

## IASC Nutrition Cluster/ Nutrition Working Group

**Minutes of meeting held at 0900hrs, Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2008**

### UNICEF Somalia, Annex Conference Room

#### **Participants**

Ahmed Aden Ulgas	ASEP	Abdi Tari	CISP
Getrude M. Akinyi	DRC	Khalil Dale	DRC
Irene Bosire	Mercy USA	Jitske Brouwer	Medair
Rosellyn Mullo	ECHO/RSO	Erin McCloskey	ConcernWorldwide
Fatuma Abdirahaman	ACF	Agane Abdullahi	AMA
Abdullahi Diriye	DIAL	Ahono Busili	FSAU/FAO
Grainne Moloney	FSAU/FAO	Ahmed N Hussein	FSAU/FAO
Angela Kangori	WFP	Suvash Acharya	WFP
Haile Gebru	WFP	Mohamud Hersi	WFP
Fitsum Assefa	UNICEF	James Kingori	UNICEF

The minutes were endorsed with a correction of one name, Heile Grbrie to Haile Gebru. A review of action points arising from the October meeting was conducted (see back page).

<b>Review of Action Point from November 2008 Meeting</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Status</b>
A technical meeting to be held to analyze and sensitize on the implications of the WHO 2006 standards on agencies' programmes (e.g. caseload and malnutrition among the <6 months)	UNICEF/ Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting
- Review UNOCHA interventions matrix and identify LNGOs with capacity and currently involved in service delivery services in the absence of INGOs (or in partnership with INGOs/ UN).	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting
- FSAU to circulate a presentation on nutrition assessments procedure - FSAU to share the draft guidelines	FSAU	TBC
- Prepare a list of publications, previous training materials and guidelines to serve as standard reference documents/minimum training package for training LNGOs - CMAM core group to pursue the protocol development prior to the trainings	UNICEF/ Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting
IEC material to be burnt on CD since the hard copies may be inadequate	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting
DRC to circulate an external evaluation report on their wet feeding program	DRC	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting
CARE to give an update on the food aid distribution plans in their operational areas (Central Regions and northern Gedo)	CARE/Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting
UNHCR to be invited to provide population movement update for analysis on its implication on programmes	UNHCR/Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting
. UNICEF to update on status of the PCA with DIAL, which was submitted in early 2008.	UNICEF	Mid November 2008
<b>Action Point from November 2008 Meeting</b>		
IMC to review their operations feasibility in Bay and Bakool and share their review with WFP among others. Details of the screening activities to be shared	IMC	By Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2008
SHSC to be informed of the lack of TB treatment in Mogadishu and the challenges encountered by the implementing agencies when facilitating travels of patients within Mogadishu and environs.	Dr. Kamran	Dec'08 N-Cluster Meeting. It was noted that the TB drugs have also been exhausted in the South Mogadishu facilities

## **FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: FSAU**

The overall situation in terms of numbers of people affected in each phase remains as presented during the Post Gu analysis. However there are good rains in Bay, Bakool, Gedo and Lower Shabelle that has led to early planting. In Lower shabelle, there is improved crop production and job opportunities following off season crop harvesting of maize (estimated at 18,000 MT), sesame and cowpea. Terms of trade have improved from 3kg daily labour wage to 8kg due to decreased maize prices vis-à-vis increased labour wage and WFP food distribution. Rice prices are higher than the maize especially in Jowhar. In Adale, there is below normal cowpea production due to below normal rains. Displacements of villages are on-going due to localized river flooding, which have also contributed to the filling of dheshek. For Gedo, normal/below normal rains are expected.

