



GLOBAL
FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response



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Final Report
Meeting of global Food Security Cluster
Partners

2-3 December 2015, WFP HQ, Rome, Italy

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Executive Summary

The ninth Global Meeting of Food Security Cluster (FSC) Partners was held at WFP Headquarters from 2 to 3 December 2015 in Rome, Italy. The meeting brought together more than 70 participants and observers representing over 24 partner institutions and 10 country clusters. The overall purpose of the meeting was to review the work of the Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) throughout 2015 and to identify priority areas for the Strategic Plan as well as the work plan for 2016.

The gFSC Strategic Plan, the Work Plan 2015-16, and other relevant documents were presented to all the participants prior to the meeting.

The more detailed objectives of the two day meeting included the following:

- Review gFSC achievements to-date since May 2015 and determine how to best address the major issues including some of the recommendations made by the Joint FAO-WFP Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination;
- For each of the gFSC technical Working Groups, assess the progress and agree on priorities for the next 6 months;
- Discussion the Strategic Plan for 2015-16, assess the extent to which Clusters (or sector working groups) have been able to overcome the complexity of the national and regional dimension of some crises, and further coordinate the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) process;
- Present the work performed by the gFSC Global Support Team against the 2015-2016 Strategic Framework and Work-Plan;
- In connection with the Work Plan, further work on a plan of action for each of the following priority areas, identified through partner consultations:
 - ✓ Building National Capacity in Preparedness and Contingency Planning
 - ✓ Gender, Accountability to Affected Populations and other People Centric Issues
 - ✓ Cash and Markets and coordination with CashCap
- Discuss the following structural issues:
 - ✓ Strategic Advisory Group
 - ✓ Partnerships
- Identify a core set of strategic emerging priorities for the gFSC to work on throughout the course of the next six months.

The meeting was chaired by Dina Brick, CRS and was supported by a variety of gFSC partners, each of whom guided specific sessions based on their technical knowledge and areas of expertise. The above objectives were achieved through a combination of informative presentations and robust dialogue amongst meeting participants.

The ten country food security cluster coordinators present at the meeting provided useful insights into how different coordination models are working in practice. This cross-fertilization of in-country experience produced a very rich discussion, with technical depth, throughout the meeting proceedings.

Participants also provided guidance to the gFSC Global Support Team (GST) on specific follow-up actions they deemed necessary, to continue to improve the performance of the Food Security Cluster. New engagements proposed during the meeting will be included in the existing 2015-2016 gFSC Strategic Framework and related Work Plan.

DAY 1: Opening Remarks & Welcome

Giancarlo Cirri, WFP Deputy Director of Emergencies

The OSE Deputy Director welcomed partners to WFP and thanked those colleagues both within and outside of the Cluster team who helped make this event possible. A warm welcome was also extended to the NGOs, the global Nutrition Cluster and the global Protection Cluster, donors, clusters coordinators from the field and OCHA representatives present in the room.

According to Mr. Cirri, the gFSC has progressively come a long way in recent years' time and has successfully implemented the Protocols of the Transformative Agenda in its efforts to address all humanitarian emergencies. Mr. Cirri acknowledged the currently difficult global humanitarian context with an increasing number of Level 3 emergencies in the world. He reminded the partners on the need to systematize L3 emergencies as there are too many, and the available funding and the capacities are overstretched. He further reiterated that protracted crises are additional challenges for the international community. He meanwhile also informed that the IASC Principals and the EDGs are discussing on establishing benchmarks to stand down L3 and design another level of response, which might be piloted in Yemen.

He finally thanked the organizers and expressed his best wishes to the meeting.

Cyril Ferrand, gFSC Global Coordinator

Cyril Ferrand, gFSC Global Coordinator and Dina Brick, CRS, acting as the Meeting Chairs, welcomed all meeting participants for the 9th Global Meeting of Food Security Cluster Partners. Mr Ferrand highlighted that 82 million people are globally affected with different crises in 2015, however only about 47% of funding requirements were met this year. He reiterated that the relevance of the global cluster lies with its capacity to provide adequate support to country clusters and therefore to affected people.

Dina Brick, CRS, Meeting Chair

Ms Brick thanked gFSC for providing her with the opportunity to chair the meeting. She informed the participants that the meeting will be touching on a range of issues, including L3 emergencies, cash and market, preparedness and resilience, El Nino, Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), urban food security, innovation and technology and other new trends. She looked forward to discussing the practical levels of the new trends during this partners' meeting.

Review of gFSC Achievements against Strategic Plan 2015-16: From May - December 2015

As a part of his presentation on the gFSC achievements between May 2015 and December 2015, Cyril Ferrand, gFSC Global Coordinator, provided an overview of the major activities carried out and the achievements made by the gFSC. The main gFSC achievements against the work-plan objectives are summarized below:

Work-Plan Result Areas	Main Achievements
1. Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 L3 cluster coordinators trainings were foreseen in 2015. The November 2015 training for stand-by partners was cancelled due to lack of candidates from partners.Partners trained: ACTED, Action Aid, DRC, Mercy Corps, NRC, Plan, RedR Australia, Relief International, Somali Aid, WHH, World VisionA CC Technical training was organised in Nairobi in July and facilitated by the IPC global support unit.7 backstopping missions took place in 2015, each focusing on very country specific issues. Niger (2 missions focusing on HCT and ICWG), oPt (transition), Bangladesh (evaluation), Somalia (review, budgeting and staffing), Senegal (2 missions focusing on HNO-HRP and Resilience), CAR (contingency planning, gender mainstreaming).CAR was the first of a series of in-country workshops and tutoring on gender mainstreaming (Mali, Chad, Niger)

2. Information Management & Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The gFSC actively engaged with partners through the FSC website and social media as well as through the Working Groups, monthly teleconferences, e-mail exchange and face-to-face meetings; ▪ 9 countries trained on the use of the gFSC IM Tool (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chad, DRC, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Ukraine, Whole of Syria).
3. Operational & Surge Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2015, gFSC was able to respond to all country requests for staff deployment. ▪ Nepal proved to be challenging to staff, and gFSC had to go on 2 separate surge missions. ▪ Stand-by partners were extremely instrumental in the Nepal response (NRC, DRC, RedR Australia). ▪ The gFSC support team engaged in 4 separate surge missions in Jordan, Nepal (2), and the Pacific Islands.
4. Advocacy, Communications & Resource Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Joint FSC Evaluation was presented to both the FAO Programme Committee and the WFP Executive Board in a series of internal seminars. ▪ The GST continued to advocate on behalf of the gFSC at various arenas, including the FAO Donors Meeting and the internal FAO/WFP management meetings.
5. Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The gFSC received positive reviews from partners concerning the monthly bulletins, new Global Dashboard and 2014 Annual Report. ▪ The GST continued to advocate on behalf of the gFSC at various arenas, including the FAO Donors Meeting and the internal FAO/WFP management meetings; ▪ Partnerships focused on (i) Inter-action with other global clusters and OCHA through GCCG. gFSC in particular was able to engage on issues related to Cash and Markets, IMWG (Humanitarian profile support package), HPC (HNO/HRP), Early recovery, inter-cluster joint analysis. ▪ With IPC, gFSC is a member of the Steering committee and is part of the 2 technical working groups, namely the Nutrition working group and the FS working group. In addition, gFSC worked with the GSU in order to further strengthen country-level partnerships. ▪ With global partners, governance is continuously being discussed.
6. Learning and Knowledge management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First Annual country cluster coordinators retreat was conducted in July 2015 ▪ The gFSC was represented at the WHS Global Consultation in October in Geneva and at the Global Forum in June in New York.

gFSC Partners commented on the presentation of gFSC achievements and provided the following key recommendations:

- A country cluster representative welcomed more in-country Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Trainings from the gFSC;
- The Global Nutrition Cluster would like to support the work of the gFSC on developing and field-testing guidance on Accountability to Affected Populations;
- One country cluster welcomed greater guidance from the gFSC on establishing viable coordination architectures in countries where there are no formally activated IASC clusters;
- A partner recommended utilizing the CC & IM trained candidates who have not been formally deployed, for short-term capacity building missions as needed.
- There was a query from a partner whether the Food Security Cluster would also be looking at supporting the food security of migrants to Europe. Samaritan's Purse responded confirming that it is working in Europe mainly in Croatia, FYR of Macedonia and Greece. WFP informed that it has not yet been asked for any support. UNHCR informed that they are taking the coordination role and a regional response plan is being developed. It was however clear that there is no clear leadership on food security to support the migrants.

