

Report

THE SOMALIA FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER LOCALIZATION FRAMEWORK

Good Practices from IASC Task Force 5

February 2023

The Somalia Food Security Cluster Localization Framework

Authors

Gordon Dudi, FSC Coordinator, FSC/FAO, Gordon.dudi@fao.org

Samantha Chattaraj, FSC Coordinator FSC/WFP, samantha.chattaraj@wfp.org



Geographical coverage

Somalia, national and subnational coordination hubs



Actors and Stakeholders

The Food Security Cluster (FSC) localization framework was developed based on substantial consultations with all concerned stakeholders, particularly local actors.



Context

The Somalia FSC localization strategy is anchored within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)-endorsed localization guidance. The localization of humanitarian assistance has been a focus of discussion in the FSC for several years, but particularly since the Grand Bargain (GB) commitments of 2016. Recognizing the importance of localization, the FSC has committed to advancing the agenda across the entire cluster membership (government and relevant line ministries, national NGOs (NNGOs), international NGOs (INGOs), UN agencies, resource partners, ICRC and the local community).

The FSC localization framework has been developed based on substantial consultations with all concerned stakeholders, particularly local actors. The framework outlines the actions that continue to be championed by the cluster since 2020 to progress localization in the humanitarian response based on the evolving context. The proposed interventions are already underway with key achievements at different stages. Considering the dynamic context in Somalia, the framework requires ongoing discussions and consultations especially with local actors, which in itself is a critical component of the localization process.



Implementation and objective

1. Funding

Objective: To increase the quantity and quality of funds channelled to local actors

- The key action is for UN/Cluster Lead Agencies (CLAs)/ Resource Partners to increase the quantity and quality of funds channelled to local actors involved in food security and livelihoods programming.
- In 2022, FSC was able to increase the percentage of overall Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) allocated and channelled to local actors. Out of a total SHF total allocation of US\$13 million to FSC, \$4.2 million—translating to 32 per cent of the total funds—were channelled to local NGOs. Moreover, the CLAs/UN did not compete with NGOs for any SHF standard or reserve allocations in 2022.

This good practice was identified and documented through a template developed on the basis of the [2021 IASC Guidance on Localization](#), which aims at supporting efforts to strengthen the meaningful participation, representation, and leadership of local and national humanitarian actors (L/NAs) within IASC humanitarian coordination structures. Its objective is to share knowledge and inspire progress and positive change regarding the meaningful participation of local actors in Humanitarian Coordination platforms. The original draft of this good practice template was developed by the [KORE \(Knowledge Platform for Emergencies and Resilience\) team](#) in the Office of Emergencies and Resilience of the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) and was tailored to the needs of this IASC initiative.

- Considering the high-risk operational environment in Somalia, the FSC has been able to advocate for local NGOs/actors to promote transparency, risk management and compliance with resource partners conditions among all active local actors with prompt reporting, if any issues occur.
- The FSC has also been able to increase the quality of funding to local actors by ensuring adequate budgets to deliver the emergency response, e.g., administration, overheads etc.

2. Partnership

Objective: To create partnerships with FSC local actors based on equality, transparency, and trust

- The FSC has been able to progressively increase in the number and quality of partnerships with local actors over the past years. This has been achieved by incentivizing greater localization through inclusion of local partnerships in projects.
- As part of its localization strategy, local and national organizations deliver a substantial component of the food security response both independently and as implementing partners of UN agencies and INGOs. In 2022, local partners accounted for 82 per cent percent of the total number of active FSC partners (161 NNGOs and 2 government agencies out of 199 active FSC partners)
- In 2022, approximately 94 per cent of the Cluster Lead Agencies Implementing Partners are local actors or organizations (FAO 100 per cent and WFP 87 per cent).

3. Capacity Strengthening

Objective: To strengthen the capacity of local actors in the emergency response and preparedness actions

- As part of its localization strategy, the FSC has invested in the capacity building of local and national organizations who deliver a substantial component of the food security response, both independently and as implementing partners of UN agencies and INGOs.



Methodological approach

Capacity strengthening

- Capacity strengthening training and planning are coordinated and implemented based on agreed needs and driven/owned by local actors.
- The FSC ensures adequate participation of local organizations and actors in capacity building and strengthening initiatives. 42 per cent of all the organizations that benefited from FSC capacity strengthening and training in 2022 were drawn from local organizations and the government.

Organizations that benefited from FSC capacity strengthening activities in 2022	Total	Per centage (%)
Government	8	2%
INGO	106	28%
NNGO	150	40%
Red Cross/Red Crescent	52	14%
UN	58	16%
Grand Total	374	100%

- The content, methodology, materials and language have been adapted to the local context and needs of the participants. Follow-up actions and plans have translated into results in terms of improved practice.

The NGO co-leads and co-coordinators, at regional level, benefit from a full induction and orientation to strengthen their coordination capacity before they embark on their roles.



Results and impact

Partnership

Local actors co-chair and co-lead FSC coordination at both national and sub-national levels. At the national level, the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Somalia Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, and the Ministry of Livestock Forest and Range co-chair all FSC meetings. At the sub-national/state level, the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, and the Ministry of Livestock Forest and Range co-chair all FSC meetings.

NGOs (international and local) co-lead and co-coordinate the FSC at the regional-level across the whole country. In line with the FSC localization agenda, all the cluster regional coordinators are national staff, whether co-led by INGOs or NNGOs.



Contact details

- Gordon Dudi, FSC Coordinator, FSC/FAO, Gordon.dudi@fao.org
 - Samantha Chattaraj, FSC Coordinator FSC/WFP, samantha.chattaraj@wfp.org
-