

IASC Nutrition Cluster/ Nutrition Working Group

Minutes of meeting held at 1400hrs, Monday, December 1st, 2008

UNICEF Somalia, Annex Conference Room

Participants

Mandy Stephens	SCUK	Lucy Maina	IMC
Angela Kangori	WFP	Irene Bosire	Mercy USA
Mohamud Hersi	WFP	Kamran Mashhadi	SSS
Khalil Dale	DRC	Haret Sugow	Afrec
Getrude Akinyi	DRC	Mohamed Mumin M.	Muslim Aid
Emilie Rort	ACF	Mohamed Mohamud D	Muslim Aid
Fatuma bdi	ACF	Abi Tari	CISP
Ahono Busili	FSAU	Agane Abdullahi	AMA
Ahmed Mohamed	FSAU	James Kingori	UNICEF
Allison Oman	UNHCR	Emily Teshome	UNICEF/Consultant
Jitske Broker	MEDAIR	Fitsum Assefu	UNICEF
Abdullahi Diriye	DIAL		

The meeting was attended by 23 participants from 16 agencies. The November 2008 minutes were endorsed without any corrections and a review of action points arising from the November 2008 meeting was conducted (see back page).

Action Points	Focal agency/person	Timeline
Establish the availability of water chlorination tablets for distribution in AWD affected areas	NCC/WASH Cluster Coord/ SHSC	Immediately
DRC to circulate evaluation report for information sharing purpose	DRC	Mid Dec08
Provide feedback on the response planning meeting by nutrition and food aid groups scheduled for 2 nd Dec		Mid Dec08
DIAL to send a follow up message on their PCA between UNICEF and DIAL, copying Fitsum, Suraya and Dr. Kamran	DIAL	Immediately
Circulate the 2008 Nutrition Cluster work plan review and the proposed draft for 2009 for comments	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator.	Immediately
Nutrition Survey Guidelines revised draft to be shared on Dec 15-19, 2008 in a Nutrition workshop organized by FSAU	FSAU/Grainne Moloney	Mid Dec08

FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

FSAU

Overall, *Deyr* rains are considered to be normal, resulting in regeneration of pasture, normal crop establishment and improved water availability. The outlook for the *Deyr* season is expected to be normal in most of the central and south. Pasture and water availability has improved and migration patterns are resuming to normal in most areas. Cereal crop establishment and development is good in main producing areas of the south. While the rapid increase in price of food commodities over the last 12 months has slowed down, prices are still significantly higher than 12 months ago and the five year average. Civil insecurity continues to dominate much of the country and is continuing to reduce movement of people and goods, including food commodities. The uncertainty of political environment is continuing to impact negatively on trade and income opportunities. The debt levels among the pastoralists are still high and its notable livestock herd recovery is likely to take longer period (several rain seasons) hence the pastoralists will continue to be considered as mainly in AFLC. .

Localized flooding along Juba and Shabelle rivers is reported. The impact of the flooding can bring both positive and negative impacts to the community. The relatively good off season crop has contributed to the cereal availability thus making the cereal prices stabilize, though still high. In some cases, crops are destroyed while other regions create opportunities to carry out recession planning as well as fishing. The flooding has likely contributed to the outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) being reported in these areas.

FSAU's third round of urban food security assessments conducted in October indicates a plateau or decrease in the cost of the minimum basket since June'08 particularly in the south, in over 50% of the assessed sites. This is mainly associated with decreased local cereal prices in the main agricultural areas with crop harvests, increased income opportunities, petty trade, remittances and gifts.

The latest *Food Security and Nutrition Brief* is posted on the www.fsausomali.org.

UNHCR

UNHCR reported that they are closely monitoring the population movement closer to the border (and also into Kenya's Dadaab Camp). Significant proportions of the refugees are former pastoralists from Somalia. The screening of refugees and admission into the camp is officially not taking place since the official closure of the border, even though some cases are still finding their way into the camp. However, negotiation with the Kenyan government is underway to facilitate the refugee movement. A joint assessment mission into Dadaab has been undertaken and the appropriate briefing done to the Government of Kenya.

NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE

Findings from nutrition assessments conducted by FSAU and partners in October and November indicate deterioration in some livelihood zones and improvement in others:

Livelihood Zone	Assessment period in 2008	Findings		Trend since August'08 integrated analysis of the situation
		Global Acute Malnutrition	Severe Acute Malnutrition	
West Golis/Guban	October	20.7% (15.3-26.2)	2.4% (1.4-3.5)	Deteriorated from <i>Critical</i> to Very Critical
Sool Plateau (Sanaag Region)	October	9.9% (6.9-13.0)	0.5% (0.0-1.1)	Improved from <i>Critical</i> to Serious Phase
Central: Hawd Pastoralists	November	20.8% (14.9-16.8)	5.8% (3.2-8.4)	Deteriorated from <i>Critical</i> to Very Critical
Central: Addun Pastoralists	November	18.8%	3.8% ()	Remains <i>Critical</i>
Shabelle Agropastoralists	November	12.5% (10.6-14.6)	2.2% (1.3-3.6)	Improved from <i>Critical</i> to Serious Phase
Shabelle Riverine	November	10.8% (8.6-13.5)	2.5% (1.4-4.4)	Improved from <i>Critical</i> to Serious Phase
Shabelle IDPs (Merka/Afgoi corridor)	November	12.3% (9.7-15.5)	2.8% (1.7-4.8)	Improved from <i>Critical</i> to Serious Phase

The situation in Hawd and Golis is alarming and calls for immediate live saving response. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 2nd, to discuss humanitarian response in some of the emerging hotspots.

Bossasso IDP camp assessment has just been completed and results will be shared in the next Nutrition Update.

The Gedo livelihood based nutrition assessments initially scheduled for early December have been rescheduled due to access issues. FSAU and partners are scheduled to conduct three assessments in Juba in December. Partners will be updated accordingly.

The Nutrition Assessment Guidelines will be shared with partners in the forthcoming nutrition workshop scheduled for December 15th – 19th, 2008 by FSAU. The dissemination will be done in the form of training of trainers (TOT).

HEALTH

ACF reported increased diarrhea cases among the feeding centre beneficiaries, e.g. In Wajid, 16 out of 25 beneficiaries in the 1st week of November had diarrhea. The surveillance analysis for the month of November had not been received.

RESPONSE UPDATE

Agency Updates:

IMC: Increased severely malnourished cases have been recorded in Beletwene. IMC reported to have recorded about 60 severely malnourished cases in Beletweyne in the past 2-3 months.

SC-UK: SC-UK has submitted a proposal to ECHO for expanded CTC activities in Hiran to be located Beletweyne, Mahas and Mataban). This will be an integrated response with nutrition (modified CTC) and WASH component.

UNHCR: Close monitoring of the population movement is being done and more details will be available later. An announcement was made that there are some available Infant and Young Child Feeding materials for distribution and for reference by programmes. Members were requested to register with UNHCR to facilitate the distribution.

ACF: Reported that following the security incidence in Galgadud, that led to the ACF staff kidnapping, the SFP activities were suspended and only the life saving OTP activities are maintained. At the time of the closure, the SFP had 4000 beneficiaries under rehabilitation. Guriel OTP has about 100 in-charges (severe). ACF noted that severely malnourished cases currently arrive at the OTPs in critical condition due to poor community level situation and absence of mitigating activities. The situation in Dusamareb town was currently reported to be relatively calm (and the MSF-B managed hospital is running).

In Wajid, the WASH and food security programmes have been suspended thus leaving only the OTP and TFC activities. There was a significant increase in beneficiaries from about 60-80 in Oct to 549 in November.

In Mogadishu, the emergency nutrition programme is running though the WASH interventions have been suspended. There Mogadishu nutrition interventions have about 1000 in-charge cases. There have been increased diarrhea cases reported.

UNICEF: A brief mission to Jowhar was made where training was conducted to Jowhar Intersos hospital/MCH staff on the plumpy-do distribution.. The planned Bossasso plumpy doz distribution (meant to commence on 20th Nov) was postponed to a later date. In the mean time a mission to Elberde has been made to undertake some programme support and follow ups.

DIAL: Reported the status of the PCA discussion with UNICEF. The PCA discussion/finalization has delayed by about 8 months thus interrupting the SFP activities in Badhadhe. Currently, training of staff is ongoing in preparation for the intervention continuation.

WFP: Reported that they have done training on the supplementary plumpy distribution in Bualle and Wajid. On the MCH based interventions, operational/implementation guideline is under review. Already the supplementary plumpy is being delivered to Bualle and Wajid.

Oxfam: Oxfam currently implements some livelihood support and WASH programmes in Somalia as well as capacity strengthening of their implementing partners. Plans are underway for CTC implementation in Mogadishu, through Oxfam, Saciid and Valid International partnership. Assessment and field level preparation will commence in January 2009.

