



### Marie McGrath, Co-Director, ENN www.ennonline.net









# About the ENN



- 1996 ENN established to manage knowledge from humanitarian contexts
- Scope evolved to include high burden contexts, and emergency-development interface
- Three core projects: Field Exchange, Nutrition
   Exchange, en-net
- Research, Reviews, Technical Meetings, Facilitation
- Targeted support to knowledge management (Global Nutrition Cluster, SUN Movement)

### **Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality & Accountability**

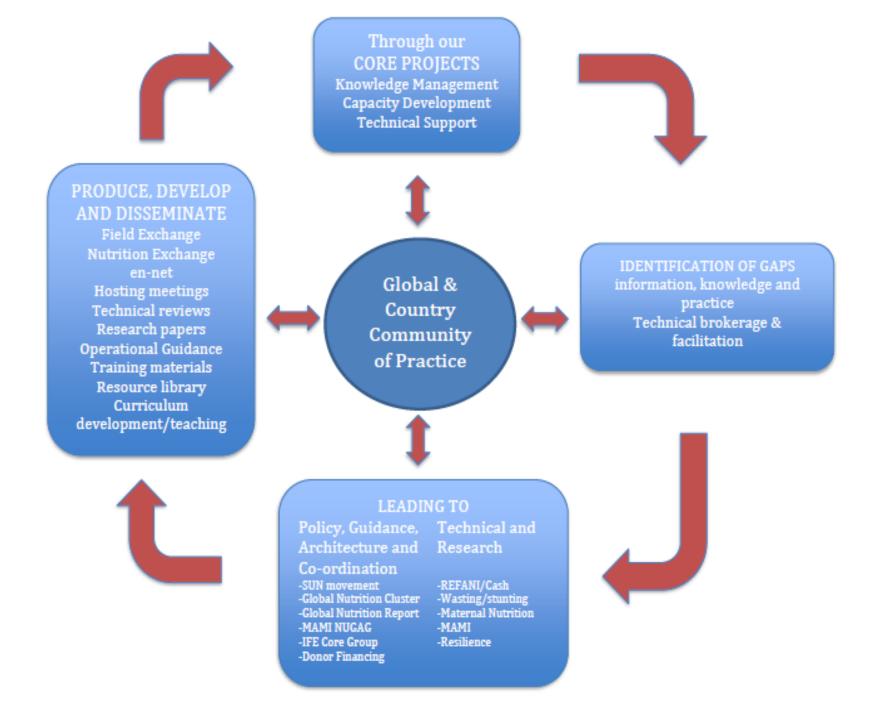


**Commitment 7.** Communities and people affected by crisis can expect delivery of improved assistance as organisations **learn from experience and reflection.** 

Quality Criterion: Humanitarian actors continuously learn and improve.

#### Actions

7.1 Draw on lessons learnt and prior experience when designing programmes.
7.6 The organisation contributes to peer and sector learning and innovation in humanitarian response (networks and communities of practice, action reviews or learning forums, collective learning a catalyst for change)



# **Field Exchange**

- **Postgraduate,** international & national audience
- Technical, detailed articles (the 'how')
- 4,100 print copies to 130 countries
- 3,000 e-copies
- 124,000+ articles online
- Field Exchange 51: Nutrition sensitive programming (Jan 2016)



### www.ennonline.net/fex

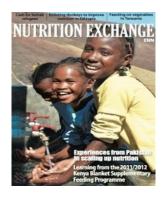
#### Bridge academia with field praction

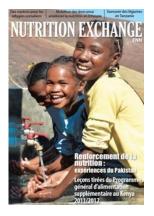
- Inform research agendas
- Rich training resource
  - Fast track research sharing

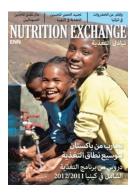
# **Nutrition Exchange**

- National and sub-national levels
- Less technical
- Short articles and summaries
- Capacity building
- French, Arabic, English
- 91 countries
- 19,000 + print copies
- 5,000 soft
- 17,000 page views

### www.ennonline.net/nex









- Moderated online technical forum
- Access to rapid technical and peer support
- Expert moderators
- Anonymous option

#### Technical thematic areas

- Assessment, Livelihoods, Micronutrients, IYCF, ....
- New thematic areas for SUN Movement countries
- New areas on stunting & research partnerships
- Topical and incites action
  - Ebola and infant feeding
  - European migrant crisis and infant feeding

