

Nutrition Working Group/IASC Nutrition Cluster

Minutes of meeting held at 0900hrs, Monday, 4th August, 2008

Kalson Towers, SSS Conference Room

Participants

Fatuma Abdirahman	ACF	Kiki Gbeho	OCHA
Danka Pantchova	ACF	Aadrian Sullivan	ECHO Somalia
Veronicah Njoki	CARE	Lucy Maina	IMC
Abdulahi Durye	DAL	Mohamed Abdi	APD
Hassan Bualle Farah	HDC	Wema Adere	World Vision
Getrude Akinyi	DRC	Ruth Tiampati	World Vision
Khalil Dale	DRC	Godela Von Dohren	WHO
Marcella Michuad	USAID/OFDA	Haile Gebre	WHO
Francessca Cerri	COSV	Muhuyodi Esow	SAF
Mawadri Micheal	WFP	Faisah Ahmed	SAF
Ahmed Basey	HARDO	Ali Mohamed	ADA
Hala Sulieman	WFP	Irene Bosire	Mercy USA
Roselyn Mullo	ECHO-RSO	Jitske Brouwer	MEDAIR
PeninaMuli	UNICEF	Louise Masese	FSAU/FAO
Lisa Peterson	OCHA	Winnie Otieno	FSAU/FAO
Matthew Olins	OCHA	James Kingori	UNICEF

1. Introduction and Background

The meeting commenced with self introduction of the members present. In total, 32 members from 22 agencies participated. The status of the action points from the July meeting were then reviewed (see back page)

Action points from the July, 2008 meeting

Action Point	Who	When
1. Delay of PCAs in UNICEF- Follow up	UNICEF	Partner agencies sited, long delays in the processing of PCAs. It was agreed that UNICEF would hold an internal meeting on the issue and revert to partners.
2. Presentation on CAP 2008 rollout to be circulated to members	OCHA	The CAP rollout presentation to be circulated to partners
3. WFP,UNICEF,OCHA are conducting a rapid assessments for the recent IDPs in Hiran and Bakool, feedback to be provided to partners	WFP/UNICEF/OCHA	On completion of the on going assessments, feedback to be shared at the FSAU nutrition validation meeting.
4. Examples of feeding database documents for adoption by the NWG members were circulated for feedback by the cluster chair	All members	Members to provide feedback to the cluster chair by COB 05/08/08

2. Situation Update

2 (a) Nutrition Update

FSAU reported that the nutrition situation is generally critical in most parts of Somalia; the team were still in Hargeisa, finalizing the Post Gu 08 food security and nutrition situation. A significant deterioration has been observed in North West Zone (Somaliland), with the area now classified to be in **Serious** and **Critical** nutrition situation. The IDPs of Hargeisa, Burao and Berbera have all been classified as **Very Critical**. A meeting with technical partners is arranged for 13th August 2008, to validate the findings of the Post Gu '08 nutrition situation analysis, members are encouraged to attend.

2 (b) Food Security situation update

Food Security brief was not given as the food security team were all in Hargeisa participating in the Post Gu, food security analysis workshop, a detailed update of the food security situation analyzed from the Post Gu 08 will be provided when the team returns.

2(c) Health issues affecting nutrition

WHO confirmed increased incidences of diarrhoea in Puntland, Bargal region whereby 7 deaths have occurred and 109 cases have been reported is not an outbreak of cholera. Further investigations are being conducted as the increased cases nonetheless indicate a health problem in the area.

IMC reported that their SFP in Bakool region have noted an increase in diarrhoea cases and worm infestation in children, especially those from Bakool region.

ACF in Mogadishu have no TB drugs currently and are requesting WHO to assist in ensuring that they access the required drugs for their facilities.

3. Response Update

a) Agencies Updates

ACF

ACF reported the total in charge in Mogadishu facilities was over 1,000 beneficiaries. Plumpy nut supplies are required urgently not only in Mogadishu but also Wajid. ACF urged UNICEF to hasten the delivery of the urgently required supplies.

The introduction of cut-offs using WHO standards for malnourished children in Mogadishu facilities has increased the number of children admitted to 628 from 460 in the month of June. It is also important to note that the increase could also be attributed to an increased number of malnourished children in the area, ACF therefore made a request to view the monthly reports from other partners in the region to be able to get accurate analysis of the current situation.

World Vision (WV): Have identified two points for feeding in Bakool region, Wajid and Luuq, they are to consult further with GHC to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts in the area. OTP programmes were discussed and confirmed by UNICEF 18 months ago, unfortunately, this has not began, UNICEF to follow up on the matter.

APD: SFP in Afmadow were reporting increased numbers of acutely malnourished children and oedema cases, these reports are to be confirmed by the FSAU and partners nutrition assessment which has just been concluded in the Juba region.

IMC: Reported that the funding from OFDA will continue to fund their food security project.