Report-Back from Technical Working Groups

Each Working Group (WG) reviewed progress to date through 2015, assessed if a continuation of the WG was required, and if so, began to identify specific areas of focus for 2016. Feedback from the chairs and co-chairs of three of the six working groups was provided in open plenary. A summary of each of the Working Groups' objectives and activities for the last and next six months is summarized in the matrices below.

Inter-Cluster Food Security & Nutrition Working Group (ICWG)

gFSC Focal Point & Co-Chair: Anne Callanan, gFSC

In support of bringing the fields closer together, there is continuous cooperation between the global Food Security Cluster and Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC). Recent projects include integrating nutrition aspects into the FSC checklist on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in all phases of the humanitarian programme cycle. The GNC is working to expand the AAP checklist to continue to represent nutrition and the gFSC will continue to be consulted on the process.

Partners expressed interest in contributing to the current work plan and in exploring funding possibilities for the continuing joint food security and nutrition cluster project focusing on ensuring stronger AAP.

Programme Quality Working Group (PQWG)

Co-Chairs: Gaia Van der Esch, IMPACT Initiatives; Sara Moussavi, gFSC

The purpose of the Programme Quality Working Group is to enhance the quality of food security responses for all vulnerable and affected populations in humanitarian emergencies. The working group presently focuses on three core themes in the context of current emergencies and protracted crises: assessment and response analysis, monitoring and evaluation; people centric issues and other cross-cutting issues towards Accountability to Affected Populations. 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.

During the December 2015 Face to Face meeting the PQWG reviewed the progress made against the 2015 work plan and identified priorities for 2016, including conducting a survey with Cluster Coordinators to assess field level priorities for each of the WG's core themes, updating and further disseminating guidance, and sharing of best practices and case studies to gather evidence and assess impact of tools in different contexts. Following the face to face meeting the PQWG TOR and work plan will be updated with clear partner focal points for each activity and engagement from country Cluster Coordinators. To increase member engagement the WG decided to move from monthly to quarterly teleconference calls, while providing regular email updates.

Technology & Innovation Working Group

Co-Chair: Marco Caniato, COOPI; **gFSC Focal Point:** Marisa Muraskiewicz

Humanitarian organizations are increasingly using new technologies and innovations to provide assistance and protection to affected populations. The purpose of the Technology and Innovation Working Group is to serve as a forum for sharing and discussing these tools, including experience with their use, and best practices for information sharing and data protection.

In 2015 the WG mapped technologies and innovations across sectors to advise which technologies are most appropriate for FSC actors in different contexts to improve the efficiency of food security response. During the face to face meeting the WG agreed to maintain this activity in the 2016 work plan by conducting a survey with Cluster Coordinators and gFSC members to collect feedback on which innovative processes need further guidance, and hosting webinars on innovative tasks in order to demonstrate the applicability of technologies and develop standards amongst partners. During the Face to Face meeting the WG also reviewed the FSC Field Guide to Data Sharing, which was drafted by the group to provide guidance on information sharing/data protection arising from the use of tools with the aim to improve the quality and frequency of information sharing. In 2016 the WG will pilot the FSC Field Guide to Data Sharing in a country to produce evidence that the guide is applicable and adds value for information sharing at field level. In alignment with its work plan, the TORs of the WG were updated and methods of operation identified for continuing in 2016.

Food Security & Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working Group

Co-Chair: Allister Clewlow, Samaritan's Purse; **gFSC Focal Point:** Valentina Giorda

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 CaLP tool were also 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 Zimbabwe, Lebanon/Jordan and Madagascar, and case studies in Somalia and Haiti are 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.

Urban WG Update as of December 2015			
Activity	Status	Next Steps	Contribution to gFSC Strategic Plan/Work plan 2016
Adapting to an Urban World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Madagascar case study almost completed → Somalia case study ongoing → Haiti case study ongoing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Fundraising for the project!! 2) Inputting new information into the overall desk review document 3) More inputs from partners 	Result 6 Result 4
Case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Partners case studies inputs continuing → Nepal lesson learned completed → Presentation from CRS on urban cash activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Webinar on key FS urban issues with inputs from partners (to be further discussed) 2) Continue gathering lessons learned database 	Result 6
Urban Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 3W Map in place on webpage → Partnership with Cash Atlas finalized → Data synchronization with the FSC IM tool in progress 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) More inputs from partners 2) Synchronizing of IM Tool (activity level vs. project level) 3) Use the information in the 3Ws Map to produce dashboards/bulletins on partners activities. 	Result 6 Result 2 Result 4
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → ToR for Urban Advisor to be based in Nairobi → WV will host the Advisor 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Funding 2) Selection/recruitment process 	Result 6
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Draft strategy under revision with inputs from all FSC partners → Ongoing participation into key global conversations (IASC MHCUA, Habitat III WG) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Organize face-to-face workshop with partners to isolate key messages (to be further discussed) 2) Produce a position paper for use in key advocacy opportunities 3) Engage with the Habitat III process and the Urban Crisis Alliance 	Result 6 Result 4

The following were discussion points addressed during the plenary meeting:

- Urban food security is captured by the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), but mainly from shelter and cash perspective. There is a need to advocate for a more substantial representation of the food security perspective in global, multi-sector urban discussions. The support of CLAs will be key to representing these issues in high level forums.
- Clarifying key urban food security advocacy messages, as well as advocacy and information products that can be produced on the basis of the WG activities.
- Ensuring the Urban FS discussion is reflected in Country FS Clusters

Cash and Market Working Group and CashCap

Co-Chair: Aftab Alam, Plan International, Linn Bognes Miles, NRC; **gFSC Focal Point:** Rajendra Aryal

The Cash and Markets Working Group was initially created in November 2013 with the specific aims of 1) facilitating the mainstreaming of capacity building in cash transfer programming and market based programming; and 2) the creation of a roster for cash and markets experts to be deployed on a need basis, the CashCap. The WG was inactivated after the creation of CashCap as one of its deliverables; however since cash is increasingly becoming the trend now as a modality in humanitarian response, the need to reactivate the group was immensely felt by the cluster partners.

The purpose of the Cash and Markets Working Group (CMWG) is therefore to strengthen the coordination and mainstreaming of Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) and Market Based Programming (MBP) of gFSC partners in humanitarian responses. The WG Face-to-Face meeting offered an opportunity to again bring together relevant partners and agree on the next steps.

The below matrix summarizes the progress to date on the Cash and Market Working Group Work-Plan and the next steps.

CMWG Update as of December 2015		
Activity	Status	Next Steps
Finalization of the ToR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Worked on the TOR for CMWG → Shared with the members of CMWG → Consensus on continuing of CMWG → PLAN and WVI to co-chair → Interested members OXFAM, WHH, SP, CRS, NRC, SOLIDARITES, ACF, WFP, HELPAGE → CCs to also be in the WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) TOR to be REVISED before Christmas and finalized with inputs from the partners. 2) By January 2016, first conference call.
Development of Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Analysis and compilation of existing cash transfer tools & mechanisms. → Facilitation of capacity building initiatives. → Sharing of Knowledge and experiences on Cash Transfer Programming in food security sector → Linkage and coordination with other clusters/sectors (Multi Purpose Grants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of the prioritised activities for 2016

The following were discussion points addressed during the plenary meeting:

- This WG clearly acknowledged the role CaLP is playing and agreed to address the issues in food security that are not sufficiently covered by CaLP. The WG will find its niche and work closely with CaLP on relevant matters.
- The WG also ensured that there will be no overlaps with CaLP, but rather the WG would function as a platform for cash related issues in food security.
- The WG will also coordinate with other clusters, specifically Shelter and the OCHA-led Cash Working Group.
- The WG will also establish closer operational links with Technology and Innovation WG.
- Plan International and WVI will co-chair the WG. gFSC will hold the Secretariat. Other cluster partners will contribute as necessary.

CashCap

Ms Linn Bognes Miles from NRC presented a brief overview of CashCap . She briefly explained the ‘theory of change’ and explained the technical and coordination works CashCap will be working on in both short- and long-terms. She further added the details of CashCap roster, funded by DFID, to strengthen the capacity of a cash transfer programming at country level. She confirmed the availability of cash experts for the countries for 3-6 months and out of targeted 15 experts, 8 are already in the roster. In addition, DFID will be supporting mentoring and training as well. A Steering Committee of five/six organizations including UN, NGOs and the gFSC has been established to advise on technical aspects and oversee the project implementation of CashCap.

