

IASC Nutrition Cluster/ SSS Nutrition Working Group
Minutes of Meeting held at 9:00 hrs, Monday 4th May 2009
FSNAU Conference Room, Lake View, Ngecha Road

Participants

Grainne Moloney	FSNAU	Habiba Mohamed	Mercy USA
Nick Cox	USAID	Joseph Waweru	FSNAU/FAO
Haret S. Hassan	AFREC	Tom Oguta	FSNAU/FAO
Suzanne Brinkamann	SC-UK	Ahmed Nur Hussein	FSNAU/FAO
Lucy Maina	IMC	Marc Prost	WFP
Hossein Madad	ACF	Mohamud Hersi	WFP
Sophie Bruneau	ACF	Jason Snuggs	UNICEF
Hassan S. A/karim	ZamZam	Fitsum Assefa	UNICEF
Gorrey Onyango	GHC	Peter Kamalingin	OXFAM Novib
Getrude Akinyi	DRC	Tony Burns	SAACID
Christelle Fontana	CESVI	Omar A/kadir Abdul	Concern WW
Anthony Abura	WVS	James Kingori	UNICEF
Rispa Were	OXfam	Apologies	
Helen Clark	Medair	Abdullahi Diriye	DIAL
Dr Ibrahim D. Ali	FAOSO	Erin McCloskey	Concern WW
Marijka van Klinken	FAOSO		

1. Introduction and background

The meeting started with an introduction of participants. Twenty nine (29) participants representing 19 agencies operating in Somalia were present. The minutes of the April 6th 2009 meeting were reviewed and endorsed, without correction. The various action points were reviewed and their status updated (see last page).

Action Points	Focal agency/ person	Timeline
Circulate the schedule of the CHD activities for Puntland to encourage participation from the nutrition cluster	UNICEF	May 2009
Update members on the Acute Malnutrition Task Force meeting to define the piloting exercise of the use of IMAM management guideline and the field guide	WFP	Regularly/ monthly
Send TIPs tools together with the minutes to members	FAOSO	May, 2009
Convene a separate Mogadishu meeting the following week for the many partners operating in Mogadishu (UNICEF, WFP, Oxfam, ACF, MSF (S), SACIID, ZamZam, etc)	UNICEF/Oxfam	Tues, 12 th May 2009
Provide final comments on the IMAM TOR by Tuesday, 5 th May to facilitate finalization by 8 th	UNICEF/NCC	8 th May 09
Provide feedback on the IEC utilization questionnaire to Jones (UNICEF)	Members	8 th May 09
Avail the revised version of the Feeding Programme database in the next two weeks	UNICEF	May 2009

FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

FSNAU reported that the food security situation remains generally unchanged since last *Deyr* 08/09 and that *Gu* rains has had mixed performance so far. In April 2009, Bay region, Shabelle regions, the Northern highlands and Afmadow district of L. Juba reported good rains leading to improved pasture, livestock/milk production and/or crop establishment. Heavy rains in the Coastal Deeh and Cow pea belt of Central regions have resulted into animal deaths, especially the small ruminants. However, below normal rains have been reported in the Hawd and Addun pastoral areas of Central and NE Somalia. Jalalaqsi in Hiran have not yet received any rains in this *Gu* season. Below normal kidding/calving rates have been reported in the Central regions but improved in other parts of Somalia.

In the agropastoral and riverine areas where rains have triggered cultivation activities, farm labour opportunities have increased and cereal/labour TOT have improved. Livestock prices have fallen in the Central regions due to the effect of animal deaths leaving only a few sellable animals. Other areas like Sanaag and Hawd of Togdheer have received localized

rainfall. And animals that had migrated earlier in *Deyr* 08/09 either are moving back (M. Shabelle) or have returned (M. Juba and Gedo regions).

Locust's outbreak has been reported in the Awdal, Sahil and Galbeed regions of NW, and in the Ethiopian border extending into Zone 5. Further details of the FSAU analysis are accessible through: www.fsausomali.org.

NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE

FSNAU reported that three nutrition assessment activities have been concluded in Somalia. The results of Hiran Assessments which included Beletweyne District Assessment, Hiran Riverine, Hiran Agropastoral and Hiran pastoral (LQAS) had just been shared in a special meeting with partners. The results indicated deterioration in the agropastoral (very critical) and stability of critical levels in the riverine and pastoral areas. The Micronutrient Deficiency Disorder (MDD) survey in Puntland was completed while the nutrition assessments of the North West IDPs (Berbera, Hargeisa and Burao) were also completed last week. The results would be shared in the next Nutrition Update expected the following week. The Central Somalia set of assessments (six assessments) and Shabelle Assessments (four assessments) would begin the same week. The MDD assessment in Somaliland was reported to begin the following week.

HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING NUTRITION

It was brought to the attention of participants that the last WHO Somali Health Cluster Bulletin, reported confirmed Cholera cases in wide areas of Somalia including Baidoa, Mogadishu, Shabelle, Juba and parts of Hiran. ACF reported high caseload of AWD in their Mogadishu facilities. WVI reported confirmed cases of cholera in Burhakaba. Oxfam reported a decreasing trend in AWD cases but remained high probably due to the rainfall cycle.

TIPs – FASO reported on the ongoing Trials of Improved Feeding (IYCF) Practices in two intervention areas (seed distribution regions) of Gedo and Hiran riverine. This is a follow-up intervention of the FSNAU and partners KAPs study recommendations 2007. TOT trainings have been conducted in Mandera (for Gedo and Hiran teams) which ended last week; and plans are on track to undertake visiting and counseling sessions.

NUTRITION RESPONSE UPDATE

UNICEF

UNICEF reported that alongside the emergency nutrition interventions, progress is being made on the Universal Salt Iodization process in the northern part of Somalia.

ACF

ACF adopted the WHO 2006 reference standards last July (2008) in their admission to SFP/TFC programs and threshold of MUAC < 11.5 cm for severely malnourished children in their rapid screening activities in Wajid, and will do the same in Galgaduud from May 09. ACF clarified that the beneficiaries have not reached the number they had when they stopped their programs in Galgaduud last Sept/Oct 08.

SC (UK)

SC-UK opened 5 new OTPs in each of the Beletweyne, Mahas and Mataban in Hiran Region. Additional SFP activities should also be commencing soon.

WFP

Reviewing projects to support SFP activities in Hiran and Gedo, the projects are to be started in June. Blanket food distribution in Central begins in 1-2 weeks time, training is ongoing in Galkayo with 17 partners. A joint UNICEF/WFP mission was done in Abduwaq on 1st-2nd May to do a summary assessment of food security (IDPs), nutrition and WASH conditions and engage with the community and local authorities.. Since the level of food aid assistance is already high with the GFD, WFP will not increase assistance but prepares transition for when GFD and blanket SFP will be phased out, probably in 4 months time. WFP appealed to get a feedback on UNICEF's effort to implement the joint plan of action (JPOA) on the management of malnutrition in Somalia.

Concern Worldwide

Concern reported that they plan to open 3 new OTPs in Kurtunwarey and Adale districts of Lower Shabelle in June. They also have 4 centres which provide micronutrient support to pregnant and lactating women.

IMC

IMC reported plans to open 2 new OTPs in Elbarde district in addition to the current 5 in Belletweyne. Plans for SFP are yet to be finalized.

CESVI

CESVI reported that they support health posts in Hiran. The programs are funded until July and they are looking for more funds with plans to expand to South Muduug and to include nutrition components.

Medair

Medair reported that they adopted the new WHO reference standards late last year. They intend to maintain the ongoing programmes.

World Vision

WVS reported that they implement health programs including health posts and WASH in Burhakaba, Tieglo, Wajid, Buale, Salagle and Sako. They have secured HRF funds to support the Middle Juba interventions and are in the process of exploring expansion possibilities with health posts in Berdaale District, Bay and in Awdal and Barbera, Somaliland.

MOGADISHU RESPONSE

The chair gave a background of the Mogadishu crisis and shared a map of who, what and where state of interventions agencies in Mogadishu. With the political developments, security situation is anticipated in Mogadishu hence may expect population movement. According to UNHCR, about 60,000 persons have returned to Mogadishu. Some of the estimated one million IDPs who have been displaced since the renewed conflict in 2007 have been moving back and forth. Several IDP/returnee settlements are coming up. Significant interventions have been noted in the Afgoye corridor among the IDPs.

FSNAU classified Mogadishu as in *Very critical* nutrition situation in its last Post *Deyr* integrated analysis. Oxfam/WHO reported AWD outbreak in Mogadishu, but no adequate response yet due to problems of insecurity and resources. Concerted interventions are required in Mogadishu and should expand into Lower Shabelle where there are response gaps. Various interventions are ongoing but are still inadequate. As discussion gets underway with the various agencies, appeal was made for more agencies with capacity and presence in Mogadishu to come forward to enhance interventions.

