

**IASC Nutrition Cluster/ SSS Nutrition Working Group**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 9:00 hrs, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2009**  
**Somalia Support Secretariat**  
**Kalson Towers**

*Participants*

Hassan S. A/karim	ZamZam	Suzanne Brinkamann	SC-UK
Abdi Tari	CISP	Abdi Ali Raghe	AFREC
Tony Burns	SAACID	Haret S. Hassan	AFREC
Erin McCloskey	Concern WW	Agane Abdullahi	AMA
Marc Prost	WFP	Fatuma Abdirahaman	ACF
Angela Kangori	WFP	Wema Adere	World Vision
Alison Oman	UNHCR	Anne Njenga	World Vision
Paul Bins	Valid Int	SG Kuria	GHC
Peter Kamalingin	Oxfam	Kamran Mashhadi	HSC/SSS
Ahmed M. Abdi	ISRA/RAAS	Marijka van Klinken	FAO
Abdifata Hirow Gure	ISRA/RAAS	Grainne Moloney	FSAU/FAO
Michelle Minc	Relief Int	Osman Warsame	FSAU/FAO
Abdigani Jama	Relief Int	Ahmed N. Hussein	FSAU/FAO
Lucy Maina	IMC	Fitsum Assefa	UNICEF
Irene Bosire	Mercy USA	James Kingori	UNICEF
Noor Hyder	Mercy USA		

**1. Introduction and background**

The meeting started with an introduction of 31 participants from 22 agencies present, all operating in Somalia. The January 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed and endorsed, without correction. The various action points were reviewed and their statuses updated (see last page).

<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Focal agency/person</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Undertake a WHO Growth Standards sensitization meeting with decision makers and donors in February 2009	UNICEF/FSAU	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 09
Nutrition Survey Guidelines under review to be shared by FSAU in Feb 09	FSAU/Grainne Moloney	Feb09
Follow up of the IDP specific response activity with the IDP WG, Health, WASH and food aid.	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Feb 09
Undertake discussion on nutrition response gap filling for Central Regions between UNICEF, WFP and Relief International.	UNICEF/RI/WFP/NCC	Feb09
Mercy USA and UNICEF to liaise in the supplies delivery to Buloburti	UNICEF/Mercy USA	Immediately
Hold a Central regions specific meeting to review the response progress and the challenges of limited partners	Central Regions operating agencies	Feb 09
Hold a meeting on the Gedo Nutrition crisis to review ongoing programmes and review the response strategies.	Gedo operating agencies	Feb09
WFP to circulate the GFD priority areas to the members	WFP	Immediately
Re-circulate the UNICEF-WFP PoA presentation as well as the proposal formats for WFP.	NCC/WFP	Immediately
The feeding programme data reporting formats to be reviewed and finalized for consideration in the data base finalization.	UNICEF/NCC	Immediately
The Feeding Programme Database to be demonstrated in the next Nutrition Cluster meeting	UNICEF	March 09 meeting

**FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: FSAU**

FSAU provided a summary of the food security situation based on the *Deyr* '08/09 seasonal analysis. The overview is the persistence of the crisis in some parts of Somalia. FSAU and partners estimate 3.2 million people in crisis Of these 700,000 are urban poor, 1.2 million are rural and 1.3 million are IDP. The drought situation in Central Regions persists with a continuing failure in the rain and severe asset stripping .The urban poor are also affected due to the macro economic crisis

affecting food and fuel prices. Notable with the persistence of the crisis and the increased nutritional vulnerability the need for integrated responses to address both the immediate and medium term livelihood aspects cannot be over-emphasized. The detailed *Deyr* '08/09 analysis results were presented in the Food Security and Economic Development Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009, and the presentation was posted in the FSAU website: [www.fsasomali.org](http://www.fsasomali.org). A full report will be available in the coming weeks.

In general there was a mixed food security situation picture in Somalia, with deterioration noted in the Golis and Guban Livelihood in Somaliland and Central Regions while some relief has been slightly noted in the Shabelle. The overall crop production was 52% of the Post War Average (1995- 2007) and 54% of the last 5 years average. Reasonable harvest was received in Bakool, Bay and Hiran (mainly Beletweyne). There was off-season crop along the Juba and Shabelle riverine areas, estimated as 1800MT and 1650MT respectively. Juba was estimated to have had 20% of the PWA and more harvest is expected from the Dhesheks in March.