Preparedness and Resilience Working Group

Co-Chair: Priya Behrens-Shah, Welthungerhilfe; **gFSC Focal Point:** Rajendra Aryal

The aim of the Preparedness and Resilience WG is to act as a platform to compile different tools and methodologies available in the food security sector, such as the tools developed by IASC TTPR, Seasonal Livelihoods Programming (SLP) of WFP, REMA of FAO and so on. The WG will visualize the links and work closely with other technical WGs as well. The ToRs will be fine-tuned with clear position of gFSC in preparedness and resilience and priorities.

Next steps:

1. The PRWG will review the ToR and come up with the next version soon. The ToR will be shared with the partners and finalized by the end of 2015.
2. CRS and WHH will take the lead in finalizing the ToR. gFSC will hold the Secretariat. FAO, WFP, HelpAge (ALERT), CARE, NRC, and OXFAM will contribute.
3. The PRWG will review the resilience mapping exercise carried out sometime back and complement it with inputs from country clusters, and other technical WGs.
4. Definition or principles of Preparedness and Resilience will be formulated in next 6 months (including agency internal preparedness, interagency preparedness, cluster preparedness, early recovery). Partners who have worked on it will contribute.
5. Point 3 and 4 above shall feed into the position paper on the role of the gFSC in terms of preparedness and resilience.
6. Specific activities for 2016 will be further detailed by the WG and concrete outputs will be formulated by the end of the calendar year.
7. This WG will also work in close coordination with other technical WGs.

Discussion in Plenary-The Way Forward

Based on previous discussions after the presentations made by different WGs, the purpose of this session was to discuss any remaining issues, decide on the way forward for the WGs as needed, and discuss whether any new groups or task teams need to be formed. A suggestion on merging the PQWG and TIWG was made, and it was agreed upon that the two WGs will sit down together and discuss it separately¹. More involvement of the cluster coordinators from the field was also agreed upon since some cluster coordinators expressed their ignorance on the functioning and the products of the different technical WGs. Participants also highlighted that there is a continued need for better coordination among all WGs.

¹ The two WGs sat down together and agreed upon at the end that they will function separately, but with closer links with each other.

Coordination Update on World Humanitarian Summit and relevant IASC issues

Co-Chair: Loretta Hiber-Girardet, OCHA; **gFSC Focal Point:** Cyril Ferrand

Ms Hiber-Girardet presented the update on the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), which is an initiative of the UN Secretary General in a watershed moment when strategic work is underway to look ahead at the challenges beyond 2016 and find ways to make sure no one gets left behind in the long-term plans for growth and prosperity over upcoming decades, and so that development gains aren't erased by humanitarian crises. The WHS process is now just past the half-way point in a series of regional consultations in 8 regions around the world.

The eight regional consultations were the highlight in a longer process with all the different groups of stakeholders. In Eastern and Southern Africa, for example, over 3200 people participated in stakeholder surveys and 18 different constituencies were represented. The remaining regional consultations in the lead-up to the Summit in 2016 are critical to help form a more substantial picture of what needs to be done, as are the consultations that are underway with other partners.

Vision for the WHS

The dates for the WHS have not yet been announced, but it will likely take place in the 3rd week of May 2016.

The vision for the WHS was summarized as follows:

- The WHS should catalyse a new global partnership to work towards a world where no-one loses their life, their dignity, or their hope for the future due to the impacts of humanitarian crises, which requires all humanitarian stakeholders to come together, such as the member States, affected communities, regional organizations, UN, NGOs and CSOs, businesses, finance, etc.
- At the Summit, all humanitarian actors are expected to commit to an agenda for change that will enable people, countries and communities to better cope with the impacts of conflicts and disasters, and to be better prepared for the crises of the future.
- Istanbul should be a launch-pad to set in motion major changes. Global leaders are expected to make strong statements by announcing action agendas, championing the SG's action areas and recommendations, pledging support, and introducing new partnerships or innovative initiatives aimed at saving more lives.
- Istanbul summit is envisioned as a watershed moment addressing five major issues of dignity, safety, resilience, partnership and financing. Build on the successes, the WHS must go beyond optimising the current humanitarian system. It must re-imagine a global partnership for humanitarian action that will truly create a safer world for people in need.

During the plenary discussion it was illustrated that there is a growing gap between humanitarian needs and the resources available, and also a gap in our understanding and capacity to confront these complex risks. There is widespread and persistent disrespect for international humanitarian law, and humanitarian workers face challenges of access and insecurity. Calls for localising humanitarian preparedness and response grow stronger, but more discipline is needed to adjust the international response to match the context and capacity of the countries and communities who are affected. In many places, humanitarian crises are lasting longer, and we must find better ways of working together with development actors and with other partners to find longer-lasting solutions in protracted and recurrent crises. We are also facing new types of crises. As we have just discussed, we are ill equipped to deal with rising risk in urban areas. In light of this, the summit is a process of learning and change to address these challenges and adapt.

It was also expressed that the cluster system is functioning well and there is no plan or intention to transform it into any other form of coordination. gFSC also raised a concern that there is a growing need to inform the host Governments and other relevant interlocutors and help them understand how the clusters function in sudden onset crises.

Update on works on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Gender Mainstreaming in cluster works

Co-Chair & gFSC Focal Point: Christine Ouellette, GenCap Advisor, gFSC Support Team

Ms Ouellette presented that the AAP commitments also address cross-cutting dimensions – gender, age, disability, and protection - remain at the forefront of FSC response at Country and HQ levels and contribute to AAP, and

- Increase knowledge and understanding to develop new reflexes
- Demonstrate the relevance of mainstreaming cross-cutting dimensions and AAP in all phases of the HPC
- Shift practices at field and HQ levels

Ms Ouellette also briefly presented the progress gFSC made on AAP and gender mainstreaming after her arrival, including the key messages on gender, age and AAP to cluster coordinators, advocacy works for the HNO/HRP 2016, animation video, and the session in CAR for members of the Food Security Cluster in response with prefecture-level sex-disaggregated data of latest EFSA. She recognized that there is often distance between guidance and real practice in the field. She highlighted key findings and proposed the way forward, which mainly included the development of concise and user-friendly tools for use by the cluster members and working with the country and regional offices of cluster lead agencies on gender mainstreaming and AAP, in addition to demand-driven capacity building sessions.

The draft animation video prepared by gFSC was presented to the partners followed by a brief discussion in plenary. A partner suggested that gFSC should also equally focus on gender while focussing on AAP. Another partner pointed the risk of ignoring the overall needs as presented in the video by looking only through the lens of food security. gFSC explained that the target audience of the video is primarily the training for cluster coordinators and cluster members as an introduction to AAP and cross-cutting dimensions, and for raising their level of awareness and knowledge on gender and AAP.

Effects of El Nino on Food Security – General Overview

Co-Chairs: Rogerio Bonifacio WFP, Neil Marsland/Andreas Wuestenberg FAO, Sara Moussavi, gFSC

A presentation on the effects of El Nino was made by WFP VAM and FAO technical experts. Both presentations focussed on the millions of vulnerable households throughout the world facing increased challenges of hunger and poverty due to droughts and floods as global temperatures reach new records as a result of the powerful climatic occurrence: El Niño. The experts emphasized that the phenomenon not as an individual weather event; but rather a climate pattern which occurs every two to seven years and the current one being the most powerful since 1997–98. Although official declaration of the El Nino weather phenomenon occurred in March, the indicator had been floating around the trigger threshold through most of 2014. These borderline conditions already led to impacts in Central America and Southern Africa.

