

Story of change

Wasting and stunting project



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Abbreviations

ALIMA	Alliance for International Medical Action
CDC	(US) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DFID	(UK) Department for International Development
ECHO	(European Union) Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ENN	Emergency Nutrition Network
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa
GAP	Global Action Plan
GNR	Global Nutrition Report
IRC	International Rescue Committee
KEMRI	Kenya Medical Research Institute
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
MRC	Medical Research Council
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
SoC	Story of Change
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TIG	Technical Interest Group
ToRs	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WaSt	Wasting and Stunting
WHO	World Health Organization



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Executive summary

The Wasting and Stunting (WaSt) project was initiated by Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) in 2014 through the establishment of the WaSt Technical Interest Group (TIG). The project has since been through three phases and is entering its fourth phase. It has accomplished multiple outputs linked to understanding the links between wasting and stunting. As part of its commitment to the evaluation of its work, ENN has documented the implementation of the WaSt project using a Story of Change (SoC) methodology to examine the influence the project has had on policy, programmes and research. Information was collected via semi-structured interviews with identified key informants. Twenty-five people were interviewed and asked to provide their views on the process, successes, challenges and lessons learned, as well as recommendations for the next phase of the project.

The WaSt TIG includes a mix of expert individual members, facilitated by ENN and functioning in an engaging, exploratory and task-oriented manner. The varied composition of the TIG, the participatory approach and flexibility in levels of engagement, as well as the action and delivery-oriented approach, are viewed as both appropriate and effective. The TIG could benefit from the engagement of members drawn from regional and governmental research entities and through clarifying member roles and responsibilities. ENN is perceived as an excellent facilitator, providing momentum for effectively and efficiently moving the work forward. ENN's neutrality and independence enables the work to be trusted and, as ENN has the necessary know-how and expertise to guide the work, its wider uptake is further enabled.

In terms of achievements, the main themes that emerged are that the project has:

1. Contributed to a solid evidence base around the linkages between wasting and stunting.
2. Contributed to a shift in research priorities.

3. Contributed to an increase in awareness in the nutrition field around the linkages between wasting and stunting.
4. Promoted discussions and a shift in the narrative around wasting and stunting and what is needed to address them at the global level among different institutions, including donor agencies, United Nations (UN) agencies, non-governmental organisations and research institutions.
5. Contributed to bridging the divide between the wasting and stunting communities (emergency and development), although this shift may be seen more on the emergency side than on the development side.
6. Influenced some institutional policies, although it has only minimally influenced the programmatic level, which is linked to the stage the project is at.

Recommendations for the next phase include:

1. ENN to move to the next phase, including to secure funding and keep the momentum going.
2. Further disseminate the findings via clear communication packages and increase influencing efforts.
3. Increase the focus on disseminating the various outputs to a wider audience in order to increase the project's influence.
4. Increase efforts to translate the evidence into practice, including the implementation of the WaSt study and other similar research studies in order to provide clearer directions around the programmatic implications, as well as clearer guidance for policy change.
5. Expand the TIG to include membership from other settings, including those at country and regional levels.
6. Engage further with the organisations represented on the TIG and who work directly with governments to increase the uptake of the project's findings, including UN agencies. Tighten up the process for agreeing and articulating the research questions.

1. Introduction

The Wasting and Stunting (WaSt) project was initiated by Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) in 2014 through the establishment of the WaSt Technical Interest Group (TIG) to better understand the complex relationships and associations between wasting and stunting and examine whether current separations were justified or useful¹. From 2014 until 2019, the project has gone through three phases and has accomplished multiple milestones, including during phase I: a) developing an understanding of the relationship between wasting and stunting via a narrative literature review², which also highlighted implications of the findings for policy and programmes; b) conducting a research-prioritisation exercise³ of gaps in knowledge in this area; and c) analysing five high-burden country datasets to estimate the burden of concurrent wasting and stunting⁴ published in the 2015 Global Nutrition Report⁵. During phases II and III, the focus was on analysis of found data, including: a) analysing existing national nutrition data sets from 83 countries to generate pooled-prevalence estimates of the burden of concurrent wasting and stunting⁶; b) analysing SMART surveys and one mortality cohort from Senegal to examine how to best identify children who are concurrently wasted and stunted and at high risk of dying; and c) analysing data from the Medical Research Council (MRC) Gambia surveillance programme to explore the direct relationship between wasting and stunting in the experience of individual children over time. The different analyses led to the development of a concept note for a cohort study aiming to bring learning about the relationship between stunting and wasting and their combined effect on mortality into existing programme practices. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the study is under development⁷. The WaSt TIG activities during these three phases have been documented in multiple publications (Annex B). The publication of a policy brief ‘Child wasting and stunting: Time to overcome the separation’ (2018)⁸ presented the

