

**IASC Nutrition Cluster/ SSS Nutrition Working Group**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 9:00 hrs, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009**  
**UNICEF Somalia, Annex Conference Room**

*Participants*

Lucy Maina	IMC	Unni Silkoset	UNICEF
Irene Bosire	Mercy USA	N.M Asib Nasim	UNICEF
Habiba Moh'd	Mercy USA	Maulid Warfaa	UNICEF
Abdi Tari	CISP	Jones Mpakateni	UNICEF
Abdullahi Diriye	DIAL	Emily Teshome	UNICEF
Malweyi Inwani	Merlin	James Kingori	UNICEF
Abdi Hersi	Merlin		
Erin McCloskey	Concern Worldwide	Apologies	
Marc Prost	WFP	Grainne Moloney	FSAU
Angela Kangori	WFP		

**1. Introduction and background**

The meeting started with the welcome note for the New Year. It was noted that the attendance was low since some members were yet to resume after the Christmas and New Year holidays. The December 2008 meeting minutes were reviewed and endorsed without correction. Action points were also reviewed (see last page for the status).

<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Focal agency/person</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Release notification and invitation for the WHO Growth Standards sensitization meeting for February 2009	UNICEF/FSAU	End Jan09
Guideline for Management of Acute Malnutrition issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more case studies based on the Somalia field experiences</li> <li>• Review the messages disseminated under the Nutrition Education Chapter</li> <li>• Provide national guidelines on Malaria, Kalazar,</li> <li>• Provide information on logistics, storage and handling</li> <li>• Provide draft Field Guide/protocol by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January</li> </ul>	All members Jones (UNICEF) UNICEF/Merlin WFP Emily	Immediately
DRC to circulate evaluation report for information sharing purpose	DRC	Jan 09
DIAL and UNICEF to clarify the status of the PCA for the Badadhe intervention	DIAL/UNICEF	Immediately
Nutrition Survey Guidelines under review to be shared by FSAU in Feb 09	FSAU/Grainne Moloney	Feb 09

**SITUATION UPDATE: FSAU**

FSAU sent an apology due to their engagement in the post deyr seasonal analysis. However, Grainne Moloney sent a brief summary on some of the FSAU's December activities.

The November/December 2008 Nutrition Update was released on 23<sup>rd</sup> December with Bossasso, Central and Shabele surveys being reported. In Bossasso, a very critical nutrition situation was reported following a record GAM rates of 27.9% and SAM rates of 7.9%. The survey results of the Hawd and Addun pastoral livelihood recorded GAM rates of 20.8% and 18.4% respectively. Serious nutrition situation was recorded in Shabele with GAM rates of 12.3%, 12.5% and 10.8% being recorded among the IDPs, agro-pastoral and Shabele riverine groups respectively. An additional 6 surveys conducted in December are undergoing analysis and preliminary results will be available in the course of the week.

The Post Deyr analysis workshop is ongoing in ICIPE and will finish on 20<sup>th</sup> January. The nutrition situation validation meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan at UNICEF Somalia Conference Room, where the preliminary findings and situation map will be presented for discussion. The revised map and caseload figures will be provided. The Post Deyr food security situation validation will be on Tuesday, Jan 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at UNDP Somalia Conf room. The final Deyr Analysis findings will be presented on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January at 10am UNDP conference room -followed by press release.

On Survey Training, the Cluster- funded 5 day training, facilitated by FSAU, was held in Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. There were 20 participants from 13 agencies. It will be repeated and with modified training packages according to audience.

The WHO 2006 growth standards fact sheets will be released in the end of January 09 and a sensitization meeting will be held sometime in February to clarify on the new standards use and programme implications. Tentative date around 17<sup>th</sup> Feb will be confirmed and agencies were requested to express their interest for participation. It was notable that the members present were keen to participate. From March the surveys will be reported based on the new references.

### **Health Issues Affecting Nutrition**

A diarrhea outbreak has been reported in north Guriel, Galgadud. Unfortunately, there has been heavy fighting lately, thus limiting access and possible interventions. Reports of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) were also reported in Jalalaqsi (Hiran) and Balcad and Warsheikh area of Shabele. There have also been increased cases of AWD in the IMC managed health posts in Hiran Region.

### **RESPONSE UPDATE**

**IMC:** The IMC operations in Elberde (Bakool) and Hiran are ongoing though there has been lack of nutrition supply (Super mix and family supplies) in Hiran. IMC proposes to start 4 OTPs and 4 SFPs in Hiran as soon as possible, adapted to the population movement and increased vulnerability. IMC will check with UNICEF and WFP on the supplies statuses.

**Merlin:** Operations in Elbur continues and plans are underway for the Awdal nutrition response. There are no expansion plans for the Elbur programme.

**Mercy USA:** Operations continue uninterrupted with proposed expansion plans for the Shabele's Gambole MCH/SFP being pursued.

**Concern Worldwide:** From 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 4 to 9 OTPs will commence in the Shabele Region – subject to supplies availability. Training of staffs and community mobilization has been done in readiness for programme commencement.

**WFP:** The supplementary plumpy distribution started in December while training to expand to other areas continued. However, following the targeted killing of 2 WFP staffs in early January (field monitors based in Gedo and Mogadishu), the implementation will be determined by the security situation. Some focus will also be paid to the north if the challenge for implementation persists in the south.

