



GLOBAL
FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

2015
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



Contents

- 3 - Introduction**
- 4-9- L3 Emergencies**
- 10-11 - Global Overview of Food Security Clusters in 2015**
- 12-27 - Progress Against Strategic Results**
 - 12-13 - Strengthened and developed National cluster's capacity**
 - 14-15 - Harmonised and globalised Information Management System**
 - 16-18 - Improved Operational and Surge Support to National Clusters**
 - 19-21 - Advocacy, Communications and Resource Mobilization**
 - 21-23 - Deepened and diversified Global partnerships and operational collaborations**
 - 23-25 - Systematised learning and knowledge management processes**
- 26-27 - People Centered Dimensions and Accountability to Affected Populations**
- 28-29 - How do partners view gFSC?**
- 30 - Financial information 2015**
- 31- gFSC Partners, Observers and Associates**

Introduction

Food Security Clusters coordinate the food security response in humanitarian emergencies by addressing the issues of food availability, access and utilization.

In 2015, the international community appealed for US\$ 19.5 billion for humanitarian assistance worldwide, including US\$ 8 billion for food security (41% of global appeal) to assist over 55 million people in 37 countries. Alarming, funding has been lower than in 2014 (US\$10.12 billion in 2015 vs. US\$ 10.8 billion in 2014), while the number of people targeted increased from 76 million to 78.9 million.

In this context, clusters more than ever have the urgent responsibility to make sure that the right people receive the right assistance (or are provided with the right options) in the most efficient and effective manner. Clusters also have the responsibility (i) to ensure that regular needs assessments are conducted, (ii) to establish robust information systems that contribute to guide humanitarian country teams and (iii) to develop strategic priorities, contingency and flexible response plans that build on the diversity of national and international partners and complement development frameworks.

Learning from the past and preparing for the future is the only way to remain fit-for-purpose. The global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Annual Report highlights a number of progresses and achievements in that regard. In particular, the report describes how gFSC helped country-clusters to respond to these humanitarian crises.

The report must also be read in conjunction with the gFSC Strategic Plan 2015-16. The Strategic Plan was the result of a consultative process with global partners and country-based Cluster Coordinators. The strategy was strongly building on the set of seven recommendations that emerged from the FAO/WFP joint evaluation of food security cluster in 2014.

2015 marked a clear commitment from global partners to food security coordination, both in terms of time and financial contribution, as well as through their willingness to play a more active role in gFSC governance.

However, despite significant achievements in 2015, there is no time or space for complacency. Crises grow both in numbers and complexity year after year. The number of displaced people is the highest on record since World War II. More aid workers are being targeted in violent attacks than ever before. These attacks are a violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Finally, the World Humanitarian Summit that the United Nations will convene in Istanbul, Turkey on 23 and 24 May 2016 is calling for the humanitarian system to act with collective humanity to lift people in crisis from fear and helplessness into stable and sustainable solutions. GFSC embraced that paradigm and concrete achievements in that direction in 2015, to be continued in 2016, are covered by the annual report.

When donors contribute US\$100 for a food security intervention in any given crisis, US\$0.3 is required to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated, efficient and effective response.

L3 Emergencies

Food Security Clusters (FSC) are committed to saving lives through the coordination of the food security response in major emergencies.

Iraq (L3)

Iraq's crisis was driven by unpredictable, massive waves of displacement caused by armed conflict in 2015. From January 2014 to November 2015, 3.2 million people were forced to flee their homes in several big waves of displacement, and multiple smaller ones. The system-wide L3 emergency continued through 2015 and gFSC closely worked with the cluster team in Iraq to ensure a coherent, coordinated and integrated humanitarian response driven by the food security needs of affected populations through the provision of emergency food assistance and the resumption, maintenance and diversification of key agricultural production systems and strategies in safe and stable areas. GFSC also coordinated closely with the Cluster Coordinators in Iraq and provided required technical and advisory support to the 2016 HNO/HRP process consultation with them. In 2015, FSC partners assisted 2 million people with donors contribution of \$172 million.

89

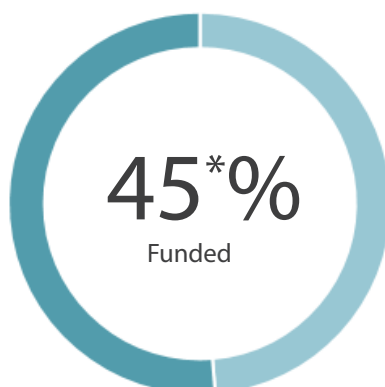
Partners
35 international, 54 national

249.3
million

Funding requirements for 2015

4.4
million

People targeted



Coordinator, NGO Co-Chair, National coordinator, Co-coordinator and government level focal points

*Funding requirements based on OCHA Financial Tracking Service, 2015 country appeals.



FAO/ Eliza Deacon

South Sudan (L3)

198

Partners
93 International, 105 National

623

million

Funding requirements for 2015

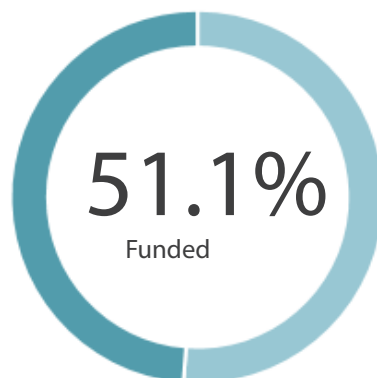
2.1 (food)

3.5 (livelihoods)

1.2 (assets creation) million

People targeted

The Food Security and Livelihood Cluster (FSLC) coordinated some 100 partners in delivering food and cash transfers to 1.5 million people; and livelihoods support to over 3.5 million people throughout South Sudan. Activities of the cluster focused on a regular gap analysis of partner activities and advice to partners to ensure that support to those in need was delivered. FSLC partners mobilised more than US\$ 318 million, accounting for 27 percent of the total humanitarian financing in South Sudan for 2015, and the FSLC secured US\$ 11 million in Common Humanitarian Funding which was allocated to partners.