scientific grounds for concluding that the current separation between wasting and stunting in policy, programmes and research is not justified and may even be detrimental. The brief calls for a radical change in how we view, finance and intervene to reduce child wasting and stunting. The call was taken further in the publication of a viewpoint article in *The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health* ‘Beyond Wasted and Stunted – A paradigm shift is needed to fight child undernutrition’⁹, which set out five recommendations (see box below).

Recommendations from the Lancet viewpoint

- (1) focus more research and practice on the concurrent and dynamic biological processes and pathways that underlie the entire spectrum of child weight and linear growth faltering;
- (2) develop innovative and early markers to predict, identify, and monitor children at short-term and long-term risk of weight and linear growth faltering;
- (3) research maternal factors from adolescence through pregnancy that effect in utero and postnatal child weight and linear growth faltering;
- (4) evaluate preventive interventions, universal and seasonal, for children at risk of weight or linear growth faltering, including in countries affected by protracted crisis; and
- (5) review and adjust therapeutic interventions to ensure that the children at highest mortality risk, including as a result of dual weight and height deficits, are included.

¹ www.enonline.net/ourwork/reviews/wastingstunting

² www.enonline.net/waststuntreview2014

³ www.enonline.net/wastingandstuntinglink

⁴ www.enonline.net/resources/wastmetaanalysis

⁵ <http://globalnutritionreport.org/>

⁶ www.enonline.net/resources/wastmetaanalysis

⁷ www.enonline.net/resource/newevidenceintopractice

⁸ www.enonline.net/fex/58/childwastseparation

⁹ www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2352464219302445

2. Aims and objectives

As part of its commitment to the evaluation of the impact of its work, ENN has documented the implementation of the WaSt project through a Story of Change (SoC) approach.

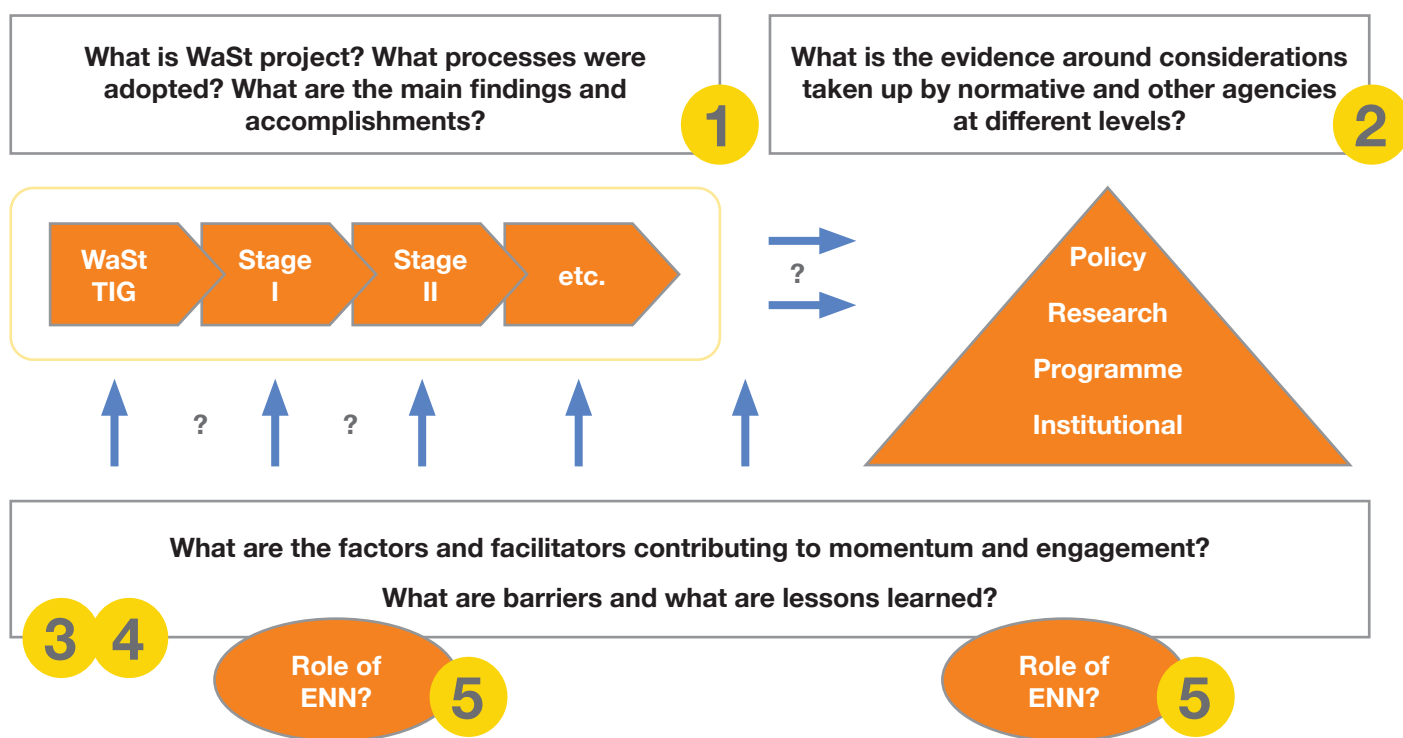
The aims of the SoC are to examine and document ENN's role in creating a better understanding of the relationship between wasting and stunting by the international community and advance the uptake of considerations of this relationship at global and country level in nutrition policies, programmes and institutional architecture.