### www.en-net.org

# **Partnerships for research**



- New en-net forum area: Partnerships for research
- Connect academic researchers & field-based organisations operational research around nutrition.
- Enable users to:
  - seek partners for research (technical or geographical)
  - solicit general advice on operational research (eg robust research protocol development)
  - seek information on research being undertaken by others in specific technical areas
  - share information on research being undertaken by contributors look for potential research sites/partners for pilots.
- Invitation to you:
  - Provide occasional support and guidance to this forum area
  - Suggest resources and research-related initiatives
  - Share research strategies on topical areas
- Contact en-net moderator, Tamsin Walters, tamsin@ennonline.net

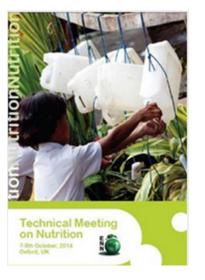
### **Technical Reviews, Meetings**

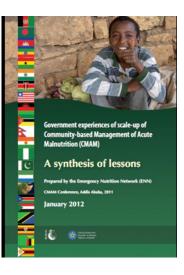
The management of acute malnutrition at scale: A review of donor and government financing arrangements

> Main Report March 2013



Technical Briefing Paper The relationship between wasting and stunting, policy, programming and research implications by Tanya Nava & Lemmel Dalan









#### Upcoming: Resilience & nutrition

### Research

 Research on Food Assistance
 for Nutritional Impact REFANI): To examine the nutritional impact and costeffectiveness of cash and/or voucher-based food assistance interventions (3 year). <u>http://www.actionagai</u> nsthunger.org/refani



Management of acute malnutrition in infants < 6 months of age (MAMI): secondary research, reviews, guidance 'stop gap'. http://www.ennonline.net/ou rwork/research/mami



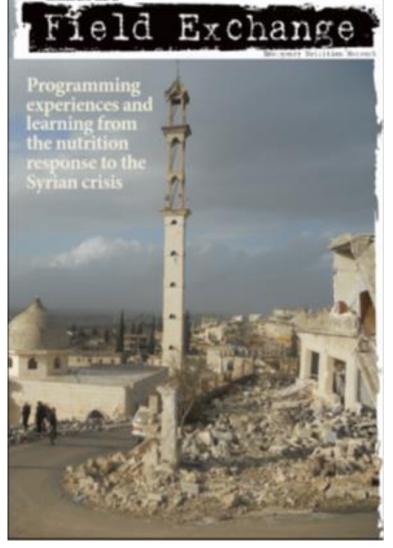
**Upcoming:** Stunting & wasting concurrence (secondary data analysis); stunting in emergencies review



### **Knowledge Management support**

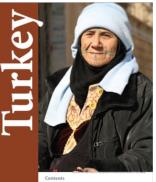


#### **Experiences from the Syria nutrition response**









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#### Now online: www.ennonline.net/fex

### Field Exchange 'special' on Syria response

- Process: meetings, calls, field visit, editorial support
- 64 detailed field articles
- Cash, coordination, shelter, WASH, health, acute malnutrition treatment, IYCF
- Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, regional
- Snapshot innovative, interesting programming, fantastic open engagement by humanitarian staff
- Technical & programmatic level.....analytical capacity, technical leadership, coordination, financing
- NOT an evaluation, editorial overview help collective learning

# Syria context (2014)

- 10.8 million people assistance in Syria
- 3+million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries (3.59 million, end 2014)
- Majority not in camps, many in urban settings
- Programme of support host governments, traditional, non-traditional humanitarian communities
- Humanitarian access hampered in Syria
- Role of non-traditional and affected population significant but poorly documented
- Multi-sectoral & multi-stakeholder response averted a nutritional and health crisis

### **Treatment of acute malnutrition**

- Nutrition assessment
  - Syria U5s: 11.5% GAM & 27.5% stunting (2009),
    37% anaemia (2011)
  - Lebanon U5s 2012: 4.4% GAM, 12.2% stunting
  - Jordan non-camp U5s 2012: 5.1% GAM,
  - 12.2% stunting



- "Acceptable" GAM rate *but* risk of increased prevalence & absence of national capacity to treat cases
- Scale up AM treatment in Jordan & Lebanon (not in Turkey)
- Interesting articles, including integrated treatment, training



### **Treatment of acute malnutrition**

- Lebanon Nov 2013 (GAM):
  - Initial results: 5.9% (9% Bekka valley)
  - Corrected results: 2.2% GAM, 0.4% SAM
  - Jordan April 2014 (GAM): 1.2% non-camp, 0.8% camp
- Was the drive to scale up treatment of AM necessary in Lebanon and Jordan?
- Could limited resources been put to better effect elsewhere?
- Why just focused on GAM? What about Anaemia & Stunting?