Coordinator, NGO Co-Chair, National coordinator, co-coordinator and government level focal points



WFP/Hussam Al-Saleh



WFP/Hussam Al-Saleh

Whole of Syria (L3)

50

Partners

1.218

billion

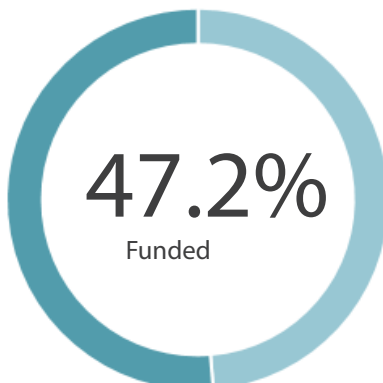
Funding requirements for 2015

7.5

million

People targeted

Despite funding shortages and restricted access to areas within Syria, the Food Security Sector (FSS) partners were able to respond from five locations in 2015: Damascus, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. The FSS inside Syria reached on average every month 5.8 million people with food baskets (monthly ration), 2.3 million people with wheat flour/bread and 112,916 people with cash/voucher for food assistance. Partners also assisted a total of 722,110 people with emergency food assistance which entails Ready to Eat rations, cooked food items and/or other kinds of emergency assistance during sudden onset of displacements. Agriculture assistance was provided for 1.2 million people; and livelihoods assistance to 71,090 households, animal feed to 86,679 households and vaccination of 5.5 million animal heads, support to 9,581 households with small livestock production and horticulture, and 33,574 households with cash for work and agriculture voucher support. FSS partners mobilized \$574.6 million for the response.



Whole of Syria: Coordinator, IMO and NGO Co-coordinator; Damascus hub: 2 Co-coordinators and 3 IMO; Gaziantep: Co-coordinator, NGO Co-coordinator, IMO; Amman: Co-coordinator, IMO, NGO Co-coordinator

Yemen (L3)

An estimated 14.4 million Yemenis are food insecure, including 7.6 million who are severely food insecure. The fragile food security situation is likely to remain unchanged for the majority of the population in the country whose livelihoods have been seriously disrupted and coping mechanisms severely eroded. A further deterioration is expected particularly in governorates affected by active conflict due to scarcity and sporadic availability of essential food commodities, scarcity of fuel, lack of income and employment opportunities, and disruption of markets and trade activities. Moreover, insecurity, poor rains, high cost and sporadic availability of agricultural inputs has led to approximately 30% reduction in productivity in the agricultural sector. The fishery sector has also been heavily impacted with the livelihoods of over 500,000 people at risk due to the continued conflict, military surveillance, shortage and high prices of fuel and electricity translating to dwindling quantity and quality of fish and fish products supplied to the market. The continuation of the conflict and intense fighting reaching new areas of the country has resulted to over 2.5 million Internally Displaced Persons, exacerbating the already precarious food security situation by putting more pressure on the already limited food resources of the host community. All together the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster partners mobilised \$323.4 million and assisted some 2 million people with food assistance and livelihood interventions.

61

Partners

792

million

Funding requirements for 2015

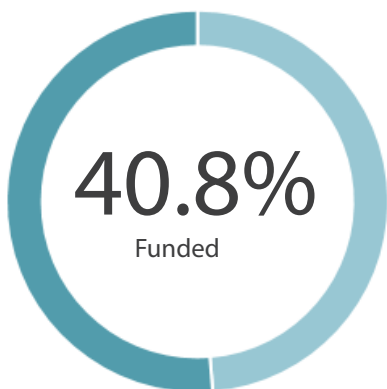
7.6

million

People targeted



FAO/R. Messori



Coordinator, IMO, NGO Co-facilitator, 3 Sub-national Cluster Facilitators

Central African Republic (L3, Deactivated mid-2015)

In December 2013, following civil unrest and population movements, a system-wide L3 emergency was declared in the Central African Republic (CAR). Food Security Cluster's capacity to respond was rapidly scaled up to address the increased coordination needs. Although the L3 was deactivated in mid-2015, the situation in Country remains volatile and the numbers of food insecure people are on the rise.

During 2015, FSC, consisting of approximately fifty partners, continued its activities to coordinate food assistance and resilience activities. FSC provided support to partners and other key stakeholders by managing information flow and data analysis, which contributed to identifying gaps and avoiding duplications in the response. FSC guided the response both from strategic and operational points of view and facilitated food security assessments and analysis. The cluster also played a key role in organizing the agricultural campaign where WFP, FAO and partner NGOs worked together to support crisis-hit farming families with seeds and tools distribution as well as emergency food rations to reduce the risk that desperate families would eat the seeds instead of planting them. During 2015, FSC partners received a total of 98 million USD, corresponding to 50% of the budget requested in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2015. FSC Partners assisted some 200,000 people monthly with food assistance and 123,000 households with livelihood interventions.

Another focus area of FSC was to scale up presence and capacity of cluster partners at sub-national level in the provinces to improve the delivery of assistance to people in need in remote areas. GFSC contributed to the country cluster's work through support missions and by facilitating the recruitment of cluster staff, ensuring that there were no gaps in the cluster's operation. GFSC also provided in-country technical training to Cluster partners on mainstreaming gender, age, protection and accountability to affected populations in the sector response, also analysing needs assessment data with a gender and age lens.

105

Partners
75 International, 30 National

195

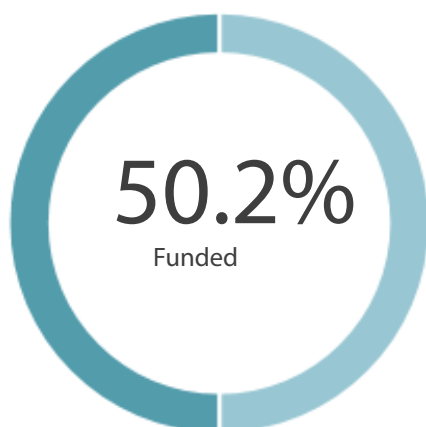
million

Funding requirements for 2015

1.2

million

People targeted



Coordinator, IMO, NGO Co-facilitator, 3 Sub-national Cluster Facilitators

Nepal

131

Partners

98.6

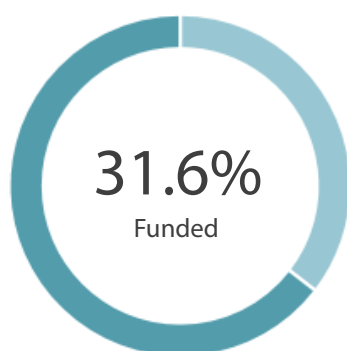
million

Funding requirements for 2015

1.4

million

People targeted



On 25 April 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, followed by multiple aftershocks, struck Nepal, resulting in almost 9,000 fatalities and causing 22,300 injuries. It was estimated that the lives of some eight million people, almost one-third of the population of Nepal, were impacted as a result. According to the Government of Nepal's Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in May 2015, damages and losses to the agriculture sector are prominent affecting around 1 million already poor small farming households in the 24 districts. The earthquakes also destroyed the stockpile of stored grains and devastated the livestock sector, which accounts for over 23 percent of value added in the agriculture sector.