The main objectives are to:

1. Document the processes, findings, developments and accomplishments of the WaSt project.

2. Examine evidence related to the extent to which the project has contributed to a change in awareness, or a change in policy, programmes and research, in terms of the uptake of considerations related to wasting and stunting.
3. Identify key facilitators and factors contributing to the momentum of a strong and engaged TIG, including those specific to ENN.
4. Detect key obstacles encountered during the processes and document lessons learned.
5. Explore the specific role that ENN has played in leading on the project and examine the need for continuous leadership.
6. Provide recommendations for a next phase of the project.

Fig. 1: Schematic presentation of questions the SoC will answer



3. Methods



WFP/Boris Heger/2010

An exploratory approach was adopted in which information was collected from different key informants as well as through a document review.

3.1 Document review

Based on documents provided by ENN's WaSt TIG coordinators, and as per the Scope of Work, a review was conducted in order to build an understanding of the processes used, as well as the accomplishments, including the role that ENN has played.

3.2 Key informant semi-structured interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted to gain perspectives on the processes followed and explore the contributions the project has made, identify the obstacles and facilitators of the work, and obtain perspectives on the future of the project. Key informants were identified by ENN and include individuals who have been heavily

engaged in the project (such as members of the WaSt TIG), as well as those not involved but who, in their positions as thought leaders/drivers of policy and programming, may have been aware of or influenced by the work (Annex A).

A semi-structured interview guide (Annex C) was devised. Invitations were sent to the interviewees with a brief participant-information sheet and topic guide (Annex C). Interviews were conducted via Skype and were recorded with consent from the interviewees. A total of 25 interviews was conducted.

3.2.1 Analysis

The analysis of information adopted an exploratory approach in which themes and concepts emerged as the data was analysed. Thematic analysis was adopted which consisted of: a) familiarisation with the information collected; b) data coding and indexing of information; c) grouping and categorising by theme; d) labelling; and e) writing of the main findings.

