

IASC Nutrition Cluster/ SSS Nutrition Working Group
Minutes of Meeting held at 09:00 hrs, Monday 6th July 2009
Somali Support Secretariat Conference Room, Lake View, Ngecha Road

Participants

Grainne Moloney	FSNAU (chair)	Habiba Mohamed	Mercy USA
Hellen Ekisa	ACF	Abdi Hersi	Merlin
Hossein Mada	ACF	Sundus Abdi	Muslim Aid
Agane Abdullhi	AMA	Patricia N Agwaro	OCHA HRF
Mohamum Adan	APD	Faluma Abdrahman	Oxfam Novib
Abdi Mohamed	DIAL	Elise Wach	Relief International
Abdullahi Diriye	DIAL	Christy Spinkle	SAACID
Christelle Fontant	Ceusi	Abdi Jama	SAACID
Halima Ibrahim	CISP	Mohamed Adam	Saafi Relief
Susan Wako	COSV	Omar Mohamed	SANA Community Org
Stefano Frasca	COSV	Mohamed Yussuf	SAF
Ahono Busili	FSNAU	Suzanne Brinkmann	SC UK
Abdulaziz Aden	FSNAU	Abdulahi balack	SYPD
Tom Oguta	FSNAU	Fitsum Assefa	UNICEF
Kamran Mashhadi	Health Coordinator Somalia	Hammam EISakka	WHO/ Health Cluster Chair
Maryan Idafu	IIDA	Marc Prost	WFP
Lucy Maina	IMC	Anthony Abura	World Vision
Nassiailiano Pala	Intersos	Hassan Sheikh	Zam Zam
Helen Clark	Medair		

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

Meeting participants were welcomed and introductions done. Forty (40) participants representing 29 agencies operating in Somalia were present. The minutes of the *June 3rd 2009* meeting were reviewed and comments incorporated. The various action points were reviewed and their status updated (see last page).

Action Points	Focal agency/ person	Timeline
A second meeting to be held amongst all actors working in OTP (ACF, OxfamNovib and MSF) to identify potential overlap in staff working in Mogshidhu and feedback in the August meeting.	UNICEF/Fitsum	
EWARS to link up with UNICEF/MOHL/FSNAU regarding reporting of severe acute malnutrition.	UNICEF/Fitsum	
WHO/Dr. Hamman to forward (i) WHO circular on H1N1 and (ii) Case definitions of diseases e.g. measles – based on syndromic approach, to Nutrition Cluster chair for circulation.	WHO/Hammam	
UNICEF will circulate a draft CHD schedule if ready and available.	UNICEF/Fitsum	
A taskforce meeting will be convened amongst interested partners to share information and resources on child feeding. IMC will share with group on experiences in Ethiopia.	UNICEF/ Fitsum & IMC/Lucy	
WFP to circulate a 2 page summary on recommendations and way forward regarding guidelines, and develop accompanying facilitator notes for training materials already produced.	WFP/Marc	
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.	UNICEF/Fitsum	

2. Situation Update

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE

FSNAU released an Early Warning Report on the 12th of June highlighting the following key early warning messages for the upcoming rainy season:

- The depth and severity of the IDP Humanitarian Emergency is increasing- more than 10,000 people were reportedly displaced in May 2009 alone. It is unlikely that the situation will change in July.
- The drought in the Central regions is intensifying following five consecutive seasons of rain failure; And compounded with hyperinflation and conflict, has contributed to about 60% of the population (rural, urban and IDPs) on Galgadud and Mudug regions being classified either in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis or Humanitarian Emergency FS Phases. An emerging drought in the regions of Sool, Saanag and northeastern Togdheer in the North has led to unfavorable livestock conditions.
- The purchasing power and food access for most of Somalia's urban population, particularly urban poor and IDPs has improved due to lower cereal and other commodity prices especially in the Central, North West and North East regions.
- Normal crop production establishment and production in the South is improving food access
- FSNAU and partners are conducting the Gu'09 Food Security Assessment. The field work is ongoing. An analysis workshop will be held in Nairobi in week 1 of August, and the updated IPC shared with partners on August 21st, 2009.
- For details, refer to the FSNB publication on the FSNAU website at www.fsnausomali.org.

