

IASC Nutrition Cluster/ SSS Nutrition Working Group
Minutes of Meeting held at 14:00 hrs, Wednesday 3rd June 2009
Somali Support Secretariat Conference Room, Lake View, Ngecha Road

Participants

Ahono Busili (chair)	FSNAU	Hodan Abdi	Muslim Aid
Erin McCloashey	Concern WW	Ahmed Nur Hussein	FSNAU/FAO
Abdi Hersi	Merlin	Fatima Abdirahman	Oxfam Novib
Halima Nasra	WFP Somalia	Gaspard Bossoli	MDM France
Haile Gebru	WFP Somalia	Sharif Mohammed Haji	World Vision
Ali Mohamed	TARDO	Pamela Mohamed	Mercy USA
Patricia Agwaro	OCHA HRF	Fistum Assefa	UNICEF
Jason Snuggs	UNICEF	Irene Bosire	Mercy USA
Sophie Bruneau	ACF Somalia	S Dalil	UNICEF
Christy Sprinkle	SAACID	Anthony Abura	WV
Christelle Fontana	CESUI	Bernard Kapere	GHC
Elise Wach	Relief Int	Dahab Hussein	GHC
Sundus Abdi	Muslim Aid	James Kingori	UNICEF

Apologies:

Grainne Moloney	FSNAU
Lucy Maina	IMC
Hellen Clark	Medair

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

Meeting participants were welcomed and introductions done. Participants were informed that the purpose of this monthly Cluster/Working Group meeting is to share information and coordinate nutrition programs amongst nutrition stakeholders in Somalia.

Twenty nine (27) participants representing 17 agencies operating in Somalia were present. The minutes of the May 4th 2009 meeting were reviewed and corrections incorporated. The various action points were reviewed and their status updated (see last page).

Meeting participants were informed of a name change from FSAU to FSNAU- Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit.

Action Points	Focal agency/ person	Timeline
Nutrition response strategies and operational challenges in CSZ will be added as an agenda item in the July Nutrition WG/Cluster Meeting.		July
The Mogadishu Nutrition Response Taskforce will convene to analyze response strategy and capacity in CSZ and come up with best practices and lessons learnt.	UNICEF	June
CHD activity schedule to be circulated to members once finalized	UNICEF	
Breastfeeding presentation and documents to be circulated to members for information.	UNICEF	June
ConcernWW will circulate an e-mail to partners to organize a workshop for review of Sphere handbook.	CWW	June

2. Situation Update

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE

There has been no significant positive change from the January 2009 analysis, though there are improvements and deterioration in parts of Somalia. The Gu'09 rains were timely and began in late March/early April both in northern and parts of southern Somalia. However the progress of the rainfall has been mixed, in terms of intensity

and distribution, with most of the southern regions receiving normal rains, while the key pastoral regions of central and northern parts experiencing erratic and localized rainfall. In addition, during the first dekad of June 2009, moderate Hagaa rains were received in Juba, Shabelle and Bay. These rains improved crop growth and water and pasture conditions.

Given the poor to normal localized rainfall in most of the areas of the north, pasture and water conditions have further deteriorated. Although localized moderate rains were received in some areas of Golis, Sool, Hawd and Nugal Valley, which helped regenerate pasture and replenish water sources, rangeland resources were quickly depleted due to large livestock in-migration from neighboring rain deficit areas. In most of the key pastoral areas of central regions, due to the intermittent poor coverage of the Gu rainfall and preceding long dry spell, the berkards are empty and water trucking remains the most important source of water.

Cereal prices decreased in some areas; where some remained the same. Livestock export increased and frequency of remittance decreased. Parts of Juba and Lower Shabelle regions reported good rains leading to improved crop production; some harvesting of maize and early planting. Maize production normal and Sorghum production is expected to be near normal. This is dependant on the continuation of rains in June.

FSNAU plans to conduct a seasonal assessment to review the situation, from Mid June-July 2009. Partners are invited to a planning meeting on June 11th, 2009, 2:00pm at the Somali Support Secretariat Conference Room. This assessment to be conducted will reveal more details of the food security situation.

NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE

- 10 surveys were undertaken by FSNAU in May 2009. These were mainly livelihood based and covered Middle and Lower Shabelle (riverine, agro pastoralists, Afgoye-Merca corridor IDPs and Adale District); and Central regions (Hawd, Addun, Coastal Deeh, Cowpea livelihood zones, Mudug and Galgadud region). Data entry is on-going and preliminary findings will be released through FSAU's publications and the FSRD meeting in the course of next week.
- In June, 6 livelihood based surveys are planned from June 6th, 2009 and will cover: Bay and Bakool regions (pastoralists and agropastoralists), the coastal livelihood zones of NW and NE i.e. Golis/Guban.
- There are plans for IDP assessments in Bossasso, Galcayo, Garowe and Qardo from late June. Agencies were encouraged to participate.
- A Micronutrients malnutrition study was completed in Somaliland in May 2009, and plans underway to undertake the study in south central regions, in June 2009.
- MEDAIR / UNICEF are scheduled to conduct a coverage survey for their OTP/plumpy doz activities in Burao, from end of June 2009.

HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING NUTRITION

ACF brought to the attention of participants that there is a reportedly measles outbreak in Guriel. Participants were requested to share any available information on this outbreak. The FSNAU assessments in these areas are scheduled to provide more highlights.

3. Nutrition Response Update

OXFAMNOVIB

Reported that MCH rehabilitation has begun and that staff recruitment of a nutritionist and other programme staffs in preparation for nutrition programmes in Mogadishu are ongoing.

WORLD VISION

Reported that activities in Middle Juba have slowed down due to security challenges and majority of expatriates are in Nairobi. Major expansion is ongoing in South of Hargeisa. A mobile OTP team is to be started in Hargeisa due to high GAM rate.

MERCY USA

No major issues to report

UNICEF

UNICEF reported that there are over 40 OTP sites were established in South Central regions, in the first quarter (mainly in Central region, but also in Lower Shabele/Concern and Hiran regions/SCF-UK), but are not all fully functional. Some more expansion can occur; however access issues in the South are still a problem.

MERLIN

Reported that 6 new sites (3 MCHs and health posts) are to be opened; Expansions continue in Galgadud, but supplies remain affected.

WFP

WFP is currently training partners in Hargeisa on the new field guide for management of moderate malnutrition, which marks the launch of the piloting exercise for 3 months. Attending agencies were Medair, WVI, IMC, SCRS and Muslim Aid. Training will be conducted in SCZ for AMA, DIAL and ZamZam.

T-SFP trainings were completed in Wajid for out Bay and Bakool partners and another one is currently being done in Wajid to the Gedo partners. Trainings could not be done in Garbaharey due to restrictions on movement of staff. More trainings are however, planned for Beletwein, Jowhar and Buale when security allows. In May, over 50,000 children and PLW were treated in WFP supported T-SFP throughout the country. We are pursuing expansion in Gedo, Hiran Somaliland and currently negotiating to open in Bossaso town.

B-SFP operation in May (1st distribution) reached 80,000 children under 5 with CSB, oil and sugar. As of end May, 80% of distributions were completed and the rest dispatched. June registration ongoing and the number reached is expected to increase substantially.

MCHN nutrition support reached in May almost 9,000 children under 2 years old and PLW

CONCERN WORLDWIDE

Concern WW reported that they are ready to open 4 new OTPs in Kurtunwarey and Adale districts of Lower Shabelle. However, Concern was raised by CWW over high number of referrals from areas where COSV is operational, and a follow up on the issues planned.

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.

ACF

Reported increased MCH/OPD visits with 1081 new beneficiaries

RELEIF INTERNATIONAL

Received grant for livelihoods and supplementary feeding programme to be followed up with WFP.

MUSLIM AID

Continued supplementary feeding programmes in Kismayo and Lower Juba. A survey is also planned with MoH PL and WHO.

GHC

Reported that they have not experienced any stock outs. The new growth standards (GS) will be used in one district and they will review SFP admission criteria accordingly.

MOGADISHU RESPONSE

Members were informed that a Mogadishu Nutrition Response Meeting on 12th May 2009, in follow up to the Nutrition cluster Meeting on 4th May 2009. The purpose of this special meeting was to provide a forum for in-depth discussion on the Mogadishu conflict, the IDP crisis and the spill over effect to Shabelle regions and beyond. Concerted interventions are required in Mogadishu and should expand into Lower Shabelle where there are response gaps.

