

2020-2022

Result 1

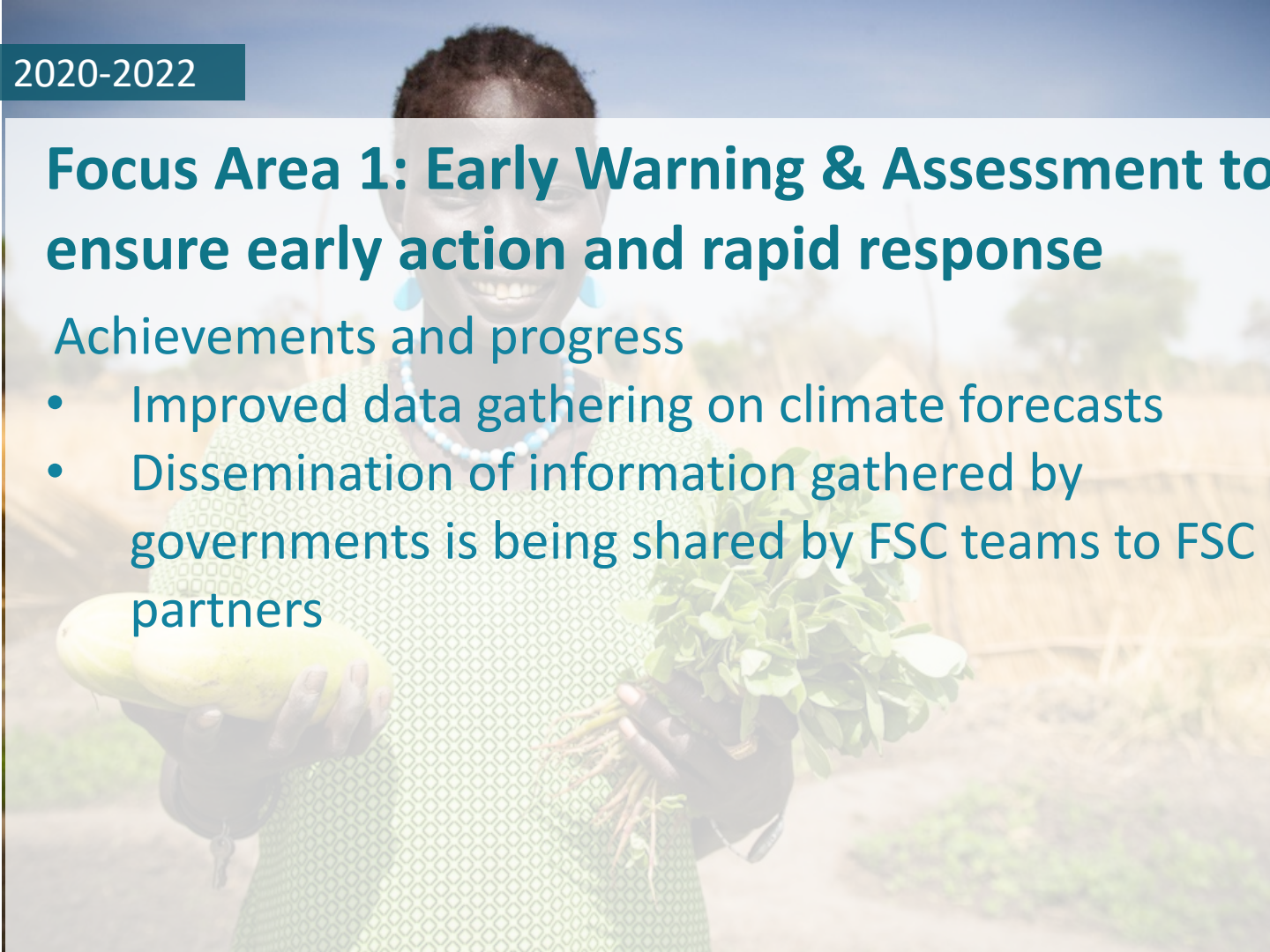
Improve food security information for decision making



