Strengthen coordination of emergency food security response planning, implementation and monitoring for a more effective and scaled up response in Afghanistan

Objective
To strengthen coordination of emergency food security response planning, implementation and monitoring by enhancing the role of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC).

Activities implemented
- Facilitated 17 monthly FSAC national meetings and 75 regional meetings.
- Facilitated ten Early Warning and Information Working Group meetings.
- Represented FSAC in 31 Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) meetings.
- Conducted seven field missions to support regional coordination and response in Bamyan, Herat, Jalalabad, rural areas of Kabul, Mazar and Nangarhar provinces.
- Supported the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) through allocation design, reviewing proposals, providing guidance on submission and endorsing proposals based on cluster priorities.
- Produced and disseminated quarterly/monthly dashboards, gap analysis maps, bulletins and newsletters, highlighting FSAC’s achievements, needs and funding requirements.
- Coordinated and supported the implementation of the 2022 Pre-Lean Season Assessment (PLSA), and the 2023 Agriculture and Food Security Monitoring System (AFSMS), among other assessments.
- Facilitated three IPC analysis workshops and produced three IPC reports.
- Developed the FSAC 2022 strategic response plan and contributed to the development of the 2022 and 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) as well as the 2022/23 spring, summer and winter prioritisation plans, and 2022 earthquake response plan.
- Represented FSAC in 19 Cash and Voucher Working Group meetings and updated the guidelines on food basket, cash and voucher, and in-kind assistance packages.
- Conducted an online survey to collect information from FSAC partners on the impact of the ban on women participation in humanitarian work.
- Conducted the annual cluster performance monitoring (CCPM) exercise.
- Facilitated IPC level 1 training to 88 partners’ personnel; trained eight lead trainers on the implementation of PLSA and AFSMS; and 34 provincial coordinators and 690 enumerators on data collection, monitoring and sampling, among other topics.
Results

- Strengthened coordination among FSAC partners as well as with other humanitarian clusters, thanks to the organization of regular FSAC meetings, field missions and FSAC’s participation in ICCT meetings.
- Enabled FSAC partners to mobilize more than USD 132 million, the highest ever CERF and AHF funding for one cluster in Afghanistan, thanks to FSAC’s support to partners in developing and submitting AHF and CERF proposals.
- Enhanced reporting on FSAC partners’ response, thanks to FSAC’s investments in developing and disseminating a wide array of reporting and information products.
- Enabled humanitarian actors to access evidence-based information on food security needs and priorities, thanks to FSAC’s leadership in conducting food security assessments as well as FSAC’s contributions to the development of the HNO and the HRP, among other strategic documents.
- Enabled FSAC partners and other humanitarian actors to improve vulnerability-based targeting and update the value of their response packages, thanks to FSAC’s role in revising and updating the relevant guidelines.
- Enabled FSAC partners to coordinate the distribution of food security assistance, including livelihoods support to 10.3 million people during January 2022–June 2023.
- Strengthened the advocacy efforts aimed at supporting women’s participation in humanitarian work, thanks to FSAC’s efforts in collecting data on the impact of the ban.
- Enabled FSAC’s partners to assess FSAC’s performance and their contributions towards the realization of FSAC’s core functions, thanks to the CCPM exercise and its findings.
- Enhanced the knowledge, skills and capacities of FSAC partners in designing and implementing food security assessments and reporting on results.