



Terms of References (ToRs)

Management of Acute Malnutrition Technical Working Group (Wasting management TWG)

BACKGROUND

Children in the State of Palestine are facing a humanitarian catastrophe. The nutrition situation is dire, as infants, young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women face extreme shock, stress and deteriorating access to food, essential life-saving services and positive feeding practices. Malnutrition is projected to soar in the State of Palestine in the fallout of the current crisis, Maternal and child malnutrition were already pressing concerns before the current conflict, with more than 24,900 children in Gaza and the West Bank affected by wasting – the most life-threatening form of malnutrition. Now, child wasting is projected to increase by 27 per cent in Gaza and by 15 per cent in the West Bank – meaning **that nearly 30,000 children across the State of Palestine are at risk of suffering from wasting and 15,000 of these children are projected to face severe wasting**, putting them at imminent risk of death.ⁱ

Severe shortages of food, clean drinking water, nutrition and health supplies, fuel and electricity are leaving children and women vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. Food insecurity and food shortages stand to worsen as bakeries and other food producers are destroyed and those remaining run out of fuel, cutting off a critical food source for vulnerable children and families.

For all what have been mentioned above it was necessary to established a stand a lone Nutrition cluster in the SoP early November 2023 to be able to provide dedicated support to partners and coordinate partners led nutrition interventions to be able to respond to the need to the most affected children and mothers.

PURPOSE

The CMAM TWG is a sub-group of the Nutrition Cluster. The primary objective of this group is to contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity from acute malnutrition in the affected areas by improving the quality and coverage of the CMAM programs implemented by cluster partners.

The specific objectives of the CMAM TWG are:

- 1- Ensure the delivery of quality¹ CMAM programs with adequate¹ coverage to respond to the needs of the most affected population
- 2- Ensuring the availability of context friendly guidelines/ training materials in line with the global updates
- 3- Improve the humanitarian-development transition and preparedness in CMAM through integration into routine health systems and conducting health system strengthening where feasible

MAIN TASKS AND RESPONSABILITIES

- 1- Provide technical support and guidance on CMAM to the cluster partners
- 2- Make available CMAM guidelines, toolkit, multimedia and other tools necessary for a quality implementation of CMAM programs by cluster partners
- 3- Facilitate the operationalization of the CMAM guidelines through capacity mapping and development activities and supportive supervision

¹ As per Sphere standards



- 4- Jointly evaluate the cluster partner's management of acute malnutrition programs and develop and oversee implementation of a joint response strategy and action plan following the results of the joint CMAM TWG evaluation
- 5- Map the management of acute malnutrition related activities, identify gaps in coverage and alert the cluster partners and UNICEF as a provider of last resort to act in filling the gaps
- 6- Assess whether the national nutrition guidelines and policies include the latest global recommendation in CMAM and support updating of the guidelines and protocols where needed
- 7- Promote the continuum of care: ensure a holistic approach to tackling acute malnutrition by ensuring the availability of the different components of CMAM, namely the inpatient facility or stabilization center, the outpatient management of severe acute malnutrition, the Moderate Acute Malnutrition treatment and the Pregnant and Lactating Women malnutrition prevention and treatment including linkages with other sectors
- 8- Promote integration of the CMAM activities to the government primary health care interventions
- 9- When the partners are working in substitution to the government, promote partners adherence to national CMAM's policy and their integration into relevant partner's work plans.
- 10- Support the establishment and functioning of sub-national CMAM working groups when and where needed.
- 11- Identify any gaps in human resources and raise it to the NCC to advocate with partners for surge support if applicable.

ACTIVATION, REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

CMAM TWG will be functional as long as there is a need for the objectives and tasks to be addressed in country. If the need is still present, yet the group is dormant, it is the responsibility of the Nutrition Cluster Coordinator (NCC) to request a change in leadership in order to reactivate the group. If the CMAM TWG is no longer needed, the NCC should facilitate the discussion with all cluster partners with regards to the group closure ensuring government leadership in moving the CMAM programme going forward to avoid a gap in oversight.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is granted to organizations implementing CMAM activities rather than individuals. Each organization selected to be a member of the group is kindly requested to nominate one focal person to ensure consistency in representation and to facilitate communication. The NCC is responsible to reach out to agencies implementing CMAM programs. The TWG is also responsible to invite government institutions, researchers and academics, pediatric associations, national or local development actors, other sector colleagues who are involved in CMAM to be members of the CMAM TWG to enrich the subject matter if and when needed. If those institutions are not members, then they would need to be kept informed of the group work and invited to participate to certain meetings. It is not recommended that the TWG be a large group, less than 10 members is optimal.