4. Findings

4.1 Details of interviewees

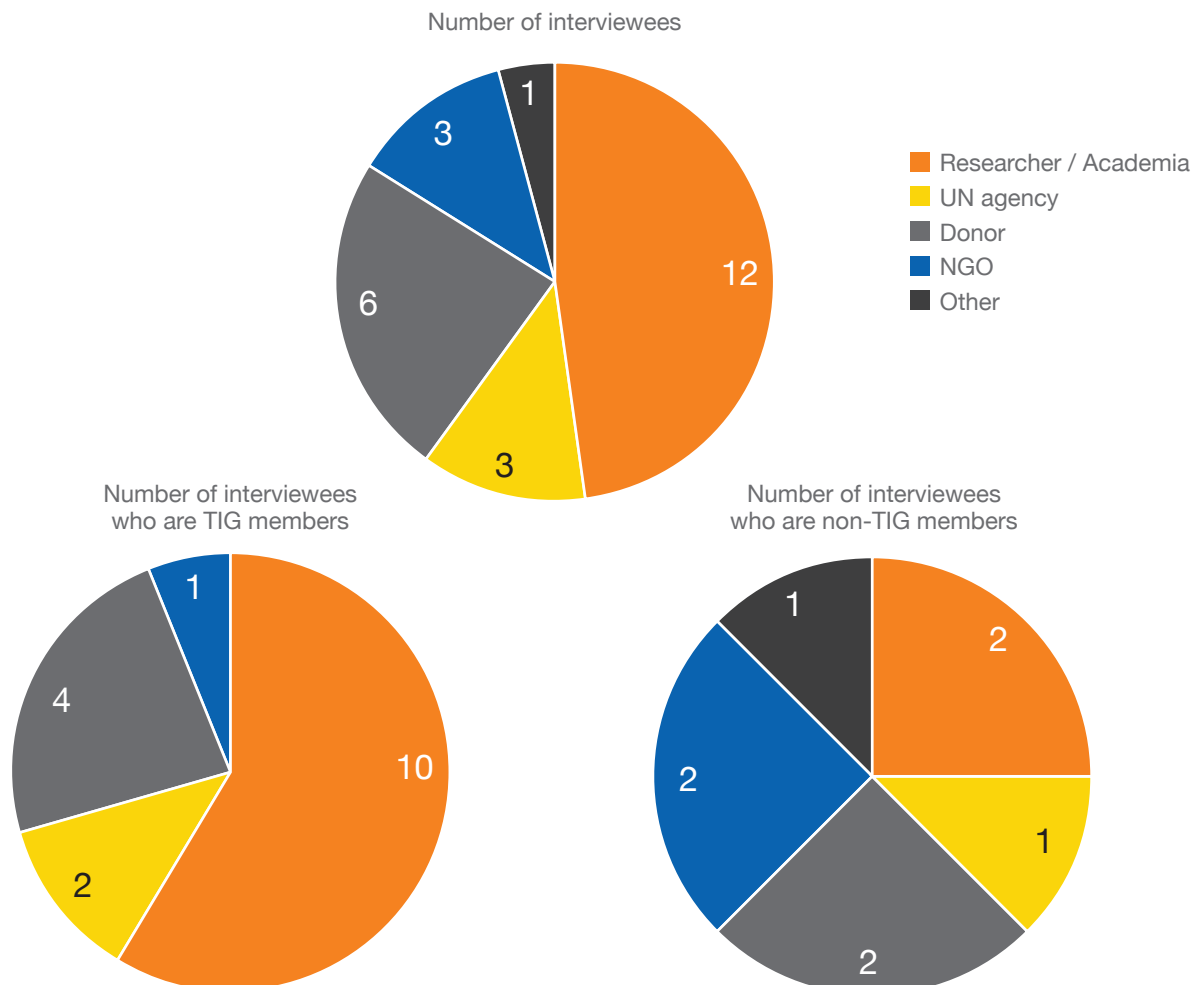
The characteristics of the 25 informants are described in Figure 2 below. The degree of engagement with the project varied between members of the WaSt TIG, from active and close engagement, attending meetings (in person or remotely), contributing to publications and analysis via working groups, to those who receive regular updates without providing consistent contributions.

A number of interviewees described their contributions in the different research outputs,

while others (donors in particular) provided input and feedback in terms of implications; for example, at the policy level. A number of interviewees were external to the TIG and therefore knew about the project either from colleagues who are part of the project or via the project outputs (publications).

The timing of engagement of different interviewees with the WaSt TIG also varied. A considerable number were engaged at the establishment of the group, with some having a concrete role in initiating the work.

Fig. 2: Details of interviewees



4.2 Processes

4.2.1 How is the WaSt TIG working?

Interviewees' descriptions and understanding of the process adopted in the project were dependent on their level of engagement with the group and whether they are part of the WaSt TIG. Some were aware of the process adopted, while others, being less involved, were not.

The process was described as “ENN leading and facilitating the group”, which includes a mix of individuals with different backgrounds, including representatives from academia, policy, programmes and UN agencies. The process was initiated by a group of individuals from the ‘wasting community’ interested in the topic of wasting and stunting who have asked actors from different backgrounds, including the development field, to join the group:

“The process has been via bringing experts together to highlight an issue and get it on the policy and research agenda and move policy forward.”

[Researcher/Academia]

The process of choosing the members of the TIG is a snowball approach whereby individuals are identified based on work they are involved in and their interest in being engaged. Flexibility was reported in terms of how individuals are able to engage with the group. The work was seen as exploratory and task-oriented in nature. Interviewees listed the various activities that were conducted, including the first review, the research-prioritisation exercise, the analysis of national surveys and other existing secondary datasets, and the *Lancet* viewpoint (Annex B).