**CISP:** Plans are underway to start 7 OTPs in South Mudug and Galgadud. Training has been done but the supplies are yet to be delivered.

It was noted that some programmes had delayed due to supplies from UNICEF. UNICEF noted that follow up with individual agencies is being done to clarify delivered and non-delivered supplies and subsequent action taking.

UNICEF noted that most of the planned plumpy doz distribution has started and feedback on the status will be shared soon. It was noted that the earlier planned plumpy doz distribution in Shabele by COSV will not take off.

### **SFP guideline review**

A presentation was made by Emily Teshome detailing the SFP guideline review progress to-date and the outstanding issues identified either due to difference in stakeholders' experiences or due to some technical/research questions. The assignment comes to an end on 15<sup>th</sup> January hence concerted effort was appealed for to provide final feedback/input/comment to Emily for her consideration. It was noted that a comprehensive document had been developed with full consideration of the next phase of the process = IMAM guideline development. It has been proposed that rather than referring the document as SFP guidelines, it be referred to as "**Guideline for Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)**" to encompass the rationale, background of the problem, relation with other nutrition aspects like nutrition education and counseling, nutrition support, monitoring and evaluation, community involvement and coordination. The eight chapters of the guidelines were outlined with the details of each being provided. These include:

1. Overview of malnutrition
2. Interventions of moderate acute malnutrition
3. Nutrition Support
4. Routine medications
5. Monitoring and evaluation
6. Nutrition education and counseling
7. Community involvement in management of moderate acute malnutrition

## 8. Coordination structure

An outline of the various issues that are expected to complement the current draft was given. These included case studies, photos/ pictures, key messages, soft copies of ration cards etc. It was noted that the chronically ill cases like TB and HIV patients will also be some additional target groups due their vulnerability to malnutrition and the need to boost their immunity. These additions and comments would fill in the gaps identified to complete the guideline. Beside that, the contentious issues that required consensus were presented for discussion. These included:

- The target audience for the MAM guidelines: The guidelines in their comprehensive state are meant for nutritionists/ project officers/ programme officers responsible for the design, implementation and supervision of the intervention. It was noted that a simpler set of information or reference materials (about 6 page field guide/ protocol) for the nutrition workers in the feeding programme will be developed. These will be further interpreted into Somali at a later date.
- What information is essential: All the information availed in the current draft were deemed essential and with a clear table of content which is provided, a person/reader will be able to trace the interested chapters/sections.
- Situation analysis map: It was recommended to be removed since this information keeps on changing and can confuse some of the users. A link on where to get some of the Somalia specific surveillance information will be provided.
- Estimation of the ration size and/ or nutrient content vs provision of NutVal software: It was recommended that the steps for ration size and nutrient content calculation be provided in the annex to enable who ever is interested rather than having the steps as part of the key chapters.

Other clarification also made included the distinction between defaulter and absenteeism in a context of monthly visit to the feeding programme. When a patient misses one month ration, he/she will be referred to as absentee while the second month in a row leads to defaulting. If the child will not have responded to the therapy by the third month, he/she will be subjected to medical investigation, and if there is no response by the fourth month, will be regarded as non respondent and therefore discharged or referred to hospital. The use of MUAC ( $\geq 115\text{mm}$  MUAC  $< 125\text{mm}$ ) as an admission criteria pending official communication from the global cluster was proposed, while the discharge will be based on  $> -2$  Z score. Members were not so sure whether the 20% weight gain recommended for SAM can also be used as a discharge criteria for MAM (this issues is subject to change on consultation with the global cluster or when new information becomes available).

Additional information on key messages was sought. UNICEF (J Mpakateni) committed to review the messages provided.

**Nutrition Cluster Work plan:** A revised draft for the Nutrition Cluster's 2009 Work Plan was shared on morning of 12<sup>th</sup> January and members had not reviewed this draft. However, it was recommended that agencies will propose the areas that they can contribute more and provide feedback by Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Based on the comments that will be received, a revised draft which will be assumed as the final draft for reference will be shared by Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Incidence rate for acute malnutrition:** This issue had been proposed for discussion but it was noted that there wasn't adequate information to steer the discussion to final conclusions. Research work is still ongoing and though a paper based on the Senegal and DRC data has been accepted for publication (proposing the multiplier factor of 1.6) additional research work by Valid International in Malawi and Ethiopia, among others, is yet to be concluded. The subject was kept on hold, as the Somalia cluster closely liaises with the Global Cluster, seeking for conclusive technical statement on the same.

### Action points from previous months (status)

Action Points	Status
Establish the availability of water chlorination tablets for distribution in AWD affected areas	<b>Done:</b> Information shared with The WASH cluster and SHSC
Provide feedback on the response planning meeting by nutrition and food aid groups scheduled for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	<b>Done:</b> Strategic discussion with stakeholders and food aid. Expansion plans and preparation are underway.
DIAL to send a follow up message on their PCA between UNICEF and DIAL, copying Futsum, Suraya and Dr. Kamran	Message done and DIAL indicated to have signed a PCA. However, the UNICEF official pointed that there is no valid PCA. Issue referred for further clarification
Circulate the 2008 Nutrition Cluster work plan review and the proposed draft for 2009 for comments	<b>Done:</b> Previous comments have been incorporated. Members given up to Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> to provide comments consideration. Final draft of work plan to be shared on Wed, 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan.

**The next meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2009 at UNICEF Annex Conference Room @9.00am - tentatively**