

GLOBAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL CLUSTER DISTINCTIONS¹

The cluster approach makes a distinction between the levels of global coordination and country level coordination. The distinctions primarily focus on strategy/standards (global) to the practicalities of preparedness and response (country). However, this is to be viewed as a *continuum approach*.

	Global level	Country level
Objective	Strengthen system-wide sector preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies by ensuring that there is predictable leadership and accountability in all the main sectors or areas of humanitarian response	Strengthen humanitarian response by demanding high standards of predictability, accountability and partnership in all sectors or areas of activity in a country.
ToR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical surge capacity (e.g. camp management and coordination staff, early recovery advisors, Logistics Response Teams, Health Emergency and Assessment Response Teams) ▪ Trained experts to lead cluster coordination at the field level ▪ Increased stockpiles, some pre-positioned within regions (e.g. emergency shelter materials) ▪ Standardized technical tools, including for information management ▪ Agreement on common methods and formats for needs assessments, monitoring, and benchmarking ▪ Best practices and lessons learned from field-tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure appropriate coordination with all humanitarian partners through establishment and maintenance of appropriate sectoral coordination mechanisms, including working groups at the national and, if necessary, local level ▪ 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 ▪ Represent the interests of the sectoral group in discussions with the Humanitarian Coordinator and other stakeholders on prioritization, resource mobilization and

¹ Content from this section indexed from several sources: Global Cluster Leads responsibilities: <http://ocha.unog.ch/humanitarianreform/Default.aspx?tabid=217>; Guidance Note on Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response, 24 November 2006

		advocacy
Suggested mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global capacity mapping, identification of gaps ▪ Identify scope and nature of cluster response, entry/exit criteria, and performance benchmarks to measure success ▪ Endorse and provide commonly agreed upon technical guidance for assessments, surveys, and programme implementation ▪ Develop global capacity (e.g. technical capacity and coordination capacity) and maintain rosters for surge capacity ▪ Advocate to ensure an adequate response in declared emergencies ▪ Identify and mobilize resources (financial and human) required for a predictable, efficient, and effective response in emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusive coordination with national and local authorities, NGOs, etc. ▪ Participatory and community based approaches ▪ Attention to cross cutting issues ▪ Needs assessment and analysis ▪ Emergency preparedness ▪ Planning and strategy development ▪ Application of standards ▪ Monitoring and reporting ▪ Advocacy and resource mobilization ▪ Training and capacity building ▪ Provision of assistance or services as last resort
Field accountabilities	Accountable for ensuring, in consultation with the ERC, that adequate field-based cluster arrangements are in place	<p>Depends on the clusters and the situation in the context where the clusters will be applied.</p> <p>Leads – in addition to normal agency responsibilities – are accountable to HCs for ensuring effective assessments and responses in their respective clusters, and for acting as providers of last resort</p>
Government relations		Ensure that humanitarian actors build on local capacities and maintain appropriate links with Government and local authorities, State institutions, civil society and other stakeholders.
Flexibility & accountability	In principle, the cluster leadership approach is to be tailored to specific country circumstances. The key principle is ensuring that country-level clusters address all identified key gaps in humanitarian response and that critical gaps are not neglected.	