

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

**Participants**

Agane Abdullahi	AMA	Tom Musili	IFRC
Abdi Ali Raghe	AFREC	Ali Mohd Mohamud	Tardo
Haret S. Hassan	AFREC	Mohamud Mumin	Muslimaid-UK
Suzanne Brinkamann	SC-UK	Mohamed Mohamud	CPD
Patrick Mweki	IMC	Fatuma Abdirahaman	ACF
Hassan S. A/karim	ZamZam	Hossein Madad	ACF
Abdi Tari	CISP	Kamran Mashhadi	HSC/SSS
Moh Haybe	ASEP	Marijka van Klinken	FAO
Erin McCloskey	Concern WW	Ahono Busili	FSAU/FAO
Marc Prost	WFP	Joseph Waweru	FSAU/FAO
Jitske Brouwer	Medair	Ismail Arte	FSAU/FAO
Michelle Shirley	USAID/OFDA	Ahmed N. Hussein	FSAU/FAO
Abdinoor Faray	SYPD	Fitsum Assefa	UNICEF
Abdullahi Diriye	DIAL	Jones Mpakatani	UNICEF
Faisal Ahmed	SAF	Suraya Dalil	UNICEF
Rose Mueni Nzyusyo	JCC	James Kingori	UNICEF
Bruce Hickling	IRC	<b>Apologies</b>	
Getrude Akinyi	DRC	Peter Kamalingin	Oxfam
Hakan Sandbladh	IFRC	Peter Hailey	UNICEF-ESARO

**1. Introduction and background**

The meeting started with an introduction of 33 participants from 26 agencies present, all operating in Somalia. The February 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>
Convene the Acute Malnutrition Task Force to define the piloting exercise of the MAM management guideline and the field guide	WFP	March 09
Update the Emergency Response Matrix (3Ws) with the latest response activities in Central and Gedo	NCC	6 <sup>th</sup> March
Undertake a WHO Growth Standards sensitization meeting with decision makers and donors in March 2009	UNICEF/FSAU/WFP	March 09
The Feeding Programme Database demonstration and report presentation to be done	UNICEF	March 09
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-circulate the IMAM guidelines consultancy draft TOR</li> <li>• Members to provide comments on IMAM consultancy TOR will be developed.</li> </ul>	NCC Members	Immediate Comments by Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
Agencies to send their request for IEC materials detailing the number and how to use them	All	6 <sup>th</sup> March
Analyze the impact on the change in knowledge, who uses the IEC materials and how they are being used was made	Jones/James (UNICEF)	March 09

**FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: FSAU**

FSAU reported that the food security and nutrition presentation made in February 2009 on food security situation remains valid for the next 6 months. The deterioration in Central Regions and localized areas in Gedo (Bardera and Elwak) remains of concern with the deterioration in basic indicators being reported. However, localized rains have been reported in Shabele and Juba riverine areas. Reports of pockets with water scarcity in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas Juba (Badhadhe and Kismayo) were highlight by AFREC. Further details of the FSAU analysis are accessible through: [www.fsasomali.org](http://www.fsasomali.org).

The off-season crop assessment in the riverine areas of Juba and Shabele is scheduled for the last 10 days of March.

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

FSAU reported that the update provided in February 09 is also still valid, which estimated about 200,000 children to be acutely malnourished. About 60,000 of the 200,000 were severely malnourished as per the Deyr analysis. About 34% and 35% of the severely and total malnourished children, respectively, are located in the Shabele Regions, an aspect linked to the acute malnutrition rates and the high population density. It is noted that Central regions and Gedo are at very critical nutrition situation and in urgent need for response.

It was further noted that the 2009 nutrition surveys/ assessments will be analyzed based on the WHO 2006 Growth Standards along side NCHS Z-scores. An increase in the severely malnourished cases is expected, once these new standards are implemented.

FSAU reported that a planning meeting for the Hiran Nutrition Assessment is scheduled for Wednesday, 2.30pm at FSAU. Nutrition stakeholders in Hiran were invited to participate in the planning as well as field work.