The TIG was regarded as the core of the project while additional **working groups** were formed for the purpose of implementing certain tasks, including separate research exercises. Face-to-face meetings, remote meetings and e-mail exchange were the main approaches used.

Key message

The WaSt TIG functions in an engaging, exploratory and task-oriented manner.



4.2.2 What is working well?

Interviewees all confirmed that the process adopted was very fruitful and successful, as evidenced by the project outputs. They acknowledged that the composition of the group, the iterative approach to pieces of work undertaken and the participatory approach adopted by ENN were appropriate and effective.

4.2.2.1 Members of the Technical Interest Group

Interviewees highlighted the importance of having a group that represents academia/ research, donors, UN agencies and operational agencies, and noted that the TIG had a good balance of these. The number of individuals in the group was seen as suitable, representing a depth and breadth of expertise and experience while remaining manageable for in-depth discussions and even consensus. Some interviewees from academia appreciated the interface with operational agencies as it provided the opportunity to discuss challenges with those working in operational settings. Similarly, having individuals in the group representing the ‘separate’ worlds of wasting and stunting was perceived as essential to bringing credibility to the outputs. One interviewee noted the importance of having the World Health Organization (WHO) involved, given its normative role.

As noted above, different TIG members were engaged during different phases of the project. The modality of engagement with members was appreciated by interviewees, especially in the production of outputs (e.g., reports and papers). It was noted that this has

contributed to ensuring the dissemination of the findings, as TIG members more actively disseminate outputs they have been fully engaged in developing. This approach was perceived as very useful and “smart”.

The level and timing of engagement with the TIG members was also reported to work well. Interviewees reported that members were engaged at just the right level, ensuring they remained interested but without overburdening them.

Communication before and after meetings to keep members informed was also appreciated. Interviewees noted that, with similar technical groups, there is a risk that cliques form and decisions start being made and people excluded. However, it was noted that ENN had made every attempt to prevent that from happening:

“Members were informed and included in the decision-making process and members felt empowered to give a direction ... so [it is] not led [by ENN] but facilitated, and that made a difference.”

[UN representative]

Engagement in sub-working groups for a particular analysis/publication was deemed as very useful and effective as it provided the opportunity for members to be fully engaged and thus created ownership of the output. The experience of the MRC Gambia data-analysis working group was deemed very successful. Working groups were also regarded as a way for ENN to draw on external research expertise, since ENN is not perceived as a research entity.

4.2.2.2 The phases of the project

Interviewees described the different phases and activities that the TIG has been through. There was general agreement that each were the appropriate steps to take at the appropriate time. There was a perception that the project followed a logical process and approach on “how you turn the narrative on something”. The process was described as “empowering” and “action-oriented”:

“It feels that it has been intelligently designed. It is not accidentally landing in the right place. All the activities have been thought through, resulting in the critical mass you want the project to generate.”

[Researcher/Academia]

Key message

The varied composition of the TIG, the participatory approach and flexibility in engagement, as well as the action-oriented steps, are appropriate and effective.

4.2.3 Challenges and lessons learned

Interviewees described some of the lessons learned throughout the process. These included those related to the composition and functioning of the TIG as well as the research outputs.

4.2.3.1 The members of the Technical Interest Group

Although the group composition was regarded as well thought of and adequate, a few challenges were highlighted for consideration. One specific challenge mentioned was differences in the views and beliefs within the group. For example, one interviewee acknowledged that some group members are more interested in the process of how wasting and stunting are interrelated, and less in the implications this will have on programmes. Another interviewee also mentioned a gap in awareness or thinking around implications at the policy level. One researcher perceived that group members may not all have a full understanding of the terms used and the need to distinguish between the processes of stunting and wasting and the outcomes of being stunted or wasted. Some interviewees felt there was not enough representation in the group from the stunting community. A few mentioned personality clashes within the group.

Despite these concerns, however, there was general agreement that the diversity in the group was required to provide richness and credibility to the process and findings of the work. Acknowledging the difficulty in managing such a dynamic group, most interviewees noted the successful role that ENN has played in facilitating it (see section 4.2.4; ENN’s role as a driver).

