

Inter-Cluster Nutrition Working Group

Terms of Reference

Final 7th June 2017

Rationale

The conceptual framework for malnutrition identifies immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition that cut across numerous sectors - nutrition, food security, WASH and health. There is growing recognition that an integrated response across clusters/sectors is essential for a coherent and effective humanitarian response. The 2016 Agenda for Humanity advocates that the humanitarian agencies move towards an approach of working jointly across sectors and mandates to deliver on collective outcomes. Better nutrition outcomes in a humanitarian situation will require collaborative and combined action on programme response from each of the key clusters most directly impacting nutrition status – Nutrition, Food Security, Health & WASH. Additional engagement will also be required with other technical clusters which may have particular relevance to nutrition depending on the crisis contexts in terms of advocacy and/or collaboration on programme issues - Protection, Shelter, Camp Management and Education clusters. The support from Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters will continue to have an important role to play in the nutrition response.

Strong, functioning inter-cluster coordination groups are essential at global and country level and such an approach should be reflected throughout the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), from preparedness to joint assessments, needs analysis, prioritisation, integrated programming for better nutrition outcomes, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation.

Overall Goal

To contribute to safeguarding and improving the nutritional status of crisis affected populations, preventing a deterioration of the nutrition situation in at-risk population groups and enhancing the overall nutritional situation of the affected population.

Purpose

To reach the overall goal, the Inter-Cluster Nutrition Working Group (ICNWG) will provide technical direction, guidance and coordination solutions to the Nutrition and Food Security clusters at country level, on key areas of synergy related to nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions. All forms of malnutrition (acute, chronic, micronutrient deficiency and obesity¹) present in humanitarian crises will be covered by the group. A high level of consideration will also be given to prevention and preparedness along with treatment of acute undernutrition. Given the rationale behind its work, the ICNWG has efforts underway to integrate the Health and WASH clusters to further contribute to the achievement of this joint outcome. In addition all involved clusters will support the related and key Health and WASH outcomes².

Objectives

To promote a coherent multi-sectoral integrated approach to ensure good nutrition in humanitarian crises with the needs of the affected population at the centre, the ICNWG will:

1. Support inter-cluster coordination for integrated programming at country level for increased nutrition outcomes
2. Develop the technical capacity of country stakeholders with regard to nutrition sensitive programming and coordination
3. Advocate for the nutrition-sensitive agenda in humanitarian contexts, promoting a multi-sectoral, integrated approach to achieve nutrition outcomes.

¹ Consideration regarding obesity may be especially relevant during recovery interventions in some contexts, for example the Middle East.

² Discussions with these clusters are ongoing and therefore the workplan this year only partially reflects their engagement.

Activities and deliverables

In order to achieve its objectives and deliverables, the working group members will jointly develop a yearly workplan outlining objectives, activities, timeframe, focal points and responsible agencies. The workplan should align with GNC and gFSC priorities and strategic documents³.

- Agree on common language around what an integrated approach entails.
- Advocate at all levels for the adoption of an integrated approach to malnutrition in humanitarian response including nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions
- Identify barriers, good practices and opportunities at national, sub-national and operational levels for stronger and more effective inter-cluster integration of the response to acute malnutrition.
- Identify gaps in guidance and information and required support to countries from the global level.
- Promote joint missions to priority countries with actual or potential high levels of acute malnutrition to support joint needs assessment, analysis, prioritisation and integration across the HPC.
- Communicate and share results and opportunities with other initiatives that promote intercluster integration including OCHA, GCCG, SUN for example the cash working group.

Specific activities are outlined in the workplan annexed to the ToR.

Representation⁴

Chair: GNC, gFSC secretariats

Co-Chair: 6 monthly rotation within members

Members:

- Actual: gFSC and its partners, GNC and its partners.
- Pending cluster agreement: GHC, GWC
 - Members are expected to actively contribute to the ICNWXG through participation in teleconferences and face to face meetings, supporting the development and roll out of the workplan (developing/commenting on documents, participating in field missions, supporting training events etc etc)

Method of working

- The GNC and gFSC coordinators will represent the ICNWXG in any cluster-related meeting
- The ICNWXG will nominate co-chairs and note-takers. Co-chairs duration will be 6 months. Note-takers will be on rotation basis for each meeting.
- Teleconference meetings: Minimum monthly telephone conference calls on first Tuesday of every month from 10-11am CET. Additional calls will be scheduled as required on third Tuesday of every month from 10-11 CET.
- Biannual face to face meetings (usually attached to global cluster events e.g GNC meeting, gFSC meeting).
- Sub-working groups will be set up as necessary for specific activities.
- Regular email correspondence in between meetings.
- Minutes of teleconferences, meetings and any sub-working groups, to be uploaded on gFSC and GNC website
- Attendance Feedback on progress to gFSC and GNC partners at Global cluster meetings with a view to promoting integration.
- Feedback to other networks as appropriate and determined through the ICNWXG (for example SUN, UN Network for SUN).
- Undertake specific activities (country mission, workshop, production of documents) as defined in the yearly agreed workplan

Annexes:

- **Work plan 2017**
- **gFSC Strategy 2017-19**
- **GNC Strategy 2017-20**

³ As soon as the health and WASH clusters are fully on board the ToR will require validation by them and the priorities of these clusters will also be taken into account in the workplan.

⁴ Representation and method of working will be extended to include health and WASH clusters