Focus Area 1: Early Warning & Assessment to ensure early action and rapid response

Achievements and progress

- Improved data gathering on climate forecasts
- Dissemination of information gathered by governments is being shared by FSC teams to FSC partners



Focus Area 1: Early warning and assessments to ensure early action and rapid response

Challenges

- Getting information to the field (and what people can do)
- Link EW with concrete resources (technical and funding) that help early action
- Link EWS with IPC analyses (and updates)
- How to involve governments at national and regional levels in the flow of information on early warning (sometimes there is a disconnect)
- EWS are government led and can be affected by changing governing party policies or personnel turnover
- Need to strengthen information dissemination (also from countries to global), so that it can be used by all actors

Focus Area 1: Early warning and assessments to ensure early action and rapid response

Recommendations/action points

- When EW data flag deteriorating situations, this could lead to a decision to do an IPC update.
- Have a toolkit for early rapid assessments prepared in advance, ready to use in case of emergency.
- Build capacity within the community as they are first responders during a disaster.
- Identify funding opportunities to help local actors scale up responses.
- Identify a surge capacity roster to help local organizations.
- Sustainability of funding: have this as part of national investment plans.

Focus Area 2: Support implementation of IPC/HC or other analysis tools/processes

Achievements and progress

- Strong data collection in many countries.
- FSC has been instrumental in making IPC/CH happen in many countries, even during COVID-19 times



