A NOTE FROM THE GLOBAL NUTRITION CLUSTER

Dear Global Nutrition Cluster partners,

I am pleased to present the 10th issue of the GNC Bulletin which features a summary of the 2016 GNC Annual Working meeting which was held in March 2016, the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, capacity building activities supported by the GNC, the Global Nutrition Report (GNR) and other GNC related updates.

We continue to implement the key activities for 2016, within the framework of the 2014-2016 GNC Strategic Plan. Our priorities for the next six months include the development of the new GNC Strategic Plan for 2017-2019 and a two year costed workplan, revision and updating of the Nutrition Cluster Handbook, development of guidance on transition from IASC clusters to Government led coordination platforms, development of structure for coordinating technical NiE issues and the roll out of AAP and Advocacy guidance and tools in a few cluster countries.

Josephine Ippe, Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator

FACE TO FACE MEETING OF THE GLOBAL NUTRITION CLUSTER

30 – 31 March 2016, Washington, DC, USA

The 2016 GNC Annual Working (Face to Face) Meeting was organized by the Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team and hosted by International Medical Corps (IMC) on the 30th and 31st of March in Washington DC, USA. The meeting was attended by over 50 cluster partners, donors, information management officers and cluster coordinators who focused on discussing priorities and mechanisms for moving forward collaboratively on nutrition related issues at the global level. This more specifically included looking at the results achieved to date, the next steps regarding major project initiatives, the current operational guidelines, some of the existing inter-cluster initiatives, and the 2017-2019 GNC Strategic Plan.

Following the traditional welcoming words by Caroline Abla (IMC), Diane Hollande (UNICEF) and Josephine Ippe (UNICEF), the meeting started with a panel discussion looking at the perspectives on the impact and benefit of the 2014-2016 GNC strategy including what has helped and what has hindered progress towards the implementation of the 2014-2016 work plan. It continued with a presentation on the progress, challenges, and tasks ahead for the four strategic pillars as well as a discussion on inter-cluster related issues (synergies with other clusters and collaboration avenues). It was concluded with two sessions on Pillar 1: Partnership, communication, advocacy and fundraising and a session on Pillar 2: Capacity Development in Humanitarian Coordination.

The second day was dedicated to gaining an agreement on the prioritized recommendations to manage the response plan; the agreement on the scope and ways of engaging with the Technical Task Force; the initial consensus on the operational definition of the GNC’s “Technical Role”; and a broad direction for the coming six months. It started with an additional session on Pillar 1 and a recap on the GNC consolidated recommendations under each thematic areas. It continued with facilitated working group activities designed to review the four strategic pillars and was concluded by a session on the GNC’s 2017-2019 Strategy Outline and three side sessions (i.e. an update on the Combined Protocol for Acute Malnutrition Study “ComPas”, a presentation of ACF’s strat-
nistry for scaling-up SAM treatment “SAM 2.0” and a presentation of UNICEF’s bottleneck analysis to improve access and effective coverage of SAM management services “BNA”).

The main highlights of the meeting are:

• The panel discussion by partners who led and are still leading the various GNC projects showed the difference and diversity of the GNC partnership in implementing GNC activities. Learning about what has worked and what did not work from partners perspective provided view point was very useful and of the issues highlighted would be used to guide the development and implementation of the next GNC strategic plan.

• Although the Global Food Security Cluster has consistently participated in the GNC meetings, while the GNC has also done the same, the participation Health and WASH (remotely) for the first time in the GNC working face-to-face Meeting was thought to have brought inter-cluster discussion at a center stage. Involvement and coordination with other clusters is felt to be essential for the next strategy and work plan, thus the GNC would ensure that other cluster, especially WASH, Health and Food Security are consulted during the development of the GNC 2017-2019 strategy in order to ensure clarity in the GNC engagement with those cluster within the next strategic plan.

• The meeting also managed to generate an agreement on the scope of the GNC’s technical role, while the key recommendation from the review were also prioritized for action and the TOR of the TF presented and agreed upon. This was felt to be a very important step in ensuring clarity on this role, while further discussion with the CLA on its role in support of technical leadership was to be further explored so that structures for coordination technical issues could be established.

• As regards the roll out of the two GNC framework and tool kits that have been developed (i.e. AAP and Advocacy), it was recommended that the key actions needed should be incorporated into the 2017-2017 GNC strategy, while a few countries could also be selected for piloting the tool in 2016.