El Niño: Summary Highlights for 2015-2016

Red=Negative; Orange=Watch; Green=Positive

Region	Current Status	Outcomes / Outlook	Impacts
Central America	Poor Posrtera season now developing (major bean production)	Widespread drought during Primera (first) season (provides >60% of regional maize production). Likely two drought affected growing seasons in the same calendar year.	Most affected are Haiti, Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Affected countries maize production may drop 20% (FAO). Bean crop production shortfalls
West Africa	Rainfall season ended in Sahel	Sahel: after a very poor start, the season ended wetter than average thanks to good late rains and a later than usual end of season. Continuing drier than average conditions for Gulf of Guinea countries.	No significant impacts expected in the Sahel, apart from localized worries in Chad. The situation for Gulf of Guinea countries requires monitoring.
East Africa	Main rainfall season ended in Ethiopia (except SE), Sudan, N Eritrea and most of South Sudan	Ethiopia's Belg and Meher growing seasons both affected by drought. Sudan also affected by poor growing season as well as Eritrea and Djibouti. Karamoja (NE Uganda) growing season also performed poorly	Ethiopia expected to face two consecutive poor seasons and severe impacts on Afar pastoral areas. Sudan to face rainfed production shortfall unless later rains improve markedly. South Sudan late season harvests may be affected by late dryness.
Indian subcontinent and South Asia	Early stages of the main season in Indonesia and of the secondary season in the Philippines	Favourable season in Afghanistan. Unfavourable monsoon season in India and most of SE Asia countries. Indonesia, Philippines and Pacific Islands endured drier than average conditions until now and are forecast to continue until January 2016.	Strong negative impacts already felt in PNG are likely to worsen. Indonesia expected to face impacts on national crop production, and on livelihoods of poorer communities in eastern province.
Horn of Africa	Early stages of the Short Rains (Oct – December)	Wetter than average conditions across most of the region from SE Ethiopia to Somalia, Kenya and N Tanzania	Above average rainfall may result in large scale flooding along Kenya and Somalia's river systems. Favourable pasture and marginal agricultural conditions in arid and semi-arid areas due to enhanced rainfall.
Southern Africa	Early stages of the 2015/16 season (October to April)	Likelihood of drier than average conditions affecting the growing season over most of the region.	Possible maize production shortfalls in South Africa (main producer), Zimbabwe and Malawi (risk of impact of large cereal deficits on vulnerable populations). Outcomes crucially dependent on rainfall during planting and flowering stages of the maize crop.

The number of food insecure people globally is predicted to rise substantially through 2016. The increase in climate related disasters from El Niño events is also important, as a recent 10 year analysis showed that 25 percent of all damage caused during natural disasters is in the agriculture sector. In drought alone, agriculture is the single most affected sector, absorbing around 84 percent of all the economic impact.ⁱ The likely impacts of the 2015-16 El Niño events may be severe for people living in areas already facing some of the worst humanitarian and human development indicators in the worldⁱⁱ.

During the plenary discussion, partners raised their concerns as regards the response to the growing food security needs, especially in countries such as Ethiopia. It was recognized that there is a role for gFSC in coordination, as well as in providing guidance for affected countries. gFSC explained that the clusters in some of the affected countries are working with the partners and coordinating the response as well as developing contingency planning. Government is taking a lead role in Ethiopia, however no L3 emergency has been declared. Meanwhile, gFSC also informed the partners that it is providing support to El Niño affected country clusters through continual monitoring of information and assessments, and dissemination of such data back to concerned partners; ensuring that country clusters are well equipped to employ preparedness actions as required; maintain high level focus on the vulnerable people who are being affected; and finally to help ensure the provision of surge support as needed.

ALNAP Research Works on Leadership and Coordination-Next Steps for Coordination between Humanitarian Actors

Co-Chair: Leah Campbell, ALNAP; **gFSC Focal Point:** Cyril Ferrand

The purpose of this presentation was to examine the role of national actors in international coordination mechanisms based on the study carried out by ALNAP in 2015. According to OXFAM, this was an issue in countries such as DRC where there are few national actors participating in cluster activities. However in Somalia for example national actors are more involved due to the presence of 12-13 sub-national coordinators and vice coordinators.

The presentation focussed on the role of different national actors and the sub-national coordination based on the findings of the ALNAP study. Trust seems to have played an instrumental role for better coordination with the national actors. However, the culture of trust was found to be very much influenced by time, leadership, personality and the personal relationship.

Ms Campbell presented some interesting questions to ponder as regards cluster coordination, such as i) whether there is good involvement of national actors in the Cluster; ii) whether national and sub-national levels of coordination well connected; iii) if the Clusters have clear, simple, transparent decision-making, information management, procedures and roles at all, and iv) whether everyone in the Cluster understands and agree on what level of coordination the Cluster is working towards.

Finally, ALNAP informed that a high level meeting will be taking place in June 2016 during which experiences within and outside of humanitarian sector are expected to be shared. ALNAP will meanwhile produce some briefing papers, and videos on four coordination themes.

During the plenary discussion, some partners raised the issue that in sudden onset crises, presence of many national actors are felt. However, the local NGOs are more interested in the resources they could tap. In the Whole of Syria, coordination with national actors is working well, however it very much depended on the structure of the hub coordination. Global Nutrition Cluster shared that coordination with local actors also depends on the level of sensitization the cluster carries out.

ALNAP requested the cluster partners as well as the field cluster coordinators to share good practices and experiences on the involvement of local actors in cluster coordination. gFSC meanwhile expressed its interest to be a part of the research works ALNAP is continuing with on cluster coordination.

Contact coordinates for ALNAP are as follows:

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www.alnap.org/leadership

Strategic Advisory Group

Co-Chair: Cyril LeKieffs, ACF; **gFSC Focal Point:** Rajendra Aryal

Including the background on the discussions held in the past on SAG, specifically during the November 2014 and May 2015 global partners' meeting, Cyril Lekieffs presented the results of the online survey conducted by the gFSC on SAG, which was participated by 20 respondents. The presentation summarized the findings of the survey, including the pros and cons of having a SAG for the cluster.

A discussion in plenary was held that allowed the partners to share their views on SAG, including the representatives from the Global Nutrition and Protection Clusters. These two clusters highlighted that the SAG has been useful in guiding and monitoring the implementation of the work plan, and advising the cluster strategically, however the SAG does not work on policy matters. Discussions were also held on the ToR, including the duration of the SAG, membership, meeting frequency, etc., however it was agreed that the gFSC can agree on its own way of having the type of SAG it wants.

In order to get a clear position of the partners a voting was held in the plenary. The field cluster coordinators and the donor representatives were requested to be neutral. One vote per agency was granted. All the cluster members voted for having a SAG.

At the end of the session following action points were decided:

1. The Ad Hoc Committee formed to carry out the preliminary tasks, including the online survey will continue for some more time to do additional works for SAG.
2. This Committee will carry out (two) online surveys with the cluster partners for defining the SAG model.
3. Based on the findings of the survey, three models of Governance will be developed along with the ToR.
4. The Committee will also come up with the suggestions for election process.
5. All these will be presented during the next global partners' meeting.

Day 1 Key Recommendations

During the first day's discussions, the following recommendations and actions were raised by meeting participants and session leads:

1. Ensure linkages between the field (partners and country clusters) and technical working groups.
2. Promote and disseminate more lessons learned and good practices from each emergency operation with a view to applying those lessons in future crises.
3. Devise concrete guidance on how to coordinate the cash response in different emergency contexts.
4. Develop continuous and efficient guidance on cluster exit strategies and resource mobilization for protracted crises.
5. Move forward with a SAG.

DAY 2, Thursday December 3:

Resource Mobilization for gFSC at Global Level

Co-Chair: Cyril Ferrand, gFSC; **gFSC Focal Point:** Marisa Muraskiewicz

Cyril Ferrand presented the financial scenario of 2015 with the overall funding requirement of US\$4.091 million and the total mobilized resources of US\$2.82 million. He presented funding dashboard with budget figures including the amount received from donors (DFID, SIDA, SDC), cluster partners (NRC, DRC, SP) and the cluster lead agencies (FAO, WFP) in terms of both cash and human resources assistance. He explained that the budget gap of US\$1.225 million hindered some of the important operational tasks of gFSC, in particular backstopping support to country clusters, training and technical support missions, which were mainly done remotely from Rome. . With regard to Result 6, it was noted that the gFSC could do more through a number of missions to capture more learning and decentralized coordination at country level.

Mr Ferrand further added that a country food security cluster on average is coordinating 68 partners supporting 1.7 million beneficiaries with US\$300 million which about 0.28% of the total budget is needed for cluster coordination. This amount however is not always available at country level, which directly hampers the cluster coordination activities.

The presentation was followed by a discussion plenary during which partners asked how they can effectively contribute to the cluster works at both country and global level. gFSC cited examples of secondment arrangements with few partners (NRC, DRC, HelpAge, WHH) at the global level and co-leadership of food security cluster at country level with few partners (Mercy Corps, ACTED, ACF, SP). Furthermore, more explanation was given on the standby partnership agreements with partners. gFSC welcomed other partners to join the group to co-fund cluster coordination works at global or country level in coming years.

SIDA confirmed Sweden's commitment to cluster coordination and confirmed the continuation of funds for gFSC. SIDA also raised the need to now think on mobilizing additional resources at both global and country level for coordination works.

