



Evaluation Terms of Reference

SUMMARY TERMS OF REFERENCE Joint Evaluation of Food Security Cluster Coordination in Humanitarian Action

Commissioned by the Offices of Evaluation at WFP & FAO

Over the past five years, WFP and FAO have been investing increasing financial and human resources in food security coordination mechanisms at country and global levels and in 2010, the global food security cluster (gFSC) was established.

FAO and WFP Governance bodies have requested an independent evaluation and there are calls for strengthening accountability mechanisms under the IASC Transformative Agenda. A key objective of the evaluation is learning -> the evaluation results and recommendations will be focused on improving the effectiveness of the clusters and will contribute to global FSC strategy development.

Subject and Focus of the Evaluation

At the country level, FSC coordination mechanisms are activated within the overall humanitarian cluster approach, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator / Resident Coordinator (HC/RC). To date over 30 food security clusters (FSC) have been activated.

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

The evaluation will focus on assessing the relevance, performance and results of food security coordination at country level over the 2009-2013 period and the contribution of the gFSC support unit to these results since it was established in 2011.

Objectives of the Evaluation

The evaluation will:

- Assess and report on the performance and results of food security cluster coordination at country level since the inception of the gFSC in 2010 (accountability), and;

- Determine the reasons why certain changes occurred – or did not occur – as a result of food security cluster-related activities¹ over the 2009-2013 period, before and after the gFSC was established and during the roll-out of the Transformative Agenda, to draw lessons that will help in further implementation (learning).

Key Evaluation Questions

The evaluation will address the following four key questions:

Question 1: To what extent have the FSC activities contributed to a timely, appropriate, and proportionate food security response in emergency affected countries?

Question 2: To what extent have the FSC activities been relevant to the coordination, planning, information sharing, and capacity building needs (and change over time) of national and international humanitarian actors in emergency affected countries/regions?

Question 3: To what extent have FSC efforts engaged national actors (public and private), building upon national structures and systems and extending their capacities to lead and participate in a coordinated response that links immediate relief to recovery/resilience building efforts?

¹ Prior to the establishment of the gFSC in 2010 there were various country-specific coordination mechanisms.

Question 4: As co-lead agencies, have FAO and WFP provided the necessary inputs at global and country levels? To what extent have the policies and standards, capacity building, and surge support functions of the gFSC, including the GST, enabled FSC activities in emergency affected countries? To what extent have the resources available been used efficiently?

Scope and Methodology

The scope of the evaluation focuses primarily on country-level FSC performance and results, with a secondary focus on the role and function of the gFSC in support of the country-level FSC deliverables. Where they exist, the role and contribution of regional food security coordination mechanisms will also be examined.

The evaluation will utilize a mixed-method approach, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative tools and a range of secondary and primary data sources. Tools and methods identified below are indicative and will be finalized during the inception phase.

The evaluation will employ relevant internationally agreed evaluation criteria including those of relevance, coherence (internal and external), efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and connectedness.

Roles and Responsibilities

Evaluation Team: Julia Steets (Team Leader), James Darcy (Senior Evaluator), Lioba Weingaertner (Senior Evaluator), Pierre Legéuné (Senior Evaluator)

Evaluation Managers:

- Lori Bell, Evaluation Officer, FAO
- Ross Smith, Evaluation Officer, WFP

Stakeholders:

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

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

Timing and Key Milestones

Inception Phase: The evaluation inception briefings will take place from 7 to 10 October 2013. The inception phase will proceed through mid-November 2013.

Fieldwork Dates: Field work and data collection will be undertaken in nine countries and globally through surveys, desk studies and interviews. Fieldwork will take place from November/December 2013 to February 2014.

Briefings: Briefing and debriefing sessions will be held during the inception and evaluation phases.

Reports: The draft evaluation report will be made available for comments in May 2013. The Summary Evaluation Report will be presented to FAO's Programme Committee and to WFP's Executive Board in November 2014.

Findings will be actively disseminated and the final evaluation report will be publicly available on WFP's website.

Full Terms of Reference are available at <http://www.wfp.org/evaluation> as are all Evaluation Reports and Management Responses.

For more information please contact the WFP Office of Evaluation at: WFP.evaluation@wfp.org

and the Evaluation Managers at:
Lori Bell (FAO): lori.bell@fao.org
Ross Smith (WFP): ross.smith@wfp.org