

IASC Nutrition Cluster/ SSS Nutrition Working Group
Minutes of Meeting held at 9:00 hrs, Monday 6th April 2009
UNICEF Somalia Annex Conference Room, Gigiri.

Participants

Agane Abdullahi	AMA	Heather Amstutz	Medair
Abdi Ali Raghe	AFREC	Habiba Mohamed	Mercy USA
Haret S. Hassan	AFREC	Ahono Busili	FSAU/FAO
Suzanne Brinkamann	SC-UK	Tom Oguta	FSAU/FAO
Lucy Maina	IMC	Ahmed Nur Hussein	FSAU/FAO
Fatuma Abdirahaman	ACF	Marc Prost	WFP
Shafi Aden Ugas	ASEP	Peter Kingori	WFP
Hassan S. A/karim	ZamZam	Peter Hailey	UNICEF-ESARO
Brown Mapesa	GHC	Fitsum Assefa	UNICEF
Rosellyn Mullo	ECHO-RSO	Jones Mpakateni	UNICEF
Wema Adere	WVS	Imran Mirza	UNICEF
Pamela Liyala	WVS	James Kingori	UNICEF
Rispa Were	Oxfam	Apologies	
Helen Clark	Medair	Erin McCloskey	Concern WW

1. Introduction and background

The meeting started with an introduction of participants. Twenty six (26) participants from 16 agencies operating in Somalia were present. The minutes of the March 2nd 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 Nutrition Assessments Schedule for 2009	FSAU	April 2009
Circulate the presentation on Child health days (CHD) in Somaliland	UNICEF	April 2009
Circulate the schedule of the subsequent CHD activities to encourage participation from the nutrition cluster	UNICEF (Imran)	April 2009
Avail the revised version of the Feeding Programme database in the next two weeks	UNICEF	April 2009
IMAM – Review TOR for consultancy to develop the guidelines, based on the comments to be provided by members by 8 th April	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	WFP	April 15 th , 2009
FAO to present on TIPS	FAO	May 4 th , 2009
Analyze the impact on the change in knowledge, who uses the IEC materials and how they are being used was made	UNICEF (Jones/NCC)	April 2009

FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

FSAU reported that the food security situation remains generally unchanged since February 2009. There is deterioration in basic indicators in Central Regions and localized areas in Gedo (Bardera and Elwak), while Golis/Guban livelihoods remains of concern. Terms of Trade for cereals and livestock have not improved. There are reports of deaths of calves and kids as well as deteriorating livestock body condition.

However, field reports have indicated localized rains in Bay and Bakool regions, parts of Gedo (Bardera and Elwak) and in Juba riverine areas. No rains have been reported in Hiran and Shabelle regions, but *Gu* rains are expected to begin this month. AFREC reported that rain gauges located in respective sites in Afmadow, Sakow and Jilib have not recorded any rainfall.

The off-season crop assessment in the riverine areas of Juba and Shabelle in March reported only 72% of the projected production (7000MT). There is increased cereal/labor TOT resulting from demand for cultivation activities in Shabelle. More

updates will be presented in the next FRSD meeting scheduled for 16th April 2009. Further details of the FSAU analysis are accessible through: www.fsausomali.org.

NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE

FSAU reported that two nutrition assessment activities to be on-going in Somalia. The Hiran Assessments which include Belletweyne District Assessment, Hiran Riverine, Hiran Agropastoral and Hiran pastoral (LQAS) have just been completed. Pre-testing during the training for these assessments shows initial indications of increased incidences of suspected measles and confirmed cases of malaria. The long awaited Micronutrient Deficiency Disorder (MDD) survey finally took off and is ongoing in North East Zone. The MDD assessment also incorporates child and women anthropometry (comic index).

Partners were further reminded to step up for the anticipated increase in the number of acutely malnourished when the WHO 2006 Growth Standards are adopted this year.

FSAU reported that in the light of the deteriorating food security situation in Central regions, assessments are scheduled for Addun and Hawd pastoral livelihoods in early May (next month).

HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING NUTRITION

It was brought to the attention of participants that the March 09 WHO Somali Health Cluster Bulletin, had reported AWD/Cholera outbreak in Lower Juba (Jilib and Jamaame), Bay (Burhakaba and Baidoa), Banadir and Lower Shabelle (Wanlaweine). The concern for a renewed AWD outbreak in view of the water scarcity was raised, more so if the rains delay or fail. Cases of measles have also been reported in Beletweyne. Response activities have been stepped up. Several health activities were organized for both **World Water Day** on 22 March; and **World TB Day** on 24 March. **World Health Day** is coming up on 7 April.

