Nutrition in COVID-19, working in partnership

UNICEF COVID -19 NGO Briefing
Thursday 25 June 2020
2.30pm-3.30 pm GVA
Moderator: Luc Chauvin, Chief, Interagency and Humanitarian Partnership Section, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF Geneva

1) Introduction and updates
   • Luc Chauvin (5 mins)

2) The COVID-19 emergency, coordinating UNICEF’s Nutrition response and partnership (15 mins)
   • Saul Guerrero Oteyza, Nutrition Specialist, Programme Division, UNICEF New York,
   • Stefano Fedele, Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF Geneva

3) Working in Partnership in nutrition: sharing experience of UNICEF country office and partners in nutrition (15 mins)
   • Tewoldeberha Daniel, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Kenya & Valerie Wambani, Programme Manager, Kenya Red Cross Society
   • Rene Gerard Galera, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Philippines & Carleneth San Valentin, World Vision Philippines

4) Q + A session The panel will take questions from the floor (25 minutes)
A Crisis Like No Other:
Coordinating UNICEF’s Nutrition response and partnership during the COVID-19 emergency

Stefano Fedele, Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF Geneva
Saul Guerrero Oteyza, Nutrition Specialist, Programme Division, UNICEF New York,
46 global partners representing INGOs, research and development groups, academic institutions, UN agencies, donors, individuals and hundreds of national NGOs at the national level.

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<tr>
<th>GNC Strategic Priorities</th>
<th>GNC response top COVID 19 Pandemic</th>
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<td><strong>Supporting operational delivery</strong> of national Nutrition specific coordination mechanism, for emergency preparedness and response.</td>
<td><strong>Strategic priorities remain same</strong> but COVID 19 Nutrition coordination prioritized.</td>
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<td><strong>Strengthening capacity</strong> through national/regional and global platforms to reduce risks, be more risk informed and deliver more effective and people centered responses.</td>
<td><strong>Focus countries expanded</strong> : About 30 pre-COVID to 63 in GHRP.</td>
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<td><strong>Advocating and influencing for more effective and timely sectoral coordination</strong> supporting national efforts, as part of the international humanitarian response, to meet the needs of affected populations</td>
<td><strong>Remote operation support</strong> increased for both guidance and capacity building.</td>
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<td><strong>Enhanced collaboration</strong> with UNICEF Programme Division to strengthen national Nutrition coordination prior-to and after crisis.</td>
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# GNC-CT Support to Countries

## Remote support
The GNC-CT currently includes 6 Helpdesks who can provide fast and highly specialized support to countries.

### Helpdesk: One-on-one calls, webinars

- **Coordination**, David Rizzi: drizzi@unicef.org
- **Inter-cluster**, Danka Panchova: dpanchova@unicef.org
- **Nutrition Information System**, Victoria Sauveplane: vsauveplane@unicef.org
- **Information Management**, Shabib Al Qobati: salqobati@unicef.org
- **Nutrition in Emergencies Technical**, Yara Sleir: ysleir@unicef.org
- **Cash and voucher assistance**, Andre Durr: andurr@unicef.org

## In-country support
The GNC-CT provides in country support through deployments.

- **Rapid Response Team Deployment**, Anteneh Dobamo: adobamo@unicef.org
- **Standby Partners Staff Deployment**, Lauren Cheshire: lcheshire@unicef.org
- **Technical Rapid Response Team Deployment**, Ben Allen: ballen@internationalmedicalcorps.org
- **Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition (GTAM) Roster**, gtamroster@unicef.org
- **UNICEF internal surge and stretch assignments**, Anteneh Dobamo: adobamo@unicef.org

## Capacity development
The GNC-CT can organize or provide support for training and capacity building actions at country, regional and global level, for different profiles and capacity levels.

### Trainings include:
- Information Management
- Coordination Awareness
- Inter-cluster training for nutrition outcome
- Harmonized Training Packages

Contact: Anteneh Dobamo, adobamo@unicef.org

### Mentoring program
Mentoring program, Anteneh Dobamo: adobamo@unicef.org

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

 Checkout the website: [http://nutritioncluster.net/](http://nutritioncluster.net/)
From March 2020 onwards, we knew

We knew that this would be a crisis like no other, a global event affecting everyone/everywhere, over a significant period of time

We knew that we had a responsibility to lead nutrition efforts, but could only do so effectively if we were able to leverage and work closely with partners including civil society and governments

We knew that collaboration held the key to doing the right thing, at the right time and in the right way.

We knew that asking for help was not a sign of a weakness, but a sign of strength. So we started to talk to others, and from those conversations the key elements of our response emerged.
Understand the Impact

Adapt our Solutions

Coordinate our Response

- Model the impact of COVID-19 on maternal and child nutrition
- Track the effects on delivery of essential nutrition services
What is the approximate current level of COVID-19 related disruption in existing nutrition services nationally, including drop in coverage and service use?

