A NOTE FROM THE GNC COORDINATOR

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present you the 11th issues of the GNC Bulletin. In this issue, you will find the major highlights of our joint work as well as the news and updates.

One of our biggest achievements has been the development of a four-year GNC Strategy for 2017-2020 and a two-year costed workplan for 2017-2018. I would like to thank all of you for your invaluable inputs during the entire process.

Unfortunately, we have also had very sad event during the reporting period – the passing of our dear brother, friend and colleague Leo Matunga while on duty in South Sudan.

Leo had dedicated his life to serving the most under-privileged in most dangerous parts of the world. He shall always be remembered. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Joepshine Ippe,
Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator

2017 - 2020 GNC STRATEGY & WORK PLAN

The 2017-2020 GNC Strategy was developed by the GNC-Coordination Team (CT) and the GNC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) with support from the consulting firm “Avenir Analytics”.

This was an extensive research (including document review) and consultative process undertaken during the last quarter of 2016 with a wide range of stakeholders using an online survey, key informant interviews, and a focus group discussion. The development of the new GNC strategy is based on the lessons learnt from the previous strategy, changes in operating and policy environment, and the GNC stakeholders’ expectations.

Based on this analysis, the core of the GNC Strategy for 2017-2020 is focused on supporting the following three areas:

• Providing operational support before, during and after humanitarian crises to national nutrition coordination platforms to ensure quality, timely and people-centered response at all stages of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC);

• Building the capacity of relevant nutrition stakeholders to coordinate a quality and timely response;

• Influencing and advocating (on behalf of affected populations and partners) for improved, integrated and co-ordinated nutrition responses during humanitarian crises.

The GNC strategy, and specifically the strategic priorities, will guide the generation of rolling work plans, including the prioritisation of activities. The first rolling work plan will cover the first two years of the strategy (2017-2018). The diagram below highlights how the strategy is constructed and how it informs the rolling work plan.

During a mid-term review, the results from the work plan monitoring can be used to update progress against the strategic priorities and outcomes of the plan. Based on this information and any change in context, the GNC collective can then decide on any changes or adjustments required.
Other areas highlighted by the strategy document include:

**Scope of activities** which fully clarify the GNC’s role in terms of its mandate and technical responsibilities, with an attempt to delineate the areas that are in and those that are out of the GNC’s scope of activities.

**Ways of working** which briefly outlines the role and responsibilities of the GNC’s constituents and other key stakeholders that can help deliver the strategy and the related work plan.

**Overview of strategic priorities and supporting objectives** with description of the outcomes, indicators and baselines/targets for these strategic priorities. The supporting objectives to help deliver these priorities, through engagement with stakeholders and developing the GNC internal ways of working, are described in details the strategy document.

The Global Nutrition Cluster Annual Working Meeting of Partners was held on March 29-30 in Beirut, Lebanon and was hosted by the GNC partner – International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

The meeting brought together more than 40 nutrition cluster stakeholders and partners were welcomed by Ms. Ruba Khoury, Director of International Orthodox Christian Charities, Lebanon and Mr. Luciano Calestini, UNICEF Lebanon Deputy Representative.

This working meeting of GNC partners was organized to facilitate the endorsement of the four-year Strategic Priorities, Supporting Objectives, Internal Development objectives, as well as the Monitoring Framework with expected outcomes and indicators. During the meeting, the GNC partners also reviewed the GNC rolling work plan activities for 2017-2018 and agreed on next steps for costing the two-year work plan.

This meeting also provided an opportunity for sharing technical updates that are relevant to the GNC partnership. The meeting was also used to welcome new SAG members representing UN WFP and Save the Children UK and to express gratitude to the outgoing SAG members representing UNHCR and ACF-Canada.

**Key outcomes** of the meeting were as follow:

- Agreement on the major modifications of the 2017-2020 GNC Strategy.
- Review and revision of the proposed activities under the Strategic Priorities and Supporting Objectives for the 2017-2018 GNC Work Plan.
- Review the costing of previous Work Plans, to inform the review process for the current work plan and agree on the agencies that will be responsible for leading the costing of activities.
- Endorse on the proposed structure for addressing and coordinating NiE technical issues and agree on next steps for setting up the Nutrition Humanitarian Technical Advisory Body.
• Update GNC partners on protocol for the Integrated Food Phase Classification (IPC) for Acute Malnutrition scale and agreement on a GNC call to further discussed specifics of the protocol.
• Agree on having a protocol for the measurement and treatment of adult malnutrition.
• Presentation of the updates about the Nutrition Cluster handbook and SPHERE handbook.
• Reflection on results and lessons learned from Research on Food Assistance for Nutritional Impact (REFANI) research in Niger, Pakistan and Somalia on cash transfer impact on nutritional status of beneficiaries.
• Show evidence on the use of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) for diagnostic and treatment purposes in most situations and conditions.
• Update GNC partners on the ongoing efforts to update the incidence factor for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) as well as to have country level Joint Malnutrition Estimates modelled estimates that account for incidence.
• Update GNC partner on rational for the inclusions of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) on the WHO Essential Drug List.

