

27/06/2013

To: **Dr. Martin Bloem,**
Senior Nutrition Advisor,
WFP, Rome,

Dear Martin,

Subject: Urgent need to establish mechanism for harmonization of policy and programme guidance on nutrition in emergencies

The members of the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) applaud recent achievements realised through the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, in terms of bringing nutrition to the top of the development agenda and placing greater emphasis on country-driven processes. However, the GNC would like to highlight the critical absence of a robust mechanism where a broad range of nutrition actors are able to share technical knowledge and experience; and develop and harmonize nutrition policy and technical guidance for both emergency and development contexts.

The function of harmonizing such processes was previously assured under the umbrella of the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition and its Working Group on Nutrition in Emergencies. However, since the cessation of the UNSCN annual meetings, this Working Group has *de facto* no longer been operational.

The Global Nutrition Cluster members therefore urges the SUN Movement Secretariat, the SCN Secretariat and the Nutrition Directors from the relevant UN agencies to support and actively facilitate the re-establishment of an effective and neutral mechanism for harmonizing policy and technical guidance on nutrition; with broad stakeholder participation, and ensuring that the necessary resources to make such a mechanism functional are made available. The GNC members emphasises that such a mechanism is all the more urgent given that governments and development partners are prioritising investment in nutrition, investments that are best supported by clear evidence and guidance on nutrition that links development and emergency contexts where relevant to promote resilience.

GNC members note that GNC global meetings have increasingly been dominated by discussion around technical guidance and harmonising of approaches. Although the membership of the GNC is very similar to the SCN Working Group on Nutrition in Emergencies, the GNC is not mandated or designed to be a forum for policy harmonization. Its role and responsibility is to support coordination of emergency nutrition responses in

Note that the Nutrition Cluster has the following partners at Global level

1) Action contre la Faim (ACF), 2) CARE, 3) Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 4) Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) / University of Louvain, 5) Concern, 6) Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN), 7) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 8) Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA), 9) Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), 10) GOAL, 11) Helen Keller International (HKI), 12) Help Age International, 13) Inter Action, 14) International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), 15) International Medical Corps (IMC), 16) International Relief & Development (IRD), 17) UNICEF, 18) International Rescue Committee (IRC), 19) Merlin, 20) Micronutrient Initiative (MI), 21) Nutrition Works, 22) Oxfam UK, 23) Samaritan's Purse, 24) Save the Children UK, 25) Save the Children USA, 26) Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), 27) Terre des Hommes (TdH), 28) The Earth Institute Columbia University, 29) Tufts University Feinberg International Center, 30) UCL Institute for Global Health, UNICEF 31) UNHCR, 31) University of Westminster, 32) Valid International, 33) World Food Programme (WFP), 34) World Health Organization (WHO), 35) World Vision International (WVI), 36) Plan International, (The following donors are also active members of the GNC: Department for International Development, (DFID), ECHO, OFDA/USAID)