Focus Area 2: Support implementation of IPC/HC or other analysis tools/processes

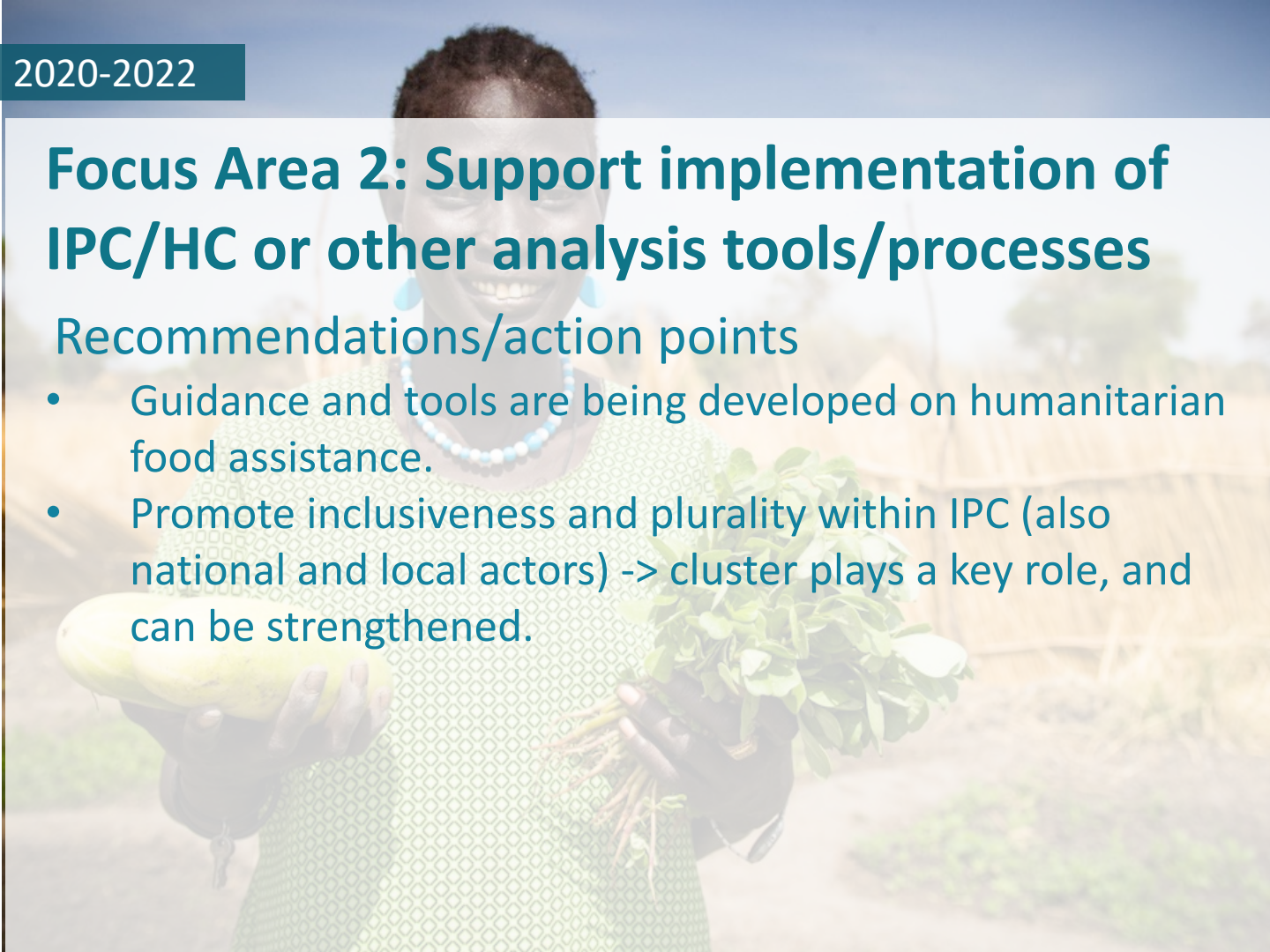
Challenges

- How to make IPC less technical and more understandable for non-technical people, to increase buy-in and improve joint advocacy messaging.
- Getting data on humanitarian food assistance (from/through the Cluster).
- Not always having the right people around the table in IPC analyses.

