

**Nutrition Cluster – Food Aid Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2008**  
**Discussion on Food Aid and Nutrition Clusters' response complementarities**

The meeting was convened as a follow up to the Nutrition Cluster and the Food Aid Cluster meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2008 respectively, where the proposed Guidance for Approaches for Management of Acute Malnutrition (an initiative of the Nutrition Cluster) was presented. The need for consensus on few issues regarding the complementarities of nutrition and food activities had been identified. Below are some of the discussion point and action points that emerged.

The comments received from the Nutrition Cluster stakeholders will be incorporated to finalize the current draft of the Guidance for Approaches for Management of Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Addition bilateral discussions will be pursued with some nutritionist in the forthcoming Global Nutrition Cluster Meeting, to be held between 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008. It was noted that some agencies expressed reservation on this guidance being referred as the only guidelines which agencies are expected to comply with in the programme implementation. Clarification on flexibility in the use of this Guidance is needed during project development, soliciting for financial support and at project implementation.

Programme overlap or potential duplication in the implementation of family ration distribution to families with malnourished children as an additional to blanket General Food Distribution (GFD) will be catered for. Family ration complementing SFP interventions will be maintained while the OTP beneficiaries will be considered for family ration provision. Notable were situations where OTPs exist but no SFP, as is the case in parts of Mogadishu. Below is a summary of the complementary food aid interventions in selective feeding programmes and the proposed family ration to the OTP beneficiaries. These expected complementarities of food interventions to nutrition activities will be reflected in the Guidance for Approaches to MAM.

Selective feeding programme	Additional food aid ration
Stabilization centre	Caretaker ration + CSB for 2 members of the family
Outpatient therapeutic feeding	??? – <i>family ration was proposed</i> <sup>1</sup>
Therapeutic feeding programme	Caretaker ration for 2 members of the family
Supplementary feeding programme	Family ration

The rations' adequacy in quality and quantity were underscored. WFP reported to have a more improved food basket than the one proposed by the Food Aid Cluster and endorsed by the Nutrition Cluster in June (*below – table extracted from the June 2008 Nutrition Cluster meeting minutes*).

<b>FOOD AID RATION SIZE FOR DIFFERENT PROGRAMME CATEGORY</b>										
<b>Daily ration</b>										
<b>Ration size</b>		<b>grams per person per day</b>								
<b>Programme category</b>	<b>Type of ration</b>	<b>Cereals</b>	<b>Pulses</b>	<b>Vegetable oil</b>	<b>CSB</b>	<b>Salt</b>	<b>Sugar</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Kcals</b>	<b>% Kcal</b>
FFE	Individual	170	35	22	60	3.3	20	310.3	1228	58%
FFW/FFT	Family	600	72	24	0	5	0	701	2556	122%
Relief	Family	417	56	20	56	5	0	554	2050	98%
SS	Family	400	50	30	100	3.3	0	583.3	2235	106%
Dietary diversification	Family	0	90	30	140	0	0	260	1130	54%
<b>Feeding days per month</b>		<b>30</b>								
<b>Monthly ration</b>										
<b>Ration size</b>		<b>Monthly ration in Kg</b>								
<b>Programme category</b>	<b>Type of ration</b>	<b>Cereals</b>	<b>Pulses</b>	<b>Vegetable oil</b>	<b>CSB</b>	<b>Salt</b>	<b>Sugar</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Kcals</b>	<b>% Kcal</b>
FFE	Individual	3.7	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.1	0.4	7	1228	58%
FFW/FFT	Family	90	10.8	3.6	0	0.9	0	105	2556	122%

<sup>1</sup> The family ration was proposed to complement/enhance the rehabilitation of the severely malnourished at the OTP. The ration can be delivered alongside SFP family ration in the area where SFP is underway, while separate logistics can be organized for the areas without SFP.

Relief	Family	75	10	3.6	10	0.9	0	100	2050	98%
SS	Family	12	1.5	0.9	3	0.1	0	17	2235	106%
Dietary diversification	Family	0	16	5	25	0	0	47	1130	54%
<b>Feeding days per month</b>		<b>30</b>								

The SFP beneficiaries were noted to receive a regular ration (blended food and family ration) in their last month of programme as take away, a ration that can also be assumed as discharge ration.

WFP notified the stakeholders of the planned SFP activities through the existing MCH where children (<2 years mainly) and possibly pregnant mothers holding antenatal clinic (ANC) cards will be targeted. This strategy will however be introduced in phases, lest the food distribution activity overshadows the essential health services at the MCH.

With regards to the reference of the FSAU's IPC and Nutrition vulnerability maps in the programme prioritization, the perceived difference in the use of the two maps by Food Aid and Nutrition was discussed. Food Aid Cluster provided update that both maps have been considered in the geographical and population groups' prioritization in the response. The priority areas will be shared with the nutrition and food aid stakeholders.

#### **Action point**

- WFP/Nutrition Cluster to liaise with CARE on addressing the complementary food aid interventions to nutrition activities in the prioritized areas of concern, particularly in the CARE operational areas
- Nutrition cluster to review the OTPs currently not receiving family ration and liaise with the respective agencies for the necessary complementary family ration (support from the Food aid agencies expected).
- WFP to share the list of the prioritized geographical areas with the nutrition and food aid stakeholders
- WFP to share the revised ration sizes for the various food aid programmes.
- Endorsement process for the Guidance for Approaches for MAM will pursued with the Nutrition Cluster. A note detailing the guidance development and the consultation process will be drafted to accompany the endorsed document.