Gu' assessment is ongoing in all regions of Somalia. The field work is ongoing and the updated IPC should be available at the end of August.

CISP reported that in Galgadud pastoralists have been seriously affected due to inadequate rainfall and because of this health issues are emerging due to malnutrition. There is need for attention in this area.

SAACID reported that the food centers in Mogadishu have been closed for over week due to fighting. Milling and grinding machines have been moved to, but still remain closed.

NUTRITION SITUATION UPDATE

In May- June '09, FSNAU and partners conducted nutrition surveys in South Central regions. Findings (based on the WHO 2006 Anthro) indicate a **Critical** situation in Central regions, Shabelle agropastoralists and Adale district and sustained **Serious** situation in the Shabelle riverine and IDPs. The crude and under five mortality rates, however were within acceptable levels of <1 and <2/day (WHO reference).

Location	Global acute Malnutrition	Severe acute malnutrition
Addun Livelihood Zone	17.3% (13.8-21.5)	2.6%(1.6-4.4)
Hawd Livelihood Zone	18.0%(13.8-23.1)	5.5%(3.7-7.9)
Cowpea Belt	15.3%(12.4-18.7)	3.8%(2.6-5.4)
Coastal Deeh (based on LQAs & Probability calculator)	15-20% p=0.76	
Galgadud Region	14.2%(10.3-19.3)	3.2%(1.9-.3)
Mudug Region	18.3%(15.4-21.6)	4.9%(3.7-6.6)
Shabelle IDPs (Afgoye/Merca)	11.9%(9.2-15.2)	3.5%(2.3-5.4)
Shabelle Agropastoralists	15.2%	>6.2%(Pr=0.9)
Shabelle Riverine (based on LQAs & Probability calculator)	10.0-14.9 p=0.61	2.0% (0.7-5.1)
Adale District	16.5% (13.5-20.0)	5.1(3.5-7.4)

Data analysis for assessments conducted in the Bay & Bakool regions and coastal livelihoods in the North is ongoing. **A summary report on the findings for all assessments conducted in May and June will be shared in**

the Mid July Nutrition update. Six additional surveys are currently ongoing in Juba and Gedo regions, four IDP assessments in the NE and a rapid assessment in Mogadishu has just been completed. The national micronutrients study has been completed in the NW and NE and is on-going in central south regions.

ACF reported significant increases in number of OTP beneficiaries in Mogadishu, Wajid and Galgadud. More than 950 beneficiaries reported in the South and 750 beneficiaries reported in the North. Also reported that ACF and MSF offices were attacked and looted in the North Mogadishu; however, OTP responses continue.

Last week ACF relocated their TFC go-down to Wabery.

CISP reported an increase in number of IDPs being seen at the SFP and health centers.

IMC reported that in June there were 544 children in care unfortunately there have been interruptions to the service which makes it difficult to gauge the number of children. There are approximately 300 children. All 15 centers remain open and continue to provide services.

World Vision continues to have problems of access in Juba and the incident in Wajid saw all international staff returned to Nairobi.

COSV started 6 SFP, 6 OTP, 1 stabilization center in Gedo centers and in Lower Shabelle they have started 12 OTP centers and 1 stabilization center. In Gedo, 1000 children screened, but problems of insecurity have caused significant movement of people. The programmes are up and running and are fully implementing.

Relief International plans to begin a revised assessment in North and South Galkayo this week. Nutrition (OTP and SFP) interventions have not started yet. Only food security through livelihoods is ongoing.

Medair reported that the numbers of children are increasing in Burao but not certain as to why. Medair plans to conduct nutrition interventions in southern Togdheer (in MCHs and health posts) and Northern Togdheer (Berbera hospital), an OTP in Jamal IDP camp and to set up fixed and mobile OTP sites in south of (Adali?).

OxfamNovib/SAACID implementation has not begun; training will be conducted from 20th to 30th July and implementation is planned for the first week of July in 8 districts of Mogadishu. Four of the eight sites are 99% completed with rehabilitation and two other sites should be ready in one week. Links will be made to ACF and MSF for referral. Discussions are still ongoing between ACF, MSF and OxfamNovib on overlap of staff.

Action: A second meeting to be held amongst all actors working in OTP (ACF, OxfamNovib and MSF) to identify potential overlap in staff working in Mogadishu and feedback to the next.