Focus Area 2: Support implementation of IPC/HC or other analysis tools/processes

Recommendations/action points

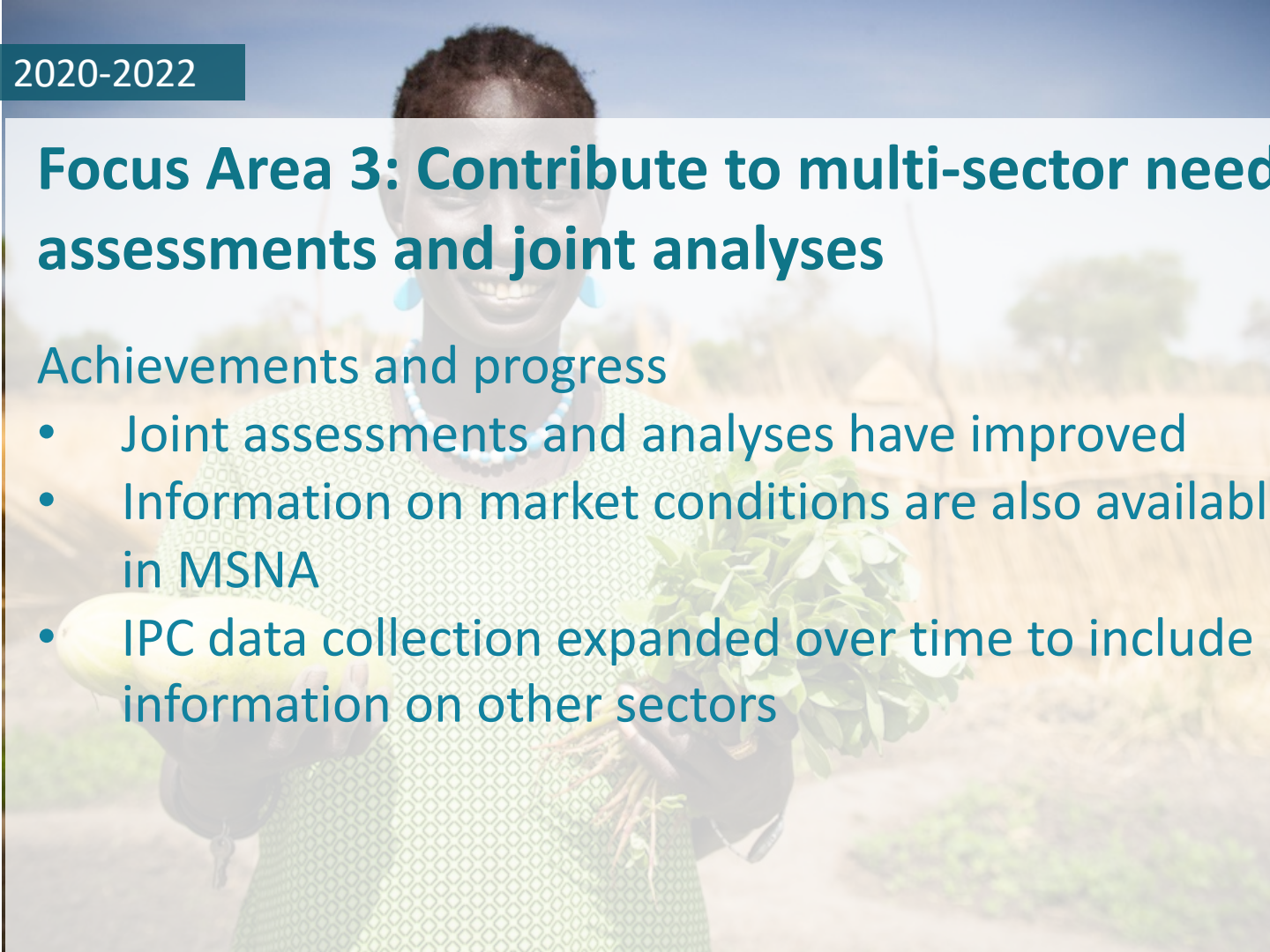
- Guidance and tools are being developed on humanitarian food assistance.
- Promote inclusiveness and plurality within IPC (also national and local actors) -> cluster plays a key role, and can be strengthened.