OCHA mentioned the increasing trend of multi-year programming in protracted crises and highlighted the need to also secure multi-year funding, including for cluster coordination. It was however highlighted that a strong cluster leadership is extremely important at country level for mobilizing sufficient resources. gFSC cited the importance of neutrality and accountability for coordination works for which resources are needed, and further urged the donors to continue supporting coordination works. gFSC also requested the donors to consider the possibility of multi-year funding for cluster coordination in protracted crises.

gFSC IM Overview and Future Plans

Co-Chair: Sara Moussavi; **gFSC Focal Point:** Marisa Muraskiewicz

Information management (IM) involves collecting, analysing, and sharing information through high quality information products designed to assist cluster partners make programmatic, evidence-based and strategic decisions regarding aspects of a humanitarian crisis. During the presentation global and country level responsibilities for IM were identified and discussed. Specifically, country level IM focuses on conducting gap analysis to lead to better programming and information sharing for advocating on behalf of partners to secure resources. Country level IM depends on partners participating and reporting to the cluster. A survey conducted by the gFSC revealed that the percentage of active partners who report to country-level FSCs on a regular basis ranges from 27% - 100%, indicating a need for partners to increase engagement with clusters and adhere to the "minimum commitments" proposed by the IASC for cluster partners, including exchanging information, highlighting needs and gaps, and reporting progress.

gFSC team supports country cluster's IM by providing guidance, templates and tools. The gFSC has developed a web based IM tool for country cluster use, manages the FSC website and provides IM surge support and backstopping. The gFSC shared plans for developing an IM Compendium that will include practical guidance for doing IM and standardized templates. The IM Compendium will facilitate IM by consolidating all IM tools and guidance, and standardize the IM products across countries used for external information dissemination and advocacy. To ensure the IM compendium meets the requirements of country cluster IM, a select group of Information Management Officers (IMOs) will be asked to provide feedback on the IM Compendium as it drafted.

Following the presentation partners suggested specific IM topics that would benefit from further global guidance. First a clear distinction between Information Management and Monitoring and Evaluation should be made, since some partners confused IM processes such as reporting on output indicators as M&E. Furthermore, when counting the total number of beneficiaries reached with assistance further guidance is needed to differentiate the number of beneficiaries under different FSC Strategic Objectives, and it was suggested for this guidance to be facilitated by one of the gFSC Working Groups. Partners also suggested assessment guidance for cluster coordinators should better harmonize targeting methodology and include targeting criteria. These recommendations will be addressed by the gFSC Information Management team.

Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and HRP

Co-Chairs: Cyril Ferrand, gFSC, Ignacio Leon-Garcia, OCHA; **gFSC Focal Point:** Evan Sheldon

The purpose of the session was to have an overview on the entire process of HNO, HRP, achievements and good practices, coordination challenges, constraints experienced and lessons learnt. Major issues that need to be brought into the partners' notice were presented by OCHA for necessary decision-making. The presentation mainly focussed on the process, and the roles and responsibilities of different actors during the HNO process. Three major issues were presented as the feedback from the countries on the planning process:

Issue 1- HNO Timeframe- Only a single timeframe for all HPC countries exists. HNO calendar does not provide sufficient flexibility to systematically inform HNO with the latest information.

Issue 2- Needs Analysis- In countries such as Afghanistan, Chad, Niger, Mali findings have been challenged by OCHA who may not have the technical expertise and does not have the role to validate findings.

Issue 3- Severity of Needs- The vulnerability or severity ranking tool is optional as per guidelines (although not always presented as such at country level). The guidelines state: *"To support the prioritization of needs, HCTs have the option to use a standardized tool based on a severity ranking approach. The tool provides a method and structure to prioritize needs by categorising and weighing indicators along geographical areas, sectors, inter-sectoral aspects and demographics. The tool is optional, and other tools developed for different contexts may alternatively be used for severity ranking"*. However this principle does not seem to be always understood at field level.

Indicator selection and definition should remain the prerogative of so-called "domain experts". This has not always been the case in the past and it raises some concerns at global level.

Meanwhile, OCHA also presented the growing number of crises and therefore growing number of people to be served resulting in more expensive crises. Graphical presentation illustrated two-fold increase in needs in US\$ terms over last 10 years (from US\$10 billion in 2006 to US\$20 billion in 2015) as well as two fold increase in per capita beneficiary support costs (US\$110/person in 2012 to US\$203/person in 2015) and the resulting gaps in resources available.

There were three other issues received from the countries as feedback in the HRP process that were presented:

Issue 1- Understanding lifesaving- Support to livelihoods is an essential component of emergency response in protracted crises. HCs should not remove livelihoods support in order reduce country appeals.

Issue 2- Ceiling approach- HRP are increasingly subjected to a ceiling approach at country level. This is against the principle of “no one left behind” and against the evidence-based and need-based approaches that are at the origin of the change from CAP to HRP.

Issue 3- Multi-purpose Cash- Multi-purpose cash does not represent more than USD 10 million per crisis country on average. Nepal is an example where the multi-purpose cash transfer guidelines (8,000 rupees) created significant confusion with cash transfer for food assistance, according to the two presenters.

Case Study-Food Security Cluster Work in Whole of Syria (WoS)

Co-Chairs: Samantha Chattaraj, Dina Morad, Cluster Coordinators WoS; **gFSC Focal Point:** Anne Callanan

The cluster co-coordinators from whole of Syria shared their experience in the HNO/HRP process. The presentation mainly focussed on the background and the process. Finally, the presentation concluded with the major lessons learned. The presentation is summarized here as follows:

1. Background:

- In January 2013 a Food Security Sector Working group was set up in Damascus
- In June 2013, a Food Security and Livelihoods Working Group (now a cluster) was set up in South Turkey
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 2165 in July 2014 granted the UN access to deliver goods cross-border into Syria
- In April/May 2014 – Need/Response/Gaps were conducted
- In August 2014, the first discussion around “deconfliction” occurred between WFP and agencies in South Turkey, initiating conversations around a Whole of Syria approach
- Sept 2014 WoS approach was rolled out

2. HNO process:

- Technical Working Group (TWG) with food security experts was formed to assist in the development of the HNO
- TWG was instrumental in developing the People in Need, severity analysis by sub district and key messages on needs analysis including gender, age and protection. It was done for the first time based on household level assessment.
- TWG continued playing a critical role for the sector with four main upcoming tasks: a) Updated People in Need and Severity through sector partners inputs; b) carried out joint food security analysis; c) developed a harmonized rapid assessment tool, and d) monitored framework for outcome indicators

3. HRP process:

- Food Security Sector WoS Workshop was organized for HRP2016 in Beirut with the following outcomes:
 - Finalization of the sector Log Frame for HRP with focus on outcome indicators
 - Harmonized response in 2016 for response package, targeting and selection criteria
 - Consultation on Cash based response and recommendations for the sector
- Inter Sector linkages were ensured with CCCM, nutrition, protection, early recovery and NFI/shelter clusters
- Process and Vetting - HRP for FSS was done with 40 partners appealing from 3 hubs and WoS with 2 partners remaining anonymous on OPS². The total envelop for food security sector for WoS is US\$1.235 billion for 2016.

Major Lessons Learned:

- Inclusive coordination is needed

² In 2015, 90% of the NGOs were anonymous on OPS

- Need for more resources to engage technical capacities on specific issues such as gender/age/AAP, cash feasibility studies, etc.
- Need more inter-sectoral coordination including joint assessment (rapid) and planning for sudden onsets
- Further outreach to donors
- Need to recognize the logistical constraints of regional work (travel), we need more face to face time both within our sector and inter-sector
- Further understanding the contexts that enables safe coordination

Discussion in plenary after the two presentations touched on several issues, such as the gaps still existing in the HNO process, disconnect between the needs assessment and HRP, timing of needs assessment vs cropping calendar, monitoring of cluster activities in HRP and so on. Furthermore, it was also highlighted that even in countries with protracted crises, only one year of planning was done, which needs to be corrected and for which donors' commitment is needed. Participants from the field requested to put emphasis on putting people at first rather than getting lost in the bureaucratic procedures.

