#)

The latest one in November, covered a variety of critical topics, following the suggestions of our Partners' Survey. This included food security and conflict, IPC famine typologies, definitions and classifications, anticipatory action and FSC role, climate variability and forecasted based action, environmental degradation, assessment tools, and much more. [REPORT COMING SOON](#)

PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION THROUGH TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

The gFSC provided technical support through the four [working groups](#) that documented best practices, developed tools and guidelines and facilitated exchanges among global partners.



AGRICULTURE:

- Monthly meetings
- Farmers' engagement survey
- Meeting with special focus: Desert Locust, Fisheries in emergencies

PROGRAMME QUALITY (& Protection taskforce)

- Bi-monthly meetings
- Food Security Dimensions Documents

CASH AND MARKET

- gFSC Help desk
- Linkage with other CM-WG of other global clusters
- Cash and Markets 'Stories from the field'
- Webinar on cash liquidity issue with SEEP and MiC
- Webinar on Hawala system
- Meeting/discussion on challenges + opportunities for Cash and Markets in relation to anticipatory action, climate and environmental issues
- Tip Sheet on Integrating Protection Dimensions of Food Security in the HNO and HRP process
- AAP and PSEA Tip Sheet

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

As crises become more protracted and frequent, the need for coordination is paramount. Because the gFSC supports also countries in which clusters are not active, the cluster system is stretched and resource mobilization, supported by advocacy and communication, is hence fundamental to humanitarian responses.

Advocacy

- Four years of the Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Cox's Bazar (Storymap)
- **BURKINA FASO** - Note de Plaidoyer Conjoint des Clusters Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutrition
- **MALI** - Note de Plaidoyer Conjoint Clusters Sécurité Alimentaire, Nutrition, Protection et WASH
- **SYRIA** - Record 12.4 million people food insecure after a decade of conflict
- **UKRAINE** - 1.5M people need food and livelihoods support in eastern Ukraine
- **DRC** - Persistent Food Insecurity in Kasai Province: A Consequence of Overlapping Crises
- **AFGHANISTAN** - Calls for urgent funding as over one-third of country are in Crisis or worse food insecurity
- Food security, nutrition, and ending child labour in agriculture for recovery and resilience
- **FAMINE ALERT**: The Global Food Security Cluster released in April a Statement on averting famine: we have reached a critical time for action.
- **Syria: Stories from the field**: The Cash and Markets Working Group collected a series of partners' case-studies from the field. The stories explain how a joint marketing initiative by REACH in South Sudan, Action Against Hunger's fresh food voucher programme for displaced Syrians in Lebanon, a livelihoods initiative by Premiere Urgence Internationale in Nigeria, and a digital cash revolution by Oxfam in Vanuatu have helped families increase their food intake, improved diets and nutrition, boosted resilience and encouraged beneficiaries' ownership over their food choices.
- **Inter-Cluster Statement on Famine**

Communication tools

- [Annual Report 2020](#)
- [GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2021 - Food security component](#)
- [What is food insecurity? \(video\)](#)

Web Analytics



[Quarterly newsletter](#)

>3,000 subscribers



[gFSC website](#)

173,000 user visits yearly (almost 500,000 page views)
+25% from 2020 & 100% grow since 2019



[gFSC Twitter channel](#)

4530 followers



[gFSC LinkedIn Account](#)

3550 followers

Webinars

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE

From 29 to 30 June, the gFSC organized its first Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) 2022 webinar, focusing on the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and aimed at FSC Coordinators and Information Management Officers (IMOs) in the field (88 participants in total). The first day was in collaboration with WFP – VAM unit, FAO – OER and IPC GSU and focused on food security indicators and analysis. The second day covered assessments, the FS HNO chapter and people in need calculation, and the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF).

5Ws REPORTING

The gFSC IM team launched a webinar series aimed at sharing 'best practices' among country Clusters to ensure the quality of FSC IM products. The first webinar explored 5Ws reporting, with a focus on 'who' reports to the Cluster, along with the various pros and cons of different approaches to reporting and proposed solutions. Consistent and reliable 5Ws reporting is fundamental to avoid duplication on FSC data between and within organizations.

HRP

In October the gFSC organized a webinar on the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), covering the main steps, timeline and general considerations.