ACF reported increased admissions, currently 820 new admissions (usually 600). They also reported a total of 1,100 in the program and another 1,100 followed up in the outreach programs. Each of their 2 TFCs has a capacity of 150, but currently serves less than 70. Currently undertakes life-saving activities only. No plans for expansion. Talks are on for collaboration with Oxfam. They have noted increased MCH/OPD visits with 2000 beneficiaries in March/April.

Oxfamnovib, not very experienced in nutrition interventions, reported introducing nutrition programs in Afghanistan and now plans are afoot for Somalia. With strategic link to Valid International and discussions for technical collaboration with operational agencies, they plan for 8 OTPs for a start and 1 SFP in Mogadishu for a start and later expand into all the 16 sites/districts of Mogadishu. They would rehabilitate some existing health facilities and provide capacity building for the health staff. Currently, Oxfamnovib are recruiting nutritionist and other programme staffs in preparation for nutrition programmes in Mogadishu. They already recruited a technical backup team in Netherlands, in addition to the Valid International's technical support. Oxfamnovib appealed for

comments/input from members to their intended response programme in Mogadishu in order to undertake a comprehensive nutrition package through sound strategies.

SACIID with collaboration with Medair has health and SFP programs in Adale and Afgoye, and plans to expand in all the 16 districts of Mogadishu in partnership with Oxfamnovib. SACIID appealed for confidence in their capacity to undertake nutrition interventions in view of their partnership experiences with Medair. They further reiterated the effort in expanding their interventions in Dharkenley and Heliwaa where they will use some former government's structures.

ZamZam will explore its potential to expand their programs into other sites in Mogadishu.

DRC implements wet feeding program which may be phase out in August.

WFP noted that there are some additional partners in Mogadishu with whom they undertake some nutrition interventions and they can be further involved in the response coordination in Mogadishu.

Based on the discussions and the identified need to review strategies and partnerships, a Mogadishu specific meeting was proposed for Tuesday, 12th May at 11.00 am tentatively at the New Somalia Support Secretariat's office on Lower Kabete - off Ngecha road.

AOB

- CAP funding: The Nutrition Cluster/WG is only 17% funded against the CAP projects; Only 4 agencies have received the CAP funds so far- WFP, UNICEF, FSNAU and Medair. However, HRF still has \$4 m to fund emergency projects and agencies with funding shortages were requested to present project proposals for consideration by the HRF.
- IYCF Index: FSNAU is reviewing its assessment tool to include some questions on infant and young child feeding (including incidences of formula & bottle feeding; as well as dietary diversity among the 6-24 months age group) that will allow for computation of IYCF index. Pilots are planned for Shabelle Agropastoral assessment, Juba Riverine and one additional assessment in the north.
- The chair, James King'ori informed members of his exit to join another position with UNICEF Palestine- this was the last Nutrition Cluster/WG meeting he was chairing as the Cluster Coordinator, marking his service in Somalia for 7 years, initially with FSNAU and then with UNICEF. The Co-chair, Grainne Maloney of FSNAU led members into appreciating the role James has played, saying a farewell and wishing him success in his new assignment.
- Opening the FAOSO offices in Lake View: Members were invited and asked to pick invitation cards to the ceremony-opening of their new offices/building in Lake View, Ngecha Road on Wednesday, 6th May 2009, from 11.30 am.

Action Points		Focal agency/ person	Timeline
Circulate Nutrition Assessments Schedule for 2009	DONE	FSAU	April 2009
Circulate the presentation on Child health days (CHD) in Somaliland	NOT DONE: Document too bulky- members may get it in flash disk if they want it.	UNICEF	April 2009
Circulate the schedule of the subsequent CHD activities to encourage participation from the nutrition cluster	DONE	UNICEF (Imran)	April 2009
IMAM – Review TOR for consultancy to develop the guidelines, based on the comments to be provided by members by 8 th April	DONE	Cluster coordinator	April 7 th , 2009
Convene the Acute Malnutrition Task Force meeting to define the piloting exercise of the MAM management guideline and the field guide	DONE	WFP	April 15 th , 2009
FAO to present on TIPS	DONE	FAO	May 4 th , 2009

The next meeting to be held on 3rd June 2009 at Somalia Support Secretariat (SSS), Lake View, Ngecha Road @2.00 pm