• It was agreed that, the development the strategy, workplan and costing of the workplan should be done in consultative manner by engaging more partners. It was also agreed that, once the final strategy is costed, fundraising for the implementation of the strategy needs to go beyond usual donors. Therefore, GNC partners will need to be engaged in fundraising, while a formal launching of the strategy was also recommended in a separate event in order to have maximum impact. It was also agreed that the strategy needs to be formulated in a results language and what we need to see changed should also be reflected, which means, the strategy should be results oriented and should have clear objectives that also reflects a theory of change.

The full report of the meeting is available on the GNC website: http://nutritioncluster.net/gnc-working-face-face-meeting-30-31-march/

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT, ISTANBUL, 23-24 MAY 2016

The first World Humanitarian Summit, which was held on 23 and 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, convened 9,000 participants from 173 Member States, including 55 Heads of State and Government, hundreds of private sector representatives, and thousands of people from civil society and non-governmental organizations. In its 70 years of existence, the United Nations has never come together at this scale, with this many stakeholders, to discuss the pressing challenges that are resulting in so much suffering today. The WHS was organized with the recognition that today’s challenges can only be adequately addressed through the collaboration of national governments, civil society, people affected by crises, the private sector, national and international organizations and others.

Key outcomes of the WHS

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) called for a step change in how humanitarian action is conceived, planned, implemented and monitored – and by whom. Participants at the Summit were asked to generate bold commitments to advancing this vision over the coming years. In particular, the Secretary-General and the heads of 8 UN entities, with the endorsement of the World Bank and the International Organization of Migration, issued a joint commitment to action to implement a New Way of Working—the Grand Bargain—based on three main elements: (1) Working to collective outcomes across the UN system and the broader humanitarian and development community, including Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs); (2) Working over multi-year timeframes, recog-
nizing the reality of protracted crises and aiming to contribute to longer-term development gains, in the logic of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and (3) Working collaboratively based on comparative advantage of diverse actors. The GB focused on enhancing the following area: a) Greater Transparency, b) More Support and funding tools for local and national responders, ICRC, IFRC, c) Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming, d) Improve joint and impartial needs assessment, e) Harmonized and simplify reporting requirement, f) Reduce the ear marking of donor contributions, g) Reduce the duplication and management costs with periodic function reviews, h) Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors, i) Increase Collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding, j) A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affected their lives.

The WHS Chair’s Summary entitles: Standing up for humanity - committing to action outlines key commitments made at the Summit across the five core responsibilities. Although all the commitments made were notable, there is concern that the way forward on some of the initiatives is not clear. In the absence of an inter-governmental process, the WHS opted for inclusiveness and participation over formal negotiations and binding agreements and as a result, while several hundreds of commitments have been produced, a formal framework has not been secure for the follow up and the implementation of those commitments.

The plan now is to review individual and collective commitments over the summer and gather them into a “Commitments to Action” on a platform that will be publicly accessible and ensure accountability. In addition, there will be an IASC Principals meeting in June/July that will feed recommendations to the General Assembly and to member states, in September. The plan is to prioritize implementation of the commitments and initiatives, platforms and partnerships launched at the Summit through inter-governmental and inter-agency avenues. The WHS programme, speeches, press releases, statements and recording of the events are all available on the WHS website.

A WHS Side Event on “Zero Hunger by 2030: Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security for All” was organised by FAO, Government of Ireland, WFP, IFAD and WHO on 24 May 2016, supported by many of the partners, including the GNC. The event held a vital conversation at the World Humanitarian Summit about how to end world hunger in 15 years with some of the most influential and innovative thinkers in the field. Panellists were unanimous in recognizing that rhetoric aimed at achieving Zero Hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 must be transformed into urgent and consolidated action and implementation of existing policies. There was also widespread agreement that attention must be paid to addressing the root causes of crises, prevention, as well as on longer-term investments in sustainable food systems. The discussion also identified the importance of building resilience to crises and shocks – particularly to disasters caused by the adverse effects of climate change – as well as prioritizing long-term investments in agriculture, food security and good nutrition as investments in conflict prevention.


GLOBAL NUTRITION REPORT 2016

The Global Nutrition Report 2016 was launched on June 14, 2016. The report highlighted, that a few challenges facing the global community today match the scale of malnutrition, a condition that directly affects one in three people. Malnutrition are by far the biggest risk factors for the global burden of disease: every country is facing a serious public health challenge from malnutrition.

The economic consequences represent losses of 11 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) every year in Africa and Asia, where-as preventing malnutrition delivers $16 in returns on investment for every $1 spent. The world’s countries have agreed on targets for nutrition, but despite some progress in recent years the world is off track to reach those targets. This third stocktaking of the state of the world’s nutrition points to ways to reverse this trend and end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Over the past decade, momentum around nutrition has been steadily building, with governments and stakeholders around the world acknowledging nutrition as a key component of development. In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined the objective of "ending all forms of malnutrition", challenging the world to think and act differently on malnutrition—to focus on all its faces and work to end it, for all people, by 2030.

