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Field Exchange

How can the GAP address the gaps?

Reflections on how the UN Global
Action Plan on Child Wasting can
help secure continuity of care for
wasted children

30th June 2020 WEBINAR



Welcome

- ENN Team
- Video off & mute microphone
- Recording
- Format
 - ENN 30 mins presentation & clarifications
 - Panel discussion (UNICEF, WHO, WFP, FAO)
 - Questions on screen each UN agency, shared in advance
 - Plenary questions (selected from chat box)
 - Outstanding questions shared with UN post-webinar
- Chat box introductions



UN Panel

Victor Aguayo, Associate Director and Global Chief of Nutrition, Programme Division, **UNICEF**

Saul Guerrero, Nutrition Specialist, Care for Children with Severe Acute Malnutrition, Programme Division, **UNICEF**

Francesco Branca, Director, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD), **WHO**

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Agenda



1. Share FEX60 priority areas for action to improve continuity of care for wasted children

2. Consider how the UN Global Action Plan on Child Wasting (GAP) Framework addresses FEX priority actions

3. Identify areas of progress & clarification for GAP on Child Wasting (RoadMap for Action)

4. UN panel discussion



Field Exchange (FEX)

- Online and print **technical publication** on nutrition and food security in emergencies and high burden contexts
- Fast track learning - publication of **programming experiences** (field articles) & relevant research
- **Field Exchange 60 (FEX60), July 2019** - special edition exploring continuity of care for wasting management

www.ennonline.net/fex/60



Field Exchange (FEX)



- Focused on continuity of care (CoC) for treatment of children with wasting
- CoC provides any wasted child with appropriate, timely care to enable full recovery
- Requires comprehensive and aligned policies, guidance, financing and programming to ensure adequate, appropriate and accessible services
- **FEX60 found lack of CoC for treatment of wasted children**

www.enonline.net/fex/60/extendededitorial



FEX60 – Priority Areas for Action

1

One UN agency should be designated with overall authority, responsibility and accountability for wasting management

2

Leadership by WHO to coordinate research and generate normative guidance for the treatment and care of at-risk infants and children

3

An urgent review of the extent and nature of Ready to Use Foods (RUFs) supply challenges to inform how they can be collectively addressed



FEX60 – Priority Areas for Action

1

One UN agency should be designated with overall authority,

Action

ECF & ENN Donor Roundtable, London, July 2019

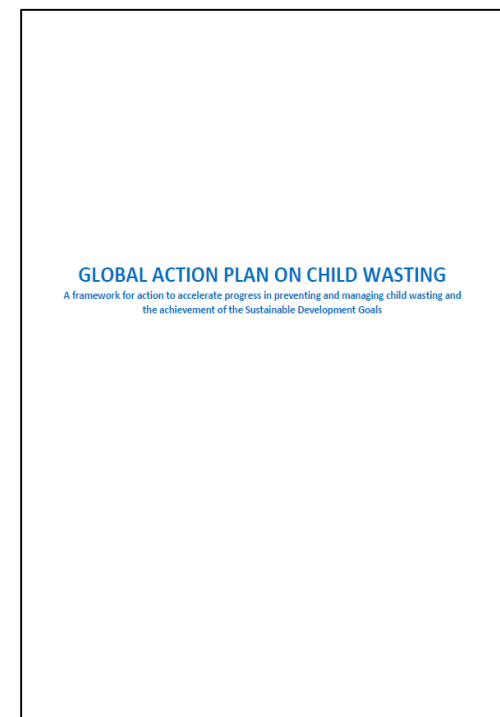
Letter to the UN Secretary General, core philanthropic donors, October 2019

Letter to UN Secretary General, civil society, 20th Dec 2019



Global Action Plan (GAP) on Child Wasting

- UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, FAO
- March 2020: Global Action Plan on Child Wasting (GAP): **Framework for Action**
- UNICEF-led **RoadMap for Action** (*timeline?*)
- **Framework + RoadMap = GAP on Child Wasting**
- Common focus to guide individual & collective action to support countries – **more unified response**
- **Life-cycle** approach that focuses on mothers, infants and children
- Encompasses **prevention & treatment**



www.childwasting.org

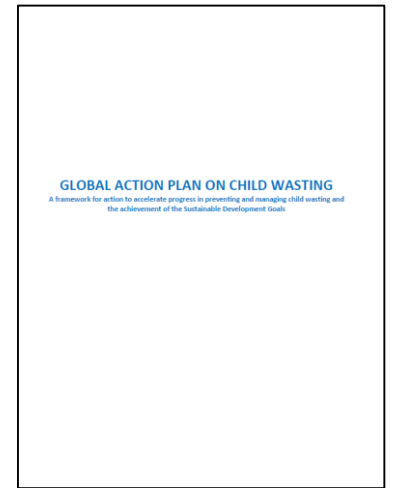
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Global Action Plan on Child Wasting

Four key outcomes with 43 essential actions:



Aims to increase **coverage of treatment** by 50% by 2025



Does the GAP Framework address FEX 60 priority actions?