Following the earthquake, the Nepal FSC, which is led by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and co-facilitated by United Nations World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was activated. The FSC aims to ensure continued and regular access to food for the most vulnerable populations through food and cash assistance mechanisms and protect, rehabilitate and support livelihoods of the most vulnerable by sustainably restocking, restoring, protecting and maintaining agricultural production capacities.

The FSC currently has an active membership of more than thirty partners, the cluster is co-led by the MoAD at the national level, and the District Development Agricultural Office (DADO) at the district level. The government is quite engaged on both levels and recognize the added value of the FSC. The MoAD and DADO offices rely on the FSC for regular reporting on activities of the sector and advice on programming issues. It is necessary at this point for the FSC to illustrate the value in supporting them to move forward recommendations of the PDNA in the areas of agriculture, employment and livelihoods, and possibly social protection.

National FSC meetings are held once per week and bi-weekly at the district levels in major hubs (Gorkha, Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot). In Phase II of the emergency response, some 1.5 million people have been assisted with food assistance, and almost 280,000 with livelihoods support through the cluster. Phase III of the phase included a target of 400,000 individuals in 9 districts. Through the provision of initial relief and implementation of recovery and rehabilitation programmes, FSC partners are working with the most vulnerable communities to address both immediate and medium term food security needs of more than half a million people. The FSC remains operational through March 2016 in order to facilitate information management between partners and the Government. The Cluster Lead Agencies (WFP and FAO) have mainstreamed activities into their respective operations.



Global Overview of Food Security Clusters in 2015

39

Food Security Clusters, sectors and coordination mechanisms around the world supported by gFSC



39 Food Security Clusters and Coordination

Average Country Profile:

US\$250 million

Food Security Sector Appeal in 2015

US\$810,000

Coordination costs required/year



2.1 million people

Targeted within Food Security Sector

68

Food Security Partners

Solutions

01

Strengthened and developed National clusters' capacity

In 2015 the focus of this result continued to be the roll out of the Cluster Coordinators Training.

Cluster Coordinators Training

In brief, 42 people (29 male – 13 female) were trained in 2015 as Cluster Coordinators (CC) over two trainings, to ensure that experienced trained coordinators continue to be deployed to major emergencies. In this regard gFSC is grateful for the support of the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) which hosted and funded one of the trainings at their training centre in Neuhausen, Germany, from the 26th of April to the 1st of May 2015.

The learning process contained within the training has been designed for experienced humanitarians who have the potential of becoming Food Security Cluster Coordinators, as well as Cluster Coordinators who are already operational. This unique training presents participants with an opportunity to better understand CC roles and responsibilities before, during and after a Level 3 emergency. The learning process allows participants to practice key CC roles and responsibilities and to use experiential learning to explore what attitudes, knowledge and skills are most helpful to best undertake these expected CC duties in a real Level 3 emergency or disaster situation. In conjunction with these learning objectives, a "Level of Readiness Assessment" component was introduced in the training. The purpose of this assessment was to inform gFSC about participant's readiness for deployment to a L3 emergency, thus identifying training participants who could potentially join the gFSC roster of deployable members for L2 and L3 emergencies. Post-training feedback from participants illustrated that they benefited significantly from the diversity of experiences within the group, which enabled them to acquire greater knowledge through peer learning. Participants appreciated the group and individual feedback received on both people management skills as well as technical and coordination performance.

In-country Trainings

On a day to day basis in-country trainings on clusters and cluster related issues are undertaken as part of each surge and support mission. In 2015 gFSC provided technical support training to country cluster teams in assessment methodology, through level 1 IPC training in East Africa and tutored cluster partners in CAR on issues related to gender and sex-disaggregated data in food security analysis.

Guidance Materials

It is the policy of gFSC to identify best practices and gaps in information and incorporate them into standard operating procedures and formal guidelines. Three clear gaps emerged in 2015. These were responded to through the development of guidance materials including inter cluster guidance on accountability to affected populations and cross-cutting dimensions through the Global Nutrition Cluster/gFSC working group, and guidance on preparedness and response actions.

Guidance on preparedness was developed in September 2015 with the active participation of existing Country Cluster Coordinators to assist FSC Coordinators to put in place the necessary preparedness arrangements between emergency events at country level. They are to be utilized by clusters or sectors, where clusters don't exist, in close cooperation with Government counterparts, to support country level coordination mechanisms. They align with the IASC Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach, a component of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC).

The guidelines detail preparedness and response actions enabling FSC or sector coordinators at the country level to be adequately and effectively ready and able to respond to the range of food security needs of a population affected by natural or man-made disasters. Due consideration of when and how to involve affected populations in the various stages of response preparedness, to be appropriately consultative and accountable, and to consider to the extent possible, supporting livelihoods and resilience are an important inclusions in these guidelines.

In October 2015 a second piece of guidance was provided to CCs on the types of best practice which could be considered by the FSC as part of early recovery activities they could engage with. This guidance consolidates examples/ best practices from the food security cluster activities in four country case studies (the Philippines / Typhoon Haiyan, Sudan, Iraq and West Africa/ Ebola crisis).

Finally with the Global Nutrition Cluster, and building on the FS clusters early work on People Centric Approaches and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), joint GNC and FSC guidance on AAP was produced. AAP is an active commitment to take account of, give account to, and be held to account by the people humanitarian organisations seek to assist. It also focuses on the rights, dignity and safety of all segments of an affected community, identifying the capacities, aspirations, constraints and unique needs by gender, age, and diversity groups as they evolve over time. In addition, the protection of affected women, girls, boys and men of all ages and backgrounds should inform the humanitarian programme cycle and operational activities. In practical terms this means identifying who is at risk, how and why at the outset of the crisis and then taking into account and addressing the specific vulnerabilities that underlie these risks.



