

IASC Nutrition Cluster/ SSS Nutrition Working Group
Minutes of Meeting held at 09:30 hrs, Monday 3rd August 2009
Somali Support Secretariat Conference Room, Lake View, Ngecha Road

Participants

Fitsum Assefa	UNICEF (chair)	Ali Abdullahi Igal	FAHRO
Penina Muli	OCHA	Elise Wach	Relief International
Hellen Ekisa	ACF	Christy Spinkle	SAACID
Hossein Madad	ACF	Abdi Jama	SAACID
Erin McCloskey	Concern World Wide	Ali Mohamud	SAF
Kamran Mashhadi	Health Coordinator Somalia	Suzanne Brinkmann	SC Uk
Lucy Maina	IMC	Angela Kangori	WFP
Anna Minuto	INTERSOS	Anthony Abura	World Vision
Jitske Brouwer	Medair	Mohamud Idor	PASOS
Helen Clark	Medair	Moh Haibe	CAF DARO
Malweyi Inwani	Merlin	Osman Amir	SOADO
Abdi Hersi	Merlin	Ali Mohd Mohd	SOADO

1. Introduction, review of previous minutes and action points.

The meeting started at 9.30 am with the chair welcoming and inviting self introductions by participants. Twenty four participants (24) representing 19 agencies operating in Somalia were present. The minutes of the July 6th 2009 meeting were reviewed and comments incorporated. Action points were reviewed and their status updated (see table on last page).

Action Points	Focal agency/ person	Timeline
Analyze numbers reached versus CAP target for T-SFP.	WFP/UNICEF	Aug - Sep
Circulate materials from Gender meeting (ToRS for GNet and G-focal person), and links to the two gender guidelines that can be used by partners for the 2010 CAP preparation	IMC	August
OCHA to share ToRs that would provide guidance to the field cluster focal points. Names and contacts of focal points to be provided- By agencies who have volunteered as cluster focal points.	OCHA	August
Press release document to be circulated to the cluster members.	Fitsum/UNICEF	August
UNICEF/FSNAU to re- Circulate the 2007/2008 study on IYCF in Somalia, based on demand.	FSNAU/UNICEF	August/Sep
Finalize feedback from partners on Sphere revision Workshop	Erin/ConcernWW	
Partners invited for discussion with UNICEF on IYCF interventions	UNICEF/Fitsum	Week of Aug 10 th
WHO to share Syndromic Approach guidelines for acute malnutrition to the cluster chair for comments and further circulation	HSC/ Dr. Kamran	August
Finalize input from partners on revision/pilot of the new MAM guidelines. Cluster chair to send reminder.	Cluster Chair	Week of Aug 3 rd

2. Situation Update

a) FOOD SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE

The chair informed the meeting that **FSNAU** were in a review workshop for the seasonal Food Security and Nutrition situation and would provide a more comprehensive update of the situation in the next meeting.

Oxfam Novib/Saacid informed the meeting that 10 Wet Food Kitchens are currently operational on Mogadishu.

b) HEALTH SITUATION UPDATE

The Health Coordinator for Somalia, Dr Kamran, provided the following health situation update:
Fever Management TOT training targeting Community Health Workers is scheduled for the 8- 13th of August. MERLIN will provide details on the Fever Management Guidelines.

Acute watery diarrhea (AWD)

- Cases of AWD reported in Jowhar are not yet confirmed. WHO has collected samples whose results are yet to be shared. INTERSOS and MSF- S did confirm that 119 cases were seen in health centre with AWD. Biscuits and medicines were provided. A mobile team from Jowhar hospital is closely monitoring the situation. The chair asked concerned agencies to share any reports of AWD and fever noted in the Gedo region with FSNAU.
- **INTERSOS** was asked by the chair to attend the Outbreak Task Force meeting to discuss any issues relating to outbreaks of AWD.