#### **NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE (FSAU)**

A summary of the key findings from the integrated *Deyr* 08/09 analysis was presented. Very Critical rates of acute malnutrition were reported in the Golis/ Guban livelihood (GAM rates of 20.7%), Central Region (GAM rate 20.8% and SAM rate of 5.8% in Hawd livelihood and 18.4% GAM and 3.8% SAM in Addun), Gedo (GAM rate of 25.4% and SAM rate of 6.6% in the pastoral livelihood and GAM rate of over 20% in the riverine population) and in Bossasso IDPs (GAM rates of 27.9% and SAM rate of 7.6% among the IDPs). Though there was insufficient data for Bakool due to insecurity hampering access, the available information indicates the situation to be most likely very critical while in Bay and Hiran Regions it is likely to be critical.

Some improvement has been noted in the Shabelle livelihood groups and the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods of Juba.

FSAU is preparing the full reports of the *Deyr* analysis for both nutrition and food security and a press release with detailed numbers on caseloads will be available in the course of the week. The latest situation maps for Nutrition situation were presented and will be posted on the FSAU website.

#### **Health Issues Affecting Nutrition**

Reports of diarrhoea were indicated in parts of South and Central Somalia, though the details on locations and numbers cases were not available. There were no updated reports on Abduwaq and Adaado (Galgadud) AWD outbreaks which had been highlighted in the previous meeting.

Concern was raised on the elevated crude mortality rates (CMR) and Under-five Mortality (U5MR) rates in Golis/ Guban livelihood in Somaliland. Partners were encouraged to explore this situation and address the needs. SRCS and Merlin were mentioned as potential agencies operating in Somaliland.

AFREC reported cases of unconfirmed AWD in Badhadhe due to water contamination. One child death was reported.

#### **RESPONSE UPDATE**

Due to the continuing nutritional and food security vulnerability for the IDPs, an intersectoral meeting was proposed with health, WASH and food aid clusters in close liaison with the IDP WG. UNHCR also pointed out that follow up on the cross border arrangement should be encouraged in view of the refugees' presence in Dadaab (Kenya) and Dolow Addow (Ethiopia). A meeting with the relevant sectors was proposed in the course of Feb and some of the IDP concentration areas to be discussed include Bossasso, Galkayio, Afgooye, Merka, Baidoa and Doble/Liboi. AFREC reported about 20,000 IDPs crossing the border from Juba to Kenya, while challenges of refugee registration continue on the Kenya border.

Further, a follow up on the nutrition and food security crisis in Central regions was also proposed between UNICEF and Relief International in an effort to address the response gaps, currently existing.

**UNICEF:** UNICEF team made a short nutrition mission to Elberde to provide technical support. Other missions are also planned to Jowhar and Wajid. Efforts to expand the intervention in the northwest (Golis/Guban response) are also underway with about 40 OTPs being planned to cover more than 20 sites affected by the current crisis. Plans for plumpy doz distribution in Galkayio are also underway.

**SC-UK:** Preparation for the nutrition interventions in Hiran is underway. This will involve CTC activities in the districts of Beletweyne, Mahas and Mataban. This will be an integrated response with nutrition (modified CTC) and WASH component. Operations expected to commence in March 2009.

**Relief International:** Currently assessing the potential partner NGOs in preparation for nutrition programmes in north Galkayio (SFP in partnership with WFP) and OTP as well as interventions in Bossasso. Follow up meetings with UNICEF were proposed to explore on the response expansion in the coming days.

**Mercy USA:** Operations continue uninterrupted with proposed expansion plans for the Shabelle's Gambole MCH/SFP being pursued. The plumpy doz distribution took place in Jalalaqsi while the supplies for the Buloburti are yet to arrive. Mercy USA intend to propose WASH and agricultural/food security programmes to complement the ongoing emergency nutrition response. Mercy USA is closely liaising with SC-UK in the food security programme. In Jilib, 4 OTPs are being planned to complement the ongoing SFP and health programmes. In addition, general food distribution is underway. A pilot project of providing generators for irrigation is also underway in Jilib in addition to more programme integration in 3 villages in Jilib.

