Leading the way to a coordinated nutrition response before, during and after emergencies

Why the GNC

The Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) was established in 2006 as part of the Humanitarian Reform process, which aimed to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian response by ensuring greater predictability, accountability and partnership.

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Our purpose

Our core purpose is to **enable country coordination mechanisms to achieve a quality and appropriate nutrition response to emergencies** by enabling and providing coordinated, accessible and timely technical and coordination support.

We support country coordination in strategic decision-making, capacity strengthening, advocacy, monitoring and reporting, and NiE technical to improve the quality of nutrition in emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

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What do we mean by coordination?

Coordination **ensures smooth functioning of a humanitarian response by clearly defining roles and responsibilities**, so people know what to do, when to do it and who is accountable. It helps to minimize conflicts, response delays, unnecessary duplication of efforts, and other organizational challenges that may arise within fragile contexts. Coordination helps ensure humanitarian principles and standards are met and key humanitarian commitments such as protection, localisation, accountability to affected populations, disability inclusion or gender-based violence risk mitigation, are mainstreamed in the collective response.

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GLOBAL NUTRITION CLUSTER STRATEGY
2022–2025

Global
NUTRITION
CLUSTER

GNC VISION

By the end of 2025, the nutritional status of the most vulnerable people is protected in countries at risk of, or with ongoing situations of fragility.

GNC GOAL

By the end of 2025, 80 countries with ongoing, or at risk of, situations of fragility **will benefit from regular support from the GNC collective** to develop or strengthen national and subnational technical and coordination capacities for nutrition.

GNC MISSION

The GNC exists to collectively strengthen the technical and coordination capacities for nutrition in countries, based on the needs of affected populations. This is to **enable countries to forecast nutrition trends and prepare for, respond to, and recover from**, shocks during humanitarian emergencies, thereby contributing to global efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

PEOPLE

To support countries, UNICEF as a Cluster Lead Agency, and nutrition partners at subnational, national, regional and global levels to ensure they are adequately staffed and skilled in order to prepare for, respond to, and recover from situations of fragility.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

To provide adequate NiE coordination, IM, and programme operational and technical support to ensure that decisions at all levels are guided by timely, sound technical advice, while documenting experiences and generating new evidence.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

To be a driver of change for:
➢ Improved collaboration, partnerships, and innovation on nutrition to prepare for, respond to, and recover from shocks to the nutrition situation at the global, regional, national, and subnational level; and,
➢ Creating a supportive financial and policy environment, both internally and externally, for strengthened technical and coordination capacity for nutrition in situations of fragility.

WHO'S WHO in **the Nutrition Cluster**

1. Global Level
Partners

At global level, the GNC has 50 partners and observers representing International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs), research and development groups, academic institutions, and UN agencies.

GNC partners are committed to working in Nutrition in Emergencies and actively support the GNC in fulfilling its role.

Global **NUTRITION** **CLUSTER**

WHO'S WHO in **the Nutrition Cluster**

2. Global Level
SAG and Leadership

The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), provides strategic advice to both the Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team (GNC-CT) and the GNC Technical Alliance (the Alliance) to guide direction of GNC actions, thus holistically supporting the implementation of the GNC Strategy.

Leadership Team (LT) is composed of UNICEF Programme Division, Save the Children, the GNC-CT, Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) and Action Against Hunger Canada (ACF-Ca). The LT provides overall leadership and strategic direction to the Alliance and is the primary forum for decisions relating to the structure, function, and strategy of the Alliance.

Global
NUTRITION
CLUSTER

WHO'S WHO in **the Nutrition Cluster**

3. Global Level
The GNC – Coordination Team (GNC-CT)

The GNC-CT is the coordination arm of the GNC and provides leadership and stewardship for coordination and functions as the secretariat for the Global Nutrition Cluster. The GNC-CT is staffed by UNICEF and housed within UNICEF Geneva.

The GNC-CT represents the GNC partners in global fora and provides strategic leadership, global guidance and operational support to country nutrition clusters while linking stakeholders and ensuring timely information, knowledge sharing and effective communications.

The GNC-CT directly supports country level Nutrition cluster/sector coordination mechanisms in more than 60 countries in coordination and intersectoral collaboration.

Global **NUTRITION** CLUSTER

WHO'S WHO
in the Nutrition Cluster

The GNC-CT is led by a Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinator and consists of two units:

A) The **Partnership, Guidance, and Advocacy Team –** focuses on strategic leadership, evidence generation, knowledge management, engagement with partners at global level, capacity strengthening, inter-cluster /sector collaboration, and technical guidance, including guiding the Humanitarian Process Cycle (HPC).

B) The **Rapid Response Team –** provides operational support to country-level nutrition coordination mechanisms through in-country and remote support as requested. Support includes strengthening nutrition coordination, information management (IM), nutrition information system (NIS)/ assessments, preparedness, and the delivery of different capacity strengthening activities.

Global **NUTRITION CLUSTER**

WHO'S WHO in **the Nutrition Cluster**

4. Global Level
GNC Technical Alliance (the Alliance)

The Alliance is a partnership of NGOs, UNICEF and the GNC-CT, and is the technical arm of the GNC that provides support to Nutrition Clusters and partners.

The Alliance is made up of adept and skilled nutrition advisors who **provide timely and appropriate technical support** to nutrition actors within humanitarian contexts. Types of support cover infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E), cash and voucher assistance (CVA), Wasting, nutrition information systems (NIS), and management of small and nutritionally at-risk infants under six months and their mothers (MAMI), with the intent to strengthen and improve the nutrition response.

The Alliance provides in-country and virtual support through technical advice, facilitating consensus driven guidance, and providing specialized technical expertise.

WHO'S WHO in **the Nutrition Cluster**

4. Global Level
Operations Team
(Ops team)

The Ops team **oversees the coordination and technical support** provided by the GNC-CT and the Technical Alliance, which includes coordination, IM and nutrition in emergencies (NiE). This team **manages the deployment** – both in-country and virtual – of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and NiE technical advisors to country-level coordination teams, as requested.

Global
NUTRITION
CLUSTER

In-depth **Support**

Fast and highly specialized in-country or virtual support

Areas include:

- **French/Spanish/English/Arabic Coordination**

- **Nutrition Information Systems and assessments**

- **Information Management**

- **Nutrition in Emergencies**

Request Support

Mechanisms for **support**

In-depth support is provided through various mechanisms

- **Rapid Response Team** (RRT) - coordination and IM

- **Standby Partners Agreement (SBP)**
  Request SBP support here

- **In-depth NiE technical support**

- **Technical Alliance Consultant Roster**
  Click here to learn more and request consultant support

- **UNICEF internal surge and stretch assignments**

Capacity **Strengthening**

Support for country, regional and global levels, for various profiles and capacity stages

- **E-learning and skill boosting platform GNC Learn**

  - Information Management
  - Nutrition Cluster Coordination
  - Nutrition in Emergencies
  - Preparedness
  - ICSC

- **Mentoring programme**

- **Blended Coordination Training**

- **Soft skills training (through Humanitarian Leadership Workshop)**

Visit our FAQ page to find answers to some questions you may have.