

Terms of Reference

Food Security Cluster

Responsibilities:

Inclusion of key humanitarian partners

- Ensure inclusion of key humanitarian partners for the sector, respecting their respective mandates and programme priorities

Establishment and maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms

- Ensure appropriate coordination with all humanitarian partners through establishment/maintenance of appropriate sectoral coordination mechanisms;
- Secure commitments from humanitarian partners in responding to needs and filling gaps, ensuring an appropriate distribution of responsibilities within the sectoral group, with clearly defined focal points for specific issues where necessary;
- Ensure the complementarity of different humanitarian actors' actions;
- Promote emergency response actions while at the same time considering the need for early recovery planning as well as prevention and risk reduction concerns;
- Ensure effective links with other sectoral groups;
- Ensure that sectoral coordination mechanisms are adapted over time to reflect the capacities of local actors and the engagement of development partners;

Participatory and community-based approaches

- Ensure utilization of participatory and community based approaches in sectoral needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response.

Attention to priority cross-cutting issues

- Ensure integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in sectoral needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response (e.g. age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights);
- Contribute to the development of appropriate strategies to address these issues, ensuring gender sensitive programming and promoting gender equality;
- Ensure that the needs, contributions and capacities of women and girls as well as men and boys are addressed;

Emergency preparedness

- Ensure adequate contingency planning and preparedness for new emergencies;

Planning and strategy development

- Ensure predictable action within the sectoral group for the following:
 - Identification of gaps;
 - Developing/updating agreed response strategies and action plans for the sector
 - Drawing lessons learned from past activities and revising strategies accordingly;
 - Developing an exit, or transition, strategy for the sectoral group.

Application of standards

- Ensure that sectoral group participants are aware of relevant policy guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments are under international human rights law;
- Ensure that responses are in line with existing policy guidance, technical standards, and relevant Government human rights legal obligations.

Monitoring and reporting

- Work closely with the FSLWG Information Management Officer to collect and compile 3Ws as per the sectoral template adjusted to local contexts;
- Prepare reports based on 3Ws information for local level gaps analysis and, in collaboration with other monitoring groups, comprehensive gaps analysis for an overall picture of the Syria response;
- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the sectoral working group and progress against implementation plans;
- Ensure adequate reporting and effective information sharing, with due regard for age and sex disaggregation.

Advocacy and resource mobilization

- Identify core advocacy concerns, including resource requirements, and contribute key messages to broader advocacy initiatives of the HC and other actors;
- Advocate for donors to fund humanitarian actors to carry out priority activities in the sector concerned, while at the same time encouraging sectoral group participants to mobilize resources for their activities through their usual channels.

Training and capacity building

- Promote/support training of staff and capacity building of humanitarian partners;
- Support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the national authorities and civil society.