

NS SAG MEETING

NS Coordination Office (EPI Building) | 16 Mar 2023 | 03:00 PM– 05:00 PM



Meeting Minute

Chair: Mr. Kibrom Tesfaselassie, Coordinator, NS

Note taker: Mohd Mostakim Ali, IMO, NS

Participants: CARE, CWW, SCI, SHED, UNHCR, UNICEF.

Agenda

1. *Endorsement of TWG TORs for 2023,*
2. *Review the CMAM TWF recommendations on the trial of locally developed therapeutic food (sharnali 1 & 2) in the treatment of severe acute malnutrition in Cox's Bazar and agree on the way forward*
3. *AOB*

Welcome and introductions

Mr. Kibrom Tesfaselassie welcomed all the participants to the Nutrition Sector SAG meeting on March 16, 2023. This meeting was conducted to finalize and endorse the ToRs of YICF and AIM TWGs. The previous meeting minutes was approved without any comments.

Agenda Covered

1. Endorsement of TWG TORs for 2023

Based on the last meeting action points, the CMAM TWG TOR was sent to IYCF and AIM TWG lead and co-lead so that they can make their changes on their respective TOR. Both the IYCF and AIM TORs were sent back to NS after inserting all the modifications. Then, the NS coordinator sent these TORs to all the SAG members for their prior review and feedback.

So, in this meeting, as the TORs were already reviewed by the members, the NS coordinator asked if the SAG has any other additional comments. IYCF lead once again showed one important task of the TWG which was "*Review and ensure implementing partners are following relevant National policies and strategies and monitoring compliance of Breast milk substitute (BMS) code*". Everyone agreed and without any further comments the IYCF and AIM TWG TORs were endorsed by the SAG.

The final TORs of all 3 TWGs will again be shared with the SAG, partners and other stakeholders by the NS by end of March 2023.

2. Review the CMAM/IYCF TWGs recommendations on Sharnali 1 & 2

The Nutrition Sector (NS) Coordinator briefed all the SAG members about the treatment trial for severe acute malnutrition using locally produced therapeutic food (Sharnali 1 & 2) which will be implemented and supervised by icddr,b with the support of UNICEF.

A joint CMAM and IYCF TWG meeting was held on 1 March 2023 and a series of important questions/queries were developed by the groups. Another meeting was held on 13 March 2023 to discuss those questions/queries and way forward. Meanwhile, UNICEF shared the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the effectiveness trial of sharnali 1 & 2 and the answers of those queries.

After carefully reviewing the question answers, the members asked about the justifications of selected camps and reasons for excluding the host communities from the trial. As the trial is supported by UNICEF, so the camps were selected only from UNICEF's supported camps to avoid the operational and administrative issues since there is no signed LOU with UNHCR currently. There is a national program in Bangladesh led by NNS/Institute of Public Health Nutrition under the Director General of Health Services; however, the program does not have the approval of using any therapeutic food for the treatment of children with SAM in the host community. This trial is therefore part of advocacy strategy of UNICEF to convince Government of Bangladesh to scale up of SAM treatment using locally produced RUTF nationwide.

NS coordinator humbly requested UNICEF to check if icddr,b has both national and international level certification of the product and UNICEF to address the queries/concern raised by Child Protection sub-sector. CMAM TWG lead also suggested to take the consent of the caregivers after identifying the SAM children at INF level and not to take any verbal consent during screening.

UNICEF took note of all the comments and will notify icddr,b and UNICEF Dhaka section for further discussions.

Action points:

<i>Action point</i>	<i>Focal point/agency</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
All the TWGs TOR will be shared with the SAG, partners and other stakeholders.	NS	End of March 2023
UNICEF will ask icddr,b if they have both national and international quality certificate of this product and share with NS.	UNICEF	Tuesday 21 Mar 2023
NS to prepare the report of SAG recommendation and share to UNICEF as a lead agency for Nutrition.	UNICEF	Thursday; 23 Mar 2023

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Nutrition Sector SAG Meeting

Date: March 16, 2023

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