A few interviewees mentioned the need for more clarity in the roles and responsibilities of members of the WaSt TIG. One interviewee who had recently joined recommended having clear Terms of Reference (ToR). Though ToRs do exist, the ENN team noted that these were out of date and had not been shared with newly joining members.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Joint meeting of WaSt Technical Interest Group and MAMI Special Interest Group
16 January 2018



One interviewee highlighted the importance of considering the different agencies that members of the TIG belong to and what those agencies might commit to do with the information stemming from the group:

4.2.3.2 Engaging government and national representatives

A few interviewees highlighted gaps in representation at regional and country level, including national governments and research centres in countries where the problems of wasting and stunting are most prominent. Southeast Asia and South Africa were mentioned specifically. One interviewee reflected that most of the people in the group are not working directly with governments in settings where wasting and stunting occur. Another interviewee from a UN agency working at the regional level highlighted the importance of engaging at the regional and country level in order to facilitate the uptake of the learning and outputs of the group. Interviewees noted that the TIG now has an opportunity to engage with organisations who work directly with governments to increase the uptake of the project's findings.

4.2.3.3 Lessons learned in the research process

The research process was regarded as action-oriented and following a logical path. However, a few lessons learned were mentioned for consideration.

While most interviewees were happy with the collaborative nature of the research process, a number of those who were new to the TIG had questions about the process for including or excluding research questions and thought this would be helpful to understand the decision-making process better.

Key messages

- The diversity of beliefs and interests in the group is a strength that requires managing.
- There is a need to have clarity in terms of roles and responsibilities within the TIG and on decision-making processes, especially for newly joining members.
- The group could be enriched by expanding to include members from regional and government research entities.

4.2.4 ENN's role as a driver

Interviewees reflected on the role of ENN as a driver of the whole process and acknowledged its role in efficiently facilitating the group to deliver important achievements. A number of attributes were highlighted.

Interviewees acknowledged that putting nutritionists together can be challenging as there are many diverse views and therefore good facilitation is needed to reach a level of agreement. It was noted that ENN was very successful in keeping the group focused on the objectives of the project and **effectively keeping the momentum** throughout the entire process:

"It wouldn't have happened without ENN. They convened the meetings, the calls, and kept the ball rolling and kept things organised and summarised the input and found a direction forward. They've taken opinions and advice and utilised that to move forward and keep going."

[Researcher/Academia]

Interviewees acknowledged how well meetings were facilitated and run by ENN. The role of ENN

was perceived as an orchestrator or coordinator of different activities, ensuring all the pieces moved forward quickly and in synchrony. ENN's ability to connect well with diverse actors and players in order to appropriately manage the group was noted:

“A lot of this work would probably still occur without ENN, but would take 10 to 20 years.”

[NGO representative]

ENN's neutrality was seen as a key enabler to the achievement of the project. ENN was perceived as well suited to play the role of the coordinator of the group, being free from a specific agency agenda. In particular, interviewees indicated that, as ENN does not run programmes, it can be demand-driven in terms of answering research questions rather than tied to specific programme agendas. Therefore, it was perceived as well placed from the point of view of being neutral and at the same time inclusive, as the group allows members of various institutions to be involved.

This lack of agenda renders ENNs role and the project work more acceptable to others; although, as one interviewee noted, “ENN does not get as much visibility”, and instead plays the “more effective” role of behind-the-scenes-orchestration, empowering the different agencies to move forward:

“As an organisation, we are often criticised for having an agenda, but having ENN not tied to a specific agenda is hugely beneficial for our sector and I would fully support [its continuation].”

[NGO representative]

Interviewees elaborated on **ENN's technical and operational know-how**; the extent to which it is good at bridging thinking and practice; and how it understands the practicalities on the ground, as well as the institutional architectures:

ENN was seen by all interviewees as having a uniquely valuable role to play, having earned the respect of academic, policy and implementing agencies. Some noted how well ENN had nurtured a feeling of trust in the work of the TIG and established a sense of its independence. Others elaborated on their confidence in the team:

“It is about individual trust. People tend to listen if they have trust in the process and the facilitator.”

[Donor agency representative]

Interviewees elaborated on the strength and expertise of ENN, which is built on its history, as well as its current institutional capacity, including the publication of *Field Exchange*:

“They are a fountain of knowledge.”

[Researcher/Academia]

In addition to ENN as an organisation, interviewees often mentioned individual ENN coordinators by name and noted their valuable personalities, skills and experience.

Key message

ENN is an excellent facilitator, providing momentum for effectively and efficiently moving the work forward. ENN's neutrality and independence render the work well accepted and trustworthy. ENN is respected and has the necessary know-how and expertise.

