Orientation on **Cluster Approach**

For Nutrition Cluster partners

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What is the Cluster approach?

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Cluster activation

Criteria

- **Response and coordination gaps** exist due to a sharp deterioration or significant change in the humanitarian situation.

- **Existing national response or coordination capacity** is unable to meet needs in a manner that respects humanitarian principles.

- **Interdependence of Health WASH** Food Security and Nutrition responses.

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Cluster activation

Procedure

- **The procedure for activating** one or more clusters includes consultation between the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and the Humanitarian Country Team, and then correspondence with the Emergency Relief Coordinator on the rationale for each cluster and the selection of cluster lead agencies based on coordination and response capacity.

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Cluster deactivation

…when at least one of the conditions that led to its activation is no longer present:

- **The humanitarian situation improves,** significantly reducing humanitarian needs and therefore the associated response and coordination gaps.

- **National structures acquire sufficient capacity** to coordinate and meet residual humanitarian needs in line with humanitarian principles.

What does
a cluster do?

The six core functions of a cluster.

Supporting Service Delivery

Planning and strategy development

Informing strategic decision-making of the HC/HCT for the humanitarian response

Be accountable to affected population

Advocacy

Contingency planning Preparedness Capacity-building

Monitoring and reporting

Cluster core functions and deliverables

1. Supporting service delivery

1.1 Provide a platform to ensure that service delivery is driven by the agreed strategic priorities.

1.2 Develop mechanisms to eliminate duplication of service delivery.

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Cluster core **functions and deliverables**

2. Informing strategic decision-making of the HC/HCT for the humanitarian response

2.1 Needs assessment and gap analysis
(across other sectors and within the sector)

2.2 Analysis to identify and address (emerging) gaps, obstacles, duplication, and cross-cutting issues including age, gender, environment and HIV/AIDS.

2.3 Prioritization, grounded in response analysis.

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Cluster core functions and deliverables

3. Planning and strategy development

3.1 Develop sectorial plans, objectives and indicators directly support realization of the HC/HCT strategic priorities.

3.2 Apply and adhere to existing standards and guidelines.

3.3 Clarify funding requirements, prioritization, and cluster contributions for the HC's overall humanitarian funding consideration *(e.g.: Flash Appeal, CERF, Emergency Response Fund/Common Humanitarian Fund).*

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Cluster core functions and deliverables

4. Advocacy

4.1 Identify advocacy concerns to contribute to HC and HCT messaging and action.

4.2 Undertaking advocacy activities on behalf of cluster participants and the affected population.

5. Monitoring and reporting

5.1 Monitoring and reporting the implementation of the cluster strategy and results; recommending corrective action where necessary.

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Cluster core functions and deliverables

Each cluster is also responsible for integrating early recovery from the outset of the humanitarian response.

6. Contingency planning / Preparedness Capacity building

6.1 In situation where there is a high risk of recurring or significant new disaster and where sufficient capacity exists within the cluster.

7. Accountability to affected population

7.1 Demonstrate commitment to accountability to affected populations by ensuring feedback and accountability mechanisms are integrated into country strategies, proposal designing, monitoring and evaluations.
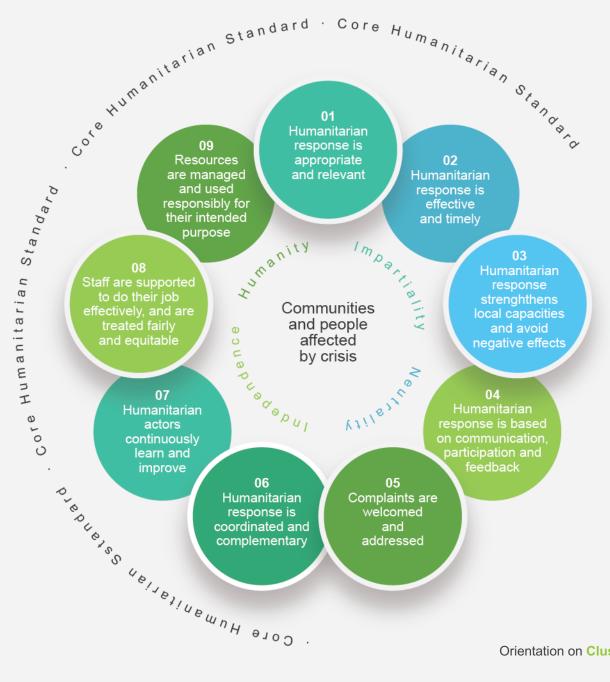
Humanitarian
principles

Humanity

Neutrality

Impartiality

Operational independence

Principles of
Humanitarian partnerships

Equality

Transparency

Result-oriented

Responsibility

Complementarity

Core Humanitarian Standards

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Orientation on **Cluster Approach**

Minimum Commitments for participation to clusters*

Please note this list is neither complete not prescriptive. It's a basic starting point that has to be adapted at completed at country level. Consult OCHA. (2015). Reference Module for Cluster Coordination and Country Level for more information.

Commitment to humanitarian principles and principles of partnership

Commitment to mainstream protection

Improve accountability to affected populations

Understanding of duties and responsibilities associated with membership of the cluster

Contribute to cluster's response plan and activities

Active participation in the cluster and a commitment to consistently engage in the cluster's collective work

Mainstream cross cutting issues (including age, gender, environment, and HIV/AIDS).