Geneva - 27-29 June 2017


The objective of the workshop was to agree on the structure, themes and main content of the training package. The workshop was also an opportunity to share information about existing capacity development materials for nutrition-sensitive programming in humanitarian responses and enhance synergies between initiatives supported by different partners and sectors.

The workshop brought together 20 participants representing the joint GNC-gFSC ICNWG, Health, WASH and Protection Clusters and Child Protection Area of Responsibility, CHS Alliance and OCHA.

The main outcomes of the workshop included:

Agreement on the target audiences for the training package:
• An outline and the format of the training packages to respond to cluster coordinators and partners constraints;
• Cross-cutting issues of importance for nutrition-sensitive project implementation, such as age, gender and accountability to affected population;
• Reviewed and identified a core knowledge and skills needs related to nutrition-sensitive programming by target groups;
• Identified specific knowledge and skills needed related to food security/agriculture/livelihoods, health, WASH, child protection and education;
• Developed a dissemination roll-out plan for the training package.

INTER-CLUSTER TRAINING PACKAGE WORKSHOP
Aggregating information about the 23 Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) and Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRP) the GNC dashboard shows the Population in Need (PIN), Population Targeted and Funding Requirements of each response. This information is available as a printable PDF and as an interactive dashboard on the GNC website.

The information in the dashboard is updated three times per year with the next update scheduled for August. We would like to thank Shabib AlQobati, nutrition IMO for the Whole of Syria response for his work on the dashboard.

Please email your questions and feedback regarding the dashboard, to gnc@unicef.org

Rome - 26th April 2017

Review of Inter-Cluster Operational Responses in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Nigeria and the development of an Integrated Famine Prevention Response Package

The global Food Security Cluster and Nutrition Clusters co-organized an event on the four countries at risk of famine: North East Nigeria, Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia. The event took place in the World Food Programme, HQ Rome on 26 April 2017.

The objectives of the meeting were to: review of current collective nutrition and food security responses and identify gaps; establish the parameters for an integrated food security and nutrition response; agree on an appropriate integrated famine prevention response package; and complete plans for scaling up responses across the four respective countries through the Food Security, Nutrition, Health and WASH clusters. The meeting involved seventy participants from twenty-four NGOs (both international and national); UN agencies and the ICRC.

Meeting Highlights
The meeting was opened by Mr. Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director General of FAO. He highlighted that, North-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen have the of the highest level of food insecure population, with more than 10 million people on the brink of famine, and a further 30 million severely food insecure.

Ms. Josephine Ippe, Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator highlighted that malnutrition is an outcome and when the prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under 5 years old raises, it means a general failure to tackle the immediate and underlying cross sectoral factors that are inadequate dietary intake, diseases, household food insecurity, inadequate care and feeding practices, unhealthy environment and inadequate health services. Cluster Coordinators from both Nutrition and Food Security Clusters from each of the four countries affected presented the respective Food security and Nutrition analyses, geographical coverage and convergence of mutual operational partners.

The Cluster Coordinators held a meeting to develop concrete integrated work plans for their respective countries which included specific set of actions to be implemented by Clusters at country-level with a clear timeline and responsibilities. They also agreed to develop a joint action plan in support of the country-level work plans and to advocate for their implementation with cluster lead agencies and global partners.
Conclusion and Way Forward
The Emergency Directors of WFP, FAO and UNICEF facilitated a discussion around the solutions proposed by the groups and committed to work closely to support the actions at the global level on the following conclusions and way forward:

- Provide adequate funding ensure timely, qualitative and sustainable staffing for clusters.
- Increase efforts into advocacy for influencing humanitarian systems and architecture to support an effective integration across clusters/sectors at country level (i.e. multi-sectorial HRP).
- Partners need to commit to actively participate in clusters activities at country level, share regularly their data and inputs and advocate on behalf of the cluster.
- Advocate for increased flexibility and the quality of funds to promote qualitative, multi-sectorial and multi-dimensional programmes to mitigate or prevent famine in the four affected countries.
- Improve on measuring the quality of the response and how to be more/better accountable to affected population.

YEMEN CLUSTER COORDINATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND TRAINING
At the beginning of 2017 the Yemen Nutrition Cluster began planning a Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) exercise, with the purpose of self-reflection by partners of how to work together in partnership to achieve agreed outcomes, strengthening transparency and partnership within the cluster and developing an action plan to ensure better collaboration within the cluster.

