

Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition



Advice | Guidance | Expertise | Learning

Supporting countries in humanitarian situations to meet the nutrition rights and needs of people affected by emergency

What is Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?

A common global mechanism endorsed by over 40 Global Nutrition Cluster partners to provide systematic, predictable, timely and coordinated nutrition technical assistance in order to meet the nutrition rights and needs of people affected by emergencies. The Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition (GTAM) is co-led by UNICEF as the Cluster Lead Agency, together with World Vision.

What is the composition of the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?

The GTAM has a core team that includes UNICEF, World Vision, the Emergency Nutrition Network, Technical Rapid Response Team, and the Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team (GNC-CT). The core team works with global nutrition partners and existing or new Global Thematic Working Groups (GTWG) to respond to countries' technical needs. Examples of GTWGs with which the GTAM engages include the Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) Core Group, No Wasted Lives, Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), The Council for Research and Technical

Advice on Acute Malnutrition (CORTISAM), Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Initiative, CashCap of Norwegian Refugee Council (NORCAP), etc.

Why Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?

In recent years, it has become clear that leadership and coordination among global partners providing technical support to countries on nutrition in emergencies is inadequate. Two recent studies confirmed this.^{1,2} In order to avoid duplication of efforts, limited technical coherence, delayed and inadequate response to country nutrition technical needs, the GTAM is therefore established to:

- Provide coherent technical guidance
- Facilitate easy access to technical resources
- Ensure that countries receive quality technical support in a timely manner during times of crisis
- Effectively meet country technical advice and guidance needs
- Promote coherence and excellence in the provision of nutrition-related technical support to countries undergoing humanitarian crises

What does the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition do?

When country and regional capacities are exhausted, unresolved technical issues can be escalated to the GTAM. Depending on the issue, the GTAM will:

Provide technical advice

Provide feedback to questions from individuals working in countries experiencing emergencies within a short timeframe, particularly where relevant normative guidance exists and is available.

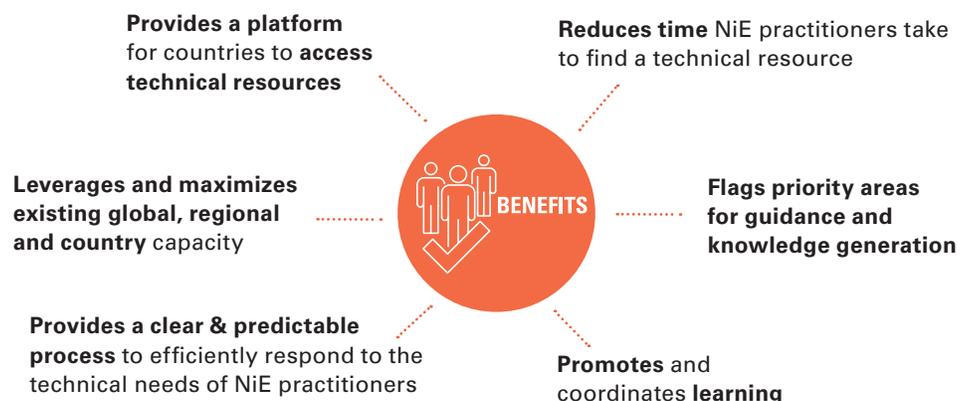
Facilitate consensus driven guidance

Identify urgent needs for interim operational guidance and facilitate the process of developing such guidance, based on consensus among experts, enabling a timely response to nutrition-related emergencies.

Provide specialized technical expertise

Support provision of specific technical expertise required by a country to deliver results for nutrition. Technical expertise support may be in the form of deployment of human resources, remote support of technical staff or capacity building.

What are the benefits of the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?



For more information contact: Ruth Situma, rsituma@unicef.org & Juliane Gross, juliane.gross@wveu.org

¹ Rapid Response Team Evaluation (2014) ; ² Position of the Global Nutrition Cluster on Providing Technical Support to Country Clusters by Save the Children USA, 2015