Focus Area 3: Contribute to multi-sector need assessments and joint analyses

Achievements and progress

- Joint assessments and analyses have improved
- Information on market conditions are also available in MSNA
- IPC data collection expanded over time to include information on other sectors



Focus Area 3: Contribute to multi-sector need assessments and joint analyses

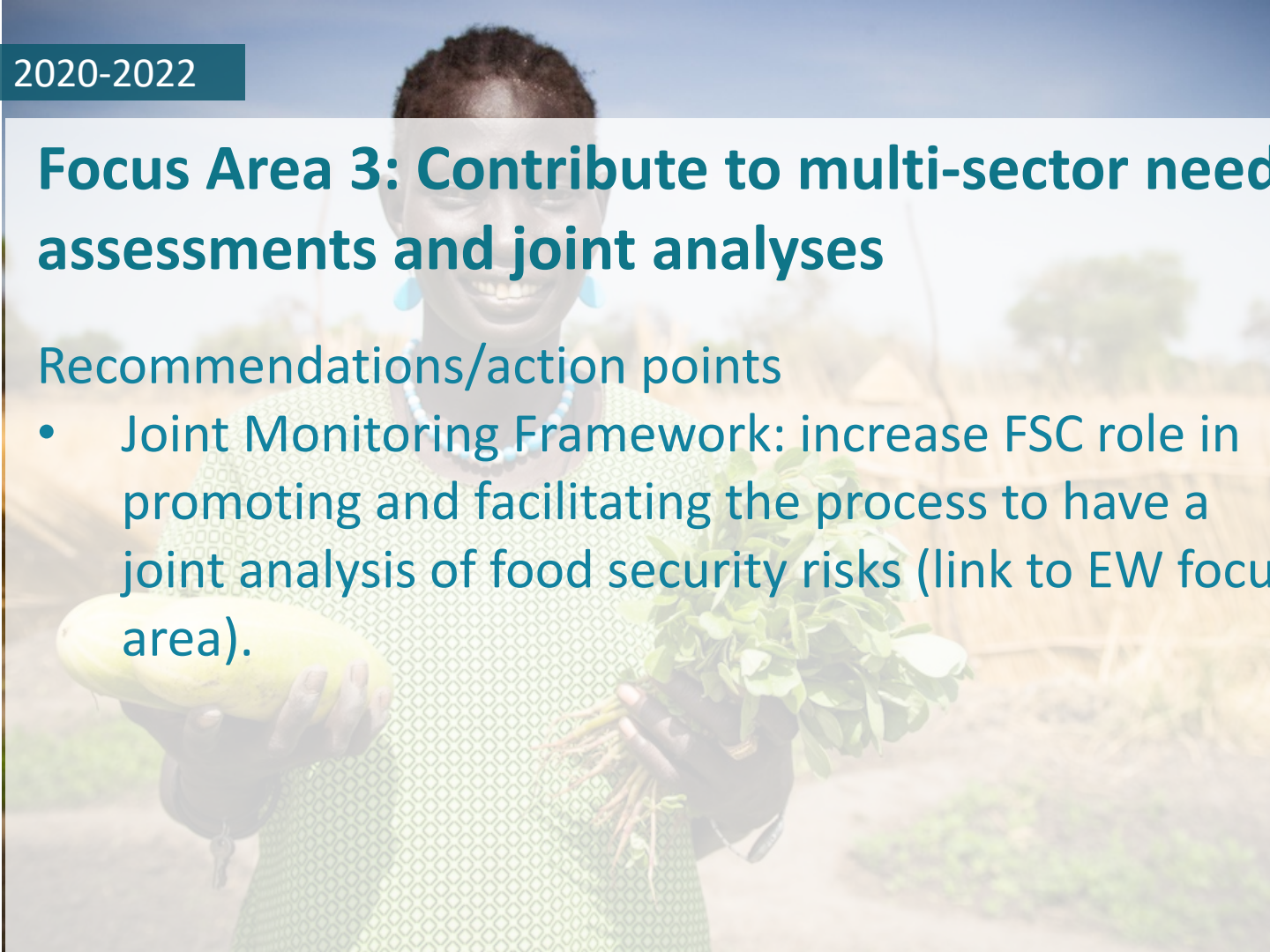
Challenges

- Danger of governments interfering and multiple Clusters wanting additional information (overload).
- Difficulty in translating information into response: challenge of defining the food gap and targeting
- While joint assessments are being done, joint analysis is not working to the same degree

Focus Area 3: Contribute to multi-sector need assessments and joint analyses

Recommendations/action points

- Joint Monitoring Framework: increase FSC role in promoting and facilitating the process to have a joint analysis of food security risks (link to EW focus area).



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Result 2: Proactively steer coordination of food security response



Focus Area 1: Promote minimum standards of food security assistance

1. Achievements and progress

- Minimum standards on MEB in Somalia
- Harmonized food baskets and basket value
- Minimum standards for food assistance and livelihoods in Yemen

2. Challenges

- Reduced funding for local partners
- Which sector do we report the MPC to?
- Some donors favour cash over vouchers: how would this work in fragile contexts or conflict situations?
- Translation of guidance into local languages
- Ability to distinguish between severe food insecurity, transitional and hu
- Minimum standards for food transfers are not always evidence based or appropriate to the needs/vulnerability profile
- Livelihoods section seems complicated

Focus Area 1: Promote minimum standards of food security assistance

3. Recommendations/action points

- Reach out to donors for support in ensuring adherence to standards
- Main partners should follow these standards
- Linking food assistance to social protection
- Food assistance should be integrated with development initiatives
- How to set baskets and account for food gaps and nutritional adequacy
- Ensure translation into local languages
- Representation from all partners (local, government, NGO, UN)
- Include recommendations in the minimum standards for needs of people with disability: flexibility in food baskets

Focus Area 2: Proactively steer coordination of food security response and guide consensus around technical issues