02

Harmonised and globalized Information Management System

Information Management is one of the core Food Security Cluster functions and the basis for decision making at both the country and global levels.

Standardized Tools & Templates

In 2015, a survey indicated that the percentage of active FSC partners who report at the country-level on a regular basis ranges from 27 percent to 100 percent, while the average is 67 percent. The fact that there are important operations reporting low participation raised a concern. Based on this information and recognising the need for the country-level Food Security Clusters to improve the overall quality of data analysis and reporting, gFSC Information Management (IM) team launched an initiative to address gaps and enhance existing protocols within the system. This initiative will run through 2016 and includes developing a set of key standardized IM tools, templates and associated guidance and will culminate into a tailor-made FSC IM training mid-2016.

Training & Knowledge Sharing

During the reporting period, gFSC provided in country training and support to emergencies such as Nepal, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Niger, Whole of Syria, and Ukraine. Such support resulted in better reporting to stakeholders, not only in informing an efficient response through gap analysis, but also raising the profile of food security and livelihoods operations. GFSC provided remote support to clusters using the FSC IM Tool, a web based system that makes data collection and response analysis globally comparable, and facilitates operational decision making. Further support was provided to field-based colleagues through the establishment of a monthly 'Information Management Officer (IMO) Call' which is a platform for all global IMOs to share information, and receive guidance from gFSC. This initiative facilitates learning across countries and promotes a circle of learning for colleagues.

GFSC engaged globally in key inter-agency discussions related to humanitarian caseload profiling and cluster performance coordination which aims to improve better guidance on standardising the way humanitarian 'counting' occurs, and establishing a more strategic way to evaluate how the clusters serve humanitarian response.

FSC Website

The FSC website, at FScluster.org, includes both global-level and country-cluster information, including meeting minutes, tools, guidance, documents and information on current activities. In 2015 a total of 32,342 users visited the FSC website, representing a 25 percent increase in usage from 2014. In 2015 based on user feedback from country clusters and partners, gFSC started a website enhancement process to better cater for efficient information and improved design.

Newsletter

The gFSC Newsletter is a tool for building relationships with FSC partners and Cluster Coordinators through regular communication and high valued information. The number of recipients to the gFSC newsletter has grown from 460 in February to 564 in December 2015. The gFSC Newsletter has a global reach – the 12 August issue was opened in 47 countries worldwide.

Social Media

The gFSC Twitter account remained active throughout the year and increased its number of followers. GFSC is also using Yammer and Skype groups as communication platforms for Cluster Coordinators and Information Management Officers to connect across the globe.



gFSC conducting an Information Management Training to Information Management Officers and Partners in the Bangladesh and Ukraine FSC.

Country Cluster Performance Monitoring

Monitoring coordination performance at country level is necessary in order to assess whether the cluster is an efficient and effective coordination mechanism. The tool consists of three questionnaires filled out by cluster coordinators and partners to assess the cluster's performance, and results in a report that allows clusters to see where they perform well and to identify possible areas for improvement. In 2015, Cluster Performance Monitoring reports were generated for eight country clusters including Iraq, Palestine, Mali, Chad, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Somalia and Nepal.

03

Improved Operational and Surge Support to National Clusters

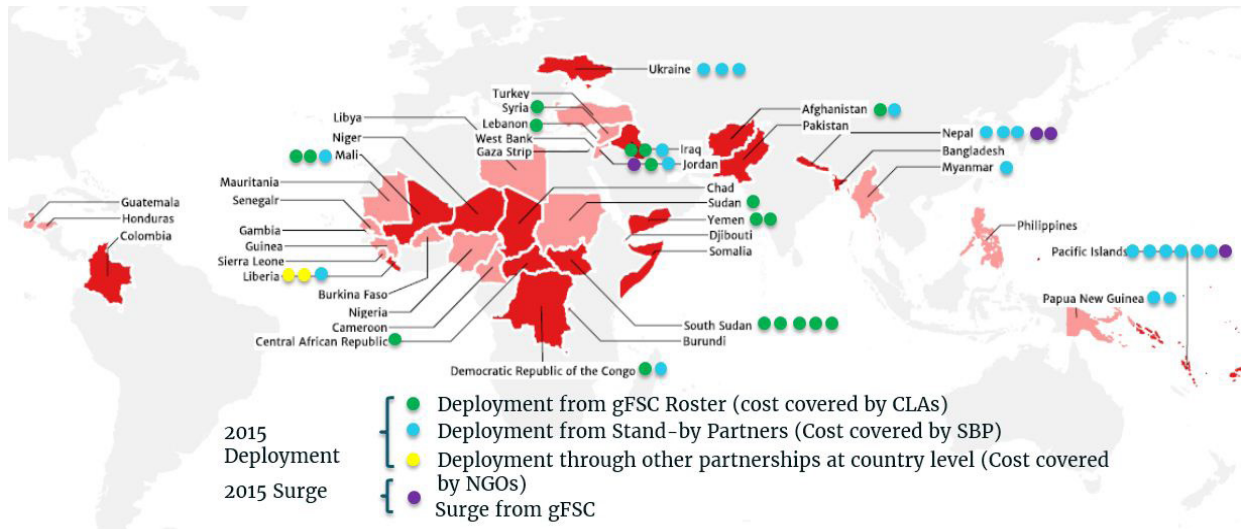
GFSC provides operational and surge support to country-level Food Security Clusters in order to promote an effective response to humanitarian emergencies by enabling timely deployment of coordination teams.

Deployments & Surge Support

This includes deployments of Cluster Coordinators and Information Management Officers -drawing on gFSC own capacity, the gFSC roster, Stand-by Partners, global partners and Cluster Lead Agencies' pools of experts - aimed at strengthening coordination, accountability and leadership of the country clusters, and support coordinated programme quality with gender, protection, age and disabilities mainstreamed into programming.

In 2015, gFSC conducted in total 26 surge and support missions in 13 countries, with the average duration of 13 days. These missions included surge in case of sudden-onset crisis such as Vanuatu (1) and Nepal (5) but also information management (8), backstopping (6), evaluation (1), HPC (2), training (1), assessment (1), inter-agency (1). In addition, the support team facilitated 41 deployments to country-level clusters through the gFSC Roster, the stand-by partners and global partners, with the average duration of 142 days each. These deployments included: 25 Cluster Coordinators at national and sub-national level, 15 Information Management Officers and 1 Inclusion Advisor. 32% of the staff deployed in 2015 were female. The table and map below summarise the data on deployments and the countries concerned.