# Infant & young child feeding



- Breastfeeding and infant formula use common
- IYCF response: breastfeeding support
- GAPS in attention & action to support non-breastfed infants
  - Small scale, low coverage
  - Biased IYCF indicators, low BF rates yielded breastfeeding actions
  - Needs indicated in assessments & programme experiences, unwilling to compromise on standards
- Complementary feeding risk identified but problematic delivery & variable action
  - Jordan: 1 year delay in Zaatari, camp; Lebanon: high risk

# **Questions & observations**



- Control of infant formula to protect breastfeeding: technical tensions public health v individual right
- What to do when prevalent practice is not ideal?
   Fear of support = promotion
- Known gaps in policy guidance and absent programme models for the Middle Eastern context
- > Lack of strong critical analysis of the IYCF situation
- > Weak stewardship of technical response
- Lack of national & regional preparedness

### Is there more to nutrition?

- Over-emphasis on AM and IYCF
- ✓ Sector responded in good faith
- Afrocentric approach expect high GAM & mortality, what we can do v need, donor driven programming
- Distracted from a sector wide and more holistic needs assessment of all nutrition problems
- > Where was more attention needed?
- Anaemia, stunting, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), nutrition vulnerability

### Anaemia

- Background U5s 29.2% (37%,) (2011)
- U5s prevalence:
  - Jordan Zaatari camp: 48.4%, host community, 26.1% (2014)
  - Lebanon U5s 21% (Nov 2013)
- UNHCR guidelines and options on anaemia (& stunting) prevention and treatment
- Prevalent/increased anaemia & declining wasting – food quality (access, choice)

# Stunting

- Little attention to discerning trends, underlying causes, potential interventions
- Field Exchange articles cite rates, no action
- Trends
  - Stunting 27.5% (Syria, 2009)
  - Jordan camps: 15.9% (2012), 17% (2014)
  - Jordan non-camps: 8.2% (2012), 9% (2014)
  - Lebanon: 12.2% (2012), 17.3% (2013)
- Humanitarian scrutiny justifiable severe stunting mortality & prevalence
- > Who is scrutinising data & what this means?
- What is the role of nutrition specific and sensitive actors in the development community?

### Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

- Nutrition component diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity
- Significant public health problem in older people especially – access to treatment hampered
- No analysis of suitability or cost of suitable foods via voucher schemes
- Should voucher scheme agencies ensure suitable foods are available, promoted, affordable?
- How to ensure nutrition counselling be part of the NCD care package?
- Does sector have adequate guidance or is this the responsibility of development actors?

# **Assessing vulnerability**

- Vulnerability criteria to assist with targeting decisions (various tools & score cards for targeting)
- Cash programming huge
- Little use of nutrition indicators (wasting, stunting, anaemia) to help define& understand vulnerability
- Nutrition surveys define communities in most need of nutritional support or determine the nutrition impact of cash targeting decisions taken
- Nutrition indicators (including anaemia and stunting) could have been useful to help define households for inclusion in cash transfer programmes
- Missed opportunity for robust research on nutrition impact of cash programming (large gap)

# Question about leadership and critical analysis

- How do we hold ourselves accountable and institutionalise learning to strengthen future response ensuring it is more needs based?
- Remains a lack of clarity around roles, responsibilities & leadership on nutrition (work in progress)
- Need nutrition sector evaluation during a large scale emergency programme
- Averted an acute nutrition crisis BUT more analytical and broader nutrition lens was needed

# Inform policy & programming

- Field Exchange extended editorial
- Targeted FEX regional dissemination (UNHCR regional portal)
- Global Nutrition Report 2015
  - Panel 9.8 Improving accountability for nutrition actions during emergencies (Carmel Dolan, Jeremy Shoham, Lola Gostelow, Dayna Brown)
- Global Forum for Improving Humanitarian Action (World Humanitarian Summit 2016), NY, June 2015
  - Submitted position paper on Syria experiences & sectoral accountability for technical response
- **Operational Guidance on IFE,** update 2016
  - ENN/UNICEF led

# Join your network



- Write for ENN's publications & encourage others
  - Field experiences
  - Published and unpublished research (MSc, applied areas)
  - Across sectors, emergency & development
- Support practitioners working in challenging contexts
   en-net 'Partnerships for research' thematic area
- Share through your networks/tweets/blogs (www.ennonline.net)
- Use rich field experiences in learning
   Case study material in teaching, inform research agendas
- Contact: marie@ennonline.net