**WFP:** Plans for more interventions in Bossasso are underway. They are seeking stronger commitment by elders to guarantee effective emergency operations in South and Central Somalia. In Central Regions, it was only in the CISP operational areas that the blanket SFP might take off. WFP reported that the operations in Central regions are heavily influenced by partner availability (NGO scarcity) and not resource; and WFP will be holding further discussion with agencies like Relief International to address some of the gaps. An appeal was made for any agencies willing to discuss more on the emergency response in Central Regions to contact WFP. In the meantime GFD activities have already started in Central Regions covering a large part of the population in Galgadud, Mudug and Hiran and will soon be underway in Gedo

**Oxfam:** Plans to undertake CTC activities in Mogadishu. Oxfam reported that, through consultation, they were seeking input on their implementation design and process. Oxfam intends to implement these interventions in partnership with Saccid and with technical support from Valid International. Three implementation models proposed, included:

- a) Severe malnutrition management through the existing wet feeding programme sites in Mogadishu
- b) Establishing temporary structure/shelter beside the wet feeding sites (quick and cheap)
- c) Establishing/strengthening the MCHs then start the CTC activities as part of the MCH (to cost 10-16,000/centre)

The challenge of caseload determination is anticipated in view of lack of consensus on Mogadishu population estimate. The discussion further highlighted issues related to restriction of caseload vs supplies projection, geographical coverage, as well as strategies (blanket versus targeted SFP), etc. Oxfam will pursue consultation with other stakeholders to arrive consensus on the various issues.

**Concern WW:** Trucks with nutrition supplies are expected to arrive in Awdegle and Kurtun Warey on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb and the interventions may commence soon.

**AMA:** Reported that plans are underway for the expansion of the emergency nutrition and school feeding programmes. AMA is preparing proposal for submission to implement these new plans.

**ACF:** Reported that the life- saving nutrition programmes in Mogadishu, Wajid and Dusamareb is ongoing. Low number of cases in Dusamareb was however raising concern – a factor of limited access to some beneficiaries or population movement. Worth noting is that by the closure of the SFPs in November, there were 5000 yet there are currently about 30 OTP beneficiaries in-charge. In Wajid, there are 10 operational OTPs. The Mogadishu programmes were reported to have 1200 beneficiaries, signifying a tremendous increase in admissions (deterioration of the situation) from the previous monthly attendance of 400-500 cases. A new OTP in South Mogadishu was reported to have 110 beneficiaries within the first month of operation.

**WVS:** Reported to have an increased admission in the Bay and Bakool nutrition programmes. Currently, WVS operates 5 OTPs in Tayeglow, 5 OTPs and 2 stabilization centres in Burhakaba and 2 OTPs in Baidoa. Plans are underway to establish emergency nutrition programmes (SFP) in Kurto and Garmakamas villages of Wajid District, Bakool Region. The health and nutrition programme in Middle Juba also continues.

**GHC:** The emergency response is ongoing though with minimal supervision due to the insecurity. Plans are underway for additional 2 OTPs in Garbaharey District. The Gedo nutrition situation was noted to be Very Critical Throughout the district.

A meeting to discuss the Gedo Nutrition crisis was proposed to review the ongoing programmes and review the response strategies.

**CISP:** The emergency nutrition response commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan in El Der and Haradhere. These include 2 stabilisation centres (currently having 6 patients) and OTPs (currently having 100 beneficiaries). Active case finding has also commenced to identify and refer the malnourished cases from the community. The need for further training of staffs was identified to improve quality. It was noted that there was no GFD in the CISP operational areas. WFP was requested to circulate the GFD priority areas to the members.

**IMC:** Reported increased admission in the Belet weyne and Elberde nutrition programmes. There has been increased community mobilization/active case finding in Beletweyne while in Elberde there has been a daily in-flow of about 5-10 households into Elberde town. WASH activities and cholera task force activity re-activation in Belet weyne has been heightened.

**ZAM-ZAM:** A Mogadishu based LNGO has opened an office in Nairobi with a hope of improving communication with the various stakeholders at Nairobi level. They intended to partner with other agencies in the emergency programme implementation in areas outside Mogadishu.

### **WHO Growth Standards**

FSAU used the WHO Growth standards (GS) to estimate the caseload from prevalence, results indicate 180,000 children as acutely malnourished with 56,000 of them being severely malnourished. Using MUAC < 115mm cut off, 24,000 children are estimated to be severely malnourished while 113,000 had MUAC < 125mm, the indicator for acutely malnourished. These are preliminary analysis and updated figures will be available in due course. Although FSAU has been reporting prevalences in both NCHS and WHO GS for 2 years, from the start of the new cycle of surveys for 2009, in March the main figures reported will be using the WHO GS. A meeting detailing the role and benefits of the WHO references and their implications on programmes is tentatively scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009 where decision makers and non technical senior programmes staffs will be invited.