TB programme review: Food rations for TB patients continue being provided in appropriate quantities. A review of the interventions for TB by the TB working group will take place from 11th to 14th August. UNICEF expressed interest to attend to discuss issues relating to HIV and Breastfeeding. Dr. Kamran however suggested that since DFID is likely to come up with a 3 year funding for MCH interventions and this opportunity could be used to discuss the issue of HIV and breastfeeding. The programme is likely to take off in November if proposal is approved.

Measles: Dr.Kamran informed the meeting that no un usual numbers of measles cases had been reported in the recent past. He requested agencies to provide back up interventions for those areas where MSF has pulled out.

c) NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE

(See comment under food security situation update)

ACF: In the Galgadud region 142 severely malnourished children out of the 557 screened were newly admitted into the OTP in the month of July, making total admissions of 473. Two hundred and fifty (250) children in the TFP are for follow-up. The high default rates reported in Galgadud are being attributed to lack of family ration. Medical evacuation has been started in the programme area especially for blood transfusion.

In the Bakol region, nine (9) Out-Patient Therapeutic Programs and one TFC are running well. In July 411 severely malnourished children out of 1020 screened were admitted while another 657 children were already in the program. There are 714 children in the TFP follow- up. Medical evacuation has been started in the programme area especially for blood transfusion. ACF sent these beneficiaries to luuq 90 Km from wajid

In Mogadishu, ACF has re-started admission into the TFC in Forlanini in the North of Mogadishu as of 3rd of August. The ACF run OTP in the North is still in operational pause at the moment. In July, 404 severely malnourished children out of 1345 screened were admitted. Total admissions into the OTP are now 1209 and another 958 children are in the TFP follow- up. MCH/OPD is also running in Mogadishu with most of the admissions (50%) being children under five years of age. There are concerns related to lack of vaccines.

ACF plans to meet with Oxfam Novib/SAACID during this first week of August on matters relating to referrals of TFP follow- up cases to the Oxfam Novib/SAACID run SFP centers.

MSF has in the past 2 months closed OTPS/ SFPs in the North following insecurities in the area.

IMC reported lack of supplies for both OTP and immunization programmes. All of IMC's activities in the Bay region are suspended due to the invasion by the militia. In the Bakool region, only one district, Ceel Barde, is operational with 4 SFPS and 5 OTP sites running. Families of malnourished children have not received family ration since December 2008. Support is being provided to families to do vegetable gardening along the riverine area. Bee keeping is also being supported.

World Vision staff for Wajid have gone back to the area and those for Middle Juba will be going back this week. This will heighten support to the socio-mobilization activities for the nutrition programmes. Screening for admission into the SFP programmes in Awdal and Hawd was done together with WFP.

Concern Worldwide will have 5 new OTPs running in Lower Shabelle (Kurtunwarey and Awdhegle districts) from August, to complement the current 4 sites. Another 5 sites are planned for September in Baidoa. Training on the new Community-based behaviour change communication methodology will begin next week. It is based on a “*Community Conversation*”_model that has been successfully used in other countries for addressing HIV/AIDS behaviours.

Relief International is negotiating for two SFPs with WFP, one in Bossaso urban and the other in Galkayo south, Goldogob and Burtinle area.

Medair will be meeting with DFID this week to discuss expansion plans with nutrition interventions in Southern Toghdeer (in MCHs and health posts) and Northern Toghdeer (Berbera hospital) to avoid an overlap with Save the Children UK in terms of interventions. **Medair and UNICEF** will also be undertaking a nutrition interventions coverage survey in Burao starting in the coming weeks.

Oxfam Novib/SAACID reported that a training held in Burco for Mogadishu staff for the 8 starting SFPs/OTPs has been completed. Rehabilitation is also complete for 7 SFPs/OTPs sites which are pending supplies availability and expected to be operational as of 10th August. The 8th site in Karaan is on hold on security basis.

Merlin has 3 OTP sites planned in Ceel Burr (Diri, Ceel Meygag, Bergan) and will be opening them soon once supplies are available. Six (6) more OTPs have been opened in Zeila but beneficiary figures are not yet available. The planned SFP programmes will begin this month. However, concern was expressed that if GFD is disrupted, the number of malnourished children is likely to increase. Currently the number of admissions of malnourished children is steady and there have been no increases noted.

