

What Is The Cluster Approach?

- Each Cluster is comprised of those agencies whose mandates are complementary to the mission statement of the Cluster. Additionally, there are partners of each cluster, such as Iraqi governmental counterparts, donors and international and national non-governmental organizations.
- The Cluster approach ensures an integrated thematic response, drawing upon the comparative advantages of each UN agency, fund and programme and leveraging resources through inter-agency partnerships.
- Using the Joint UN-Iraq Assistance Strategy and its programming matrices, the UNCT Clusters address key priorities, developing projects in partnership with the relevant Iraqi authorities. The final approval is through the Iraqi Strategic Review Board (ISRB) to ensure direct relevance to national priorities.
- The Cluster Approach ensures coordination among UN agencies, joint programming, information sharing, knowledge sharing on technical and policy issues, joint formulation of sectoral/thematic strategies, promote implementation synergies by combining support and common services.
- The Cluster also represent the ideal UN interface in any given thematic area for Iraqi government counterparts, especially in the definition of broader policy strategies and project prioritization in response to Iraqi needs.
- The Cluster is a forum where programs can be articulated and coordinated regardless of the sources of funding.

Why Were the Clusters Restructured?

The experience of working through the Cluster model over the last year and a half, and the constant dialogue with different Iraqi counterparts and the donor community have provided a learning platform for UN agencies of the Country Team, which is a the basis of the internal review exercise that has taken place over the last 4 months. The result of such a critical process was a reduction in the number of cluster, a review of the number and scope of program outcomes to ensure they remain relevant in view of the current security situation in Iraq and more in tune with overall Iraqi priorities articulated in the National Development Strategy.

	Cluster	Cluster Members and their Partners
A	Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management	FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, UNESCO, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO and UNDP work closely with the Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources, Environment, Trade, Planning and Development Cooperation, Health, and Education, as well as with the NMAA, municipalities, research centres, universities, extension service providers, NGOs, women's associations, scientific geographical and conservation societies, and the private sector.
B	Education and Culture	UNESCO, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP, UNHCR, ESCWA, UN-HABITAT, UNEP, UNOPS and WHO work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and its Directorates, as well as the Ministries of Higher Education, Culture, Labour and Social Affairs, Sports and Youth, as well as the Child Welfare Commission, NGOs, community groups, international education institutions, donor agencies and the private sector.
C	Governance and Human Development	UNDP, UNIFEM, OHCHR, HRO / UNAMI, UNICEF, UNEP, ESCWA, UN-HABITAT, ILO, UNESCO, UNOPS, UNHCR, UNIDO, IOM and OHCHR work closely with the Ministries of Planning and Development Cooperation, Human Rights, Justice, Labour and Social Affairs, Environment, Finance, Interior, Women's Affairs, Provincial Affairs, Municipalities and Public Works, Housing, Trade, Communications, and Culture, as well as the National Assembly, the NMAA, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, the Supreme Audit Board, the Commission of Integrity, the Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT), Governorates, local municipalities, religious authorities, NGOs, media, academic and research institutions.
D	Health and Nutrition	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UNIDO, IOM, UNEP, UNOPS, UNIFEM, UNESCO, UNDP and UNAIDS, work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health as the driving force, as well as with other key ministries such as Higher Education, Education, Environment, and Planning and Development Cooperation. Non-governmental partners include national and international NGOs, other UN Clusters, parent organizations and donors.
E	Infrastructure Rehabilitation	UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNOPS, WHO, UN-HABITAT, ESCWA and, UNIDO work closely the Ministries of Municipalities and Public Works, Planning and Development Cooperation, Electricity, Transportation, Housing and Construction, Justice, Environment, and Industry, as well as the Mayoralty of Baghdad, Municipalities, communities, NGOs, and the private sector.

F	Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions	UNHCR, IOM, UNAMI, UNOPS, UN-HABITAT, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNEP, OHCHR, FAO, ILO and UNIDO work closely with the Ministries of Displacement and Migration, Justice, Human Rights, as well as other line ministries, the World Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross, NGOs, Community Based Organisations, the Iraq Property Claims Commission, the Iraqi National Human Rights Institution and local authorities.
G	Support to the Electoral Process	UN Department of Political Affairs' Electoral Assistance Division, UNAMI, UNOPS, UNDP, and UNESCO work closely with the IECI, IFES, the National Democratic Institute, the EU and other donors.

Cluster Mission Statements

- A. AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** to address the long-term challenge of achieving sustainable food security; to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development; to ensure effective management of water resources and agricultural production; to reduce casualty rates and risks from Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination; and to clear land and infrastructure assets for productive use.
- B. EDUCATION AND CULTURE:** to strengthen the overall quality of education and service delivery at all levels, to support policy development, and to preserve and conserve tangible and intangible Iraqi cultural heritage.
- C. GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:** to strengthen public institutions and other entities to become efficient, transparent and accountable, based on the principles of sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and good governance, thereby creating an environment for Iraqi people and institutions to interact in a vibrant, participatory and transparent manner.
- D. HEALTH AND NUTRITION:** to support the Ministry of Health National Health Strategy in meeting basic health needs as well as support interventions aimed at addressing nutritional issues.
- E. INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION:** to ensure key infrastructure is rehabilitated and utilised efficiently, and to make real progress towards developing Iraq's national capacities in infrastructure planning, prioritisation and management.
- F. REFUGEES, IDPs AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS:** to support the Iraqi authorities in providing adequate assistance and effective protection to uprooted populations in Iraq, and to assist them in preventing new displacement as well as to achieve durable solutions, in line with the National Development Strategy.
- G. SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS:** to provide technical support and capacity building to the IECI, to support the IECI with the preparation of the October referendum followed by General Elections, and to assist the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) with discussions related to the electoral design and the electoral articles of the Constitution.

How Do The Old Clusters Fit In The New Clusters?

	NEW CLUSTER TITLE	OLD CLUSTERS BY NUMBER
A	AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	CLUSTER 5, CLUSTER 6, CLUSTER 7
B	EDUCATION AND CULTURE	CLUSTER 1
C	GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	CLUSTER 9, CLUSTER 10
D	HEALTH AND NUTRITION	CLUSTER 2
E	INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION	CLUSTER 3, CLUSTER 4
F	REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS	CLUSTER 8
G	SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS	CLUSTER 11