In Bay, land preparation, planting and weeding are on-going. Livestock from Bay Bakool which had migrated to Lower Shabelle during the Gu, are returning due to the good rains. There is slight increase in milk availability in Bay Region, with the return of livestock. In Lower Juba, dhesheks are filling. Pastoralists in Juba have received the least rains. Lower Juba hosted large livestock in the Post Gu season from Gedo which are still there; but prefer to move on to the riverine areas rather than return to Gedo. Jamame received good sesame crop. Local cereal prices are still high as a result of inflation, insecurity and high prices of imported commodities, though there is a decline from the prices in October 2008. The Northwest received good karan rains. Galgadud has more destitute families who lost their livestock. Hiran has received localized rains. Ethiopia received good rains in the highlands, implying possibility of flooding of the Juba river and Kuturnwarey area in Lower Shabelle.

The *Food Security and Nutrition Brief* will be posted on the [www.fsasomali.org](http://www.fsasomali.org) in the mid November.

## **NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE**

The quarterly urban assessment is on-going. The nutrition component of the urban assessment has been amended to review household dietary intake and coping strategies, and MUAC excluded due to small sample sizes and inconsistencies. Nutrition assessments in Golis/Guban and Sool plateau in Somaliland are done. Findings to be presented in the November Nutrition update, which will also provide a special focus on Northwest and prices of the minimum food basket.

The Hawd and Addun assessments have been rescheduled due to delayed security clearance of the FSAU Nairobi nutrition team, but should commence the coming week. Shabelle assessments (IDPs, riverine, Agro-pastoral livelihoods) are on-going. Gedo and Juba assessments scheduled for November and December respectively. Hiran and bay Bakool assessments postponed due to insecurity.

A recent rapid assessment (October 2008) in Afgoi Corridor by the FSAU and UNICEF incorporated a review of admissions trends of acutely malnourished children (from ACF DRC, MSF Spain selective feeding programs data). MSF confirmed that whereas the admissions trends indicate an increase, as were quoted in the New York times piece, this has been linked to active case finding of malnourished children by the implementing agencies rather than deterioration of the nutrition situation. The on-going nutrition assessments in the Shabelle will provide further insights on the situation in Shabelle Valley.

Oxfam Novib in partnership with SAACID agency is planning to fill in some of the intervention gaps in the nutrition programs in parts of Mogadishu. ACF is currently undertaking selective feeding in 3 locations (Mogadishu, Wajid and Dusamareb), however some of the program site in South Mogadishu together with beneficiaries have been relocated to north Mogadishu due to insecurity.

A data set on monitoring key indicators from selective feeding programme from the field is being upgraded and updated by the Cluster coordinator and UNICEF, however with constraints, as partners are faced with difficulty

in having reports forwarded to Nairobi. This data is useful for monitoring of the nutrition situation; however the challenge is that the reports are presented in different formats so harmonization is difficult. UNICEF informed members that a TOR for the data base consultant is being finalized to facilitate the data base development.

## **HEALTH**

AWD outbreaks have been reported in localized areas in the north (Burao, Berbera, Bossasso), Hiran, Merka, Shabelle riverine, Juba and Haradhere. UN-WHO is working in partnership with implementing partners to prevent spread and to manage affected cases through cholera treatment centers (CTC) establishment. Hygiene promotion and water quality control in Shabelle riverine areas is on-going while PSI is selling puri-tabs in the northwest for water treatment.

## **RESPONSE**

Somalia Guidance for Approaches for Management of Acute Malnutrition: The 7<sup>th</sup> revision of the guidance for approaches for MAM was shared and a beefing made on the several steps undertaken in its review and comment incorporated. Clarification was highlighted on what this document is and what it is not – It is guidance for approaches for management of acute malnutrition and not a guideline for reference in the actual programme implementation. It was noted that various programme guidelines and field guides exist or are under development to elaborate the detailed procedures on the programmes design and implementation and use of the various products. This guidance has been shared with agencies including the Food Aid cluster (WFP/CARE mainly consulted) to enhance areas of convergence of interventions. The available products, context of emergency nutrition response and approaches to manage acute malnutrition e.g. blanket feeding are highlighted. Some of the latest discussions from the Geneva nutrition meeting (Sept 2008) had been incorporated to accommodate the latest/ongoing technical discussion. There is buy-in from INGOs but it is acknowledged that it is not the only document. Having had wide range of consultation on the document, the 7<sup>th</sup> draft of the Guidance for Management of Acute Malnutrition was endorsed by the Somalia Nutrition Cluster and members of the Food Aid Cluster, as a reference/operational document to guide the various programme approaches and nutrition products that can be used in the management of acute malnutrition. Various proposals for programme synergy have also been made to prevent acute malnutrition. Concern was raised by DIAL over the appropriateness of the products vis-à-vis the preferred products by the community. Clarification was made that BP5 should not be used in the severe malnutrition management

