



Tech RRT Recommendations to Strengthen NE Nigeria IMTWG

The following recommendations are based on the Tech RRT Assessment Advisor deployment in Abuja and Maiduguri from March 25th to April 27th, 2019.

Staff

- It is recommended to have two co-chairs for the NE Nigeria IMTWG as opposed to 1 as was previously the case. One chair will be from UNICEF and the second will be from an NGO selected by the NE Nigeria IMTWG members. Both of the co-chairs must be able to devote 40% of their time to the IMTWG.
- It is recommended to employ a second Nutrition Sector IMO that will support the NE Nigeria IMTWG. The individual must have knowledge of survey implementation and surveillance along with other typical IMO competencies. Some of the job duties will include updating the survey data repository from 2016 to present, mapping results and establish warning signs, organizing the OCHA Nigeria Humanitarian Response website, lead any electronic dissemination pertaining to the IMTWG, assist co-chairs with the management of the NE Nigeria IMTWG online platform and other areas where needed. This IMO position is needed at this time as the other Nutrition Sector IMO and the UNICEF Nutrition IMO are not able to perform these tasks due to an already full workload.

Trainings and Workshops

- Conduct a SMART Manager level training in Maiduguri as soon as possible. Participants to be included in the training must be directly involved with all phases of implementing SMART nutrition and/or mortality surveys and preferably survey managers. It is recommended to include individuals that attended the April 16-18 workshop as the criteria for attending the workshop was that participants must attend future NE Nigeria IMTWG meetings.
- NE Nigeria IMTWG identify gaps in knowledge and determine if there is a need for a full training or a 1-2 workshop for other survey methodologies such as KAP, Coverage, BA etc. It is recommended to prioritize KAP as 22 KAP surveys are planned for the remaining of 2019.
- NE Nigeria IMTWG conduct a workshop to determine core and optional indicators that must be included in all nutrition surveys. Gender Based Violence (GBV)/ protection indicators must also be included in all surveys (see Tech RRT End of Mission Report for examples to use or adapt). Optional indicators will likely be included in surveys based on the objectives of the partner that is implementing the survey.
- Nutrition Sector or NE Nigeria IMTWG conduct a workshop at the end of November or early December, 2019 to develop the 2020 Survey Plan for NE Nigeria.

NE Nigeria Nutrition Sector Survey Plan for the remaining of 2019 and 2020

- The Survey Plan for the remaining of 2019 developed during the April 16-18 workshop included approximately 50 surveys (22 KAP, 28 SMART) that will take place between May-December 2019. It is recommended to discuss the following points during a NE Nigeria IMTWG or Nutrition Cluster meeting:
 - A few surveys are taking place in the same area a few months apart. See if it is possible for partners to work together and conduct only one survey.
 - A number of surveys are planned to take place during the rainy season. Confirm that the surveys will be able to be implemented.



- Confirm that the geographical unit that the sampling frame for all surveys is not smaller than an LGA. Partners must provide justification to conduct a survey with a sampling frame that is smaller than an LGA.
- Approximately 90% of the planned surveys for the remainder of 2019 are to take place in Borno State. It is recommended to plan for more surveys to take place in other NE Nigeria states in 2020 if there is access and need.
- Finalize the Nutrition Sector Survey Plan for 2020 by the 10th of December 2019. When planning surveys the Nutrition Sector must be strategic. The following are some of the key points to consider when planning:
 - Nutrition Sector partners must collaborate when planning surveys. A workshop should take place and follow up as required. It is of paramount importance that the same type of survey does not take place in the same area a couple of months apart. Partners are encouraged to work with other partners during surveys or use another partners data for programmatic planning. Survey respondent fatigue must be avoided.
 - Use existing information (surveys, routine data etc) to identify areas where surveys are most needed.
 - Determine what type of survey(s) methodology is required for each area based on apparent needs and survey objectives.
 - Partners should be strategic about the time of year a survey is conducted. Is the survey being used as a baseline, endline, or part of a multi-year program? Is there a benefit to conducting the survey during the lean period or harvest? Is it possible to conduct the survey during the raining season and if 'yes' could the survey be conducted at another time of year? All of these questions should be considered and decisions made based on the partner programming and survey objectives.
- NE Nigeria IMTWG co-chairs provide Nutrition Sector a pre-harvest/post-harvest calendar to assist with survey planning.