4.3 Project accomplishments

4.3.1 What is the project trying to accomplish?

Interviewees' perceptions of the project objectives differed slightly, depending on their engagement in the process. In most cases, interviewees highlighted the exploratory approach of the project and how, as it progressed, there was further refinement of the objectives.

Two main themes emerged from the interviews in relation to the project objectives. These were: 1) providing the evidence around the linkages between wasting and stunting; and 2) contributing to a shift in thinking in the treatment of undernutrition.

Interviewees reported that the project was initiated for the purpose of clarifying the evidence around the linkages between wasting and stunting; to examine whether there is enough evidence to justify the separation of wasting and stunting; and to better understand concurrent wasting and stunting and the associated mortality risk. Responses included:



GMB Akash

“[The objective was] to start unpacking whether there is a relationship between these two forms of malnutrition and bridge the gap between the two, to quantify the burden of that problem and what actions should be taken to deal more effectively into the future ... these were the research priorities.”

[Donor agency representative]

“I think it is trying to highlight and explore the similarities in causes and consequences of wasting and stunting and trying to bring those two worlds together to more effectively address undernutrition in children.”

[Researcher/Academia]

In addition, interviewees noted the objective of contributing to improved identification and management of children who are most at risk of dying from undernutrition.

Furthermore, interviewees highlighted how wasting and stunting as indicators have traditionally been treated in silos. There are programmes dealing only with treating wasted children and others dealing with the prevention of stunting. Wasting is seen as an emergency nutrition intervention, while stunting is more of a development concern. Therefore, at

a fundamental level, the overall objective of the project was to provide a basis for bridging the identified policy, research and programmatic divide between wasting and stunting and to join these two manifestations of malnutrition in public health terms.

This separation, which the project has been aiming to address, was described by a few as a “dogma” around malnutrition which has grown in an “uneducated way” and that needed to be addressed. There was an impression that “nutrition is driven more by ideologies rather than science”. Interviewees felt that the project is trying to take an objective look at what undernutrition means in terms of risk and how it should be addressed by the international community:

“The objective is very much high level in the sense that it is trying to look at the way undernutrition has been traditionally treated and measured and offer a fundamental rethink around how the nutrition community has been tackling undernutrition.”

[Researcher/Academia]

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) framework of malnutrition was mentioned as applying to both stunting and wasting and that, in effect, both needed to be prevented. The project was

seen to contribute to preventing children from becoming wasted so they don't eventually become stunted because one is the consequence of the other:

“Stunting was named as one of the [Millennium Development Goals] and became the nutrition problem of the development community, whereas wasting is [seen as more the responsibility] of the emergency community ... going to the rescue, treating with food.”

[Researcher/Academia]

In addition, a number of interviewees indicated that, ultimately, the project aims at contributing to shifting the global narrative and influencing policies. The *Lancet* publication was mentioned as an example of an output contributing to this.

Key message

The project aims to provide evidence around the linkages between wasting and stunting, as well as contributing to a shift in the thinking around undernutrition and how to address it.

4.3.2 What are the main accomplishments of the project (outputs)?

4.3.2.1 The project has contributed to the evidence base

The main project achievement mentioned by interviewees is its clear contribution to strengthening the evidence base around wasting and stunting, adding new understanding and perspectives. Some interviewees perceived that “we are on top of the evidence” and that “there is now evidence to back up some of our thinking”. The fact that the project was able to publish its findings and influence the literature was regarded as a major achievement. This is evident from the number of citations that the different publications have had (refer to Annex B).

“Everything we know about (the relationship between) wasting and stunting is a product of this group.”

[Donor representative]

The viewpoint published in *The Lancet* was seen as a very valuable output of the project

and considered a major success. The research-prioritisation exercise was also highly valued:

“Just last week [the research-prioritisation publication] was picked by the journal as one of its most influential papers.¹⁰”

[Researcher]

Interviewees explained that the project was able to provide better documentation around particular aspects of the relationship between wasting and stunting; for example, that wasting and stunting may not have different pathologies but rather different manifestations, that they are interrelated, that wasted children are more likely to be stunted and vice versa, and that the risk of mortality is elevated for children who are both wasted and stunted at the same time.

Although there was overall agreement with the findings of the different outputs, there were instances where interviewees expressed disagreement on particular aspects. For example, the issue of boys being more affected than girls by concurrent wasting and stunting was questioned by one interviewee. Similarly, one interviewee noted that some of the previous evidence around wasting and stunting was not considered in the review done by the group.