1. Achievements & progress

- Inclusive coordination platform involving all stakeholders

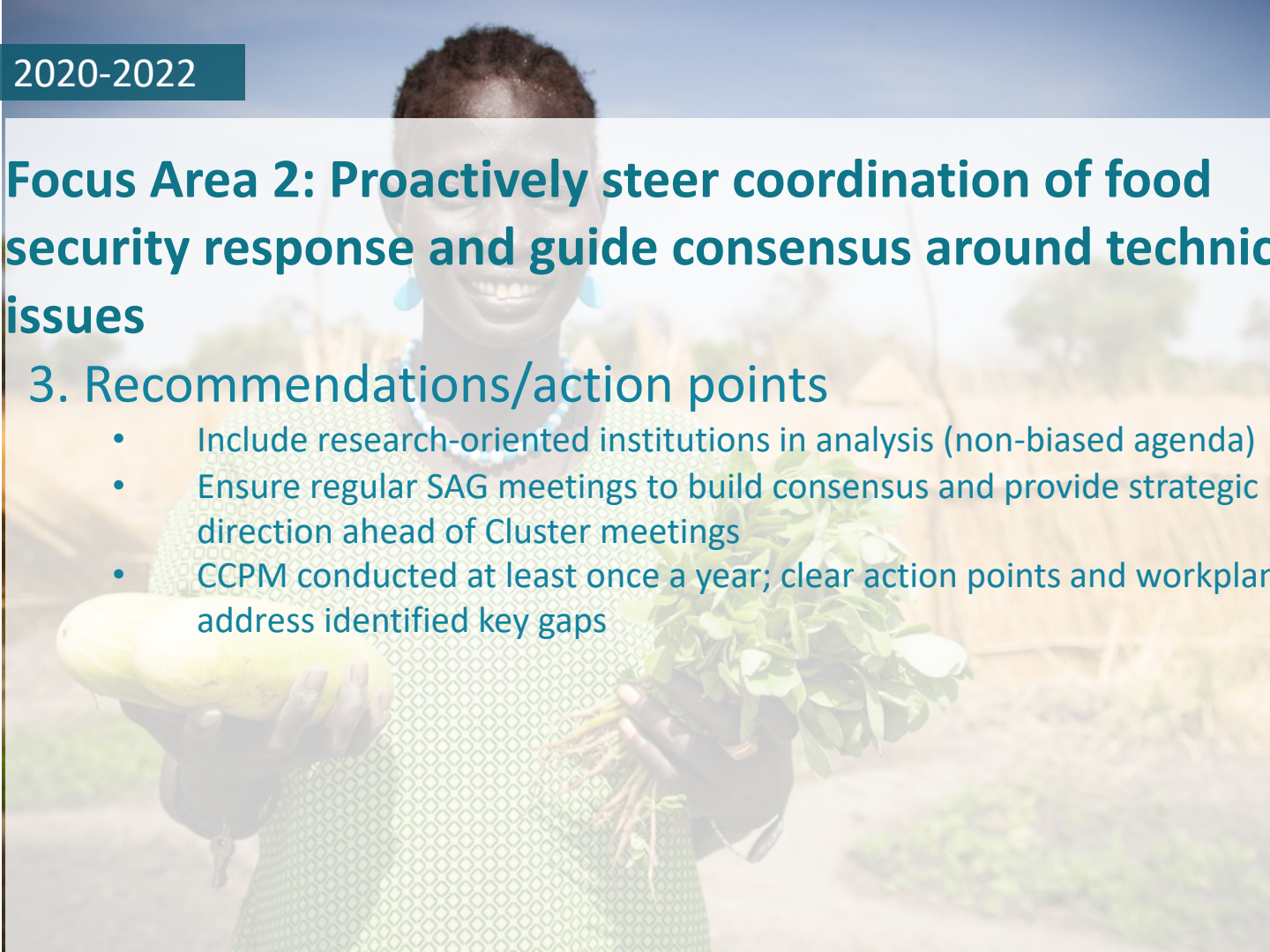
2. Challenges

- Local restrictions/restrictions set by states
- Food security response is sometimes too WFP or FAO centric, excluding other key partners
- Managing the interests of different leads
- Increase humanitarian restrictions – including where partners are on the other side of the conflict
- Can take time to engage state representatives

