

Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination

WFP and FAO Offices
of Evaluation

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Why an evaluation of Food Security Cluster (FSC) Work?

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Over the past five years, WFP and FAO have been investing increasing financial and human resources in FSC cluster coordination mechanisms at country and global levels. FAO and WFP Governance bodies have requested an independent evaluation and there are calls for strengthening accountability mechanisms under the IASC Transformative Agenda. A key objective of the evaluation is *learning* -> the evaluation results and recommendations will be focused on improving the effectiveness of the clusters and will contribute to global FSC strategy development.

What will the evaluation cover?

At the country level, FSC operations are activated within the overall humanitarian cluster approach, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC). To date over 30 FS Clusters have been activated.

Yet the contexts within which FSCs operate vary significantly between countries (type of emergency to which they respond, existing capacities of communities, Government and partners, resources available for cluster coordination and responses, etc.). The evaluation will seek to understand these contextual complexities in order to decide on criteria for country case study visits and ultimately to draw lessons and formulate recommendations.

The evaluation will focus on assessing the relevance, performance and results of FS clusters and related working groups at country level 2009-2013 and the contribution of the global FSC support unit to these results since it was established in 2011.

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WFP and FAO evaluations and management responses are public documents and can be found on their websites:

<http://www.fao.org/evaluation/oed-home/en/>

<http://www.wfp.org/about/evaluation>

Evaluation Calendar

Preparation: Apr-Jun 2013

- Desk Review
- Preparation of TOR and team leader selected.
- Establishment of Reference Group

Inception & Main Evaluation Phase: Sept 2013-Feb 2014

- Team recruited
- Inception
- Main missions /country case studies
- Surveys and data gathering

Analysis, report writing and dissemination: Mar-June 2014

- Draft report
- Final Report
- Report dissemination and management response
- Presentation to FAO/PC and WFP/EB (Oct/Nov)

The performance and results of FSC coordination at country level include the following:

- i. The timeliness of the establishment of the FSC. How the FSC has contributed to a timely response through its advocacy, communication and resource mobilization related activities.
- ii. How the FSC has contributed to enhance quality and reduced gaps and duplication in the humanitarian response
- iii. The extent to which the FSC promotes connectedness - linking emergency food aid support with transition and recovery interventions including the appropriate hand over of coordination to national authorities and deactivation of the cluster
- iv. The FSC contribution to credible and timely monitoring and assessment of food security in the country and use of such information and analysis in a response planning
- v. Support for the preparation of consolidated response plans and appeals and subsequent monitoring of the response.
- vi. Coordination, communication and information sharing between the lead agency, other stakeholders of the cluster, with other clusters and with non-cluster members.
- vii. Operationalizing the principles of the transformative agenda

The full Terms of Reference for the evaluation are available on the WFP evaluation website: [XXXXXXXXXX](#)

Who will it involve?

The evaluation will involve mainly three stakeholder groups. These comprise:

- FAO & WFP Staff – involved in supporting FSC work at country, regional and global levels;
- FSC partners – staff from agencies participating in FS coordination related work at country, sub-regional and global levels;
- Stakeholders – those who are the intended or unintended beneficiaries of FSC outcomes e.g. Governments, Resource Partners, UNRC/HC and HCT, other cluster leads, national NGOs and communities.

A Reference Group composed of representatives of the three groups above will be established to provide input at key moments during the evaluation process (design of terms of reference, draft report writing, dissemination).