**1.3 The Nutrition Cluster: Overview of Roles, Responsibilities and Functions**

**Day 1:  11:30- 13:00** (90min)

**Session Purpose:**

This session provides participants with a more detailed overview of how the Nutrition Cluster is structured and its functions, as well as the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders. It also provides participants with a more detailed overview of the Cluster Core Functions and how these relate to accountability commitments, including the Core Humanitarian Standard.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Explore L3 emergencies
2. List the process for cluster activation and de-activation.
3. Describe the Cluster Core Functions with a focus on AAP and explain how they relate to the Nutrition Cluster at the country level.

**Outline of the Session:**

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| **Topic** | **Time** | **Guidance notes for facilitator** |
| Cluster Activation | 15’ | L3 and activation slides and Plenary on activation |
| De-activation | 25’ | Slides and group work |
| Cluster Core Functions | 40' | Gallery walk exercise followed by presentation |
| Q&A | 10 min | Q&A session |

**Session materials:**

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| **General** | **HO=Handouts (1 per person) and**  **R =Resources (copy per instructions)** | **Electronic References** |

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| * PPT Presentation * Flip charts * Markers | * 1.3 HO Cluster Activation Checklist * 1.3 HO IASC Cluster Functions CCRM * 1.3 HO Cluster Functions CCRM July 2015 * 1.3 HO Core Cluster Functions Quiz Answers * 1.3 R Core Cluster Functions x 1 * 1.3 R Core Cluster Functions Quiz | * Cluster Activation Checklist * IASC Cluster Functions CCRM |

**Facilitator notes**

Depending on the composition of the participants including previous experience within the cluster system as well as number of national partners or government, this session can be adapted to focus on discussion and real life examples from participants.

**Cluster Activation: 10 minutes**

Remember: (IASC CCRM Reference Module)

This section outlines the specific processes to activate and deactivate clusters. Remind participants of the outcomes of the TA from the previous session – notes in PPT.

* **L3 Emergencies:** Outline what and L3 emergency is and highlight the system-wide element, noting its articulating a common commitment across organisations for large scale emergencies. Provide participants with a definition of L3 emergencies and action to be taken by the IASC. Notes in PPT.
* Move from L3 to explain the criteria for cluster **activation**:
* Trigger event in the form of a new large-scale emergency or sharp deterioration and/or significant change in an existing humanitarian situation leading to coordination gaps.
* Evaluation of existing national response and coordination capacity and/or national response shows inability to appropriately meet needs.
* Humanitarian needs justify a multi-sectoral approach that the existing coordination and response mechanisms can no longer adequately address.
* The size of the operational presence (the number of actors and complexity of response) requires a sector-specific coordination mechanism, if this does not already exist.

**Cluster De-Activation and Transition Slides and Group Work:  25 minutes** (5min overview, 10min group work, 10min debrief in plenary)

* The detailed procedures for activation and de- of a cluster are described in the Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at the Country Level.
* The facilitator should reinforce the temporary nature of clusters - whenever possible, coordination responsibility should be assumed (or re-assumed) by national actors
* A cluster architecture review (normally held XXX) may recommend that a cluster is de-activated, or merged with another.
* In other cases, the government may want to phase out cluster and integrate coordination into existing government structures and processes
* The perspective and analysis of the cluster itself is an important input into these decisions, and it can be difficult to balance the need to continue to support assistance activities with the expectation of other actors to take on a greater coordination role
* Regardless of when a decision is taken to deactivate a cluster, all clusters should develop a transition plan to ensure an efficient transfer of responsibilities and minimize gaps in deliver of assistance.

**Group work:**

* Working in small groups of 2-3 people, ask participants to reflect on the ***ideal conditions*** for a nutrition cluster to be de-activated. In plenary, the facilitator can take a few answers from selected groups, and summarize with the PowerPoint slide. These include:
  + There is a good logic for combining Nutrition Cluster with another one (health, food security, etc.)
  + There is sufficient local and national capacity to coordinate and manage the response
  + There is evidence that the conditions allow for a transition to recovery
  + Nutritional status is stabilized and there are no indications that the situation will change in the short to medium term.

**Introduction to the Cluster Core Functions: 5 minutes**

* This part of the session participants will go into more detail on cluster core functions and how these contribute to greater quality, consistency, coverage and better outcomes for affected people.
* Facilitators can refer back to the slide with the clusters and the HC, and explain that under the IASC Transformative Agenda, the IASC Principals recognized that the application of the cluster approach has become overly process-driven - developing products and processes that don't always contribute to better results.
* In some situations, clusters are perceived as potentially undermining local coordination structures and processes, rather than enabling better delivery as assistance, especially with silo approaches. etc.
* The IASC “agreed there is a need to restate and return to the original purpose of clusters, refocusing them on strategic and operational gaps analysis, planning, assessment and results”.
* AAP was added later as a +1 function, highlighting the importance of making coordination focuses on affected people's rights and results for them.
* Then the facilitator can remind participants of their suggestions in session 1.1 on the purpose of coordination, and use this to introduce the 6 functions.
* There are outlined in the IASC Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at the Country Level that outlines six specific functions.

**Cluster Core Functions Game: 10 minutes**

* The six core functions (+1 AAP) should be printed on A4 and posted around the room.
* Distribute the quiz handout, and ask participants to go around the room in pairs. Ask them to review the various activities and match them to one of the core functions.

**Debrief: 20 minutes**

* After the exercise, ask participants to go back to their places for a debrief.
* Introduce the slides for each core function, with an explanation of what it means, particularly from an AAP perspective.
* These functions - and the link to AAP - are relevant regardless of whether a cluster is formally activated or not, which is why they are presented first.
* Show the final slide around the CHS commitments, and make the link between how the core functions help meet these commitments.

**Q&A: 10 minutes** (optional?)

This session has some time for further questions, as there are likely to be several.

**Key Messages:**

* Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders of the Nutrition Cluster are interrelated throughout all stages of Cluster existence
* Clusters should only be activated when it can provide an added-value to the response, for example, through providing greater coordination, consistency, coherence and coverage.
* Clusters are meant to complement, not replace or overwhelm existing national coordination mechanisms.
* In more and more crises, clusters are not formally activated, but the similar approach is used.
* UNICEF has specific roles as CLA and as as a provider of last resort. It also is one of the key partners in the Nutrition Cluster, and as such, has roles and responsibilities like any other cluster partner.