Focus Area 2: Proactively steer coordination of food security response and guide consensus around technical issues

3. Recommendations/action points

- Include research-oriented institutions in analysis (non-biased agenda)
- Ensure regular SAG meetings to build consensus and provide strategic direction ahead of Cluster meetings
- CCPM conducted at least once a year; clear action points and workplan address identified key gaps



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Focus Area 3: Promote the integration of food assistance with agriculture, livelihoods and resilience interventions and other sectors

1. Achievements & progress

- Integrated famine risk reduction initiatives.
- Most sectors using food security to address humanitarian crises, e.g., CVA for nutrition, health, Protection.

2. Challenges

- Areas of coverage and response do not necessarily harmonize across sectors/do not speak to each other.
- Implications for the structure of the Cluster in the long term? Role of the Cluster and the Cluster Coordinator? Early recovery cluster?

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Focus Area 3: Promote the integration of food assistance with agriculture, livelihoods and resilience interventions and other sectors

3. Recommendations/action points

- Integration training for partners from different Clusters
- Advocacy on integrated response funding
- Reach out to donors to fund integrated approaches
- Improved engagement of nutrition Cluster when setting food basket standards
- Set up area-based approach working groups (global and national) to improve coordination?

2020-2022

Result 3: Improve monitoring and evaluation and accountability systems to enhance programme quality



Focus Area 1: Improve monitoring and performance of food security response

1. Achievements and progress

- Outcome monitoring initiative in Syria
- Handbook of indicators by the gFSC
- Case-study in Nigeria on joint needs and market assessments

2. Challenges

- Lack of funds or human resources
- Incompatibility with current system (e.g. SCOPE) to collect SAD

3. Recommendations/action points

1. Encourage joint M&E by partners in country and share data accordingly
2. More learning to use M&E findings and change programming

Focus Area 2: Monitor and manage operational risks, identify consensus-based solutions

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- A smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a green patterned dress and blue earrings, is holding a basket of green leafy vegetables. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.
1. Achievements and progress
 - Risks included in preparedness plans
 - Protection and social protection
 2. Challenges
 - Lack of resources: usually done in addition to regular work
 3. Recommendations/action points
 1. Cluster level joint risk analysis exercise and regular joint revision
 2. Continually show the added value of participating in the coordination of clusters, promoting our communication products

Focus Area 3: Ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP)

1. Achievements and progress

- Survey on AAP/CFM and capacity building
- Joint hotline for UN agencies (Lebanon) for basic assistance
- Presence of AAP/CRMs in most programmes
- Setup SMS system in areas where networks are weak

2. Challenges

- Timely response to AAP issues
- Different partners' AAP approaches
- Closing the loop of CRM
- Lack of clarification or understanding between partner-level AAP and Cluster-level AAP, hence pending Cluster AAP development process

Focus Area 3: Ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP)

1. Recommendations/action points
 1. More awareness on AAP and ensuring that systems are available to support countries on AAP, setting systems, standards and reporting
 2. Include monitoring of complaints management in PMR/HRP indicators (the case for Haiti, for every HRP in the world?)
 3. Cluster/sector coordination to explore regularly sharing guidance notes and capacity building activities to partners.
 4. Documents on lessons learned, good examples, good practices, case studies on AAP by partners and shared with Clusters.
 5. More active role of the FSC in AAP and cross-cutting issues.

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Result 4: Scale up advocacy, communication and resource mobilization to support the FSC strategy





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Focus Area 1: Strengthen communication of specific food security information needed for decision-making

Achievements and progress

- Dashboards – 5Ws, partners' presence maps, etc., published and disseminated through gFSC and partner websites.
- Disseminate partners' and CLA alerts, reports, SitReps, etc. at national level and among regional working groups

(Example of Lebanon regularly disseminating WFP alerts, reports and the monthly VAM presentations to inform all stakeholders about the evolution of the food security situation over time.)