At the end of the session, following action points agreed upon for next HNO/HRP:

1. Work at inter-cluster level during HNO breaking the silos
2. Rely on current data and not national data, and use the data that are simple and accessible
3. Knowledge generated in the cluster partners should be disseminated through workshops or webinars so that others can learn. For this purpose a venue has to be generated. PQWG together with IMWG can support creating such a venue.
4. OCHA to modify OPS for countries with multiyear programming³
5. Vulnerability criteria need to be well defined for the HNO/HRP
6. Country clusters should focus on building the capacity of local partners on HNO/HRP and proposal writing
7. Reach out to more national partner NGOs for better targeting

Group Work: What is the state of Food Security Coordination in the implementation of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC)

Building on the national experience in sudden onset emergencies (Nepal, Vanuatu) on carrying out Flash Appeals, protracted response plans from the HNO and preparing HRP in several countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, OpT, Sahel, Nigeria, Myanmar, South Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen, etc), resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring especially after the letter from FAO and WFP addressed to the ERC, and the two successive presentations made by OCHA and WoS, the purpose of this session was to discuss the situation of food security in the whole process of HNO and HRP, and the strategy and approach FSC followed, and agree on gFSC position in the ongoing debate on 'critical life savings' vs. 'urgent agricultural livelihoods recovery'. The results of this session were expected to be fed directly to the Emergency Directors of the two co-lead agencies for their feedback to the EDGs and IASC principals.

Three break out groups discussed the following three points separately and reported back in the plenary:

Group 1 - Are the HC and OCHA Offices giving due consideration and priority to food security as per the SPHERE Guidelines and the four pillars (access, availability, utilization, stability) of food security? If not, where is the gap and what is still need to be done?

Group 2 - What more can we do to ensure that our interventions address the needs and vulnerabilities of the affected populations?

³ OCHA confirmed that they are developing a new OPS in few months to accommodate multi-year programming

Group 1

Facilitator: Valentina Giorda

Main discussion points

1. In many Countries, during the HRP process, the Cluster is asked by the HC/OCHA to remove/reduce some parts of its food security strategy in order to accommodate a pre-capped budget. This means that the needs of affected populations are not accurately reflected in the strategy. It is proposed to advocate at OCHA level in order to stop this practice.
2. It is also noted that in some Countries the analysis coming from food security assessments is challenged by the HC/OCHA.
3. The group also underlined the need for a better common prioritization of actions in the strategic plans. In some countries, this process is not correctly undertaken at Inter-Cluster level, but directly by the HC/OCHA without appropriate discussion among the sectors.
4. The timeline of the HRP process does often not allow enough time for involvement of field officers and final beneficiaries. This means that food security priorities are often only discussed at central level.

Group 2

Facilitator: Christine Ouellette

Proposed activities to be undertaken

1. There is a need for improved needs assessments that take into account the views of the different groups affected by a humanitarian crisis, analysing who is affected, how, why (causes of vulnerability), and what needs to be done to provide the right response to meet expressed needs of affected populations;
2. Tendency has been to start action immediately before assessing needs. As a consequence the opportunity to involve affected population, including children, is missed;
3. Partners' expressed the need to better monitor AAP dimensions of responses in order to adjust programming;
4. Flexibility in program design and delivery would allow to adjust programs/actions based on feedback from affected populations, once primary data is collected through various existing / amended needs assessments;
5. Common standard and simple tools for vulnerability analysis would be helpful, as would sensitization tools;
6. Accountability mechanisms, including feedback and complaint mechanisms, require further piloting;
7. Venue for partners to share experiences on mainstreaming AAP and people-centred cross cutting issues are required;
8. The question at the centre of needs assessments should be: How can we serve / meet the needs of more people better, leaving no one behind?

Group 3

Facilitator: Rajendra Aryal

Cluster coordination funding

1. Good understanding of the situation and enhanced communication with the respective HQs on the added value the cluster brings would help mobilize resources for cluster coordination
2. A dedicated project profile in the Flash Appeal/HRP
3. Once the co-lead agencies become operational, cluster needs are to be immediately mainstreamed in the response budget (WFP, FAO) – put a certain % for cluster coordination
4. Co-lead agencies should also prioritize cluster coordination while discussing their budgets with donors
5. OCHA can facilitate to ensure that the gaps in cluster coordination are filled at country level
6. NGOs are bringing their own resources for co-chairing and the donors are willing to support

7. Standby Partners are supporting a lot – enhance the partnership further with firm commitments for CCs and IMO (RedR, NRC, DRC, CANADEM, etc. and the cluster partners, e.g., SP)
8. Reach out to more global partners
9. Partners to lobby with their respective governments to establish mechanisms for funding cluster coordination (context specific)

Response Funding

1. Reach out to the private sectors (not necessarily multinationals) by the cluster directly
2. SAG can play a role for resource mobilization
3. Funds received from private sources by agencies, if reported to FTS, may give different picture (e.g., Nepal)
4. Reach out to new emerging donors (e.g., BRICS, Qatar, Thailand, Saudi Arabia)
5. CCs need to have flexibility to mobilize resources for the cluster partners

gFSC Working Groups proposed the below points and questions to the plenary discussion following the presentations:

1. Participants raised a point asking whether HNO is the reflection of the real needs or the situation the outer world wants to see. If former, HNO should come up with the real needs and not the needs based on funding ceiling 'imposed' by the HC. If a budget ceiling is imposed, activities as well as the number of beneficiaries need to be restricted. This will not send correct message to the Government and international community.
2. Some participants also raised a concern as regards the findings of the IPC, which are challenged by the HC in few countries. DRC was an example where 3 million people were facing ICP Phase 3 whereas HNO asked to consider only the people facing IPC Phase 4 (i.e., famine). Participants emphasized strongly the need to consider the opinion and decisions of technical experts who work on HNO.
3. OCHA made it clear that livelihoods recovery should be included in the HNO/HRP based on the local needs and situation. If any country cluster faces issues as regards this matter, it should be immediately brought to the attention of OCHA focal point in Geneva (*currently Ignacio Leon Garcia*). OCHA further added that the three objectives of HNO/HRP, namely delivery of assistance, protection and resilience/recovery should be included; livelihoods recovery needs to have SMART indicators and good monitoring mechanism needs to be ensured.
4. Global Nutrition Cluster mentioned that a huge amount of work needs to be done to capture nutrition outcomes from cash based interventions.
5. Given the need for resources, participants acknowledged the need for establishing a common pool fund for cluster coordination. SIDA representative expressed his happiness to see the ball rolling in this direction.
6. USAID also realized the importance of cluster coordination and confirmed its commitment to funding at country level and advised the cluster coordinators to approach local OFDA representatives with the needs.

There were few other issues discussed in plenary, which are summarized as follows:

1. How do we improve partner engagement in the WGs, including participation in teleconferences? Does the structure of the WGs needs to be revised?
 - Some issues may not be relevant to the FSC. The WGs need to develop links with other clusters, move from monthly to quarterly conference calls.
 - The WGs should focus on more operational issues and not updates that are not of interest.
 - The WGs also need to coordinate inter cluster works as there are many common issues discussed in other clusters.
 - Purpose of WGs need to remain relevant to the field issues. Too many WGs will result in loss of focus on what is delivered to the cluster coordinators in the field. Works should develop naturally according to tasks.

- Need to limit the number of WGs to define and prioritize what can be accomplished. Put a limit on the number of WGs at one time.
 - Suggestion was made to hold Skype conferences instead of teleconferences. Request was also made to connect people on Skype while teleconference call is going on.
 - Another suggestion was to use doodle survey to arrange meetings and maximize number of people on each call, preferably a week before teleconference.
 - ETC uses Webex and is currently looking into Skype for Business. gFSC was suggested to coordinate with ETC on this matter.
 - Given the interest expressed by the Global Nutrition Cluster, gFSC agreed to invite GNC to also participate in some relevant WGs.
2. Advocacy: Is leadership/clarity needed from the CLAs on messages that WGs will bring forward through their respective networks?
- Partners confirmed that some gFSC products have been very helpful, such as the indicator handbook, checklist for people centric issues, etc.
 - WOS floated the idea to harmonize targeting methodology and criteria for which they required guidance.
 - Cluster Coordinators cited the needs to engage with the WGs while working on the seasonal calendar, optimally during the first half of the year.
3. A few WG chairs took part in the Cluster Coordinators' Retreat in July 2015, which was an optimal venue where they could discuss the input for WGs and understand what could be useful for the Cluster Coordinators.
4. Another important issue raised was the overlap of activities with the Early Recovery Cluster in many countries. gFSC clarified that a guidance document has been developed and shared with all cluster coordinators clearly illustrating the activities that are to be included under the scope of food security cluster. gFSC is meanwhile planning for a meeting with ER cluster to demystify the confusion that has been arising in many countries.