The Global Nutrition Report is the only independent and comprehensive annual review of the state of the world’s nutrition. It is a multi-partner initiative that holds a mirror up to countries successes and failures at meeting intergovernmental nutrition targets. It documents progress on commitments made on the global stage, and it recommends actions to accelerate that progress.

This year the Global Nutrition Report also features an article by the GNC Coordinator Josephine Ippe on improving accountability for nutrition actions in emergency contexts (page 109).

To download the report and the executive summary: http://globalnutritionreport.org/the-report/
NEW GNC PUBLICATIONS

GUIDANCE FOR MAINSTREAMING ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION (AAP) AND CORE PEOPLE-RELATED ISSUES IN THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Arabic, French and English versions of the Guidance for Mainstreaming Accountability to Affected Population and Core People-Related Issues in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Through the Cluster System are now available on the GNC website. This guidance aims to support national clusters in implementing commitments on AAP and core people-related issues. It was developed jointly by the Global Nutrition and Global Food Security Clusters with support of the GNC global partner HelpAge International.

The guidance is accompanied by the specific Nutrition Cluster Operational Framework on AAP. This framework and associated tools are intended for use by nutrition cluster partners, cluster lead agencies and cluster coordination staff, responsible for policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The two documents/guidance should be used in conjunction with cluster partners own accountability framework, and should serve as a bridge between agencies and government counterparts to negotiate common or collective approaches in AAP.

Available from: English, French, Arabic

NUTRITION CLUSTER ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

The Nutrition Cluster Advocacy toolkit has also been issued. This toolkit intends to assist the Cluster Lead Agency (CLA), UNICEF, Nutrition Cluster Coordinators, Information Management Officers, and Nutrition Cluster partners at country and global levels in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Global Nutrition Advocacy Strategic Framework 2016-2019 and country level advocacy strategy.

The Nutrition Cluster Advocacy Toolkit is not meant as a stand-alone guide on how to carry out advocacy activities. Instead, it is a practical guide for developing, implementing and monitoring advocacy work in nutrition in Emergency (NiE). It provides key questions for reflection, basic advocacy pointers and some advocacy tools to support Nutrition Cluster partners through the different stages of the advocacy cycle, with a specific focus on advocacy for nutrition in humanitarian contexts. Previous advocacy experiences from the Nutrition Cluster and its partner organisations have been used to illustrate the different areas in which advocacy can work.

Available from: English

UPDATE ON THE GNC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Additional tools have been developed to compliment the GNC IM toolkit, launched in 2015.

Dashboard templates in MS Word – The package includes five dashboards (with a guidance on how to edit them) in the MS Word. All templates are designed in the same style and include five dashboards that are most often used by the nutrition cluster at country levels: HRP launch dashboard, Cluster progress towards HRP, CMAM dashboard, IYCF-E dashboard, MN programmes dashboard

Dashboard templates in the Tableau - This is a template for the CMAM dashboard in Tableau and it is built upon the database from the partners reporting tool.

Map examples/templates—This tool includea two recommended map templates (in pdf, mpk and mxd) for the following maps: Operational presence of nutrition cluster partners and Nutritional status of children 0-59 months, that are recommended as an absolute minimum to be produced by Nutrition Clusters.

Capacity mapping tool – An MS Excel workbook for conducting capacity mapping of cluster partner by the Nutrition cluster at country level.

Gap analysis tool - This tool covers seven areas of gap analysis which are: geographical coverage, funding, assessments, human resources, supplies, progress towards targets and guidelines.

HRP tips - This guidance provides simple tips for Nutrition Cluster coordinators and partners on how to facilitate the development of a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or project sheets.
The Global Nutrition Cluster News Bulletin

UPDATE ON CLUSTER PARTNERS’ TRAINING AND CLUSTER COORDINATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING (CCPM) WORKSHOP IN BANGLADESH

The GNC-CT and RedR-UK facilitated a nutrition cluster partners’ training on cluster approach, on 19th-20th January 2016, attended by about 40 participants in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This was followed by workshop that validated the finding of Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) which the Bangladesh Nutrition Cluster under took before the training, attended by a wide representation from the Nutrition Cluster partners. The training and the CCPM workshop are organized in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), which is under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team. During the CCPM validation process, discussion on the finding of the online survey was done and an action plan was developed by cluster plans to improve the performance of the cluster. Anna Ziolkovska, GNC Rapid Response Team supported the training, provide technical during the facilitate the CCPM validation workshop and she also reviewed Nutrition Sector IM system and provided recommendations for its improvement.