Drop in coverage (disruption) by nutrition service

- Protection and promotion of breastfeeding programmes: 10-25% drop
- Protection and promotion of appropriate complementary feeding: 25-50% drop
- Vitamin A supplementation: 50-75% drop
- Deworming prophylaxis: 75-100% drop

Number of countries per reason of service disruption

- 2.7 Reduction in demand due to fear of infection: 5 countries
- 2.1 Closure of services/facilities/postponement of services: 4 countries
- 2.2 Lockdown restricts users' mobility: transportation: 4 countries
- 2.5 Personnel gaps (sickness, mobility restrictions, fear, other): 2 countries
- 2.6 Unavailability of key supplies at service point: 2 countries
- 2.8 Suspension of community engagement/communication for behavioural change: 1 country

Drop in coverage by country and selected nutrition service

Select nutrition service to see drop in coverage in map:
- Protection and promotion of breastfeeding programmes
- Protection and promotion of appropriate complementary feeding
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Deworming prophylaxis
- Home fortification with multiple micronutrient powders
- Nutrition programmes for school-going children (school feeding, etc.)
- Nutrition programmes for adolescent girls and boys
- Nutrition support for pregnant and lactating women
- Early detection and treatment of child wasting/SAM

Data collected April 30 to May 15, 2020
**Understand the Impact**

- Model the impact of COVID-19 on maternal and child nutrition
- Track the effects on delivery of essential nutrition services
- Identify specific threats to children’s diets (e.g. BMS Code violations)

**Adapt our Solutions**

- Generate interim operational guidance

**Coordinate our Response**
Nutrition Information Management, Surveillance and Monitoring in the Context of COVID-19

Brief No. 1

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

To support implementers on how to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of guidance briefs will be produced and updated as new information and evidence emerges. This Brief is a detailed guidance on nutrition information management, surveillance and monitoring in the context of COVID-19. This Brief is meant to provide information-specific to services and programmes for the management of childhood wasting in the context of COVID-19, and it contains information that is not already available elsewhere. This Brief does not cover water, sanitation and hygiene and related issues.

As a result of COVID-19, children are at a higher risk of malnutrition compared to other groups. However, we do not know how to reach children. It is estimated that children are at a higher risk of COVID-19 compared to other groups. Further, the malnutrition and childhood wasting and micronutrient deficiencies are high, such as Africa with 6.4% and South Asia with 19.4-21.2% of the global malnutrition. The overall status of the population in these countries is of childhood wasting and micronutrient deficiencies.

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Understand the Impact

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- Track the effects on delivery of essential nutrition services
- Identify specific threats to children’s diets (e.g. BMS Code violations)

Adapt our Solutions

- Generate interim operational guidance
- Promote innovative solutions
- Preposition key commodities and supplies

Coordinate our Response

- Inter-agency Call to Action
- Launched weekly global coordination calls
- Established inter-agency Programme Adaptation Teams (PATs)
Working in Partnership:
UNICEF and NGO collaboration on nutrition during COVID-19
The Philippines Experience

Rene Gerard Galera (UNICEF) & Carleneth San Valentin (World Vision)
Working in Partnership: The Philippine Experience

The Challenge

• Disruption of both community-based and facility-based nutrition interventions and services
• Potential increase in acute malnutrition and stockouts of life-saving commodities in some areas
• Donations of breastmilk substitutes and consumption of inadequate and unhealthy diets low in essential nutrients and high in sugar, salt, and fat

The Opportunity

• Signed partnership with World Vision for UNICEF CPC8 Priority Provinces
• World Vision has the technical expertise and capacity to provide support to UNICEF CPC8 Priority Provinces
• Existing partnership with national government agencies, local government units, and media partners
Working in Partnership: The Philippine Experience

The Results & the Learning

• **Online Trainings facilitated by partners from National Government Agencies:**
  - **Milk Code:** 591 participants DOH/NNC NCR, Region 8, Region 9, and Provincial staff (Zamboanga del Norte, Samar, North Samar)
  - **Family MUAC:** reached 33 Provincial staff (Zamboanga del Norte, Samar, North Samar)
  - **MNIYCHN:** reached about 150 Provincial staff (Zamboanga del Norte, Samar, North Samar)
  - **IYCF and WASH messaging:** Reached 53,354 persons through local radio stations in Zamboanga del Norte
  - **Online monitoring** of health and nutrition services
  - **Logistics support to the Department of Health** in ensuring the availability of nutrition commodities (RUTF, RUSF and MNP)
The Kenya Experience

Tewoldeberha Daniel (UNICEF) & Valerie Wambani (Kenya Red Cross Society)
Working in Partnership: The Kenya Experience

The Challenge

- Reduced utilization of essential services resulting in decline in number of children accessing nutrition services
- Shortage of PPE, and the need for continued service provision while ensuring IPC (infection Prevention and control)
- Locust invasion – worst in 70 years in the midst of COVID-19 crisis

The Opportunity

- Improve access to services together: integrated outreach and roll out of simplified approaches (Family MUAC)
- Adjust programing in the context of COVID-19
- Improve two-way information flow: Engagement on RAPID PRO platform for risk communication and surveillance
Working in Partnership: The Kenya Experience

The Results & the Learning

• Integrated health and nutrition outreaches among distant and marginalized communities in six counties
• Roll out of family MUAC approach – empowering mothers to measure their children
• Orientation of CHVs and health workers on maintaining essential nutrition services in the context of COVID-19
• Joint development of RAPID PRO platform (m-Health approach) to facilitate both COVID-19 and locust risk communication
Q&A
Q+ A (25 mins)

Please type your question in the chat box so that panelists can answer.

Please raise your hand if you want to take the floor to ask our question.

If you take the floor, please introduce yourself, your Organization, and the country you are working and briefly state your question/comment.

Panelists

- Saul Ignacio Guerrero Oteyza, Nutrition Specialist, Programme Division, UNICEF New York,
- Stefano Fedele, Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF Geneva
- Tewoldeberha Daniel, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Kenya
- Valerie Wambani, Programme Manager, Kenya Red Cross Society
- Rene Gerard Galera, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Philippines
- Carleneth San Valentin, Technical Manager for Health and Nutrition, World Vision Philippines
Next webinar

Thursday 2 July 2020  2.30 pm-4.00pm GVA/ 8.30am-10.00am NY

UNICEF’s Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash and Education response in COVID-19
Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please click this URL to join.  https://unicef.zoom.us/s/95570741316
Password: 747409

All webinar resources available on UNPP