What is the Tech RRT?

Technical rapid response mechanism to support collective work for nutrition in emergencies

Consortium

Funding

In close collaboration with

August 2015 – Dec 2017
Why?

Background
- Difficulty in finding adequate human technical resources in emergencies
- Technical complexity of new emergencies

Objective
To improve overall emergency nutrition response
- by deploying technical advisers
- by providing technical remote support
Who is the Tech RRT?

Team of 4 experts

- Assessment
- Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies
- CMAM/IYCF-E
- CMAM/Social Behavior Change

Deployment Steering Committee

- Includes representatives from consortium agencies
How?

- Deployments on average 6 weeks, deployed within 72 hours if relevant
- Time allocation: 50% field deployed/50% working on initiatives that further the technical area
- All costs covered for deployments

Who can make the request

- Any agency or other stakeholder (e.g. donors, gov’t) on the ground that identifies a technical need
- Nutrition cluster/sector group
- For the collective…and now… for individual agencies

TO IMPROVE TECHNICAL QUALITY AND/OR SCALE/REACH OF PROGRAMMES

NO GAP FILLING
Where?

Eligibility conditions for deployment

1. L3/L2 categorization where cluster or sector coordination mechanisms are in place.
2. Humanitarian crisis (according to ACAPS)
3. Countries with limited technical capacity in nutrition in emergencies
4. Does not duplicate other UNICEF surge support on the ground

Priority criteria

1. Declaration of a Level 3 emergency
2. Rapid onset emergency OR rapid deterioration of pre-existing situation
3. Threat or forecast of L2 or L3 emergency

Review by Deployment Steering Committee and response within 72 hours
What has the Tech RRT done?

28* deployments to 11 countries, soon to be 29

* Includes one with private consortium funds
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  - * Includes one with private consortium funds

Upcoming deployments:
- Yemen – SBC (18 Oct-29 Nov)
- Ethiopia – CMAM
- South Sudan – CMAM & IYCF monitoring
- Somalia – Assessment
- Cox’s Bazar x 2 – IYCF-E & CMAM
- Yemen x 2 – SBC (individual agency), IYCF-E
What support has been provided?

Examples of some activities undertaken during deployments

• **Iraq**: Led SMART survey (+++ ) and Barrier Analysis in IDP camps around Erbil following the Mosul crisis. Trained DOH and NGO staff on IYCF-E.

• **Turkey for Northern Syria**: Supported the development of an IYCF-E Rapid Response Mechanism for the frequent displacements within Syria; led an IYCF KAP and later Barrier Analysis; supported the integration of IYCF-E into Food Security assessments.

• **East Africa**: Undertook validation workshops for a regional initiative to develop an IYCF Framework for Action.

• **Yemen**: Led the revision/updating of the Yemen National CMAM Guidelines, drafted Yemen National Guidelines for Conducting Integrated Anthropometric and Mortality Surveys, as well as an IYCF Strategy and Response Plan.

• **Northeastern Nigeria**: Mapped opportunities for integration of IYCF-E with other sectors and facilitated a WASH & IYCF-E Workshop with WASH partners in Borno; developed a pool of coaches for improved quality of supportive supervision to Stabilisation Centres.
What support has been provided?

Examples of some activities undertaken during non-deployment time

• Worked on the revision of the Operational Guidance on IYCF-E, specifically working on Section 6 – Artificial Feeding
• Supported the revision of the CMAM Toolkit, a global initiative led by Save the Children
• Remote support to countries linked with previous deployments
  - Yemen – support to the Assessment Working Group in the review and validation of survey protocols and assessment results
  - Nigeria – review by the whole team of the 2017/2018 Response Plan
  - Turkey/Syria – draft the IYCF components of the Food Security Assessment Report
• Remote support to countries
  - Afghanistan – support to standardize the nutrition indicators included in multi-sectoral assessments
  - Puerto Rico – guiding local actors to prioritize activities for IYCF-E during the first phase of hurricane response, including providing tools for their use, i.e. a draft joint statement for adaptation and translation as well as guidance on cold water sterilization of feeding utensils
## Requests vs deployments

### Thematic Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Area</th>
<th># of deployments</th>
<th>Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IYCF-E</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMAM</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBC</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 9 Requests not fulfilled
- 76% fulfilled

### Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Technical Area</th>
<th>Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>CMAM</td>
<td>March/April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>CMAM</td>
<td>Mar-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>CMAM-SC</td>
<td>Feb-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Assessments/M&amp;E</td>
<td>Feb-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>SBC</td>
<td>Oct/Nov 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>IYCF-E</td>
<td>Oct/Nov 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>Feb-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>IYCF-E</td>
<td>Feb-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>CMAM Surge</td>
<td>May-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
M&E of the Tech RRT

- Internal evaluation – August 2016
- Performance evaluations from in-country supervisors include input on effectiveness, impact and sustainability
- User satisfaction surveys by a range of ‘users’ during deployments in 2017
- Upcoming external evaluation – November 2017
Strengths of the Tech RRT

- Ability to rapidly deploy technical experts where needed
- Flexibility in deployment modalities (i.e. requesting agencies, host agencies, etc.)
- Consortium partners bring high level of technical expertise and wide reach in countries experiencing emergencies
- Capacity to mobilise additional resources in times of high demand from within the consortium partners
- Independence which aids acceptance of work on deployments in complex environments
- Feedback that various countries have received additional funding as a direct result of Tech RRT deployments, i.e. Nigeria and Somalia
- Overall positive feedback from internal evaluation, deployment performance evaluations and user satisfaction surveys
Key Challenges

• Getting the TORs right - time consuming process
  – Pre-sharing with Tech RRT: To ensure for the collective/get ownership/buy-in
  – After sharing with Tech RRT: lots of back and forth
  – *Lessons learned:* it’s necessary for a fruitful deployment

• Rapid onset emergencies – coordination systems not in place, little knowledge of what is needed, nobody to request

• Balance of policy vs programme support

• Follow up after deployments & completion of longer term initiatives

• Effective use of non-deployment time

• Lack of awareness – especially by national/local actors (MOHs and NGOs)
  – On the availability of the mechanism generally
  – Who can request and how

• Balance between cost to manage the mechanism while ensuring appropriate staffing for workloads

• Restrictions linked to donor mandates on where we can deploy

• Short duration of funding and sustainability
Recent developments

- Expanded scope for deployments
  - Can respond to requests by individual agencies
- Started doing user-satisfaction surveys and post-deployment webinars
- Increased communications to increase awareness aimed at local actors
- Exploring possibilities to provide support for new technical areas i.e. linked to integrated programming (WASH in Nut response)
- Seeking alternative funding sources
Way forward

- Lots of ideas and ongoing discussions
- Other clusters solution to technical support
- Bringing the discussion back to the GNC membership to shape the future direction
  → Group work
Thank you!

For more information:

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Follow us on Twitter: @TechRRT