WFP reported that an assessment mission to Elwak and Garbaharey, consisting of the WFP's VAM and Nutrition units and UNICEF nutrition, has commenced the field work. WFP reported that they will refine the response strategy after the assessment.

### **Health Issues Affecting Nutrition**

Reports of acute watery diarrhea in Kismayo were given by AFREC. The concerns of the AWD incidences in Badhadhe (reported in Feb 09 due to poor water situation) were also raised, since no intervention had apparently started. AMA gave an update on the AWD preparedness discussions that took place in Bardera, in the last week of February. AMA explored on the possibility of a district level early warning for diarrhea. The concern for the AWD outbreak in view of the water scarcity was raised. These AWD and water related concerns were to be shared with the Health and WASH clusters, for appropriate response.

UNICEF provided the Child Health Day update which had been successfully completed in Somaliland. Plans are underway for the CHD in Puntland as well as Central and South Somalia in the coming months.

### **RESPONSE UPDATE**

#### **Feeding Programme Reports**

The proposed presentation for Feeding Programme Reports/data base could not be held in March and was re-scheduled to the April 2009 meeting. However, it was noted that some discussion have been ongoing with regard to specific indicators and types and formats of the graphs. The data base was noted to be initially for the therapeutic feeding programmes but most of the indicators for monitoring are the same.

#### **Endorsement of the Moderate Acute Malnutrition Management Guidelines**

The latest drafts of the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) Management Guidelines and the Field Guidelines for the Moderate Acute Malnutrition Management are available and had been shared. Additional deliverables that the MAM consultant (Emily Teshome) had presented were Concept Note for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and the Power point presentation and handouts for conducting training

Having incorporated all the comments received, the latest draft of the guidelines and the field guide will be maintained as the January 2009 version and live document which will be subjected to field level piloting. Being a live document, the draft will be reviewed based on the piloting experiences' feedback in Somalia and any additional technical information that may be available by then. WFP volunteered to spearhead this piloting exercise, leading the Acute Malnutrition Task Force of the Nutrition Cluster this time, and analysis of the field level feedback on the guideline and field guide will be presented on monthly basis (in the next 3 months) at the Nutrition Cluster meetings. A meeting for the Acute Malnutrition Management task force will be scheduled in March 09 to review the guideline piloting process. Agencies that would wish to be involved in the piloting were requested to express their interest.

The MAM guidelines will be available through (<http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/Clusters/Nutrition/tabid/2825/language/en-US/Default.aspx>). In addition, the guideline will be posted in the Somalia Support Secretariat Website once finalized.

After the MAM management guidelines, the IMAM guidelines will be developed. Members were requested to provide comments on the proposed IMAM guidelines consultancy's terms of reference (TOR).

### **Micronutrient Deficiency Disorder (MDD) study**

The MDD study for Somalia is at an advanced stage and it aims at determining the public health significance of Vitamin A, Iron and Iodine deficiencies in Somalia in order to inform and advocate for appropriate responses as well as determining the baseline of the levels of major micronutrients' deficiencies. An update on the preparation was provided by the FSAU's MDD consultant, Ismail Arte, and it included the methodologies, study populations and timeline. It will be a 3 months national cross sectional study, with the 3 zones being treated as separate strata. Two stage cluster sampling will be used with the probability proportionate to size being applied at the first level of sampling. Ethical approvals for the study have been done with the University College of London and the respective ministries of health. Test for anaemia and malaria will be conducted and the appropriate response undertaken if the case needs interventions. Samples will be taken from different population groups, e.g. 6-59 months and women of reproductive age for anaemia and vitamin A deficiency, IDD for school aged children etc. The protocol for the study is available from FSAU, for more details.

### **IEC materials**

The nutrition education materials focusing on infant feeding, hygiene promotion, etc, have finally been printed out. Agencies were requested to send (for those who have not sent), the number of copies that they need and details on how they are going to use them. As part of the implementation, a proposal to analyse the impact on the change in knowledge, who uses the IEC materials and how they are being used was made.