INFORM-Scope and Relevance for Food Security Cluster Work

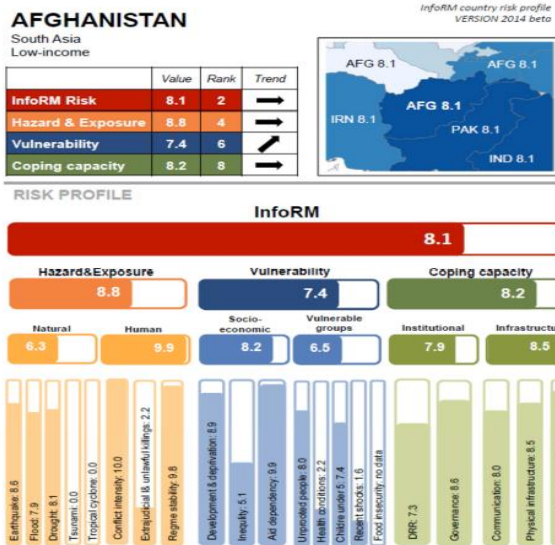
Co-Chairs: Cyril Ferrand, gFSC and Ignacio Leon-Garcia, OCHA; **gFSC Focal Point:** Evan Sheldon

OCHA introduced the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) Tool to the meeting participants as a way to understand and measure the risk of humanitarian crises and disasters. The purpose of INFORM is to provide an open methodology for quantitatively assessing crisis risk at global, regional or national level. INFORM covers 191 countries at the national level and techniques for local level analysis are being developed. The tool works to describe the balance between exposure to hazards and vulnerability and lack of coping capacity and can serve all the sectors. However, the tool has limitations and depends on data coming from the local level. INFORM works with international partners, and they can send the data to the team that can be contacted through INFORM website to make contributions.



COUNTRY	Natural	Human	HAZARD	Development & Deprivation	Inequality	Aid Dependency	Socio-Economic Vulnerability	Uprooted people	Nearly-Constant	Children US	Recent Shocks	Food Security	Other Vulnerable Groups	Vulnerable Groups	VULNERABILITY	DRH	Governance	Institutional	Communication	Physical Infrastructure	Access to health care	Infrastructure	COPING CAPACITY	RISK
Alghanistan	5.1	3.1	3.7	8.9	5.1	1.9	8.2	8.0	2.2	1.4	1.8	x	4.3	6.5	7.4	7.1	6.2	6.2	3.5	2.5	5.2	3.7	6.1	3.4
Albania	5.7	2.2	4.2	1.7	2.9	3.2	2.4	0.0	0.4	1.3	3.8	3.2	2.3	1.2	1.8	3.5	6.3	4.9	4.7	4.5	5.6	4.9	4.9	4.4
Algeria	2.8	7.0	5.8	3.7	5.2	0.2	3.2	5.3	1.5	1.2	0.0	0.3	0.8	3.3	3.3	5.3	7.5	1.4	0.9	7.5	6.5	7.1	6.7	6.3
Angola	3.2	5.2	4.3	0.8	4.4	0.3	4.8	4.7	7.0	6.7	5.2	7.0	6.8	5.8	5.2	5.3	7.5	1.4	0.9	7.5	6.5	7.1	6.7	6.3
Antigua and Barbuda	3.3	1.7	4.0	2.9	x	4.4	3.4	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	4.2	1.4	0.7	2.2	5.4	4.0	4.7	0.6	0.7	3.8	1.6	3.3	3.1
Argentina	3.8	2.7	3.2	1.2	5.0	0.1	1.9	1.8	0.5	0.8	0.0	2.1	0.9	1.3	1.6	4.0	6.9	8.0	2.0	3.4	3.3	2.9	4.0	2.7
Australia	4.4	4.2	4.3	1.9	3.1	3.6	2.8	4.0	0.0	1.2	7.2	3.8	2.6	3.1	2.8	7.7	5.9	7.7	3.7	3.2	4.2	1.7	5.4	4.9
Austria	5.7	1.1	3.5	0.2	1.5	0.0	0.5	4.8	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.5	2.9	1.8	2.4	1.6	2.0	3.5	3.1	0.6	2.3	2.3	2.4
Austria	2.4	0.9	1.7	0.8	1.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.5	x	2.2	2.3	1.9	0.4	2.0	1.4	1.8	1.1
Azerbaijan	3.5	5.0	4.3	2.8	3.2	0.6	2.8	0.1	0.8	2.3	0.3	3.7	1.8	6.1	4.8	x	7.0	1.5	3.1	4.0	6.1	4.4	5.8	4.9
Bahamas	3.2	4.2	3.7	2.4	4.2	0.0	2.3	0.9	2.9	1.3	0.0	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.8	x	2.9	2.9	4.7	3.2	2.3	3.4	3.1	2.8
Bahrain	0.2	5.4	3.2	2.4	3.4	0.0	2.8	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.0	x	0.4	0.8	1.4	3.8	4.5	4.1	1.2	0.0	4.5	1.9	3.1	2.4
Bangladesh	0.0	5.7	7.7	5.9	4.3	0.6	4.2	5.7	2.8	6.2	2.9	1.1	4.1	5.9	4.6	3.2	7.0	5.1	7.3	5.8	6.0	6.6	5.9	5.9
Barbados	2.9	2.1	2.5	1.9	4.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.9	1.4	0.0	2.0	1.1	0.8	1.4	2.8	2.3	2.5	3.2	0.0	4.2	2.5	2.5	2.1
Belarus	1.5	2.7	2.1	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.3	0.2	3.1	1.3	1.1	0.9	3.0	7.2	5.1	3.3	2.7	2.9	2.9	4.1	2.0
Belgium	1.6	1.4	1.5	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.8	4.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.3	2.4	1.7	x	2.7	2.2	3.0	0.0	0.4	1.1	1.7	1.6
Belize	4.4	4.8	4.6	2.3	5.8	2.3	3.2	0.9	1.8	1.2	0.0	2.0	1.3	1.1	2.2	x	5.9	8.9	7.0	3.5	5.9	3.6	5.6	3.9
Benin	3.9	3.1	3.8	7.4	5.8	4.5	6.2	2.5	4.6	5.7	0.7	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.0	x	6.2	6.2	7.1	7.3	0.0	5.3	7.4	6.9
Bhutan	4.7	1.2	3.1	4.5	4.8	0.7	5.1	0.0	1.6	3.1	0.7	x	1.9	1.3	3.3	0.4	3.8	5.1	7.5	5.2	6.7	6.4	6.8	3.9

The global list (pictured above) provides all the results of INFORM, its dimensions, categories and components for all 191 countries. This allows the user to sort and filter the results and compare countries. The global list can therefore be used for prioritisation of countries such as is the example of the Afghanistan INFORM profile page below:



Day 2 Recommendations & Concluding Remarks

Co-Chair: Cyril Ferrand, gFSC, Dina Brick, CRS, Dep. Director of Emergencies Daniele Donati, FAO

The meeting was closed by thanking all the participants for the fruitful and active discussions. Colleagues stressed that they were struck by the rich conversation across participants throughout the meeting – in particular the strong complement of country presentations, as well as country networking and experience sharing.

Speaking on behalf of FAO, Daniele Donati, Deputy Director of Emergency and Rehabilitation Division of FAO, thanked all participants for their active contributions and acknowledged the commitment and the frank discussions that took place during the two days. He highlighted the importance of appropriate coordination mechanisms that are needed to respond to continued crises at a lower cost and in the shortest span of time. He highlighted the challenge ahead to mobilize US\$20 billion to support 82 million people in 27 countries. Meanwhile, he also portrayed the challenges El Nino is bringing to many countries. A typical example he presented was from Sahel, which needed US\$200 million 10 years back and now is looking for US\$2 billion. Mr. Donati stressed that both FAO and WFP as Cluster Lead Agencies will continue to ensure appropriate humanitarian coordination and support the response of partners since such challenges cannot be met without solid coordination. He further added that the food security cluster is much ahead in coordination and the agreed SAG could bring more innovations.