SCUK reported that OTP care in the districts of Beletweyne, Mataban and Maxaas are running but defaulters are increasing among IDPS. SCUK also plans to add SFP services to existing sites by September. They are also looking into going into Bossaso.

SOADO is an agricultural development organization operating mainly in the Hiran region. The organization reported that they participated in the nutrition assessment in Bulo-burte and Jalalaqsi. They reported that the area has experienced 5 consecutive seasons of crop failure resulting to food insecurity reaching its worst of levels prior to the start of the 2009 Gu rains. Plans are underway to start a meat distribution project in the region.

INTERSOS reported that they have spoken with the local authorities to resume the activities of the feeding program. The L.A. have allowed UNICEF trucks with Plumpy’doz supplies to move from Mogadishu to Jowhar.

FAHRO (Fanole Human Rights Organization) reported that nutrition problems were noted in Lower Juba. The situation is worsened by the poor rains and the inability to generate income in the regular manner. There did not seem to be cooperation between local and international NGOs according to the officer representing the organization. Ali Abdullahi from the organization appealed for help for the communities in Lower Juba as well as a co-operation mechanism between the local and international NGOs.

Agencies were asked to report any human rights issues noted in their area of operation to the protection section in UNICEF, nutrition cluster and UNICEF will facilitate links to protection cluster and UNICEF protection section.

3. Nutrition Response Update

Feedback from the Mogadishu Response meeting

UNICEF: This action point was to be collectively addressed by UNICEF and NGOs working in Mogadishu. Clear overlap between Oxfam Novib/SAACID and ACF has been identified in two locations (Hodan and Waberi). SAACID will therefore not

initiate OTPS in these locations. No details were available for the MSF-S activities in Mogadishu. SAACID plans to start an OTP in Karaan if MSF-S will not have resumed operations in the area.

WFP and Partners

In the month of July WFP through its different partners planned on reaching a total of 266,863 beneficiaries through different interventions as shown below. Coverage of 78% was however achieved on the overall.

Programme	Planned	Reached
Targeted SFP	67,000	40,200 (60%)
Blanket SFP	129,529	116,576 (90%)
MCHN	9848	72, 88 (74%)
Institutional Feeding	60,486	44,155 (73%)
Total	266,863	208,219 (78%)

Under achievement was mostly due to operational pause in Lower Shabelle and restriction on distribution by LA in Middle Juba.

Gedo T-SFP has finally started after long delay. Meeting held with LA in Garbaharey on 15th July helped to iron contentious points. August will be the last distribution for blanket SFP in the Central region of Mudug, Galgadud and South Nugal. WFP commissioned surveys undertaken by FSNAU reveal improvements in the nutrition situation (Mudug 18.3% GAM; Galgadud: 14.3% GAM). However food security situation remains fragile and WFP will start T-SFP in selected locations from Sept-Oct. The GFD for host community in Bossaso town has stopped in July. Talks are ongoing with Relief International to start a T-SFP project in August or September.

Action: Analyze with UNICEF numbers targeted versus reached in relation to the CAP targets.

Recommendations and way forward regarding MAM guidelines: Feedback on the piloting exercise has so far only been received from Medair. Other piloting agencies were given one week from the date of this meeting to provide feedback.

4. Feedback from the IASC gender meeting. The nutrition cluster was represented by Lucy of IMC and Fitsum of UNICEF. Lucy reported that the meeting was organized by OCHA to sensitize clusters to be gender sensitive when preparing the 2010 CAP priorities. Gender mainstreaming into programming to be considered more seriously.

Action: - Circulate ToRS that include gender issues for the 2010 CAP/Tools - IMC/UNICEF
-Share website where more information can be obtained- IMC/Lucy
-Follow up action points from the minutes- IMC/UNICEF

Health cluster was asked to contact OCHA to follow up details of gender mainstreaming into programming.