Commitment to work cooperatively with other cluster partners to ensure an optimal and strategic use of available resources, and share information on organizational resources.

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What is the
Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC)?

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WHO'S WHO in **the Nutrition Cluster**

1. Global Level
The GNC

At global level, the GNC has 50 partners and observers representing International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs), research and development groups, academic institutions, and UN agencies.

The GNC has been directly supporting sectoral coordination and intersectoral collaboration in more than 60 countries and our open access resources have been accessed by more than 120 countries.

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WHO'S WHO in **the Nutrition Cluster**

2. Global Level
The GNC – Coordination Team

The Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team (GNC-CT) provides leadership and stewardship for coordination and functions as the secretariat for the Global Nutrition Cluster. The GNC-CT is staffed by UNICEF and housed within UNICEF Geneva.

The GNC-CT represents the GNC partners in global fora and provides strategic leadership, global guidance and operational support to country nutrition clusters while linking stakeholders and ensuring timely information, knowledge sharing and effective communications.

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Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team *(GNC – CT)*

Support to Nutrition cluster/sector coordination mechanisms at country level

The GNC-CT is led by a Global Cluster Coordinator and consists of two units:

A) The **Partnership, Programmes, and Advocacy Team -** focuses on strategic leadership, evidence generation, knowledge management, engagement with partners at global level, capacity strengthening, and technical guidance, including guiding the Humanitarian Process Cycle (HPC).

B) The **Rapid Response Team -** provides operational support to country-level nutrition coordination mechanisms through in-country and remote support as requested. Support includes strengthening nutrition coordination, information management, nutrition information system (NIS)/ assessments, inter sectoral collaboration, preparedness, NiE and the delivery of different capacity strengthening activities.

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WHO'S WHO in the Nutrition Cluster

3. Global Level
GNC Programme Team (GNC-PT)

Historically, the nutrition community has lacked an overarching platform in how to provide strategic direction to address technical capacity gaps at the country level.

As a result, **the GNC Programme Team was established** as a partnership of NGOs, UNICEF and the GNC, to provide programme support to Nutrition Clusters and partners, including:

➢ Access to high-quality information, capacity strengthening resources, guidance and learning;

➢ Where guidance is limited, timely access to interim consensus-driven guidance, including guidance on program adaptation;

➢ Access to experienced nutrition technical specialists to answer questions, or to provide more in-depth support (remote or in-country).

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In-depth **Support**

Fast and highly specialized in-country or virtual support

Areas include:

- **French/Spanish/English/Arabic Coordination**

- **Nutrition Information Systems and assessments**

- **Information Management**

- **Nutrition in Emergencies Programmes**

Mechanisms for **support**

In-depth support is provided through various mechanisms

- **Rapid Response Team** (RRT) - coordination and IM

- **Standby Partners Agreement (SBP)**
  Request SBP support here

- **In-depth NiE programme support**

- **GNC Consultant Roster**
  Click here to learn more and request consultant support

- **UNICEF internal surge and stretch assignments**

To learn more about the support we provide, visit our Remote/in-country Support page on our website or scan the QR code.

Capacity **Strengthening**

Support for country, regional and global levels, for various profiles and capacity stages

- **E-learning and skill boosting platform GNC Learn**

  - Information Management
  - Nutrition Cluster Coordination
  - Nutrition in Emergencies
  - Preparedness
  - ICSC

- **Mentoring programme**

- **Blended Coordination Training**

- **Soft skills training (through Humanitarian Leadership Workshop)**

The COVID-19 pandemic is limiting mobility in all countries therefore the GNC-CT will endeavour to limit all face-to-face interactions and increase the modalities and opportunities for remote support, for the foreseeable future.

Guidance and tools readily available online, including but not limited to:

1. Coordination and information **management toolkits**

2. Coordination and information **management checklists**

3. Nutrition in emergencies **technical checklists**

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Checkout the website
http://www.nutritioncluster.net/

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WHO's WHO of the **Nutrition Cluster**

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1. National Level
Nutrition Cluster (NC)

- Made of NC-CT, NGOs, UN agencies, GVT officials, CSO, private sector…

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2. National Level
NC – Coordination Team

- Nutrition Cluster Coordinator (NCC)
- IMO
- Deputy

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3. National Level
Cluster Lead Agency: UNICEF

- Defining the NC coordination team structure.

- Recruiting and managing NC-CT human resources.

- Administrative support for the NC-CT

- Provider of last resource

- …ensure that humanitarian actors build on local capacities and maintain appropriate links with Government and local authorities.

WHO's WHO of the Nutrition Cluster

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4. National Level
Strategic Advisory Group

- Technical Working Group, Taskforce…

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Sub-national Level
Coordination hubs (map preferably)
Nutrition Coordination team

- Nutrition Cluster Coordinator

- IMO

- …

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Want to know more?

- https://www.nutritioncluster.net/

- https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/

- IASC. (2015). *Cluster Coordination Reference Module.*

- UNICEF. (2015). *Cluster Coordination Guidance for Country Offices*

- *Add more national cluster resources*

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