The overall discussion throughout the two days, highlighted the numerous different partnership typologies the gFSC has adopted through time. Secondments to the Global Support Team, Standby Partners for surge deployments and capacity development, rapid response secondments, are but a few of the partnership models the gFSC has explored. The most typical bottleneck for exploring new partnerships has been funding constraints. At country level there are a number of successful co-chairing models and good inter-cluster work that have been captured through the various lessons learned. The gFSC now has a stronger role to play in advocating for these successful partnership models at global level. In particular, the gFSC will make it a point to continue to develop stronger links with non-traditional partners as well as governments and civil societies with a view to enhancing local capacity development and existing systems.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

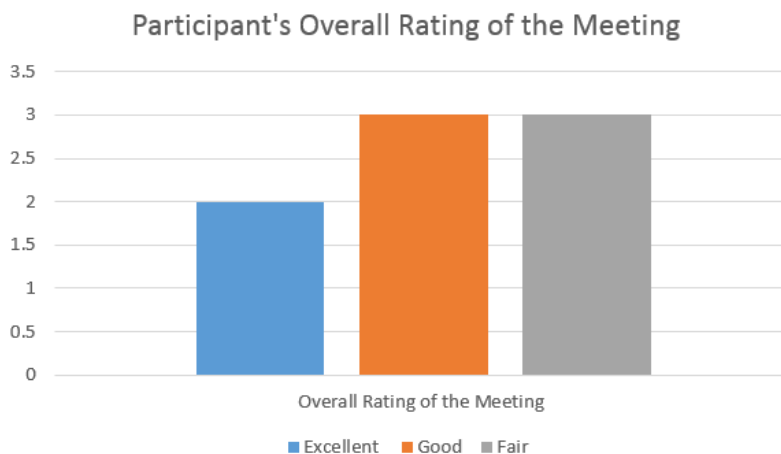
Surname	First Name	Organization
UN		
Jacoby	Jennifer	WFP
Mollet	Matthias	FAO
Barelli	Daniele	FAO
Teyssier	Caroline	WFP/ETC
Hannele	Halmeranta	WFP
Mace	Sarah	WFP
Prior	Marcus	WFP
Nyberg	Jennifer	WFP
Duffy	Gabrielle	WFP
Taraneh	Sheibani	WFP
Laura	Tiberi	FAO
Dejoode	Carolien	FAO
Hieber-Girardet	Lori	OCHA
Leon-Garcia	Ignacio	OCHA
Garcia-Bouzas	Eva	UNHCR/Protection
Hinrichs	Angela	FAO
Twose	Aysha	WFP
Ziolkovska	Anna	UNICEF/Nutrition
Saparbekov	Ayadil	UNICEF/Nutrition
Buonincontri	Martina	FAO
DONORS		
Gebremedhin	Anna	Perm. Rep
Rajamaki	Tanja	Prgm Officer
De Figueiredo	Pedro	SIDA
Garner	Karen	Perm. Rep
Henderson	Emily	Humanit. Advisor
Segrado	Chiara	Dep. Perm. Rep
Mesenhowski	Shannon	Representative
Mason	Melanie	Representative

NGOs, Partners		
Behrens-Shah	Priya	Welthungerhilfe
Alam	Aftab	Plan International
Bangnikon	Joseph	Intl' Med Corps
Bergman	Cathy	Mercy Corps
Bradley	Amy	World Animal Protct
Brick	Dina	CRS
Caniato	Marco	COOPI
Clelow	Allister	Sam Purse
Dhur	Agnes	ICRC
Duechting	Andrea	Welthungerhilfe
Enarson	Daniel	Sam Purse
Ferrari	Elena	Oxfam
Jan Verdonk	Dirk	World Animal Protct
Krummacher	Andre	Acted
Legallo	Quentin	NRC
Lekiefs	Cyril	ACF
Liku	Justus	CARE
Mayans	Julie	Solidarites
Nese	Barbara	COOPI
Ngwira	Marumbo	World Vision
Olholm	Thomas	NRC
O'Malley	Ciara	HelpAge
Santos	Jozimo	ADRA
Tarus	Thomas	World Vision
Van Der Esch	Gaia	IMPACT
Campbell	Leah	ALNAP
Cluster Coordinators		
Pazou	Judicael	Niger
Suppo	Riccardo	South Sudan
Desojo	Maria	Iraq
Joud	Damien	Bangladesh
Majid	Abdul	Afghn
Chattaraj	Samantha	WoS
Brou	Landry	DRC
Morad	Dina	WoS
Minjauw	Bruno	Lebanon

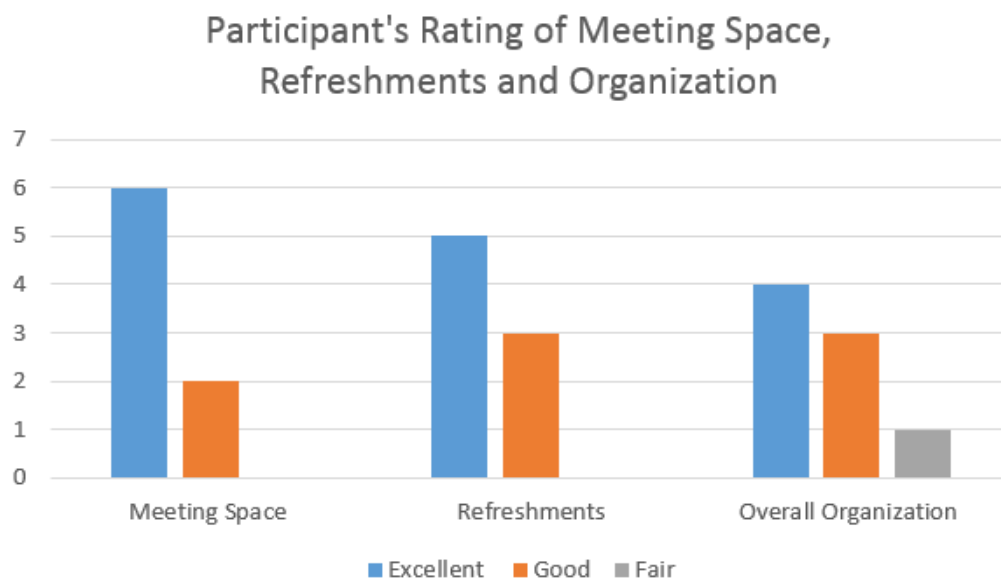
Annex 2 – Overview of Partner Evaluations/Feedback Forms

This section presents the findings from the participant feedback forms, collected at the end of the meeting.

- 8 out of 63 participants completed the feedback forms. 2 participants rated the meeting as excellent, 3 participants rated it as good and 3 participants deemed it fair.



- Overall, it can be said that participants were content with the meeting space, refreshments and overall organization. 6 participants rated the meeting space as excellent; 5 participants rated the refreshments as excellent and 4 participants rated the overall organization as excellent.



More detailed feedback is summarized below.

RESPONSE ANALYSIS/RECCOMENDATIONS:

Global Partners' Meeting:

- On average, the feedback regarding the meeting was good. The meeting is generally perceived to be quite inclusive and participatory and with quality and adequate information sharing and discussions.
- Overall, the agenda met the participants' expectations and reflected the partner's feedback. The pre-reading documents were considered relevant and adequate in terms of quantity and timing.
- Furthermore, the participation of Country Cluster Coordinators was welcomed and confirmed to be essential in sharing "hands on" experiences and good practices from country level.
- The break-out discussion group structure during the Day 2 was positively evaluated although some lessons learned need to be kept in mind for the next meetings to ensure that the groups identify clear objectives and action points for the gFSC.

- Some concerns were raised on time constraints and the amount of strategic planning and decision making:
 - It was felt that there was not enough time specifically dedicated for decision making – some participants perceived the meeting more as a brainstorming session
 - Some participants considered that the gFSC meetings could be more effective in setting action plans and goals
 - Some suggested that presentations could be more solutions oriented rather than focus on the challenges
 - It was suggested to expand on other issues/areas such as the ones that reveal different perspectives i.e. role of FSC in contributing to multi-sectional cash programming
 - To improve how the action plan follow-up in between meetings, some suggestions were proposed:
 - Use teleconferences or webinars/website for specific follow-up on actions
 - Establish a clearer timeline for the gFSC work plan and action points
 - Clearly summarize action points in the meeting report so that they can be tracked and referred to for the next meetings
 - Allow more time for discussion on action points with the support from the meeting facilitator
 - Have partners to commit to specific activities
 - Allow for more time for the meeting and working group discussions, perhaps by adding a third day for the meeting
 - There was a good balance between break-out group and plenary discussions. However, participants thought the break-out discussions could be improved with:
 - More time devoted to setting up priorities and concrete action points
 - Even more in-depth preparation prior to the meeting could have been useful
 - At the meeting, have a detailed proposition with clear objectives to start the discussion rather than start with brainstorming
 - Several respondents considered the current frequency of the Global Partners' meetings adequate
 - The majority of respondents welcomed the idea of conducting a decentralized/regional meeting once a year as this could bring the platform closer to the field and increase national partners' participation. It could also be a good opportunity to discuss regional issues and diversify partners' participation to enrich the information shared. However, respondents considered that with regional/decentralized meetings, there is a risk to lose the strategic purpose of the meetings. It would also be more costly for European based agencies/partners to attend and there is a risk of detachment from countries and agencies less operational in that region.
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