

NS SAG MEETING

NS Coordination (In person/Virtual) | 17 March 2025 | 11:30 PM– 01:30 PM



Meeting Minute

Chair: Mr. Kibrom Tesfaselassie, Coordinator, NS

Note taker: Suparna Das Toma, UNV Nutrition Officer, NS

Participants: ACF, Concern, GK, SCI, SHED, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. See Annex 1 for detailed participant list.

Agenda

1. SENS 2024 (AIM TWG)
2. Finalizing the selection of Lead/Co-lead for NS TWGs (NS),
3. IFA supplementation SOP endorsement (IYCF TWG),
4. AOB
 - Contingency plan
 - Sector coordination in the current context
 - Integration of Nutrition and Health

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Kibrom Tesfaselassie welcomed all the participants to the Nutrition Sector SAG meeting on 17 March 2025. Representatives from all the members were presented in the meeting.

1. SENS 2024

- ✓ AIM TWG chairperson presented AIM TWG's decisions and recommendations regarding SENS 2024 to the SAG members, highlighting key findings and the reasons for the survey's non-validation. Following discussions on the technical and contextual factors for non-validation, AIM TWG shared the following recommendations with SAG members:
 - AIM TWG reached a consensus not to validate the SENS 2024 results and advised against their use or external dissemination.
 - As the SENS 2024 data is not validated, AIM TWG recommended excluding it from NCA Triangulation.
- ✓ SAG members agreed with AIM TWG's recommendations and suggested seeking input from the Global Assessment Group regarding SENS 2024. Additionally, they recommended conducting a new full assessment starting in May 2025.

2. Finalizing the selection of Lead/Co-lead for NS TWGs

- ✓ Following the discussion among the interested partners on the lead/co-lead positions, partners informed NS of the selected organizations for the lead and co-lead roles in different TWGs as follows-

List of TWGs (Alphabetical)	Selected partners	
	Lead TWG	Co-lead TWG
AIM	WFP	UNICEF
CMAM	UNICEF	WFP
IYCF	UNHCR	GK

- ✓ The newly selected lead and co-lead positions of TWGs will be effective from April 2025.
- ✓ NS emphasized that starting next year, NGOs and INGOs will lead/co-lead on a rotational basis, based on expressions of interest. If no NGO or INGO expresses interest, a UN agency will assume the lead/co-lead role by default. In case if no agency expressed interest to lead or co-lead, UNICEF will lead all TWG as a Nutrition Lead Agency.
- ✓ NS suggested preparing a handover document outlining the role, work plan, and progress. Additionally, NS requested the nomination of focal persons from all agencies designated to lead or co-lead.
- ✓ To ensure a smooth transition, NS will organize a short orientation for the newly appointed leads and co-leads of all TWGs, covering the NS mailing system and other key processes.

3. IFA supplementation SOP endorsement

- ✓ The IYCF TWG was advised to include relevant reference in the protocol confirming that there are no adverse effects from potential overdoses of IFA when similar doses are provided by the health sector during ANC visits. In response, the IYCF TWG incorporated few relevant references into the IFA supplementation protocol and shared with NS.
- ✓ The IYCF TWG presented the document during the meeting, followed by a discussion on the blanket distribution of IFA and potential overdose effects. UNICEF noted that, according to WHO guidelines, the minimum recommended intake is one IFA tablet per day, considering resource limitations. Given the high anaemia prevalence in the target group, no adverse effects from an overdose are expected. UNICEF will share the WHO reference on the acceptable dosage of IFA consumption with IYCF TWG.
- ✓ Additionally, the integrated health and nutrition mother and child card is being used across health and nutrition services, facilitating record-keeping to help identify cases of double dosing.
- ✓ SAG members agreed to implement the blanket distribution of IFA across all INFs and officially endorsed the protocol.

4. AOB

- ✓ **Contingency plan:** ISCG requested to prioritise the development of a Sector response plan for the "new arrivals" that are already in the camps. Latest estimate is that the number of such new arrivals is nearly 150,000 (biometrically identified and others who are awaiting such identification). Therefore, in terms of budgeting, all sectors are requested to provide estimated costs for an additional 100,000 new arrivals in consultation with their respective lead agencies. This is because the budget has been already factored in 2025 JRP for 50,000 individual new arrivals. So, NS appealing partners are advised to double the previous budget and target to accommodate this revised figure. NS will revise the existing contingency plan for new arrivals and the same cost sharing will be applied among UN agencies for planning purpose.
- ✓ **Sector Coordination in current context:** NS highlighted concerns regarding the global funding crisis and its impact on sector coordination. SAG members are requested to assess and provide recommendations on the sector coordination system—whether to deactivate, maintain as is, hand over to the government, or implement a dual-role approach by partners. Given the ongoing ration cuts and other aggravating factors, the nutrition situation may worsen. In light of funding constraints, SAG members are requested to share their opinions and recommendations in the next SAG meeting on March 23, 2025.
- ✓ **Integration of Nutrition and Health:** Considering the funding scenario, UNICEF is asked internally for the integration of nutrition and health in Rohingya refugee context. So, UNICEF requested support from NS and SAG members to reflect on the the feasibility of integrating health and nutrition while ensuring that program quality is not compromised. This discussion

will take place during the upcoming NS coordination meeting, which has been rescheduled to March 23, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

Action points:

Action point	Focal point/agency	Timeline
Requesting opinion from the Global Assessment Group regarding SENS 2024.	NS	ASAP
Sharing the nomination of focal persons from all agencies designated to lead or co-lead of TWG.	TWG lead/co-lead Organization	ASAP
To organize a short orientation for the newly appointed leads and co-leads of all TWGs, covering the NS mailing system and other key processes	NS	ASAP
To share the WHO reference on the acceptable dosage of IFA consumption.	UNICEF	ASAP
NS will revise the existing contingency plan for new arrivals (target= 100,000)	NS	20 Mar 2025
To share opinions and recommendations on sector coordination	SAG members	23 March 2025
Discussion to assess the feasibility of integrating health and nutrition while ensuring that program quality is not compromised	NS partners	23 March 2025

Annex 1: List of Participants

In person:

Name	Organization	Email
Md. Ariful Kabir Sujan	GK	nutri_coord@gkcox.org
Sadia Islam	SCI	Sadia.islam@savetherchildren.org
Ziaur Rahman	SHED	ziaur@shedbd.org
Vincent Kahi	UNHCR	kahivi@unhcr.org
Md. Mahbub Murshed Khan	UNHCR	khanmd@unhcr.org
Mohammad Zahidul Manir	UNICEF	mmanir@unicef.org
Mohammad ASHIKULLA	WFP	mohammad.ashikulla@wfp.org
Rajib Kumar Kundu	WFP	rajib.kundu@wfp.org
Kibrom Tesfaselassie	NS	ktesfaselassie@unicef.org
Suparna Das Toma	NS	stoma@unicef.org
Mohd Mostakim Ali	NS	mmoali@unicef.org

Online:

Name	Organization	Email
Dr. Md. Abul Hasan	ACF	nuthod@bd-actionagainsthunger.org
Sunmoon Ahmad	Concern	sunmoon.ahmad@concern.net
Jecinter Akinyi Oketch	UNICEF	jaoketch@unicef.org

////////////////////////////////// THE END //////////////////////////////////

For more information: [Nutrition Sector \(NS\)](#)

Website: <https://rohingyaresponse.org/sectors/coxs-bazar/nutrition/>

