

# Taking the next steps together to Scale Up of Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) with a longer-term vision

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Side Event on Yemen and Sudan, 21st October 2018, Amman, Jordan



## INTRODUCTION

The Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) annual meeting is a three-day meeting, normally attended by 60-80 participants comprised of country cluster coordinators, country information managers, global and country cluster partners from the UN and NGO community as well as donors. The upcoming GNC Annual Meeting will take place in Amman, Jordan, 22-24 October 2018. This year an additional day has been added before the main GNC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018, to have an in-depth discussion on the situation, the response and next steps to scale up response in Sudan and Yemen. A total of 30-35 participants are expected to attend, largely comprised of and with equal representation from both countries. This side event is being organised at the request of the Director of EMOPS in Geneva, Mr. Sikander Khan, and endorsed by the UNICEF MENA Regional Director and by the country representatives of both Yemen and Sudan.

## Summary of the Nutrition Situation and Challenges in Sudan

The nutrition situation in Sudan has been characterized by persistently high levels of undernutrition since records began in 1987. Currently, 35 percent of children less than five years of age are stunted. The national prevalence rate of global acute malnutrition at 16.5 percent places Sudan in a 'critical' situation according to WHO thresholds.

Despite substantial attention to the provision of treatment services in the conflict affected states of Darfur over the years, the majority (52 per cent) of Sudan's acutely malnourished children live in nine non-conflict affected states<sup>1</sup> where the response has been inconsistent. The stagnation in the prevalence of all forms of malnutrition is an indication that different ways of working are needed. Since early 2018, Sudan has been thrown into a severe and acute economic crisis, characterised by extreme inflation and a shortage of fuel and basic commodities. This crisis, coupled with disease outbreaks and recurrent insecurity in many parts of the country, is expected to have severe implications on food security and the nutritional situation in the coming months.

In 2016, an investment case was developed by the Sudan Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WFP to rollout a high impact, cost-effective integrated multi-sectoral package of interventions to reduce the very high undernutrition burden of Sudanese children and women. An actionable multi-sector operational plan is now under development. At the same time, the response to the immediate needs over the next six months to one year requires sustainable financing and an operational model that more closely aligns humanitarian and development policies and programming.

This GNC side event seeks to bring together a focused group of participants, comprising representatives of the Government of Sudan, SUN Movement, World Bank, UN agencies, donors, operational NGOs working in Sudan, African Development Bank, National and State level clusters and GNC partners working in Sudan.

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<sup>1</sup> Red Sea, Kassala, Gezira, Khartoum, Northern, River Nile, Gedaref, Sennar and White Nile

## Objectives of the Side Event - Sudan

The overall goal of the Sudan meeting is to propose immediate actions for a comprehensive nutrition approach for Sudan, identifying practical mechanisms that provide support to the Government of Sudan in bridging humanitarian and development work.

Specific objectives are:

- To identify successes, challenges and bottlenecks in responding to immediate needs in Sudan and to implementing a long-term transitional strategy to sustain programmes.
- To examine opportunities for an improved interface between existing structures and the nutrition in emergency coordination structure.
- To discuss actions to address the structural and programmatic challenges to delivery of a comprehensive package of nutrition interventions through strengthened national systems, while ensuring the humanitarian imperative is upheld.
- To advocate for enhanced engagement of donors and the international community to support a comprehensive nutrition approach in Sudan

## Outcome of the Side Event - Sudan

A call for action for partners and donors detailing how the approaches and the principles outlined in the investment case should be supported, working with the Government of Sudan to strengthen nutrition structure and systems, with specific practical steps to bridge humanitarian and development work from both sides.

## Summary of the Nutrition Situation and Challenges in Yemen

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is widely acknowledged as the worst in the world. Sixty percent of the country's population is hungry, including 8.5 million acutely food insecure people and an additional ten million people who will slip into pre-famine conditions by the end of year unless the conflict ends. At least 1.8 million children and 1.1 million pregnant or breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished.

Major efforts are needed to further strengthen the response. This requires scaling up the collective ambition for the country through investment to enhance collaboration and resourcing, developing a joined-up strategy with multiyear funding for nutrition, alongside efforts to ensure unfettered humanitarian access. A Call for Action to end malnutrition in Yemen will be issued at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2018.

The GNC side event seeks to bring together a focused group of participants, including representatives of the Yemen Nutrition Cluster, SUN Movement and Ministry of Public Health and Population from Sanaa and Aden, UN, NGO and World Bank partners from Yemen, alongside key donors and Global Nutrition Cluster partners with operational presence or interest to engage in Yemen, to drive the agenda forward.

## Objectives of the Side Event - Yemen

The aims of the side event on Yemen are:

- To identify the operational implications of the Call to Action to end malnutrition in Yemen following the commitments due to be made at the UNGA in September 2018; and  
To prepare for operationalization of the three-year plan<sup>2</sup>, defining the support needed to address key challenges.

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<sup>2</sup> The three year plan is detailed in the Call to Action, with the vision “Over the next 3 years, the international community will offer Yemen a commitment to Nutrition that aims to secure a tangible improvement of nutritional status by reducing acute and chronic malnutrition levels.”

## Outcome of the Side Event – Yemen

Key actions and support required to operationalise the three year plan outlined in the Call to Action to end malnutrition in Yemen developed at the UNGA will be agreed and roles of partners proposed.

## Proposed Agenda, Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018

**9.00 -9.15** - Opening Remarks by Deputy Regional Director, MENARO and Associate Director – Nutrition Programme, Program Division, UNICEF HQ

### Yemen

**9.15- 10.15** – Presentation from Yemen on the current context: response to date; current challenges focusing on how a continuum of care/integration of CMAM/IYCF and prevention/treatment programmes are being delivered and challenges facing delivery. This will be followed by a presentation that outlines the UN General Assembly commitments.

**10.15 – 10.30** – Tea/Coffee Break

**10.30 – 11.00** – Questions and Answers

### Sudan

**11.00 – 12.00** – Presentation of the current situation and changes since the investment case was developed: what has been done since to move the dialogue forward; remaining challenges highlighting the key constraint of financing modalities and donor interest; a way forward to link the current humanitarian response better with the investment case.

**12.00 – 12.30** – Question and Answers

**12.30 – 13.30 – Lunch Break**

**13.30 – 15.30** – Working groups on Yemen and Sudan concurrently

**Sudan:** Recommend key actions and commitments required from various stakeholders to progress on the implementation of the investment case with specific consideration of how to take practical steps to align the humanitarian and development aspects of the nutrition response. Key questions will guide the group discussion and plenary.

**Yemen:** Review the commitments from the UNGA and formulate actions that need to be taken by the partners and donors to transform those commitments into practical steps on the ground.

**15.30 – 15.45 – Tea/Coffee Break**

**15.45 – 16.30** – Working Group presentation and plenary discussion on the key actions from Sudan

**16.30 – 17.15** – Working Group presentation and plenary discussion on the key actions from Yemen

**17.15 – 17.45** – Wrap-up and closing remarks