



Working Modalities of the Global Network Against Food Crises

The Global Network Against Food Crises serves as platform for enhancing coordination and cooperation among key stakeholders – including resource partners, governments, regional institutions, development and humanitarian agencies and civil society - committed to finding and implementing lasting solutions to food crises. This platform will enable diverse actors to collaborate effectively along a system approach and promote greater coherence and better effectiveness of collective efforts across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus.

The present document describes the working modalities for implementation of the Global Network at global, regional and country level according to the 3X3 approach that is outlined in the document entitled “Concept note of the Global Network Against Food Crises”.

The working modalities are intended to establish a multi-stakeholder mechanism that can foster the adoption of an agreed upon long-term vision among key stakeholders in a multi-sectoral perspective and across the three interlinked dimensions of the Global Network. This document features the following elements of the Global Network working modalities:

1. Guiding Principles
2. Overall management and coordination
3. Proposed implementation approach:
 - First dimension - **Understanding Food Crises**
 - Second dimension - **Strategic Investment in food security and nutrition**
 - Third dimension - **Going Beyond food**
4. Membership
5. Communication

Guiding working principles

All the work of the Global Network Against Food Crises is based on the following **general principles**:

1. The Global Network relies on an **open and flexible approach** whereas Partners contribute to its objectives by acting collectively in the three dimensions (generating evidence, leveraging strategic investments, establishing links with other sectors) and levels (country, regional, and global) that are more appropriate to their complementary interests and mandates.
2. The work of the Global Network needs to take into account the **three levels** – country, regional, and global. These three levels always need to coordinate and inform each other.
3. The work of the Global Network must **avoid duplications** and build-on/reinforce initiatives, platforms, and mechanisms that are already in place.
4. The Global Network’s Partners are organizations and institutions committed to sustainable solutions to food crises, with a focus on actions within the perimeters of food security, nutrition and agriculture. Partners can contribute to one or more Network’s dimension and level according to their mandate, capacity and will.



A set of **operational principles** will also guide the Global Network's effort:

- Alignment with major global initiatives and coordination mechanisms.¹
- The engagement in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus should be context-specific, based on respective mandates, governing principles including humanitarian and modes of action and on stakeholders' comparative advantage, common, or shared, multi-stakeholder analysis, shared planning and the common pursuit of collective outcomes.

Overall management and coordination

The overall strategic guidance of the Global Network is entrusted to a **Senior Steering Group (SSG)**. This group is the decision-making body of the Global Network providing strategic and policy guidance, in charge of upholding the Global network work and overseeing progress and facilitating global collaboration and partnership among the members and beyond, fully in-line with each institutions' mandate. The main functions are to define the strategic direction and the programme of work of the Global Network in line with the vision and working modalities agreed upon by the Members. The SSG supervises the work of the Global Network Technical Support Unit and has an oversight over the use of the facility resources including mobilizing the necessary funds to sustain it. The SSG members ensure upward and downward communication within and outside their respective organizations to raise awareness about the Global Network vision and work.

The SSG is composed of Agencies' Staff at Director Level, or delegates designed by institutions' Directors. Its composition depends on readiness of each member to contribute and on their mandate. The SSG has the flexibility and authority to extend the group and invite new members based on their willingness to contribute and their mandate to work on food security and nutrition in food crisis scenarios. The SSG will meet regularly on a quarterly basis with additional *ad hoc meetings convened upon request* by any member.

The **Global Network Technical Support Unit** is the operational body of the Senior Steering Group (SSG) designed to attend and support countries and regions owned initiatives, facilitating and strengthening the coordination of actors along the humanitarian, development, peace nexus. It operates under the overall supervision and guidance of the Senior Steering Group enabling it to receive and pass messages on recommendations and strategic priorities to all relevant stakeholders (global, regional, country level).

- The Unit promotes, catalyzes and coordinates the activities of the Global Network within the 3*3 approach according to SSG directions.
- The Unit supports the operationalization of the Global Network at country, regional and global levels.
- The Unit recognizes, aligns to, and strengthens country and regions existing and led initiatives, platforms and mechanisms supporting the implementation of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.
- The Unit promotes partnerships and alliances to increase the Global Network impact at global level, regional and country levels.

¹ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; the United Nations resolutions on Sustaining Peace [General Assembly Resolution 70/262; UN Security Council Resolution 2282 (2016) and 2417 (2018)]; the Agenda for Humanity; OECD DAC recommendations on the HDPN; United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

The Global Network's members make available dedicated staff to the Unit, working on a full-time basis to deliver on agreed tasks. Moreover, the Unit includes a member of the Global Food Security. Other Global Network contributing partners are encouraged to deploy staff in support of the Unit or its field activities. The Unit is hosted in FAO Headquarters in Rome.

The financial resources to achieve its mandate will include voluntary contributions, human resources as well as additional financial commitments made available by the participating organizations as part of the broader plan of work. The Unit is in charge of animating the Global Network at all levels including through the organization of High Level Events as well as regular and ad hoc partners' meetings, maintaining a flow of the communication between the Global Network partners' stakeholders.

More specifically, the Technical Support Unit convene the **Global Network's Meetings** twice per year, ensuring the full awareness and participation of all partners. The objective of the meeting is twofold: on the one hand, the chair of the Senior Steering Group with the support of the Technical Support Unit presents the progress and main outcomes of the Global Network; on the other hand, partners have the opportunity to present and articulate their specific priorities. This process allows a consensus-based process in identifying shared ways forward.