WFP: is planning to embark on a project that will see moderately malnourished children (6-59 months) receiving supplementary plumpy, in addition, CSB will be given to pregnant and lactating women as an incentive package for the women who deliver in hospitals.

b) Nutrition Cluster Strategy harmonization- Update and way forward

An analysis of the various nutrition rehabilitation products being used in Somalia in ongoing emergency nutrition response is underway addressing the product type and strategies in use. A document on the review outlining the different products in use, suggested scenarios for planning and action plans for the way forward was shared with members for feedback.

c) Nutrition data/Feeding programme database

Examples of feeding database were shared with partners, feedback on the documents circulated were to be shared by COB 5/08/08 to pave the way forward. It was also noted that provision of feeding reports from the agencies was not done as required, however in response, agencies mentioned that even after ensuring submission of reports, receipt was not acknowledged by UNICEF. It was agreed that the reports would be sent to Unni, Medina and James, and it would be confirmed whether they would also be copied to Grainne of FSAU. Members also suggested that an example of the Darfur database should be shared with partners for possibility of adoption.

d) HRF utilisation by Nutrition Cluster

It has been noted that members are not making full utilization of the HRF funds; ideas on how this fund can be better utilized are welcome from the members. A specific guideline on how partners can access the funds for relevant programmes is available; the cluster chair will circulate the guidelines to members. The maximum available funding is USD \$ 250,000 and the timeline is six months. After guidelines are circulated, if there is need for further guidelines on the proposals development, a presentation on the same can be prepared for members.

4. Other issues discussed/follow up

OCHA CAP 2008 Presentation

OCHA gave members a presentation on the intended roll out of the CAP 2008 process. The presentation is to be circulated to members, there will be workshops at field level in Hargeisa, Garowe partners are encourage to attend, and finally in Nairobi on the 4th and 5th September 2008.

UNICEF PCA delays

It was noted by partners that there was a delay in the PCA's, this needs to be followed up with UNICEF management, UNICEF to consult and give formal feedback in the next meeting.

IEC Material piloting

Materials are ready and have been submitted to UNICEF for printing

Additional action points (status) from the June 3rd 2008 meeting

Action Point	Who	Status Update
Nutrition situation and response update across the border with Ethiopia (neighbouring Goldogob and Abduwaq)	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Update provide with GAM rates exceeding 20% being reported in Warder zone. Emergency nutrition response ongoing though some gaps still exist. More details to be provided once available.
Request the health and WASH sector/ cluster contribution in the nutrition technical and coordination discussion to realize integrated response	Nutrition Cluster coordinator/OCHA	Both sectors (plus more) invited and included in the nutrition cluster mailing list. Apology received from WASH coordinator.
Revision of the Nutrition Assessment Guidelines	FSAU to lead	Revision ongoing with incorporation of the globally endorsed recommendations.
Circulation of a soft copy of 'birth report' for comments from partners	FSAU	Option of using the Growth Monitoring cards explored as a more appropriate/ better documentation with more child essential details.
WFP scheduled to conduct a four day training to its partners in supplementary feeding, from June 16 th	WFP	Training carried out but excluded SFP component
Feedback on discussions between Excomm and partners	Dr Kamran, SSS, Health Coordinator	SSS,HC and FSAU to feedback on the current ongoing discussions
Roll out of new WHO Growth Standards	FSAU	FSAU to share the fact sheets, once developed, on the implication of and reasons why the new WHO standards are necessary and how the numbers of malnourished children will vary. Implementing agencies to continue to report findings based on both NCHS and WHO 2005 anthro, for one year. After which, the WHO 2005 alone will be used. Status: Still awaiting feedback from HQ in Rome
Calculation of new caseload on estimated numbers of acutely malnourished children using new standards and cut offs of <-3WHZ and MUAC for planning purposes based on 2008 figures	FSAU and UNICEF	FSAU to update planning figures using 2008 surveys and WHO Standards rates. Also # estimated to be calculated using MUAC. To be circulated to key partners before next NWG. Status: Preliminary figures based on the NCHS released = 180,000 acutely malnourished with 26,000 being severely malnourished. Figures based on WHO and MUAC yet to be availed. FSAU undertaking the Gu assessment and will avail details in August.
Draft statement on behalf on NWG / Cluster to highlight concerns as to current situation with focus on encouraging alternative strategies due to reduced access – as lobbying and advocacy tool	NWG/NC Members – draft to be prepared by chair and co chair	FSAU/ Cluster Coordinator to draft a statement on current concerns over access and nutrition situation and possible strategies for response for advocacy and fund raising. To be circulated to partners for review in next 2 weeks. Status: Draft statement undergoing review by the nutrition stakeholders to give final comments

The next meeting to be held on September 1st, 2008 at 9.00 am at SSS Kalson Towers