### **Additional Programme Update from the agencies.**

**WFP:** Undertaking blanket supplementary food distribution in Galgadud and South Mudug in March. More partners are sought to partner in the supplementary food distribution. On Mogadishu, in partnership with Oxfam/Saacid, WFP intends to support the SFP establishment with the necessary food supplies. MCH rehabilitation by Oxfam will commence soon to reach the estimated 60,000 target number of children located in Mogafor the pro.

**UNICEF:** Focus on Central Regions continues due to the high nutritional vulnerability. Training on the management of severe malnutrition through OTP to SRCS has taken place in Beletweyne. Concerns of the health and WASH interventions to complement the emergency nutrition continue, due to the gaps currently experienced. In the Northwest, plumpy doz distribution has taken place in 40-60 sites with high nutrition vulnerability. Plumpy doz distribution continues in Bossasso. It was noted that though the coverage of essential EPI services was low, the planned Child Health Days (CHD) is expected to improve it. Measles coverage is extremely low (about 25%) in Central Regions. The CHD activities in S&C Somalia commences in mid March.

**Concern WW:** The OTP activities have commenced in Shabele and report on beneficiaries will be shared next month. In addition, the healthy school strategy (de-worming in schools) is under consideration by Concern WW.

**Medair:** The Cadaale programme (run in partnership with SAACID) consisting of Stabilization Centres (SC), OTPs and SFP currently have three (3), 141 and 781 in charges respectively. Plumpy doz distribution took place in January, but only covered the main town and villages in the Cadaale district. Plumpy doz is currently being distributed to the remaining villages. In Burao, there is the OTP (344) and SFP (1004) with the indicated in-charge cases. Medair does not have a SC, but provides technical support to the SC in Burao hospital, run by MoH/UNICEF/COOPI. Additional technical support is given to CCBRS, local partner, in the Plumpy Doz distribution

**CISP:** The OTP started in January and so far has 620 admissions. Eldere and Haradhere still lack the stabilization centre. GFD has however taken place in Haradhere and Eldere in February.

**DIAL:** Has received SFP supplies for the 6 month projects with UNICEF support.

**FAO:** Will commence Trials in Improving Practices (TIPS) project mainly along the riverine areas in Hiran and Gedo alongside vegetable seed distribution. Following on from this, nutrition education sessions will be held in the same communities.

**AOB**

- Breast feeding week preparation: Members were notified on the need for early preparations for the breast feeding week. The 2009 theme is “Breastfeeding a vital emergency response”. Proposal/ideas for activity could be shared with UNICEF in the coming weeks.

<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Focal agency/person</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Follow up of the IDP specific response activity with the IDP WG, Health, WASH and food aid.	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Integrated response being advocated for in the IDP camps. To be ongoing.
WFP to circulate the GFD priority areas to the members	WFP	
Mercy USA and UNICEF to liaise in the supplies delivery to Buloburti	UNICEF/Mercy USA	Done and supplies delivered
Hold a Central regions specific meeting to review the response progress and the challenges of limited partners	Central Regions operating agencies	Done and partners sought to improve response. Project proposals being pursued since some donors are keen to fund nutrition projects
Hold a meeting on the Gedo Nutrition crisis to review ongoing programmes and review the response strategies.	Gedo operating agencies	Done. Response gaps identified, interventions possibilities explored and agencies requested to put together proposals for consideration.
Re-circulate the UNICEF-WFP PoA presentation as well as the proposal formats for WFP.	NCC/WFP	Done
The Feeding Programme Database to be demonstrated in the next Nutrition Cluster meeting, including the reporting formats	UNICEF	Detailed presentation to be made in March09. However, discussions on the type of information analysis (graphs), indicators to be considered held. Reporting form finalization and indicators to be monitored/ reported.

**The next meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at SSS Kalson Towers @9.00am OR at UNICEF Somalia - tentatively**