Mercy USA no major issues to report.

Merlin has 3 OTP sites and beginning implementation of Nutrition programmes in Somaliland.

MUSLIM AID is running MCH programmes in Saanag region of Somaliland. Two (2) MCHs did not receive supplementary feeding and the numbers of mother and children are increasing.

WFP concerned about the number of children in the centers in Juba. In the coming months WFP will strongly monitor centers in July, August and September into the centers in the Juba area to see that partners are complying with the admission criteria.

SCUK have 589 children in OTP care in the districts of Belet Weyne, Mataban and Maxaas. Access to sites in Maxaas has become problematic, but SCUK is hoping to resume services there soon. SCUK also plans to add SFP services to existing sites by September.

Overall there has been improvement in coverage; however two major issues coming up are issues of access and problems in supplies. There is need for forward planning. FSANU can provide rough estimates in order to develop proposals in order to forward plan for supplies by 3 to 6 months forward to reduce supply problems.

HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING NUTRITION

Dr. Hammam/WHO provided the following health situation update:

Acute watery diarrhea (AWD)

- With the exception of Lower and Middle Juba, most districts show a declining trend due to effective response and preventive measures in place.
- In Jilib, and Kismayo where cholera cases have been confirmed, the AWD caseloads picked in mid June (week 24). Makeshift cholera treatment centers have been established in affected villages. Increased AWD cases have also been reported in Jamame, Marere and Hagar districts of lower juba and samples tested negative for cholera.
- The EWARS (based on syndromic approach) reported ARI as a leading cause of morbidity in Lower Shabelle in week 22-25, followed by AWD. Other reported causes were; unconfirmed severe acute malnutrition and whooping cough. A request was made by UNICEF to have the EWARS team trained on MUAC assessment and to provide such data where possible, for immediate response. The EWARS to be operational in Puntland by the end of July.

Action: EWARS to link up with UNICEF/MOHL/FSNAU regarding reporting of severe acute malnutrition.

- The SHC is working closely with WASH to contain the cholera and AWD in Kismayo and other affected areas. No report of Cholera cases in Mogadishu since March. Participants urged to forward any reports of suspected cases or outbreaks of measles to Dr Hammam and Dr. Kamran (HSC) to facilitate investigation.

Measles

- Rumors of measles in Guriel not confirmed. 4 cases of measles reported in Lower Shabelle

H1N1

- Somalia does not have capacity to undertake H1N1 tests anywhere. There is a focal point in WHO for any suspected cases. Partners encouraged to develop agency specific prevention/response plan on H1N1 for their staff which includes limiting unnecessary movement and exposure. Partners also urged to report any suspected cases to Dr. Kamran and Dr. Hammam

Action: SHC/Dr. Hamman to forward (i) WHO circular on H1N1 and (ii) Case definitions of diseases e.g. measles – based on syndromic approach, to Nutrition Cluster chair for circulation.

Child Health Days

Child health days are ongoing despite initial days. A draft schedule will be circulated if and when available.

Action: UNICEF will circulate a draft schedule if ready and available.

3. Response Update

WFP and Partners

WFP has partnered with World Vision to start a new Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). First screening was conducted and the first distribution is expected soon. This new programme will expand if the situation on the ground improves. Merlin will also to begin a SFP in July targeting areas bordering Djibouti. In Gedo region, WFP

has experienced delays in selecting partners due to insecurity and plans to scale down in the Jubas and possibly the Shabelles to clean out the list of beneficiaries. Project activities in Mogadishu are scheduled to begin in the first week of August with Oxfam Novib, Saacid and ACF. Blanket SFP in Central regions are ongoing approximately 100,000 children to benefit.

IMC plans to hold workshops next week on information and community mobilization.

UNICEF

UNICEF has been requesting partners to come forward with proposals and ideas for general IYCF and breastfeeding week. This needs quite interested partners to get involved, UNICEF is currently looking for a temporary focal person to support partners. The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week for 2009 is "Breastfeeding: a vital emergency response". In general lack of awareness and practical experience of conducting activities that result positive changes in breastfeeding practices among partners and lack of funding is likely to be one of the reasons for lack of interest and implementing to date. UNICEF has called for a taskforce meeting for very interested partners within the next 2 weeks to share information and resources on what has worked and what has not worked in different settings and brainstorm on next steps for Somalia and plan also to discuss activities for World Breastfeeding week (first week of August); IMC has conducted similar interventions in Ethiopia.