### **Incidence rate**

Based on the preliminary results contained in two yet to be published papers (data from Senegal and DRC and another one with data from Malawi and Ethiopia), a multiplier of prevalence for estimating caseload was identified as ranging between 1.6 and 2.0. The papers are not yet available, only the abstracts. Based on the information available, Somalia Nutrition Cluster proposes to use a conservative **1.6 as the incidence rate for the year**. The Senegal and DRC study had a study population of 5000 children who were monitored and had an estimated mean duration of episodes of severe wasting of 7.5 months. It has proposed that the prevalence should be increased by 60% (12/7.5) to get the incidence rate for the year. The severe wasting was recorded as one of the leading causes of death of under-five children/ high case fatality, had high incidence and long duration of episodes.

### **UNICEF/WFP Plan of Action**

A presentation was made by WFP and UNICEF defining the various responsibilities the two agencies will be sharing in the prevention and management of acute malnutrition. It was noted that in the past, UNICEF has procured and supplied unimix/blended food to the supplementary feeding programmes. WFP will take leadership in the moderate malnutrition interventions alongside other food related interventions. The interventions will be under the auspices of the *Guidance for Approaches for Management of Acute Malnutrition for Somalia*. UNICEF will maintain leadership in the severe malnutrition management and will further provide all the systematic treatment requirements, measuring equipment and ensure the necessary complementary intervention in the line of integrated package, WASH, MCH services and IEC materials. On the other hand, WFP will lead in the procurement and delivery of supplementary food, care giver rations and the necessary family rations. These distinct roles will be clarified during the partnership discussions with UNICEF and WFP [when reviewing the Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and Field Level Agreement (FLA) respectively].

A request was made to re-circulate the UNICEF-WFP PoA presentation as well as the proposal formats for WFP.

### **Nutrition database Update**

An update was provided on the progress made so far, on the Nutrition Database development. The MS-Access based database will be used in the nutrition response data compilation and analysis; to replace the current Ms-Excel data base. To explain the

details, it was recommended that database be presented or demonstrated in the next nutrition meeting. Further, the data reporting formats will be reviewed and finalized in due course to facilitate the data base finalization.

### **Plumpy Doz Update**

UNICEF provided an update on the plumpy doz project which has reached about 80,000 children. It has successfully been delivered in Bossasso, and some parts of South and Central Somalia. Due to logistics and implementation challenges, the plumpy doz distribution will be de-linked from the Child Health Days. Data collected as part of the post distribution monitoring indicate the need for education and improved communication during the distribution. This will improve RUF utilization and eventual impact. More information on the plumpy doz utilization, attitude and perception will be gathered in the subsequent distributions.

### **Moderate Malnutrition Management guidelines**

It was noted that the MAM guideline consultant had provided the last draft of:

1. Guideline for Management of moderate acute malnutrition
2. Concept note for the process of developing an IMAM guideline
3. Power-point presentations to be used in the training
4. Training program
5. Handouts and a resource list
6. Brief consultancy report
7. Field guide for Management of MAM

However, since some members had provided some comments late, there was no adequate time to review all those comments as compiled/ analyzed by the consultant. In this regard, a meeting to review the comments had been scheduled for Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb in the afternoon. This was meant to review all the comments and arrive at consensus on each of the point to come up with an operational MAM Management guideline.

### **AOB**

- Allison Oman from UNHCR shared with members, copies of the Nutrition in Emergency and Infant Feeding in Emergency guidelines/ reference materials on behalf of Emergency Nutrition Networks (ENN). The copies were available in English and French. Nutrition Cluster members were notified to request the copies they needed, to be provided in the next Nutrition Cluster meeting.
- UNICEF appealed for information on breastfeeding substitutes through health worker/reports at the various health and nutrition facilities in Somalia.
- FSAU: Micronutrient Deficiency Disorder (MDD) study: It was reported that the preparation is on course and the necessary equipment have been delivered. In late February, MDD study will commence in Puntland then Puntland , followed later by S/C Somalia in April/May.
- WFP requested for a nutrition survey in Bay and Bakool Region. WFP also reported that they are compiling the current practices in supplementary feeding programmes implementation in Somalia.
- Nutrition Cluster Coordinator (James Kingori) notified members there will soon be some changes in the incumbent cluster coordinator following the UNICEF Somalia decision to change duty station from Baidoa, Somalia to Nairobi.

<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Focal agency/person</b>	<b>Statuses</b>
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/Merin WFP Emily	Various comments and input provided. Draft guidelines developed and reviewed by members
DRC to circulate evaluation report for information sharing purpose	DRC	Study shared with donors and will be shared with nutrition stakeholders
DIAL and UNICEF to clarify the status of the PCA for the Badadhe intervention	DIAL/UNICEF	A PCA had been signed and DIAL await part of the supplies

**The next meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 at SSS Kalson Towers @9.00am - tentatively**