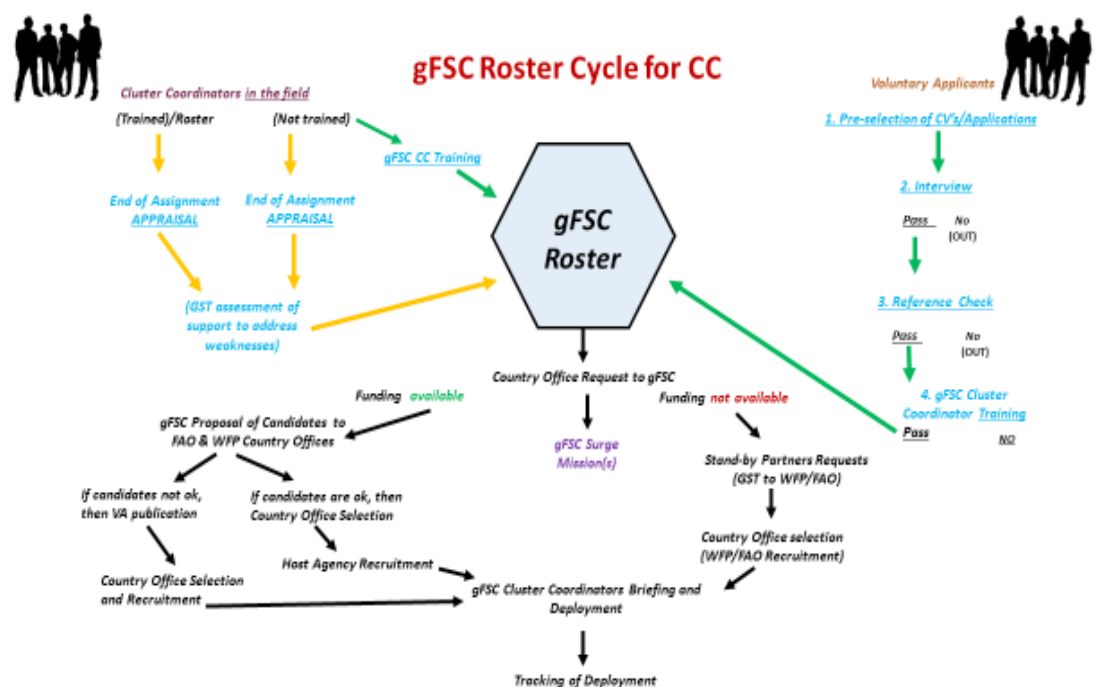
TYPE OF DEPLOYMENT	NO. MISSIONS/ DEPLOYMENTS 2014	NO. MISSIONS/ DEPLOYMENTS 2015	TREND 2015
gFSC missions to countries	28	26	→
gFSC roster deployments	11	18	↑ ↑
Stand-by Partners deployments	9	20	↑ ↑ ↑
Partnership deployments	3	3	→
Co-lead agencies deployments	7	0	↓ ↓
Total	58	67	↑ ↑



Surge and deployments in 2015

gFSC Roster

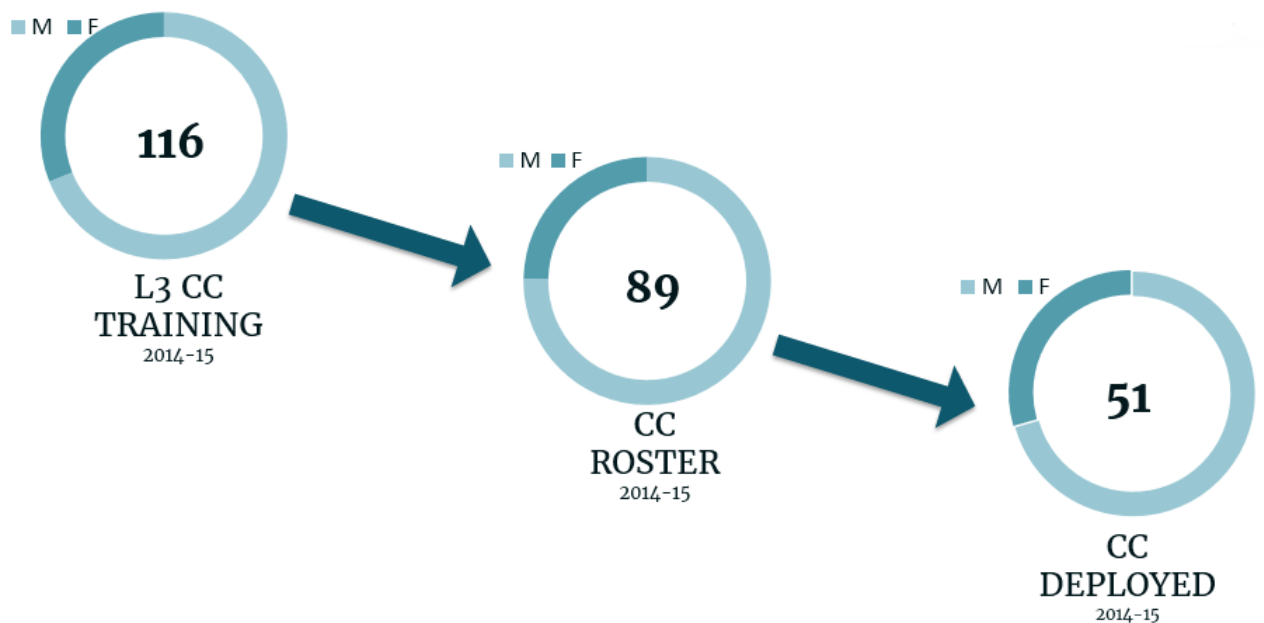
Maintaining a dynamic gFSC roster for Cluster Coordinators and Information Management Officers is a key function to ensure rapid deployment of qualified staff to respond to coordination needs in emergencies. A more rigorous selection process has been developed in 2015 for the selection of Cluster Coordinators (see below figure), appropriate tools were prepared and a systematic linkage with the CC trainings was established.



gFSC Roster Cycle for Cluster Coordinators



During 2014-15, 116 persons were trained as Cluster Coordinators, out of which 89 were included in the gFSC roster and 51 were deployed, either before or after the training (see picture below). In 2015 alone, 42 persons were trained, 33 included in the roster and 18 deployed, corresponding to 55% of those included in the roster. From 116 people trained since 2014 (31% Female), 89 have been integrated into the cluster coordinators roster (25% Female) and 51 (29% Female) have been deployed or are still deployed.