Field level status on plumpy doz: Distribution in Bossasso is scheduled to commence on November 20<sup>th</sup> and will target 9000 IDPs children aged 6-36 months for a period of 8 months. The daily dose is three spoons. Training and micro-planning is currently underway, spearhead by a dedicated staff for the plumpy doz project. UNICEF/FSAU will discuss the possibility of conducting a nutrition assessment in Bossasso IDP camp for baseline that will guide monitoring. In addition it will have been 12 months since the last surveys which reported rates >20%, therefore a repeat is needed to inform on the situation. In Shabelle, security is a problem, but distribution of plumpy doze is scheduled to start on child health days and will be distributed through partners. Religious leaders will be involved to disseminate koranic teaching on breastfeeding (i.e. persistence for two years). Operational research will also be incorporated in the course of the distribution. MSF Swiss is using plumpy doz in Afgoi and has received a consignment of 20000MT scheduled to expire in March-April 2009. Discussions between UNICEF and MSF Swiss are on-going on how to distribute.

WFP: In mid Oct, 90 MT of RUSF was received and stored in Wajid. 25 distribution sites have been identified together with two INGOs and 2 LNGOs who will distribute. Sensitization and training of partners is planned and the distribution scheduled for December 2008. WFP headquarter staff will be coming to assist with operational research this weekend, together with a consultant from Ethiopia. Commitments obtained from FSAU. WFP to update cluster on progress.

**DIAL:** Noted that about two thirds of staff killed in Somalia in the past one year were from local NGOs. The need to plan on a scenario where LINGOs scale down due to insecurity is crucial. UNICEF to update on PCA with DIAL submitted in early 2008.

**CISP:** Eldhere, Haradhere and Gala district hospital services are on-going. MCH data indicates increased levels of acute malnutrition. FSAU planned assessment to review the situation.

**DRC:** in partnership with Oxfam, is reviewing if community based therapeutic programming is possible in Mogadishu. DRC has recently undertaken food distribution in Bossaso in partnership with WFP and UNICEF.

**AMA:** AMA is undertaking wet feeding activities in Shabele. The AMA operations in Gedo to be confirmed.

**ACF:** Wajid program on-going with expatriates in the field. 10 OTP sites in Wajid ongoing. The numbers of admissions have increased due to OTP sites and WHO 2006 standards. ACF expatriate staffs are scheduled to be in Dusamareb for two weeks. SFP has 4000 and OTP has 600 in Dusamareb. In Mogadishu, the TFP has been relocated to another building due to insecurity, together with 60 patients. There has been a general decline of beneficiaries in the Mogadishu facilities. ACF to open a third OTP in Mogadishu

**MERCY USA:** Operations on-going with extreme caution. OTP training to be done in November for the Hiran OTP to commence. Supplies coming in.

**MEDAIR:** Has started operations in Adale, last week. A PCA has been signed with UNICEF and supplies on the ground. 10 kids in the OTP and 111 in SFP. Plans are underway to commence an OTP/SFP in Burao town.

**NC** to clarify what is going on in Hiran and Galgadud. ICRC has distributed food aid till July 2008. NC to liaise with CARE for official stand regarding food aid.