Action: A taskforce meeting will be convened amongst interested partners to share information and resources on child feeding. IMC will share with group on experiences in Ethiopia.

UNICEF also reported on a treatment of supplemental zinc that can potentially prevent diarrhea and...

MSF

Nutrition response ongoing as planned except for Bakool, where MSF is reportedly pulling out of Huddur due to on-going insecurity.

4. WFP update on MAM new guideline pilot

Guidelines and the training package on Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) was pilot tested by WFP and partners in May/June and recommendations presented to members.

Action Point: WFP to circulate a 2 page summary on recommendations and way forward regarding guidelines, and develop accompanying facilitator notes for training materials already produced.

5. WFP Operational Plans on General Food Distribution

WFP presented to members their re-defined strategy for general food distribution for the harvest/ post- harvest period. Priority districts were identified to implement this new strategy in order to reduce interference to local food production and market prices. For these reasons, the current strategy will provide only 50% of quantity of general food ration (cereal content) in July 2009; for the following 2.5 months (August-mid October) i.e. the harvest/post-harvest period; there will be no general food distribution across all livelihoods. IDPs however will be provided with 50% of the ration. A Communication campaign via media will be used to communicate the new food distribution strategy. A 2 month follow -up will then be conducted.

Discussion

- This is a strategy for crop production areas only and does not affect regions where SFP and OTP provide discharge rations.
- The strategy will be reprioritized given any drastic changes in prevailing conditions.
- To determine the number of beneficiaries who will receive reduced rations is a complicated exercise; the proportions are extrapolated via livelihoods analysis done with FSNAU.
- A timeframe for follow up will be determined in collaboration with FSNAU.

6. AOB

Gu' assessment plans: Results will be shared with partners at the end of August.

UNICEF update on Jowhar: The compound is still occupied, therefore, no change in the situation. Supplies still cut off.

Update on Sphere Meeting: The sphere review was conducted in order to feed into global review for new standards coming out for 2010. Feedback will be circulated for partners to comment before forwarding to London.

Nutrition Surveillance Clinic Feedback: The report from the nutritional surveillance clinic will be made available soon.

Mapping on nutrition response: Today was the deadline to provide information for the mapping exercise to produce maps. Members were given an extension to forward any relevant information.

Action: Members to forward information for mapping exercise to FSNAU by COB Monday 6th July.

HRF Funding: The HRF still has over 5 M left to fund emergency projects. Members were encouraged to submit proposals to OCHA- HRF for life saving rapid response interventions Funding is available to agencies/projects to be spent in 6 months. Only one no- cost extension allowed. The limit is USD250, 000 and exceptional cases have a limit of \$500,000. An agency is allowed to have a maximum of 3 HRF funded projects. Partners encouraged to send proposals to the Cluster Taskforce to be reviewed first for technical feasibility and soundness before handing into HRF. Templates are available on the OCHA- HRF website. For further information members urged to contact Patricia Nyimbae Agwaro at aqwaro@un.org .

Breastfeeding Week Plans: Partners encouraged to share with ICYF group.

Action: 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.

Micronutrient Survey: FSNAU/UNICEF/WFP/WHO micronutrient is almost two- thirds (2/3) survey completed and the Somaliland and Puntland specimens have been collected. The South Central survey will begin if access improves. Results will be available September/ October.

Meeting start time: It was agreed by consensus that the next Cluster/ Working group meeting should begin at 0930 hours.

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. ONGOING		
The Mogadishu Nutrition Response Taskforce will convene to analyze response strategy and capacity in CSZ and come up with best practices and lessons learnt. DONE	UNICEF	June
CHD activity schedule to be circulated to members once finalized. FOR FOLLOW UP	UNICEF	
Breastfeeding presentation and documents to be circulated to members for information. NOT DONE	UNICEF	June
ConcernWW will circulate an e-mail to partners to organize a workshop for review of Sphere handbook. DONE	CWW	June

The next meeting to be held on Monday, 3rd August at Somalia Support Secretariat (SSS), Lake View, Ngecha Road @ 9:30am