04

Advocacy, Communications and Resource Mobilization

Effective communication plays an important role in building partnerships, enhancing coordination systems and influencing policy and resource mobilization.

Advocacy

GFSC participated in a number of global events during which key food security-related or cluster-related messages were strongly advanced. Furthermore, gFSC was very pro-active during the formulation of 2016 Humanitarian Response Plans at country level in order to make sure that livelihood interventions would not be dissociated from life-saving priorities. Key advocacy messages and events are described below.

Armed conflict is now the leading cause of hunger around the world:

During the Launch of the 2015 Global Hunger Index, published by IFPRI, Concern and Welthungerhilfe in Berlin, 12 October 2015, the gFSC discussed the relationship between war and hunger, building on WFP VAM and FAO/WFP State of Food Insecurity reports.

Shifting from process-oriented collaboration to inter-sectoral joint analysis and planning:

During the 30th ALNAP Annual Meeting – Berlin, 3-4 March 2015; STAIT Webinar – Geneva, 23 February 2015; GCCG mini-retreat – Geneva, 08 December 2015, gFSC advanced the idea of adopting a more systematic inter-cluster joint analysis approach to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle that would analyse seasonal and dynamic threats, risks and opportunities that different livelihoods and communities are exposed to.

Livelihoods interventions are an integral part of life-saving: during the formulation of the 2016 Humanitarian Programme Cycle, gFSC and Cluster Lead Agencies (CLAs) reaffirmed the complementarity of food and livelihood interventions as the two sides of the same coin. (Exchange with the Emergency Relief Coordinator – Rome/NY, August 2015).



Communication

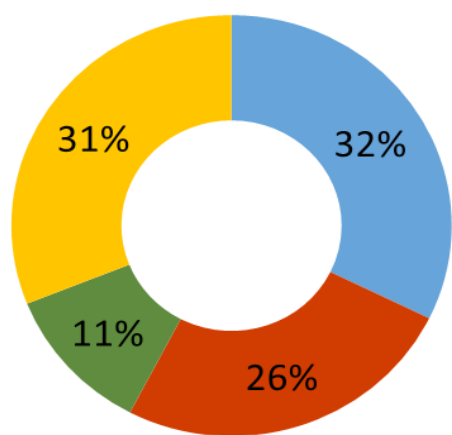
Global Dashboard: In 2015, the global dashboard became an important communication tool with partners and donors. The tool is updated quarterly and spells out each cluster country profile (number of partners, cluster staff, funding).

Standard coordination cost scenarios for different contexts: Data provided by country clusters in 2015 (itemized annual budget requirement, number of partners, etc) were further analysed and enabled gFSC to establish an average cluster profile and develop standard coordination cost scenarios for different contexts. This exercise also addresses Recommendation 6 of the Joint FAO-WFP evaluation of the food security cluster coordination. The coordination cost scenario will be further developed in 2016. Meanwhile initial findings are provided below.

CONTEXT	ANNUAL COST (US\$)	INCLUDING STAFF	INCLUDING CAPACITY BUILDING (CONTRACTS AND TRAININGS)
L3 (e.g. S. Sudan, Whole of Syria)	1,775,000	43%	13%
Protracted (e.g. Somalia, Afghanistan)	920,000	37%	30%
Chronic (e.g. Sahel Region)	170,000	66%	14%
Preparedness (e.g. Bangladesh, Pacific Islands)	150,000	30%	34%



Resource Mobilization



69 percent budget requirement mobilized in 2015: Out of a budget requirement of US\$ 4,091,200 in 2015, CLAs covered US\$ 1,319,332 through mainstreaming (32 percent). In addition CLAs mobilized US\$ 1,038,618 (26 percent) through extra-budgetary resources (Switzerland, United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Donors contributing to FAO SFERA). Finally, NGOs (NRC, DRC, THW, Samaritan’s Purse) contributed US\$ 463,359 (11percent through staff secondment or in-kind).

2015 Funding Status

- Mainstreamed funding from FAO and WFP
- Extra-budgetary funding from FAO and WFP
- NGO contributions
- Gap: USD 1,269,890

05

Deepened and diversified global partnerships and operational collaborations

gFSC strongly believes in partnership for efficient and effective coordination and collaboration, and better results.

Partnership and Inter-Cluster Collaboration

Partnership has been the key in 2015 and gFSC continued strong collaboration with more than 40 partners at the global level and on average 67 partners at country level. The majority of cluster partners at the country level were national and local NGOs.

gFSC participated in different Global Cluster Coordinators’ Group meetings and Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) inter-cluster working group meetings, and advocated strongly on food security related issues. gFSC closely guided the countries and partners during the HNO/HRP process, reviewed the HPC Guidelines and provided feedback to OCHA, and in close collaboration with the partners ensured the inclusion of livelihoods recovery as a life-saving activity in the HNO/HRP process in several countries in 2015 through strong advocacy at the highest level possible at FAO, WFP and OCHA. gFSC participated in a workshop on AAP in Geneva and presented gender mainstreaming and age as key social determinants in the food security sector to a wider humanitarian community.

As a member of the Steering Committee of IPC, gFSC participated in the steering committee retreats in 2015. gFSC worked on the development of guidance for linking the works of IPC with gFSC. A document was jointly prepared with the IPC Global Support Team and was circulated to the field for comments. The document is currently undergoing a final review, and is expected to be published by the end of January 2016.

The intercluster initiative (WASH, Nutrition, Health, Food Security) that was introduced in 2014 lost some momentum in 2015. However, gFSC was invited by OCHA in December 2015 to lead a discussion on inter-cluster collaboration with a focus on joint needs analysis and seasonal response planning. The topic will be further discussed in 2016 with potential piloting in some countries.

gFSC regularly attended meetings with the two other Rome-based clusters, namely Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication. These meetings focused on inter-cluster collaboration, the World Humanitarian Summit, gender mainstreaming, resource mobilization and staff deployments.