#### **AOB**

**Nutrition assessment guidelines:** The review of the Somalia Nutrition Assessment Guidelines is based on SMART guidelines which are also undergoing a review. The Somalia guideline review incorporates the changes, here just a few:

- Use of ENA software to calculate number of clusters and households to be surveyed
- use of electronic scales
- focus on age rather than height
- use of 87 cm rather than 85 cm as cut off for height
- quality checks and ENA to show publishable surveys
- Clarification on replacement clusters.

**Micronutrients study:** delayed but is now scheduled to take place in early 2009 with the University of London taking the technical lead. Consultants will come in next week (Wednesday) while field work will commence in January. Vitamin A, Iron, Iodine, Anthropometry, Stunting to be among the indicators to be assessed. Children 0-59 months will be assessed.

FSAU to circulate the November 2008 Nutrition update in two weeks.

<b>Review of Action Points from the October 2008 Meeting</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Status</b>
To improve the personal details recording of children, where date of birth and immunization status can be recorded, possibility of providing Growth Monitoring cards to children during the assessment exercise was proposed. Follow up to be done. Status: On-going; difficulty faced to access warehouses in Somalia due to insecurity	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	By Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2008
Re-circulate the Nutrition Assessment/ Survey questionnaire to members for their review.	FSAU/ Nutrition Cluster Coord.	Done
Roll out of the WHO 2006 standards: Agencies notified of the transition from NCHS to WHO 2006 standards: The WHO 2006 standard tables to be availed (laminated copies). <b>On-going. Clarification on diverse caseloads as a result of using MUAC cut-offs, NCHS and WHO 2006 need be provided. Roselyn Mullo-EC indicated that the issue was not addressed in the just completed Geneva meeting</b>	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator/ UNICEF/FSAU	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFP to share the details of the geographical areas/ programme areas where they are missing beneficiaries yet the populations have been reported to experience nutrition crisis (intervention surpassing the target group)</li> <li>• WFP to share with the nutrition cluster the food basket composition which they are distributing currently</li> </ul>	WFP	Further information to be sought – through UNHCR contacts
Provide information on the population movement that is associated with beneficiary targeting difficulties reported by WFP:	FSAU	Not done. Request made for UNHCR to provide population movement details Not appropriate for FSAU as monitoring is small scale – should be UNHCR
Capacity building of LNGOs effort: To identify the LNGOs currently engaged by various agencies and possibly have undergone some capacity strengthening (technical and programme management/ fundraising), mapping of the LNGOs was proposed: <b>On-going, UNOCHA reviewing interventions matrix.</b>	OCHA/ Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	November 2008 Nutrition Cluster Meeting
<b>From previous meeting (Sept 2008)</b>		
A distribution plan of 500 IEC materials to be prepared by UNICEF (copied to FSAU). A reminder to nutrition stakeholders to be sent out seeking requesting for details on the use of the IEC materials in programmes	UNICEF/ Cluster Coordinator	By Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2008
Agencies to submit a paragraph on the IEC material dissemination strategy to UNICEF alongside the official requisition. <b>On-going: submissions made by Medair, IMC, ACF</b>	Partners	
Revised draft of the survey guidelines to be shared with nutrition stakeholder for input : <b>Presentation made in Nov meeting, assessments tools reviewed, draft guidelines to be circulated ASAP</b>	FSAU	By Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2008
UNICEF to share the draft strategy for the distribution of plumpy doz. Re-circulation recommended in case some more comments were received	UNICEF/ Cluster Coordinator	The strategy was shared and comments received from some individuals. Re-circulated in October
Nutrition Cluster's strategy harmonization update and Way Forward – partners to forward comments to Peter & James by Tuesday, the 2nd Sept. If additional comments have been incorporated (after the Geneva meeting), draft to be shared again	UNICEF-ESARO/ Cluster Coordinator	The Geneva meeting did not address this issue