



Inter-Cluster Nutrition Working Group (ICN WG)

Who we are

How we work

What we do

Presentation to GNC Annual Meeting: Geneva 11th October 2017



Who are we?

- A sub-working group of GNC and gFSC.
 - Secretariat managed by gFSC until July 2017. GNC from August 2017.
 - Co-Chair: 6 monthly rotation within members – currently Kate (WFP) and Damien (Oxfam)
 - Monthly Skype calls
- Established as collaboration between gFSC and GNC in 2012. Difficulty getting off ground. Re-vitalised in 2015.
 - Members: gFSC and its partners, GNC and its partners.
 - Members expected to actively contribute through participation in teleconferences & face to face meetings, as well as supporting the development and roll out of the workplan.

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.

New members include WASH and health. Engaging with education and protection.

- The ICNWG aims to ‘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 obesity) 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.
 - Consideration regarding obesity may be especially relevant during recovery interventions in some contexts, for example the Middle East.

Promote a coherent multi-sectoral integrated approach to ensure good nutrition in humanitarian crises with the needs of the affected population at the centre

What do we do?

- Grounded in recently revised ToR and workplan
- The workplan aligns with GNC & gFSC priorities and strategic documents

| Support inter-cluster coordination at country level for increased nutrition outcomes | Develop the technical capacity of country stakeholders about nutrition sensitive programming | Advocate for nutrition-sensitive agenda in humanitarian contexts |
|---|---|--|
| Organization of in-country workshops to foster convergence and integrated programming | Train cluster partners, including national partners to develop nutrition-sensitive programming | Communication of the ICWG results to the global and in-country humanitarian coordination |
| Provision of a continued support, following workshops held in 2016 and 2017 | | Contribution to discussions with nutrition-sensitive platforms (SUN, REACH, etc.) |

What have we achieved?

1. Support inter-cluster coordination at country level for increased nutrition outcomes

- **Whole of Syria training workshop:** Amman March 2017. Multisector programming for Nutrition and Nutrition-sensitive agriculture.
 - follow-up from October 2016 Nutrition and Food Security Consultation workshop where a set of recommendations and “opportunities” were thought through and developed in order to promote and design an enhanced inter-cluster collaboration at the operational level.
 - [Workshop report and Action Plan](#)
- **Event:** Rome, April 2017. “Promoting an Integrated Famine Prevention Package: Breaking bottlenecks”
 - Best practices and Lessons Learnt from the four countries at risk of famine: North East Nigeria, Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia
 - Three areas fit with ICNWG workplan –
 - i) training on integrated response,
 - ii) development of a joint response plan,
 - iii) fund raising and work planning for integrated responses.
 - Follow-up discussion at FSC CC retreat in September 2017

Comparison actions from Rome meeting

| Type of support needed | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Yemen | ICNWG workplan |
|---|---------|---------|-------------|-------|----------------|
| Training on integrated response, including assessment | √ | √ | √ | | Objective 2 |
| Develop joint response package | √ | √ | | √ | Objective 1 |
| Develop multi-sectorial HRP/HRO | √ | | | | Objective 1 |
| Prioritization and rationalization plan | | √ | | | ? |
| Multipurpose cash response | | √ | | | Objective 1 |
| Fund raising/advocay for joint plan/integrated response | | √ | √ | √ | Objective 3 |
| Define mimimum/optimal intervention package | | | √ | | Objective 1 |

Challenges and support that is requested from the global level for increased nutrition outcomes:

'4 Famines' meeting country presentations showed a good inter-cluster collaboration on joint needs assessments and integrated response planning.

Challenges became greater to ensure inter-cluster linkages when implementing response plans – targeting and beyond.

Operational:

- Operational and technical guidance to operationalize or monitor the action plans
- Availability and quality of data to inform joint programming. Also availability of guidelines on the 'how to...'
- Guidance note on nutrition-sensitive FS activities

Process:

- Leadership for joint analysis – food security/nutrition/WASH/health (e.g. REACH?)
- Overview of inter-sectoral platforms to tap into (e.g. REACH/ Impact Initiatives, REACH/ SUN Initiative)

Advocacy:

- Advocacy and fundraising for joint/integrated programming (based on lessons learnt exercises)
- Advocacy for integrated “reporting” and targeting (ref. to structure in HNO/HRP)
- Relation between GNC/gFSC/IPC (acute vs chronic & acute malnutrition IPC) – advocacy and discussion on which stakeholders address what?

Monitoring action plans:

Initial agreement that monitoring of the action plans is facilitated by the ICN WG.

Is this feasible? What needs to be requested by CLAs (e.g. technical guidance)?

Upcoming missions: Yemen, S Sudan tbc, important to investigate further the major bottlenecks for effective joint inter-cluster scale-up.

What have we achieved?

2. Develop the technical capacity of country stakeholders about nutrition-sensitive programming

- **Multi-cluster workshop:** June 2017, Geneva.