Data and Report Repositories

- Create an online platform (Google drive, Dropbox, etc) that is accessible for NE Nigeria IMTWG members only. The platform will include tools and resources, validated survey protocols and presentations, validated preliminary survey reports and presentations, validated final reports, and any other relevant information.
- Create a folder of all validated NE Nigeria survey datasets from 2016 to present. Only the NE Nigeria IMTWG co-chairs will have access to the folder.
- Organize the NE Nigeria survey results repository from 2016 to present. Currently, multiple individuals have survey results from various periods of time and some survey results may be missing. The results repository can be included in the NE Nigeria IMTWG online platform. It is also recommended to review the existing results indicators and information included in the repository (spreadsheet that is based on GNC template) with the NE Nigeria IMTWG to determine if any additional information should be included.
- Organize the OCHA Nigeria Humanitarian Response website so that all validated survey reports from 2016 to present are included under the 'Assessment tab'. Currently, there are some reports in the 'Documents' tab and many reports are missing.



Validation of surveys and weekly new arrival data

- It is recommended that the co-chairs of the NE Nigeria IMTWG develop a monthly schedule at the monthly meeting of members that will be responsible for reviewing and validating weekly new arrival data. Three members can be responsible for each week. This will help reduce the burden of members to provide validation on a weekly basis for weekly new arrival data.
- Partners that are conducting exhaustive MUAC screening (not part of routine/ 5W screening) must submit results for validation by the NE Nigeria IMTWG and also use the validation tools presented at the April 16-18 workshop (see Tech RRT End of Mission report Annex). It was noted that some partners were not submitting results to the NE Nigeria IMTWG.
- The NE Nigeria IMTWG should request out of country support for the validation of protocols and survey results (ACF-CA global SMART team, CDC, GNC). One of these organizations can be included in the NE Nigeria IMTWG members email list when protocols and survey results are being reviewed and comments provided for validation. I suspect additional support will be required for up to one year or until there is enough capacity within the NE Nigeria IMTWG.

Additional Recommendations

- Create an event calendar (adapt existing) and disseminate to all nutrition sector partners. The event calendar can be updated as an ongoing monthly NE Nigeria IMTWG monthly meeting agenda point (it will take 5 minutes). Partners will add to the event calendar based on the specific area where their survey is taking place. It should be noted that only 5 out of 39 people that attended the April 16-18 workshop were very familiar with using an event calendar. Having an up to date event calendar (which is easy to create) will significantly improve the quality of stunting and underweight nutrition survey and surveillance data.
- Partners that are conducting new arrival screening must use the tools presented at the April 16-18 workshop (see Tech RRT End of Mission report Annex). It was noted that some partners have not been using the correct tools.
- Nutrition Sector or NE Nigeria IMTWG confirm that at all IDP camps when new IDP's arrive at a camp when children 6-59 months are measured that IOM and the NGO responsible for measuring children 6-59 at the camp (data submitted weekly) are at the same location. This will eliminate discrepancies in the number of children measured between IOM and NGO weekly data. For example, when I had the opportunity to visit Monguno, IOM was located outside of the receiving area and Christian Aid (NGO responsible for measurements at the camp) was located inside the camp. Some families may have gone directly to the host community and not registered with Christian Aid and had children 6-59 months measured on the same day.
- High quality height boards (UNICEF), SECA digital scales (NOT hanging salter scales) and new MUAC tapes must be used when conducting nutrition surveys and new arrival screenings.
- NE Nigeria IMTWG members agree on a final version of the *NE Nigeria IMTWG TOR* and *SOP Surveys in NE Nigeria* documents.
- NE Nigeria IMTWG review this document, make any relevant changes and/or additions and prioritize recommendations.