The following were key highlights of the meeting:

- The Mogadishu response covered migration and activities in Mogadishu and surrounding areas.
- Given the conflict the IASC highlights WASH, Shelter and Food Aid as areas to focus to prioritize in the Mogadishu response.
- MSF-S and ACF interventions continue to run in Mogadishu and immediate environs.
- A map of nutrition facilities (ongoing and proposed) in Mogadishu showing was shared with members.
- OxfamNovib in collaboration with Saacid are embarking in the rehabilitation of some 16 facility points/MCH points where they will establish 16 SFP/OTP points.
- Overall, two tripartite agreements for management of two programmes components in Mogadishu were proposed:
 1. Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Management targeting 8 OTPs with a possible expansion to 16 OTP, UNICEF, OxfamNovib and Saacid.
 2. Moderated Acute Malnutrition (MAM) Management targeting 16 SFP using supplementary plumpy with WFP, OxfamNovib and Saacid.

Discussion:

A brief discussion was made on the current nutrition response strategies and the extent how they are responsive to ever changing operating environment in CSZ. Concern was raised by CWW over high number of referrals from areas where COSV is operational, and a follow up on the issues planned. UNICEF further requested a follow up meeting to analyze current response capacity and lessons learnt and to review the current nutrition response strategy – UNICEF to provide the lead.

Action point: Nutrition response strategies and operational challenges in CSZ will be added as an agenda item in the July Nutrition WG/Cluster Meeting.

Action point: The Mogadishu Nutrition Response Taskforce led by UNICEF will convene to analyze response strategy and capacity and come up with best practices and lessons learnt.

4. AOB

- **CAP funding:** The Nutrition sector has only received 20% of its overall budget. 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 \$6 m to fund emergency projects and agencies. Members of the Cluster/WG were encouraged to submit proposals OCHA- HRF through the nutrition cluster for consideration.
- **Child Health Days (CHD) Schedule:** Once finalized, UNICEF will circulate the CHD activity plan to members of the cluster for planning and information purposes.

Action Point: UNICEF to circulate CHD activity schedule once finalized.

- **Plumpy doz response review:** It was clarified that approximately 125- 127K children in the whole country of which about 110,000 in CSZ, however the lack of high quality data and the fact that the project was delivered as package and no control group consider means that information on effectiveness, on the effectiveness of

plumpy doze to prevent malnutrition can not be documented in a scientific manner. However, it adds to the global evidence base, by documenting operational aspects of the project in one of the most complex humanitarian crisis.

- **Breastfeeding Week Preparation:** The Breastfeeding week is scheduled for August 2009. Agencies encouraged to participate and share suggestions with UNICEF. Fitsum to circulate a power point presentation on breastfeeding

Action Point: UNICEF to circulate Breastfeeding presentation and documents to members for information.

- **Review of Sphere:** The revision of the Sphere 2004 handbook is on-going. The nutrition cluster will be meeting on June 24th, 9am-1pm to consolidate comments. Concern worldwide is taking the lead.

Action point: Concern WW will circulate an e-mail to partners to organize a workshop for review of Sphere handbook.

- The Kenya government is in the process of registering nutritionists and dieticians. The initial process (scheduled to end in mid July 2009) is friendly and does not require participants to undertake professional exams. However from October 2009, the terms for registration are anticipated to change, and a technical process including examination, will be undertaken prior to registration. NWG members with interest to work in the Kenya at some point may want to consider registering at this point in time. The registration forms are available at the FSNAU.

Action Points	Focal agency/ person	Timeline
Circulate the schedule of the CHD activities for Puntland to encourage participation from the nutrition cluster DONE	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 DONE	WFP	Regularly/ monthly
Send TIPs tools together with the minutes to members DONE	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) DONE	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 DONE	UNICEF/NCC	8 th May 09
Provide feedback on the IEC utilization questionnaire to Jones (UNICEF) DONE	Members	8 th May 09
Avail the revised version of the Feeding Programme database in the next two weeks ONGOING	UNICEF	May 2009

The next meeting to be held on Monday, 6th July 2009 at Somalia Support Secretariat (SSS), Lake View, Ngecha Road @ 9:00 am