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FEX60 ACTION 1

1

One UN agency should be designated with overall authority, responsibility and accountability for provision of wasting treatment

- Does not preclude **operational & normative roles** for other UN agencies.
- Must provide **coherent and comprehensive data** on CoC provision.
- Provide clarification on UN agency operational and normative **mandates** and **ways of working** together.
- Inter-UN initiatives to address wasting, such as the GAP, should be subject to **external multi-stakeholder and expert peer review**.



FEX60 ACTION 1 Review

The GAP Framework:

‘UNICEF will be the lead, coordinating agency at a global, regional and national level for the operationalization of efforts to prevent and treat child wasting in all contexts’



A young child undergoes a Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) test, to measure malnutrition, in Boulonguouri, Niger

unicef 
for every child

Field Exchange



FEX60 ACTION 1 Review

- No details are provided on **authority** vested in UNICEF and **accountability** of the leadership role
- Commits to an **accountability mechanism** but does not provide details on the modality and scope
- Broad UN agency roles outlined along existing mandates but makes **no provision for a review of existing mandates & ways of working**
- No details on **'how'** to work together: *“the UN Agencies will lead and coordinate their efforts”* – requires consensus



FEX60 ACTION 1 Review

- Implies that **UNICEF** has UN operational responsibility for **complicated** case management of wasted children – WHO role?
- Need to strengthen **national health information systems** to report on wasting & related data
- **UN data continuity and availability** not addressed
- The **GAP Framework** development involved some external consultation, but the process was **not transparent nor predictable**



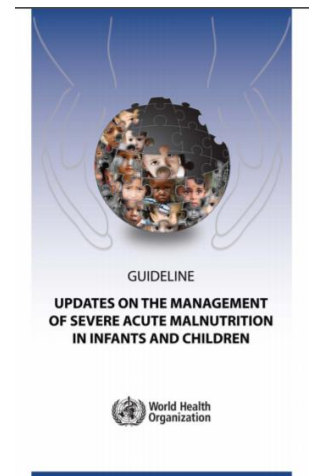
FEX60 ACTION 2



2

Leadership by WHO to coordinate research and generate normative guidance for the treatment and care of at-risk infants and children

- Dedicated body of **coordinated research**, Asia & Africa, risk profiles, national resources, health systems, livelihoods and social protection
- **Normative guidance** that considers cost, cost-effectiveness, sustainability & scale
- Process for **rapid/interim guidance, rollout & uptake**
- Address recognised shortfalls in **WHO capacity**



FEX60 ACTION 2 Review

- WHO identified as the **lead agency** at global, regional and national level to coordinate and oversee the **generation of new evidence** to address gaps and to develop **normative guidance & tools for governments**
- **Prevention & treatment of wasting guidelines** (end 2021) and **update** of national guidelines (end 2023)
- WHO-led **accelerated** guidance process – operational & short-term normative guidance actions



FEX60 ACTION 2 Review

- WHO consult with national governments, academics, donors and other stakeholders to inform **regular updates** for the global community
- **Research agenda** will be further detailed in consultation with key stakeholders
- Research priorities and specific research questions are **included** in the GAP Framework, basis not given
- **Detailed scope** of guidance, **process & schedule to 2021 & 2023 targets** not included



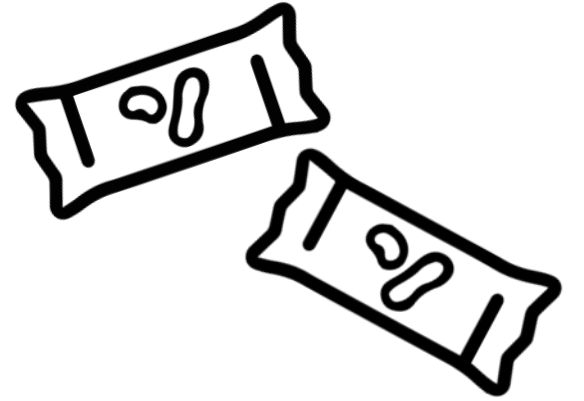
FEX60 Action 3

3

An urgent review of the extent and nature of Ready to Use Foods (RUFs) supply challenges to inform how they can be collectively addressed



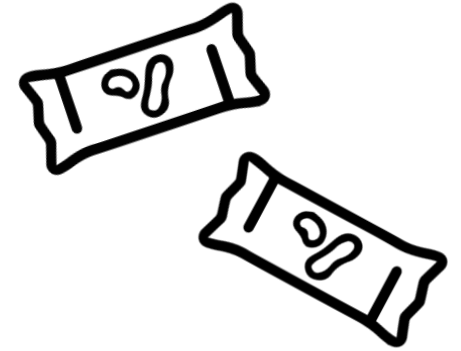
FEX60 ACTION 3 Review



- Notes the need for key **nutrition products** to be routinely available and managed as part of **national health systems**
- Encourages countries to include RUTF into **Essential Medicine Lists**
- Notes the need to **streamline** supply chain **systems** for the delivery of nutrition products