Update on SFP guideline Review

The consultant provided update on the SFP guideline review progress. Consultation has been held with IMC, Concern Worldwide, FSAU and UNICEF and further ones are scheduled in the coming days. There was a strong recommendation to change the title of the document from “SFP guideline for Somalia” to “Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition guideline” so as to fit into the proposed Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition guidelines as well as be able to accommodate important components like community involvement and the Somalia coordination structure. The consultant mentioned that there was need to improve on certain topics such as M&E section and food commodities based on the version 7 guidelines on approaches for management of acute malnutrition. The first draft for review will be available by mid Dec 08. The document will have different chapters addressing various components and possibly general nutrition issues as a background. It was affirmed that the technical content will be adopted from the existing materials for management of moderate acute to suit the Somalia context.

An appeal was made to provide some Somalia specific case studies, pictures/photos (screening, FGD, transportation /logistics aspects cooking demonstration sessions), summary of the coordination mechanism, etc. In addition, the soft copy of the ANC card was sought for inclusion in guideline. The purpose of this was to ensure that a pregnant woman carries only one card that will serve both ANC and SFP visits.

UNHCR noted that this guideline review exercise will facilitate standardization in programme implementation in Somalia and most likely other countries will adopt some of such guidelines developed for Somalia.

Cluster Work Plan

A review of the Nutrition Cluster Work Plan for 2008 was presented for critical analysis. The analysis process was described = which basically involved the summarizing the status of the various activities jointly planned and delivered. The Nutrition Cluster Coordinator keeps track of the cluster progress on activities. The status of the various activities was summarized. It was noted that about 80% of the intended activities have been accomplished while other are either ongoing or are expected to be extended to next year.

On the proposed activities for 2009 consists of a summary of the ongoing/regular activities, the 2008 activities that have not been concluded and which form a strong base for the subsequent activities (e.g. IMAM concept note to be the foundation of the entire IMAM package) and the tasks of common interest that have recently emerged. Notable is that some activities have budgets already allocated while others have been considered in the 2009 funding requirement.

Comments were sought to facilitate exhaustive analysis of the 2008 and detailed plan for 2009. Details for the 2009 plan like the focal agency for particular tasks, timeline, financial requirements, implementation modalities etc will enhance the plan completion. The 2008 Nutrition Cluster work plan review and the proposed draft for 2009 will be circulated for feedback.

AOB

Members were informed of the schedule contingency planning meeting for all the clusters to pull thoughts together in the eventuality of further shocks to deepen the existing crisis.

Review of Action Point from November 2008 Meeting	Who	Status
A technical meeting to be held to analyze and sensitize on the implications of the WHO 2006 standards on agencies' programmes (e.g. caseload and malnutrition among the <6 months) . To be conducted in the FSAU Dec 15-19, 2008 workshop	UNICEF/ Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Planning on-going
- Review UNOCHA interventions matrix and identify LNGOs with capacity and currently involved in service delivery services in the absence of INGOs (or in partnership with INGOs/ UN). On-going	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	On-going
- FSAU to circulate a presentation on nutrition assessments procedure. Done - FSAU to share the draft guidelines. To be shared in the FSAU Dec 15-19, 2008 workshop	FSAU	Planning on-going
- Prepare a list of publications, previous training materials and guidelines to serve as standard reference documents/minimum training package for training LNGOs. Done - CMAM core group to pursue the protocol development prior to the trainings On-going	UNICEF/ Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	On-going
IEC material to be burnt on CD since the hard copies may be inadequate. Done	Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Distributed
DRC to circulate an external evaluation report on their wet feeding program. Not Done	DRC	To circulated mid Dec'08
CARE to give an update on the food aid distribution plans in their operational areas (Central Regions and northern Gedo). On-going discussions with WFP regarding takeover as Care is not currently able to distribute	CARE/Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Done
UNHCR to be invited to provide population movement update for analysis on its implication on programmes.(UNHCR was present but update will be given in Jan09)	UNHCR/Nutrition Cluster Coordinator	Jan'09 N-Cluster Meeting
UNICEF to update on status of the PCA with DIAL, which was submitted in early 2008. Not Done	UNICEF	UNICEF to feedback by Mid Dec'08
Action Point from November 2008 Meeting		
IMC to review their operations feasibility in Bay and Bakool and share their review with WFP among others. Details of the screening activities to be shared. WFP conducting screening and SFP, but no systematic treatment provided	IMC	Done
SHSC to be informed of the lack of TB treatment in Mogadishu and the challenges encountered by the implementing agencies when facilitating travels of patients within Mogadishu and environs. Dr Kamran to follow up	Dr. Kamran	Dr Kamran to follow up with HSC

The Next Nutrition Cluster-WG meeting will be held on 12th January 2009 (tentatively at 9.00am. This date will be confirmed later as well as the venue