NUTRITION RESPONSE UPDATE

Child Health Days (CHD)

The CHD campaign have been undertaken in Somaliland with encouraging results ranging between 60% and 75% for the various activities (women and children vaccination with various antigens, micro-nutrient supplementation, ORS provision, etc). The population over-estimation as well as change of strategy in Hargeisa was associated with lower coverage of the services, after the campaign. The CHD activities in S&C Somalia were undertaken between 22nd and 31st March and results will be shared. It was noted that some mothers were not willingly taking their malnourished children to the feeding centres when referred during the CHD campaigns. Improvement in implementation strategy refinement and social mobilization will be enhanced to improve the coverage in the subsequent campaigns. The schedule for the CHD activities will be widely circulated to health and nutrition stakeholders to facilitate more participation by the stakeholders.

WHO and UNICEF have successfully completed Phase 1 of **Child Health Days** in all regions of **Southern Somalia** in March; The CHD teams also moved into Hiran after reports of increased suspected measles incidences. Central regions and Puntland will be covered in April.

TFC Data Reporting Presentation:

UNICEF presented a proposed database system for Feeding Programme Reports/data base with 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 as those of SFPs, hence the database can be easily upgraded to cater for the SFP. Basic graphs that facilitate identifying the number of reports received, children admitted, new admissions, mortality, defaulter, children discharged after curing, etc are generated by the program. The current version of the data base is under review and feedback will be provided to the consultant, currently developing the data base. The next version will be available in the next two weeks. Training on this database will be provided once the database is ready.

Many other agencies (FSAU, IMC, and GHC) noted that the software/programme is similar to HIS/HMIS currently used for nutrition surveillance at facility level and thus would not be a problem adopting.

IMAM TOR Review

The Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition consultancy (IMAM) TOR was briefly discussed with a note being made that the IMAM will incorporate the Moderate Malnutrition Management guidelines developed. Consensus on the duration of the consultancy and the various components to be considered was sought. A final review of the current draft TOR will be made based on the final comments that will be received by 8th April.

The Chair asked participants to give their comments on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guidelines consultancy's terms of reference (TOR) and feedback to him by the 8th April.

Nutrition Cluster Reporting Indicators

A summary of nutrition clusters activity/programme indicators was presented for comment. It detailed on the programme data/activity reports generated and at what frequency namely monthly feeding programme data, quarterly reports on the number of staffs trained or new programmes that started, number of guideline developed etc. Through this, close documentation on the programme progress over time will be done at both the cluster and programme level and linkages with the resources allocated can be extrapolated. In addition, report to the donors as well as the monthly cluster reports will have the necessary details on figures and areas the tasks are undertaken. Concern was raised at the low rate of reporting by agencies.

UPDATE ON TIPS INTERVENTIONS

FSAU reported that FAO commenced nutrition education workshop for Training of Trainers on Trials in Improving Practices (TIPS) in Mandera. The TIPS project will mainly be implemented along the riverine areas in Hiran and Gedo alongside vegetable seed distribution. The FAO staff in charge of the project implementation was in the field at the time of the meeting, and will provide further update in the next meeting.

AOB

- Medair response: In Cadale, as of 1st of March, there were 134 cases in OTP, 2 in SC, 982 in SFP while in Burao there were 209 cases in OTP and 1014 in SFP. In Cadale 3787 cases received plumpy doz in the 1st round.
- In the wake of the forthcoming World Breast feeding Week in August, UNICEF proposed an extended period of one month to focus on breastfeeding in Somalia. UNICEF expressed their shock at the apparently high rate of formula feeding in Somalia.
- WFP reported plans to provide a blanket food distribution this month followed thereafter with targeted feeding in Central regions.
- It was recommended that MUAC screening activities should include a formal referral system and that the number screened and number referred should be included in the reports.
- Fatma/ACF is leaving ACF in April 2009 for Oxfam NOVIB

Action Points from the March 2nd, 2009 Meeting and the statuses	Focal agency/person
Convene the Acute Malnutrition Task Force to define the piloting exercise of the MAM management guideline and the field guide – NOT DONE	WFP
Update the Emergency Response Matrix (3Ws) with the latest response activities in Central and Gedo: DONE	NCC
Undertake a WHO Growth Standards sensitization meeting with decision makers and donors in March 2009: DONE	UNICEF/FSAU/WFP
The Feeding Programme Database demonstration and report presentation to be done	UNICEF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-circulate the IMAM guidelines consultancy draft TOR: DONE • Members to provide comments on IMAM consultancy TOR will be developed: DONE 	NCC Members
Agencies to send their request for IEC materials detailing the number and how to use them: DONE	All
Analyze the impact on the change in knowledge, who uses the IEC materials and how they are being used was made: NOT DONE	Jones/James (UNICEF)

The next meeting to be held on 4th May 2009 at SSS Spring Valley OR at UNICEF Somalia @9.00 am – tentatively