FEX60 ACTION 3 Review



- **Problems with the current UN supply chain system** are not recognised
- It is unclear whether **UNICEF's** overall responsibility extends to supply chain integrity
- **Individual UN agency** responsibility & accountability for product supply is not specified



GAP Framework: Progress



- **Five UN agencies committed to working together**
- **Designation of UNICEF as the lead coordinating agency** to operationalise prevention and treatment of wasting
- **Clear WHO leadership** to coordinate, deliver and support generation of **evidence** and timely global and country **guidance**
- Greater **alignment of prevention and treatment** of wasting programmes to support continuity of care



Continuing Progress: RoadMap for Action



- Opportunity (**necessity**) for details and clarity on **how** to deliver on the Framework's ambitions
- Framework principle to ***promote government leadership and ownership***
 - RoadMap for Action through **country level**, multi-stakeholder consultation
 - Enable **prioritisation** by context & inform a global prioritisation of the 43 Framework actions
 - How plans reflected in **national costed plans** & financing mechanisms (shift from short to longer term financing & gov financing)

NOTE: No government authority over UN responsibilities/ways of working at country level



Clarifications & outstanding actions

1. Establish an **accountability** mechanism for UNICEF as the overall coordinating agency and for the respective UN agencies - includes **independent** stakeholders.
2. Clarify what decision-making **authority** is vested in UNICEF's coordination role.
3. Clarify if UNICEF/WHO is responsible for programming related to the management of **complicated wasting**.



Clarifications & outstanding actions

4. **A detailed plan & schedule for WHO guideline development** (*who, what, where & when*) including:
 - exact **scope** of guidance
 - **schedule** to deliver on 2021 & 2023 targets
 - process for **interim/short term** guidance
 - **mechanism** for development & **delivery of a coordinated research agenda**
5. Commitment & clarification of lead agency responsibility for harmonized, comprehensive, transparent **data across UN supported services**



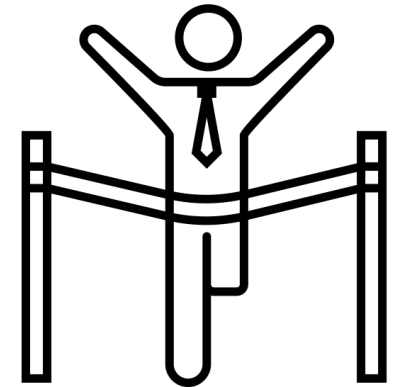
Clarifications & outstanding actions

6. UN operational roles & responsibilities - doing what the UN currently does ***better*** rather than to doing it ***differently***
 - Informed by RoadMap development
 - **UN mandate review** may be warranted
 - Benefit from documentation of current process & update involve independent external review
7. An independent **review of RUF supply chain management** across contexts to shed light that can inform/help reform UN supply chain system and determine agency responsibilities & accountabilities



Conclusions

- GAP on Child Wasting - unprecedented **multi-UN agency owned action** on wasting prevention and treatment
- GAP Framework - good **progress** & direction of travel
- GAP RoadMap for Action - offers a **great opportunity** to work together
- **Transparent process and timeline** to maximise **multi-stakeholder engagement** including government, civil society, funders, the private sector, and regional and country programmers



Questions to the UN Panel

UNICEF, WHO, WFP and FAO



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Questions for UNICEF

1. Can you share your plan for **accountability** (including role of **independent stakeholders**) and elaborate at little on **how respective UN agencies** will be held **accountable** for the key actions noted in the GAP?
2. Could you provide more detail on the **leadership and authority role** given to UNICEF within the GAP and how this will be exercised?
3. How will UNICEF drive **consensus and alignment** at global level and at country level?
4. Where are you with the **process and timeline** for the development of the Roadmap and finalization of the GAP?
5. Are there any plans for a **review of RUF supply** chain challenges and how the Roadmap might address these challenges?
6. Are there plans to **harmonise and aggregate** UN managed or sourced **data** on access of all wasted children to treatment?



Questions for WHO

1. Can you share details on the **scope of the guidelines** that you will develop?
2. When will a **schedule** and detailed plan for development be available that includes plans for **interim guidance** development?
3. How is WHO planning to **coordinate** the **research** agenda?
4. Is WHO facing any challenges in **resourcing and capacitating** to deliver on all of this?
5. Can you clarify **which UN agency** is responsible for supporting the **management of complicated wasting** at country level?



Questions for WFP

1. How will the GAP ensure a **greater focus & delivery on prevention** of wasting - **what will be different** about the ways of working to now?
2. How will WFP and UNICEF **align better** at **country level** in order to provide continuity of care between wasting focused programmes?



Questions for FAO

1. Could you provide some more detail on the **role of FAO at country level** in the prevention of wasting - **what will be different** about the ways of working to now?
2. Does FAO have a **framework** or model for **how to link** prevention and treatment programmes at country level?



Question to all UN agencies

Does the UN have a **resource mobilisation plan** to scale up wasting treatment?



You

UN panel



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