

NS SAG MEETING

NS Coordination (Online) | 28 August 2025 | 04:30 PM– 05:30 PM



Meeting Minute

Chair: Kibrom Tesfaselassie, NS Coordinator

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. Discussion on Nutrition Survey 2025
2. AOB

Welcome and Introduction

Kibrom Tesfaselassie welcomed all the participants to the Nutrition Sector SAG meeting on 28 August 2025. Representatives from all the members were presented in the meeting. Following a brief introduction, the meeting was started.

Discussion on Nutrition Survey 2025

- ✓ NS coordinator mentioned the background and objective of the meeting. The key objective of the meeting is to decide whether a nutrition survey is needed in 2025 given the funding constraints. Currently, NS has overall around \$15M funding gap and \$4 million funding gap in priority 1 activities, which makes it not advisable to proceed with a Priority 2 activity, even though the budget required is relatively small (\$50K–60K) compared to the shortfall in Priority 1 activities. NS believe that this small amount could still support one or two sites for a few months as UNHCR has officially confirmed that two INFs will be closed due to funding limitations end of September. NS has monthly program data and secondary data from other sectors. Additionally, MICS survey data will be published as soon as possible. **Regardless the GAM rates, considering the context of Cox's Bazar, the nature of the program will never be changed. Under this critical funding context, NS requested all partners to share their opinion to decide if a nutrition survey is required.**
- ✓ ACF emphasized that while program data is available, conducting a survey remains essential as it provides independent, standardized, and population-level evidence beyond program beneficiaries. Surveys are highly valued by donors for their credibility, reliability, and accountability in data quality. They are also critical for advocacy and funding decisions.
- ✓ Concern Worldwide noted that program data is authentic and should be relied upon since surveys cannot capture the entire population. However, Concern also highlighted that surveys should still be prioritized.
- ✓ WFP stated that both program and 2023 survey data are currently used for reporting. Therefore, there is a lack of representative data for planning in 2025. WFP management and donors are expecting updated survey data, as program data alone does not represent the entire refugee population. WFP also requested a comprehensive analysis comparing qualitative and quantitative indicators from MICS and Nutrition Surveys.
- ✓ AIM TWG Lead and co-Lead mentioned the following points-
 - Program data is facility-based, reflecting only those children accessing services, whereas surveys provide a more accurate estimate of prevalence, including populations not reached by programs.

- The funding challenges is acknowledged but AIM TWG highlighted the importance of surveys as strong advocacy tools, critical indicators for reporting, and vital for resource mobilization. While MICS provides useful data, it has methodological and comparative limitations.
- AIM TWG also mentioned that MICS data only represents WHZ based GAM prevalence does not have combined indicators for GAM rate (e.g. WHZ and MUAC) which we are currently using to calculate overall caseload. For having the combined indicators, a survey is required. Other IYCF related indicators are available in MICS and can be decided later if we can use the data.
- ✓ UNHCR noted that survey data differs from program data and is necessary to evaluate program performance. However, due to funding shortages and closure of two nutrition facilities, the decision to conduct a survey must be critically reviewed.
- ✓ UNICEF mentioned that annual survey data is needed for effective planning, and it is currently mentioned as priority 2 activity. However, it should be a priority one activity. For 2026 JRP, which data is going to be used should be decided. UNICEF is discussing with management which needs more time. MICS can be a good planning tool depending on available indicators beyond GAM rate as it is being led by Government and the data is expected by the end of August.
- ✓ SAG members mentioned that this issue require more discussion. NS extended the time till Sunday 31 August 2025, 4:00 PM to discuss with higher management and meet to inform NS about the final decision. Simultaneously, NS shared a voting pool and SAG members can vote in the link anonymously to share their opinion.

AOB

- ✓ NCA final report launching- NS requested Owen White Nkhoma to lead coordination with UN agencies on planning the launch.
- ✓ SC Allocation Meeting – Scheduled for 10 September 2025, at 2:00 PM, with health partners interested in operating SCs in 2026. All nutrition partners are welcome to attend the meeting; however, it is especially important for health staff of each organization who will later be responsible for managing the stabilization center (SC) to be present. NS will also communicate the taskforce for the suitable time to present the recommendations on overall health and nutrition integration.
- ✓ Partners are requested to fill up the nomination request for blended training by COB 28 August 2025.

Action points:

Action point	Focal point/agency	Timeline
To discuss with higher management and meet to inform NS about the final decision on Nutrition Survey 2025	SAG members	31 August 2025
To lead coordination with UN agencies on planning the launch of NCA final report.	Owen White Nkhoma	ASAP
To fill up the nomination request for blended training	NS partners	28 August 2025

Annex 1: List of Participants

Online:

Name	Organization	Email
Dr. Md. Abul Hasan	ACF	nuthod@bd-actionagainsthunger.org

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

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