Communicating with Global Partners

Throughout 2015 gFSC regularly discussed relevant issues on food security with the global partners, mainly through teleconferences, and webinars for different technical working groups. Ad hoc tele and Skype conferences were organized with the partners throughout the year whenever required. The increased ownership of partnership is again evidenced by the overwhelming participation of the cluster partners in the two global partners' meeting held in Rome in May and December 2015 respectively. Furthermore, the presence of donors in these meetings as well as in different technical Working Groups reinforced their commitment to the partnership gFSC is actively pursuing.

Building Capacity through Partnership

The Cluster Coordinators' training organized by gFSC in July 2015 in Rome had one third of participants from global NGO partners, and more than 60 percent of them could also be deployed in different countries as cluster coordinators. Partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) was further enhanced with secondments of Cluster Coordinators, Information Management Officers, and technical experts to various countries as well as gFSC in Rome. The MoU with Welthungerhilfe was finalized for the deployment of a Programme Officer with gFSC. Extension of the MoU with Samaritan's Purse for the secondment of an Information Management Officer was reviewed and moved forward.

The Government of Germany generously committed to support gFSC with a Junior Professional Officer for two years starting from the first quarter of 2016. gFSC meanwhile welcomed World Concern as a new member in 2015. gFSC established partnership with newly launched CashCap programme, administered by NRC, for the deployment of two Cash and Market Experts to the food security sector in Nigeria in 2015. Partnership with Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) Germany further continued through the hosting of training for both Cluster Coordinators and Information Management Officers twice a year.

One of the key decisions made by the gFSC partners during the December 2015 global partners' meeting was to establish a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for gFSC and several agencies expressed their interest and commitment to ensure better governance of gFSC.

Partnership on Cluster Governance

06

Systematised learning and knowledge management processes

GFSC learns from country-level experiences to produce global tools and guidance, which are disseminated back to the field. During 2015 gFSC supported five working groups, which aim to improve country food security programming. In July 2015 the first Food Security Cluster Coordinators' Retreat took place to build a network among food security cluster coordinators, including sharing good practices.

Programme Quality

The purpose of the Programme Quality Working Group (WG) is to enhance the quality of food security responses for all vulnerable and affected populations in humanitarian emergencies. Through close collaboration with partners the working group has developed and shared guidance for assessment and response analysis, and monitoring of food assistance and livelihood activities, to ensure that programs have an increased positive impact for the most vulnerable within the affected populations. The working group promotes best practices and integration of people centric themes in partner's projects and across the Humanitarian Programme Cycle for ensuring accountability to affected populations.

Food Security & Livelihoods in Urban Settings

The Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working Group strengthens coordination and capacity of gFSC partners to analyse needs and shape food security responses in urban settings. To promote learning the working group is focused on capturing and analysing the lessons learned from humanitarian responses in urban settings and to this end in 2015 conducted a lessons learned exercise in Nepal. The urban mapping tool and the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) tool were integrated and as a result a comprehensive overview on urban interventions is available online.

In line with the working group's main objective of building specific urban tools and guidelines, a project called "Adapting to an Urban World" was started to develop food security vulnerability urban assessment tools by field testing them in different urban food security contexts. A comprehensive desk review was updated and two case studies took place in Syria and Madagascar, and a case study in Haiti is ongoing. Advocacy work in major urban fora continued and strong links were established, among others, with the IASC Working Group "Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas" World Humanitarian Summit Urban expert group, the ALNAP Urban Community of Practice and the IIED Human Settlement Group.

Technology & Innovation

The Technology & Innovation Working Group recommends which technologies and innovations are most effective for FSC actors in different contexts to improve the efficiency of food security response. The WG also developed guidance on information sharing and data protection arising from the use of tools to improve the quality and frequency of information sharing.



Nutrition & Food Security

The Inter-Cluster Food Security & Nutrition Working Group ensures better coordination between the Food Security and Nutrition Clusters at global and country levels by promoting the use of appropriate tools and guidance to enhance the quality of food security and nutrition responses, and by strengthening capacity to respond to food security and nutrition crises. A Joint Advocacy Statement between Global Food Security and Nutrition Clusters has been drafted by the WG to promote advocacy efforts for enhanced collaboration between the two clusters.

Cash & Market

The Cash and Market Working Group acts as a platform to discuss cash and market related issues specifically in the food security sector. The WG focuses on improving the tools and methodology available for cash transfer in the context of food security sector, while fostering close ties with the CaLP and similar technical WGs in other clusters.

Cluster Coordinator Retreat

On 28-30 July 2015, the Food Security Cluster brought together 45 representatives from the global, regional, and country level, who met at a retreat in Rome. The retreat, the first of its kind, asked country or regionally based Cluster Coordinators to share good practices and bring issues to the table on which they might need support, from their fellow Food Security CCs, or, in particular, from gFSC. The retreat provided an ideal opportunity to further develop the capacity of the FSC and build a network among Food Security CCs together with the Rome-based gFSC.

World Humanitarian Summit

gFSC took part of the World Humanitarian Summit process through participation to a number of events, including the Global forum for improving humanitarian action (New-York, 04-05 June 2015) and the global consultation's three days (Geneva, 14-16 October 2015). Through these events, gFSC contributed to thematic discussions and recommendations on (i) the critical role of first responders, (ii) cash assistance, (iii) closing the accountability gap, (iv) meeting people's needs in protracted crises, (v) humanitarian architecture.



People Centered Dimensions and Accountability to Affected Populations

Conflicts and natural disasters affect women, girls, boys and men of all ages differently. Being a young boy, an adolescent girl, an adult man or an older woman largely determines the role and position of individuals in society, the risks they face, the way they are going to be affected by and their ability to cope with emergencies.

In 2015, to further strengthen the capacity to mainstream an approach that is accountable to the women, men, girls and boys of all ages and background affected by crises, gFSC requested and received the support from the IASC GenCap Project. The key focus of this secondment is to:

- Develop FS specific tools and trainings; and
- Increase the capacity of humanitarian actors at the global and country levels to conduct more systematic gender and age sensitive analyses of food security needs within the framework of the IASC's commitment to Accountability for Affected Populations.



WFP/Chu Cancan

Being a young boy, an adolescent girl, an adult man or an older woman largely determines the role and position of individuals in society, the risks they face, the way they are going to be affected by and their ability to cope with emergencies.