The process of planning CCPM started in February, with an online survey sent to partners in March-April, followed by the workshop to develop an action plan for the next year for the improvement of the cluster performance, with monitoring milestones on a quarterly basis. Considering high turnover of partners in Yemen and low familiarity with partners' roles and responsibilities in the cluster, commitments, as well as the general understanding of cluster work by partners, it was agreed to conduct a training of partners on the Cluster approach before the actual CCPM workshop.

Due to high number of partners to be trained, two trainings were conducted, 12-13 and 15-16 of April with a total about 50 participants trained. This was followed up by the CCPM workshop on the 18th of April, where partners were able to use the newly acquired knowledge to evaluate their performance as a collective and discuss the way to improve it. To support the Nutrition Cluster with the training and the CCPM workshop, Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator, Josephine Ippe, came to Sana’a for the week. The evaluation of core cluster functions highlighted that while some of the functions are in general considered to be good, supporting service delivery and monitoring and evaluation, some others are satisfactory (informing HC/HCT decision making, planning and implementing cluster strategies, building national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning, advocacy), with accountability to affected population being mostly unsatisfactory and requiring major improvements.

Partners developed a detailed plan on how to improve their performance (see link below) with clear actions, timelines and responsibilities, including:

- Capacity building of partners at sub-national level on cluster approach
- Mandatory coordination by partners of all project proposals with GHO with official letter of agreed HPs to implement NiE activities
- Adaptation of the SMART guidelines to the context
- Development of the database of all survey data
- Strengthening data analysis within the cluster, including conducting Nutrition IPC analysis and implementing routine programme data analysis
- Training of partners in protection mainstreaming
- Monthly production of the infographics and reports on cluster gaps and achievements at national and sub-national levels
- Capacity mapping of partners and development of capacity development plan
- Development and activation of the national surveillance system
- Creation of the Advocacy TF and development of the advocacy action plan
- Standardisation of the tools for the Accountability to Affected population within the cluster

The Cluster partners have started implementation of the action plan with current progress documented in

LINKED DOCUMENTS
Cluster awareness training: [https://goo.gl/NrdbrW](https://goo.gl/NrdbrW)
Final CCPM report: [https://goo.gl/wH31kd](https://goo.gl/wH31kd)
Cluster minutes 12th June: [https://goo.gl/Si8Tw](https://goo.gl/Si8Tw)
Cluster minutes 3rd July: [https://goo.gl/PqD3R3](https://goo.gl/PqD3R3)
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM UPDATES

The GNC’s Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a partnership between the GNC-CT and four GNC partners: Action Against Hunger UK, Save the Children UK, International Medical Corps and World Vision with funding from the Swiss Government, UNICEF, ECHO, and DFID. The following are some updates from recent RRT member deployments:

**Faith Nzioka**  
RRT Information Management Officer  
World Vision  
For 12 weeks from February until May Faith was deployed to support the IM capacity in the Somalia response.

**Lovely Amin**  
RRT Nutrition Cluster Coordinator  
Save the Children UK  
Lovely finished her involvement with the RRT at the end of July following deployments to Erbil, Iraq for six weeks at the beginning of the year.

**Brian Mc Donalld**  
RRT Information Management Officer  
Action Against Hunger UK  
Brian is the newest member of the RRT team having joined in mid-June. Prior to joining the GNC RRT Brian spent a number of years working in South Sudan and Myanmar. He is currently deployed to Ethiopia’s Somali Region until the end of October.

**Simon Karanja**  
RRT Nutrition Cluster Coordinator  
International Medical Corps  
Simon recently re-joined the RRT, as a coordinator, and is currently deployed to Ethiopia to support the coordination of the emergency nutrition response in the Somali Region.
Many of you have heard the sad news that Leo Matunga passed away in Nairobi on May 21st, 2017. As a pivotal member of the humanitarian nutrition community, Leo was deployed by IRC to Juba, South Sudan and on Wednesday 17th May, he went on a field trip to Ganyiel in Panyijar county, Unity state, and collapsed on Friday morning. He was evacuated to Nairobi the same day, and was reported to have improved. Unfortunately in the morning on Sun-day 21st, Leo had a cardiac arrest and passed away.

Originally from Zimbabwe, Leo and his family have always maintained a base in Harare. Leo worked for different NGOs and UNICEF in Darfur, Pakistan, Kenya, Afghanistan, and others over the past fifteen + years. He left behind many friends and colleagues in all of these places. Leo was one of the finest and most dedicated emergency nutritionists and nutrition cluster coordinators I’ve known. He always had a kind word, gift, big laugh, and hug when you saw him. His presence was unmistakable and he truly helped shape the humanitarian nutrition coordination that we employ today. Leo is survived by his loving wife Victoria and four children, as well as many nephews and family members.