Once a year, most probably in the margin of the UN General Assembly and/or at the time of the launch of the Global Report on Food Crises and / or other relevant analytical global public goods, **Principals of Global Network members** deliberate on the main progress achieved in the context of the Global Network. In these occasions, they formulate high-level recommendations and provide strategic guidance for the functioning of the Global Network.

When needed it is proposed to activate on an ad-hoc basis independent **external experts** to support the work and deliverables of the Global Network. The role of the experts is to provide guidance and advice on relevant topics and according to requirements. They ensure knowledge generation and exchange and when needed provide a peer review function and technical advice for the overall quality of specific products produced by the Global Network across the three Dimensions also to avoid possible bias due to different partners' priorities and agendas.

Proposed implementation approach

First dimension: Understanding food crises - generating evidence-based information and analysis

At global level, the secretariat and facilitation functions continue to be entrusted to the **Food Security Information Network (FSIN)**². The FSIN facilitates the consensus-building process around food security and nutrition analyses, as well as ensuring a constant flow of information and exchange between stakeholders at country, regional, and global level around food security and nutrition analysis.

At country and regional level, Global Network's Partners (e.g. through an FSIN focal point) aim to mirror the functions of the FSIN secretariat through existing food security and nutrition information coordination groups/mechanisms (e.g. IPC/CH Technical Working Groups; National Early Warning Platforms; Regional Food Security, Nutrition, and Resilience Units). Joint mapping analyses can be

² The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) is a global initiative co-sponsored by FAO, WFP and IFPRI to strengthen food and nutrition security information systems for producing reliable and accurate data to guide analysis and decision-making. At the moment, there are plans to extend the FSIN Steering Committee beyond its founding members to include UNICEF, IPC SC representation, FEWSNET, and EU.

conducted at country and regional level to identify the existing platform/mechanism which will benefit from the support of the Global Network Partners in leading and ensuring coordination functions around areas of work under Dimension one through a consensus-based process.

Second dimension: Strategic Investment in food and nutrition security – Leveraging strategic investments to prevent and respond to food crises.

The work under this dimension promotes and facilitates coordination among partners at all levels, with a focus on strengthening linkages between humanitarian and development actors. Building wherever possible on existing country and regional processes and initiatives, the Global Network, through the SSG and Technical Support Unit, mobilizes the necessary technical expertise to provide strategic guidance to support specific programming needs as well as to strengthen coordination mechanisms or establish relevant ones with a focus on HD actors' coordination.

In addition, the Technical Support Unit provides technical support to countries and regions in the design and implementation of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning frameworks for resilience and HDP-related programming. In particular, this process aims at documenting best practices and learning material on programming options in food crises contexts with respect to the achievement of food security and nutrition collective outcomes. This body of evidence on “Typology of Interventions” by driver of crisis will be instrumental in the promotion of evidence-based programming and advocacy on food security and nutrition issues to inform decision-making processes.

Third dimension: Going Beyond food – Fostering political uptake and functional coordination across clusters/sectors to address other dimensions driving the food security crisis scenarios.

The objective under this dimension is to strengthen linkages with high-level decision-making bodies ensuring instances and recommendations from the Global Network are brought to the attention of the high-level fora of discussion tackling issues beyond the food security and nutrition dimension (e.g. UNSC). For instance, an advocacy role is foreseen for the observance of and compliance with international law and international humanitarian law as laid out in UN Security Council Resolution 2417 by all relevant actors to reduce the impact of conflicts on food security. In addition, the Technical Support Unit ensures research work to feed dimension 3 to better structure, prioritize actions and promote evidence-based advocacy and policy uptake. The Senior Steering Group defines and identifies priorities of research with the Technical Support Unit. Based on knowledge priorities jointly identified with countries and regions, the Senior Steering Group commissions thematic studies (e.g. relation between food security and climate crises, peace and security, social protection and food security) to external experts to guide and inform the work of Global Network members.

Moreover, the Senior Steering Group as well as the constant work of the Technical Support Unit ensures linkages and engagement with other sectors and thematic areas both at country, regional and global levels to enhance effective collaboration to contribute to food and nutrition security along an HDP approach. This process aims at involving diverse actors to address multidimensional drivers of fragility and vulnerability through their work on peace and insecurity, human rights, social protection, gender equality, equitable access to land, education, energy, environment (soil, forestry, biodiversity, etc.), climate change, water and sanitation.

Membership

The Network intends to remain a very agile structure built on the engagement, commitment and competence of partners, retaining its consultative nature yet with an ambitious vision. As such, it is not expected at this stage to become a formal entity, but rather a platform whose members are committed to come together to share information and knowledge, discuss strategic issues of common interest, promote joint efforts, when relevant, and which include advocacy and programming.

Therefore, the Network envisages an open membership, based on the readiness of institutions to contribute and their mandate on food security and nutrition in food crises scenarios, with an initial focus on global stakeholders with possible functional linkages with country level coordination mechanisms. Example of key stakeholders range from UN Agencies, all donors involved, INGOs, civil society organizations/coordination platforms, and relevant research institutions. As no fixed membership is envisaged, partner agencies are free to contribute to or benefit from the Global Network work and coordinated efforts.

Knowledge management and Communication

A key role of the Network is to generate and share knowledge as well as advocate for and communicate on the Network's work and dimensions' deliverables. An agreed communication and advocacy plan for the Global Network will be developed and implemented to scale-up at all levels the visibility and uptake of the Network's work, including the action-oriented learning on responses to food crises, to achieve its mission worldwide. This is also an opportunity to fast-expanding multi-stakeholder platforms and further engaging with civil society organizations, investors, and academics.

A network of communication and knowledge sharing experts belonging to Network's core partners will be established to coordinate communication and Knowledge Management activities developed and implemented under the Global Network's framework.