- to agree on the structure, themes and main content of the training package as well as share information about existing capacity development materials for nutrition-sensitive programming in humanitarian responses

- White paper prepared: identify the responsibilities and activities of the target groups for the training. Define the knowledge and skills they require to perform their work in a manner that enhances positive impact on nutrition outcomes.
 - Functional entry points related to activities to be performed along the programmatic cycle
 - Thematic/sector entry-points related to specific sector-based knowledge/skills/capacities

- Minutes soon to be available: updated responsibilities, issues by sector, key messages to transmit, dissemination plan, glossary key terms.

- Nutrition-sensitive multi-sector training modules in progress.

Nutrition-sensitive programming

Nutrition-sensitive programming seeks improved nutrition outcomes through two complementary approaches:

- Multisectoral approach
- Applying a nutrition lens to sectoral interventions to maximize nutrition outcomes

| Audience | General area of responsibility ¹ | Nutrition-sensitive responsibilities |
|--|--|--|
| <p>The facilitators : cluster Coordinators, inter-cluster coordinator, cluster co-facilitation, including from national authorities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms to enable service delivery to a specific cluster/sector • Coordination with national/local authorities, state institutions, local civil society, cluster coordinators/OCHA and other relevant actors • Coordination of needs assessment and analysis • Prioritization and strategic planning (resource mobilization, integration of cross-cutting issues, application of standards, guidelines, and good practices etc.) • Transition planning (capacity strengthening, cluster deactivation etc.) • Information management and reporting • Monitoring and evaluation • Advocacy (resource mobilization, etc.) • Ensure the AAP approach is integrated at each stage of the HPC/in the above | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the contribution of the sector as a causal factor of the malnutrition and vice versa, and communicate appropriately • Advocate for nutrition sensitive interventions towards cluster partners, and share good practices where necessary • Ensure nutrition sensitivity is well captured throughout the HPC and reflected in sector plans (coordinated joint assessments, analysis, HNO/HRP) • Work across clusters to promote multi-sectorial contributions to achieve better nutrition sensitive outcomes • Advocate for an effective humanitarian coordination leading to positive nutrition outcomes, towards HCT, donors and country directors and cluster lead agencies • Identify capacity gaps and coordinate with other clusters • Plan, organize and coordinate capacity strengthening on nutrition outcomes to partners • Engage with other national multi-sectoral platforms (e.g. SUN) to link humanitarian response, resilience and development • Ensure population is consulted and feedback shapes nutrition sensitive interventions and learning at cluster levels and partners |

¹ Operational guidance. Generic terms of reference for cluster coordinators at the country level. IASC – September 2010.

What have we achieved?

3. Advocate for nutrition-sensitive agenda in humanitarian contexts

- Present in and took action following Rome risk of famines meeting
- Relevant clusters, inter-cluster coordination personnel, OCHA and SUN participated in the multi-cluster workshop
 - Importance of working on collective nutrition outcomes was acknowledged and OCHA welcomed the development of/ showed lots of interest for the training package
 - WASH and health clusters have become members of the ICWG (participation in the monthly call; joint country missions; support the development of the training package)
- Intercluster mission organised in Yemen and S Sudan with all global cluster coordinators (Health, WASH, Food Security, Nutrition)
 - strengthened links between the work of the ICN WG and the GCCG
- Guidance note to HCs from ERC on importance of integrated response to address malnutrition (Sept 2017)

What are our next steps?

- Finalise integration of other interested clusters in the WG
- Yemen (Oct) and S Sudan (Dec) joint field visits in planning. ToRs prepared.
- Finalisation of minutes of the training module development workshop
- Review current status of training modules to date
- Recruitment of replacement consultant to finalise training modules
- Identify country for pilot test and refinement of modules
- Support CCs to advocate for multi-sector/integrated response planning.
- Develop workplan for 2018 including other clusters

Resources

- ICNWG ToR
- ICNWG workplan
- ICNWG meeting minutes

- gFSC workplan
- GNC workplan
- 4 Famines event report and workplan

<http://nutritioncluster.net/intercluster-topics/5-inter-cluster-nutrition-working-group>

<http://fscluster.org/inter-cluster-working-group-food/document/inter-cluster-nutrition-working-group>

Questions, discussion, ideas, suggestions and
recommendations for the ICN WG

Extra slides

Yemen – joint mission objectives

- **Specific objectives / expected results of the joint mission**
- To review the progress in the integrated response and support development of the strategy and the work plan for the implementation of the integrated response in nutrition and outbreak of diseases; identify barriers, good practices and opportunities as well as needs at country and sub-national level for stronger and more effective collaboration between Food security & Livelihoods and Nutrition clusters + WASH and Health clusters
- To identify gaps in guidance and information and the required support from the global level
- To support the development of the famine risk monitoring framework for the 95 high priority districts (and any other potential districts at heightened risk of sliding into famine)
- 2-day workshop

S Sudan- joint mission objectives – to be updated

- Identify barriers, good practices and opportunities at country and sub-national level for stronger and more effective collaboration between Food security & Livelihoods and Nutrition clusters
- Identify gaps in guidance and information and the required support from the global level