2020-2022

Focus Area 1: Strengthen communication of specific food security information needed for decision-making

Challenges

- Disparities between field-level data collected and that shared with country Clusters.
- Could work in better sync with CLAs - tools are already available. Find how the FSC represents added value and communicate this.
- Hard to find relevant information per country: not always easily available online if you're not part of the specific Cluster.

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Focus Area 1: Strengthen communication of specific food security information needed for decision-making

Recommendations/action points

- Minimum requirements, updates and minutes could be shared per country Cluster online.
- Good to have language translations for all documents.
- Embracing further technologies and approaches for anticipatory action and analytical approaches.
- More focus on info that can be useful for planning, rather than mainly reporting on what has already happened.
- Ensure that data can be checked or challenged.
- IMO quarterly unpacking data could be reported.

A smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a green patterned dress and a blue beaded necklace, is holding fresh produce including carrots and leafy greens. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

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Focus Area 2: Enhance advocacy with national governments, international humanitarian, development organizations

Achievements and progress

- Lebanon: joint initiatives with livelihoods sector – common dashboards, joint meeting support on agri-cooperatives, etc.
- Afghanistan Food Security and Agriculture Cluster advocacy note on funding for anticipatory action and early warning.
- gFSC Call to Action on Famine: messaging published on gFSC website – work of SAG with many NGO and CSO partners, broad dissemination.



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Focus Area 2: Enhance advocacy with national governments, international humanitarian, development organizations

Challenges

- Effective and active participation depends on ultimate aim of the group. ICCG at field level for example is not always clear in this regard.
- Coordination with Cash working groups or task forces depends on the country (i.e. Lebanon), unclear how to improve across the board.
- What is the comparative advantage of the ICCG?
- Tricky for FSCs to coordinate on messaging between UN and NGOs to showcase field activities



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Focus Area 2: Enhance advocacy with national governments, international humanitarian, development organizations

Recommendations/action points

- Field-level microphone to be used as global platform
- Write to the SAG when want to communicate to gFSC on a topic to raise global level (i.e. statement on famine)
- Identify opportunities for joint assessments on working results of other NGOs (field visits, communication with beneficiaries, etc.)
- In conflict contexts, encourage inter-cluster coordination with Protection Cluster
- Better coordinate different cash interventions across sectors

Focus Area 3: Reinforce active participation in inter-cluster, inter-agency standing committee work and IA subsidiary

Achievements and progress

- Advocacy note on Lebanon – Beirut Port blast and removal of food subsidies - dangerous for Syrians and vulnerable Lebanese, agreed and disseminated among CLAs, partners.
- North West Syria technical note on keeping cross-border operations from Turkey and Iraq - agreed among CLAs with inputs from partners at field level.
- FSC Advocacy notes on floods in various countries in Sahel, asking for increased funding.

Focus Area 3: Reinforce active participation in inter-cluster, inter-agency standing committee work and IA subsidiary

Challenges

- Already existing intersectoral mechanisms, etc. (OCHA) – what’s our comparative advantage when message gets diluted?
- Political and interagency sensitivities sometimes slow down clearance/issuing messages (NW Syria).
- gFSC support on Advocacy Notes: disconnect between CLAs on message
- Must articulate better data collection from field and at national level, especially analysis and rationale to use advocacy from field at regional national level.
- Lack of dedicated time and/or human resources.

Focus Area 3: Reinforce active participation in inter-clu inter-agency standing committee work and IASC subsidi

Recommendations/action points

- Educational institutions (schools, universities, etc.) deserve special attention. Working with young minds will help to get active feedback in the future. Depending on the main goals of NGO projects, could conduct preliminary work there.
(Food Systems Summit in NY in September great opportunity for this)
- Enhance data collection, manage the challenge of collecting too much data and improve analysis (including intersectoral analysis).
- Push more for joint advocacy messages coming from national, regional and global levels.

Questions:

To all GPM participants:

How do you view the findings and recommendations from the various break-out groups?

Have you identified any common issue(s) that we need to look at more closely/discuss?

Which ones are affecting/compromising the realization of the Strategic Plan/require adjustment?