The approach in 2015 was focused on increasing awareness and understanding of the benefits of mainstreaming gender, age, diversity and AAP in humanitarian response, developing or adapting customized tools, and delivering demand-driven capacity building sessions. The following are a few illustrations of key initiatives undertaken:

-A session on cross-cutting dimensions and AAP at the first Food Security Cluster Coordinator retreat, with emphasis on gender, age, diversity and protection. Priority actions were identified, leading to the development of key messages for the 2016 HPC.

-A series of webinars to familiarize key stakeholders on the revised indicators handbook, the on-site and post distribution monitoring tools, making explicit the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data. A Webinar was also delivered for WFP staff on gender in humanitarian response, linked to the new Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy (2015-2019)

-Advocacy with OCHA for greater inclusion of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) for 2016 in support of more systematic gender analyses that assess the differentiated effects of conflicts and natural disasters on women, men, girl and boys, and in order to develop humanitarian responses that are more gender and age sensitive.

-Contributions to develop and update tools such as the gFSC e-learning course, the FS Cluster Coordinator handbook, and an animation video that weaves together various cross-cutting dimensions, with gender and age as common denominators, and the IASC commitments to AAP within the HPC.

-Technical support to review the emergency food security assessment (EFSA) questionnaires for the Central African Republic to ensure SADD is collected and analysed. This formed the basis of a capacity building/coaching session in Bangui for FSC members to assess the differentiated implications for and articulate gender sensitive food security



gFSC

CAR was the first in a series of in-country workshops & tutoring on gender mainstreaming

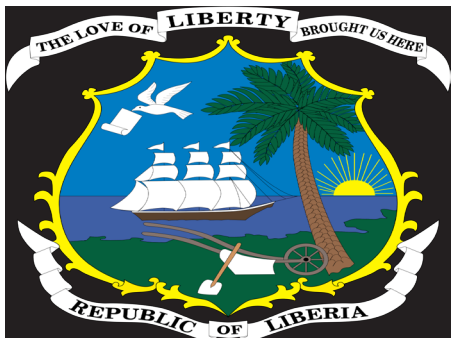
programming priorities for 2016, which were reflected in the sector specific sections of the Humanitarian Needs Overview & Humanitarian Response Plan. Based on this experience, similar missions are being planned between January and April 2016 for Mali, Chad, and the Whole of Syria response, with desk support to the Bangladesh FSC.

-Systematic input throughout the week-long training for potential cluster coordinators to enhance capacity of trainees to apply an AAP and gender lens throughout the simulation exercises.

-Collaboration with the Global Nutrition Cluster to update the Guidance Note for mainstreaming AAP and cross cutting dimensions in the HPC, initially developed by gFSC in 2014.

-Ongoing participation in various IASC task teams, such as the AAP and PSEA Task Team and the Protection mainstreaming Task Team.

How do partners view coordination?



“ It has been a challenging and rewarding year. Our country was hit by the Ebola Virus Disease leading to the loss of thousands of Liberian lives. The Food Security Cluster was activated, which brought together national and international humanitarian partners to improve the timeliness and impact of appropriate humanitarian food security assistance to Ebola affected communities. In particular, it helped to ensure coherent, coordinated and integrated humanitarian responses, driven by the assessed food security needs of the affected population. We have remained committed and worked together to defeat Ebola. Partners have been active and participated in the Food Security Cluster and Strategic Advisory meetings to discuss and articulate coherent responses to save lives and revitalize livelihoods in order to improve immediate household availability of and access to food. The Liberia Food Security Assessment was completed and officially launched, which has gone a long way in supporting the programming and planning processes of partners. Thank you for the good work, and we look forward to a better and brighter 2016.



WFP/Donaig Le Du



Dr. Charles McClain
Deputy Minister of Planning and
Development, MoA
Liberia Government



The Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine has found that the FSC has a pivotal role in the coordination, assessment, response and gaps mechanisms related to food security in the oPT given the protracted crises that Palestine faces. The FSC has developed proper mechanisms for effective and efficient coordination in responding to and addressing the urgent needs of communities affected by severe weather conditions, occupational practices and war. The open communication channels, timely information, sharing lessons learned among partners and overall coordination has made a positive impact on reaching the most vulnerable populations to ensure their livelihood and food security.



// ESDC (Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine)

Financial Information 2015

The gFSC budget needs for 2015 were estimated at around US\$ 4 million. Out of this, the total funds received in 2015 (both in-kind and financial contributions) amounted to US\$2,821,310 including costs for both staff (staff, secondments and consultants) and activities. Due to the funding gap of around US\$1,200,000, not all planned activities materialised in 2015. Funding permitting, they will be carried out in 2016. The below table shows the funding received by the six result areas. In 2015, gFSC received contributions from FAO, WFP, Danish Refugee Council, GenCap, HelpAge International, Norwegian Refugee Council and Samaritan's Purse, as well as the Governments of Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. gFSC thanks all of them for their contributions and support.

gFSC Strategic Plan 2014-2015 result areas & amount received (both in-kind & cash) in 2015, US\$

OBJECTIVE	BUDGET 2015	RECEIVED 2015
Result 1. Strengthened and developed National clusters' capacity	\$ 1,064,300.00	\$ 579,334.75
Result 2. Harmonised and globalised Information Management System	\$ 468,800.00	\$ 459,132.15
Result 3. Improved operational and Surge Support to National Clusters	\$ 557,900.00	\$ 387,100.49
Result 4. Scaled-up advocacy, communications and resource mobilization	\$ 412,000.00	\$ 388,133.18
Result 5. Deepened and diversified Global partnerships and operational collaborations (including with other clusters and IASC)	\$ 714,000.00	\$ 635,375.22
Result 6. Systematised learning and knowledge management processes	\$ 874,200.00	\$ 372,234.46
GRAND TOTAL gFSC cost (Results 1-6)	\$ 4,091,200.00	\$ 2,821,310.24

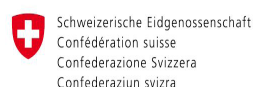
gFSC Donors



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC







GLOBAL
FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

ADDRESS

Food Security Cluster Support Team
WFP HQ, Via Cesare Giulio Viola, 68
00148 Roma, Italy

CONTACT

info@FScluster.org
FScluster.org
twitter.com/FScluster