CLUSTER PARTNERS’ TRAINING AND CLUSTER COORDINATION

The Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team (GNC-CT) in partnership with the UNICEF Chad Country Office and RedR-UK facilitated a nutrition cluster partners training on cluster approach and also supported a CCPM workshop in N’Djamena – Chad from 9th to 11th March 2016. The training was supported by Chad Ministry of Public Health – Nutrition and Food Technologies Directorate and Chad Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team, attended by more than 35 participants.

The training on cluster approach was held on the 9th and 10th March 2016 and, while 11th of March 2016 was dedicated to the CCPM workshop. Participants reviewed the Chad Nutrition Cluster Action Plan, updated it and included it in the current Chad Nutrition Cluster Workplan.

Geraldine Bellocq, form the GNC HelpDesk and Hannoa Guillaume IMO RRT were deployed to Chad to support the training and they also provided technical assistance and facilitated the CCPM workshop.

REGIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER COORDINATION TRAINING IN JORDAN

From the 13th to the 17th of March 2016, the Global Nutrition Cluster, jointly with the UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and Northern Africa (MENARO) and RedR-UK organized a 5-day training course for nutrition cluster coordinators Amman, Jordan. The overall aim of the training was to provide participants with an opportunity to prepare for cluster coordination within the context of a humanitarian response. The training brought together 21 participants from nine countries in the MENA region representing the Government authorities, UNICEF staff and stand-by partners. The course provided participants with the latest knowledge on the Transformative Agenda and recent IASC Protocols on cluster coordination and Humanitarian Programme Cycle. It also exposed participants to cluster performance management and skills and competencies required for coordination and it oriented them on the specific tools and resources needed collective cluster response and preparedness. The training was facilitated jointly by the GNC-Coordination team and RedR-UK as a part of the joint GNC/RedR capacity building project which is articulated within the 20014-2016 GNC strategy and Work Plan.
The GNC’s Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a partnership between the GNC-CT and five GNC partners: ACF-International, IMC, UNICEF, SC-UK and WVI with funding from the Swiss Government, UNICEF, ECHO and DFID. In this issue, we give you the following update on RRT deployments:

• Anna Ziolkovska (IMO RRT, UNICEF) leads the development of the IM training package and additional tools for the GNC IM toolkit. She facilitated trainings and CCMP in Bangladesh and she is currently providing remote support to Bangladesh Nutrition Cluster. She is also the GNC-CT focal point for IM-related issues, and being based in Geneva, she also provided support to the GNC-CT on a day to day basis. In May she co-facilitated a multi-cluster training for UNICEF stand-by partners in Norway. In August, Anna will facilitate the first GNC IM Training in Nairobi. Anna will be leaving the GNC Rapid Response Team in August 2016 to join Afghanistan Nutrition Cluster as a Cluster Coordinator.

• Simon Karanja (IMO RRT, WVI) finished his duties as an RRT IMO as of April 2016. World Vision is in the process of recruiting a new IMO.

MEET THE NEW GNC STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

In March 2016, GNC partners elected new members of the GNC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for a period of one year. The current SAG members are:

• Caroline Abla (International Medical Corps) - New
• Carmel Dolan (Emergency Nutrition Network)- New
• Diane Holland (UNICEF)
• Caroline Wilkinson (UNHCR)
• Victoria Sauveplane (ACF Canada)
• Anteneh Dobamo (Cluster Coordinator, Sudan) - New

GNC RRT HIGHLIGHTS

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• Lovely Amin (NCC RRT, IMC) attended the Cluster Coordination Training in Amman and was then deployed to Afghanistan in April. In July Lovely will be deployed to Bangladesh to assist with nutrition information systems.

• Mohammad Faisal (NCC RRT, ACF-UK) completed an 8 weeks deployment in Afghanistan, participated in the multi-cluster training in Norway.

• Hannoa Guillaume (IMO RRT, ACF-UK) provided remote support to Mali, supported the translation of the IM Toolkit, was deployed to Chad to support a cluster coordination training for partners and the 2016 Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring Exercise in Chad, and was subsequently deployed to Chad for two months.

• Lindsey Pexton (NCC RRT, SC-UK) has finished her deployments to Southern Turkey for Northern Syria and to Mozambique for 8 weeks. She will be working on her 25% agency time with Save the Children UK.