5. Field Cluster Focal Points: The need to identify field cluster focal points for different zones was explained by the Cluster support officer as a requirement for all clusters. Several agencies expressed willingness to take the lead in various zones as follows:

Mogadishu- SAACID; meetings to be held 2 weeks before the Nairobi monthly cluster meeting.

Baidoa- UNICEF

Belatywene- IMC

Middle Juba- WFP

Action: OCHA to share ToRs that would provide guidance to the field cluster focal points.
Names and contacts of focal points to be provided- By agencies who have volunteered as cluster focal points.

6. AOB

- International Breastfeeding Week:**

This week is the Global Breast Feeding Week, the THEME being **Breastfeeding; A vital Emergency Response**. UNICEF is willing to partner with willing organizations in activities related to nutrition and IYCF and appealed to organizations to come forward with proposals and ideas for general IYCF and as well as for the breastfeeding week.

UNICEF reported having issued a press release on how breastfeeding contributes to saving lives with a specific reference to the Somalia emergency.

Action: Press release document to be circulated to the cluster members.

The chair also informed the meeting that FSNAU had developed a poster on IYCF which needs to be printed. Members were urged to focus on designing projects appropriate to address IYCF in specific areas, particularly those areas where malnutrition levels are constantly high e.g. Bossaso.

Clarification was sought over how the breastfeeding rates in the rural Somalia compared with those of the urban setting. The chair explained that breast feeding rate was less than 10% for the whole of Somalia, with exclusive breastfeeding being the major problem.

Action: FSANU /UNICEF to re- Circulate the 2007/2008 study on IYCF in Somalia.

Child health days: There were concerns from members that the timing of the CHDs coinciding with the Ramadhan might affect TT coverage. UNICEF clarified that it is expected that 80% of the population will be covered before the start of Ramadhan and only the last couple of days of the CHDs will fall within the period.

- **Recruitment of IMAM guidelines consultant:** UNICEF informed the meeting that although advertisements for the consultancy were put up a while back, strong CVS were not forthcoming and even with the extension of the deadlines for application, only 7 good CVs have so far been received. Potential candidates will be contacted and interviewed in the coming few days.
- **Sphere Workshop Report Feedback:** Participants were asked to provide any comments they might have on the Sphere recommendations and the framework to Erin of Concern World Wide by COB August 6th.

Action: Finalize feedback from partners on Sphere Revision Workshop.

- **Supplies looted from UNICEF:** UNICEF has issued a letter to all agencies and local authorities with a list of supplies that would be potentially harmful if used inappropriately and provided a caution that it is inappropriate to accept any of the supplies as donation.
- **Operations in accessible areas:** UNICEF will discuss further with relevant agencies operations in areas where access is hampered by insecurity.
- **Cluster coordinator recruitment:** UNICEF reported that a candidate has been identified for the position of a cluster coordinator and a final offer is in the process. The person is expected to be on board in 8 weeks time.

Action Points	Focal agency/person	Timeline	Update
EWARS to link up with UNICEF/MOHL/FSNAU regarding reporting of severe acute malnutrition. FOR FOLLOW UP	UNICEF/Fitsum		No contact made between UNICEF and WHO. Programme coverage was however reported to be very low.
Circulation by UNICEF of a draft CHD schedule if ready and available	UNICEF/Fitsum		No firm schedule is available as yet. Activity will however take place as follows: South and Central- beginning of September North East- December 09/January 2010
WFP to circulate a 2 page summary on recommendations and way forward regarding guidelines, and develop accompanying facilitator notes for training materials already produced. FOR FOLLOW UP	WFP/ Marc		Feedback awaited from some of the agencies participating in the piloting exercise.
Based on on-going nutrition response activities shared by partners, a core group will meet to review what has/not worked, plans on the breastfeeding week, and way forward. FOR FOLLOW UP	UNICEF/Fitsum		Pending action

The meeting ended at 11.20 am. The next meeting to be held on Monday 7th September at Somalia Support Secretariat (SSS), Lake View, Ngecha Road @ 9:30am