Individuals chosen as focal points of their organizations need to be knowledgeable about CMAM programming. If a member is not then he or she would need to commit to build his or her own capacity. The technical capacity in CMAM can be improved by reading the resources which titles are provided in the guiding documents section below and undergoing trainings made available in the subject matter.

Members will be expected to attend at least 70% of meetings. There will also be an expectation that members undertake additional activities as outlined in the TOR above. It is essential that the agencies and individuals who take up these positions are committed to fulfilling the responsibilities. Where a member is not actively participating in the CMAM TWG meetings and supporting activity; they may be asked to step down from the group.

Members that do not attend three consecutive meetings may be asked to step down from the group. Members that do not perform the task requested by the group after three consecutive times may be asked to step down from the group.

It is recommended to have a fixed one-year membership that can be evaluated at the end of the term.

LEADERSHIP



The CMAM TWG group has two co-chairs chosen on rotational basis for a year, each chair is responsible for leading the group for 6 months. Every 6 months, the chairs will rotate in order to keep the group active. The chairs are chosen upon an interview with the NCC whereby the technical knowledge, leadership skills and the time commitment to the TWG needs to be assessed and or a voting process involving all the TWG members.

The ToR for the chair should include engaging partners, calling for the meeting, setting the agenda, preparing or consolidating the documents that need to be reviewed, ensuring minutes are taken at every meeting, following up on the action points, reminding deliverables, engage with the NCC on the CMAM TWG deliverables. The role of the chair is also to ensure impartiality, identify challenges and request for support. The chair is responsible to report back to the nutrition cluster on an agreed basis and to provide a handover report before leaving the group or the position.

An evaluation of the lead work would need to take place every 6 months- this could include but is not limited to an online survey sent to the TWG members on the deliverables and the governance of the group.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The chairs of the TWG would need to ensure the group develops a renewable one-year work plan in line with the HRP. The work plan should be shared with the cluster partners and the co-chairs would need to report on the progress to the nutrition cluster partners on a monthly basis or as agreed. A self-evaluation of the group work against the set targets in the plan is to be done every six months with the results and action plan for improvements being coordinated to nutrition cluster partners.

The CMAM TWG is accountable to the cluster partners. The CMAM TWG will share decisions/endorsements to the cluster partners periodically through the cluster coordinator and/or co-chairs.

WORKING METHODS

The decisions will be taken by general consensus. In case a consensus cannot be reached, TWG leads will have to seek support from the NCC on the way forward, or a consultation with SAG or broader cluster partnership. If the technical issue is not resolved in country, the NCC can seek guidance from the GNC-CT on behalf of the cluster partners.

MEETINGS

The meetings are held virtually on a biweekly/Monthly basis. The chair of the TWG will send out the invite and the agenda of the meeting to all TWG members at least 48 hours before the meeting date. The topics on the agenda will need to be generated based on the previous meeting outcomes, the workplan deliverables and the suggestions of the members, as well as suggestions from the NCC following cluster partners' meetings.

One of the co-chairs will be responsible for:

- Circulating draft minutes to group members no later than 2 days after the meeting
- Incorporating comments and feedback from group members
- Circulating final minutes as soon as possible thereafter (before the next meeting)
- Ensuring the minutes are uploaded on the online platform

SHARING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The online platform [[Occupied Palestinian Territory: Nutrition | ReliefWeb Response](#)] is available for sharing information and resources of the CMAM TWG. The agenda, minutes, deliverables, handover reports and other documents relevant to the group's work will be uploaded on [[Occupied Palestinian Territory: Nutrition | ReliefWeb Response](#)]. Additionally, main resources, tools and guidance will be available from the Global Nutrition Cluster website (the chair should inform NCC to do so once a document is finalized)



SoP Nutrition Cluster

[Occupied Palestinian Territory: Nutrition | ReliefWeb Response](#)