Another output of the project that was mentioned by many was the featuring of the WaSt project findings in the Global Nutrition Report. This was considered a good achievement, given that it contributed to more visibility and facilitated dissemination due to the wider readership of the report.

4.3.2.2 The project has contributed to a shift in research priorities

A number of interviewees (mostly members of the TIG) confirmed that the project has had an influence on their own research priorities and activities; for example, including weight-for-age as an indicator for concurrent wasting and stunting. There was also consensus that the project played a role in encouraging other researchers outside the group to look into their own datasets. For example, an interviewee mentioned that, while implementing a research study for infants under six months

¹⁰ The publication was highlighted by PLOS ONE as one of its most influential papers.

old, they also looked at concurrent wasting and stunting and indicated that this would not have happened if it were not for the WaSt project. Some interviewees also reported that they are starting to see research coming out of other groups that is duplicating the WaSt TIG work:

“There are more papers on similar issues ... how nutrition deficits overlap ... imitation is a sincere mode of flattery.”

[Researcher/Academia]

At the same time, and outside the TIG, a number of prominent researchers and scientists who were interviewed confirmed citing the work multiple times and using it as a basis for their work.

Key message

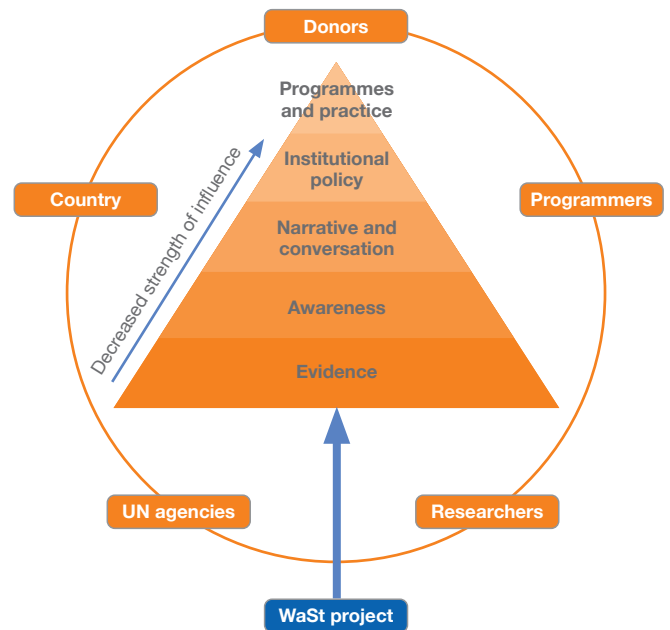
The project has contributed to a solid evidence base around the linkages between wasting and stunting. It has also contributed to a shift in research priorities.

4.3.3 What influence and impact has the project had at different levels?

Given the perceived major achievement around the evidence that the project has shown (see Section 4.3.2.1), interviewees were asked about the extent to which the project has had any influence at other levels. In most cases, interviewees acknowledged that change takes time and highlighted the difficulty of changing people’s perceptions. They confirmed that the project is still in its early phase of change on the ground. Nevertheless, a number of influences were identified, particularly in relation to the nutrition landscape before and after the project.

Change in awareness, a change in the narrative and initiation of discussions, some adjustments in donor activities, examples of policy change and some contributions at the programme level were all noted by interviewees and ascribed to the work of the project (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Perceived level and strength of influence of the WaSt project



4.3.3.1 Awareness around the linkages between wasting and stunting

Interviewees agreed that the project has contributed to raising awareness about the linkages between wasting and stunting via its outputs:

“We are seeing clearly that we should be talking about growth faltering.”

[UN representative]



Some interviewees from donor organisations, however, noted that the awareness may have been more amongst emergency rather than development actors.

An illustration of awareness about the project and its outcomes was evident among interviewees who were not part of the TIG but who were aware of the project's findings:

“The notion that wasting and stunting are not separate issues and that they are affecting the same children and that children move in and out (of these conditions) and we are not doing [them] justice by just focusing on wasting and neglecting stunting.”

[NGO representative – non-TIG]

On the other hand, and despite most interviewees acknowledging awareness about the project outputs, a few interviewees outside the TIG indicated that they are not fully aware of the project's findings and recommended further dissemination. These were mainly interviewees at the regional level.

4.3.3.2 Shifting the narrative on wasting and stunting

Change in awareness of the relationship between wasting and stunting and the exposure to the work of the WaSt project was perceived to have generated interest and discussions that have ultimately contributed to a change in the narrative among different actors, including donors and UN agencies.

Several interviewees (donors, NGOs and UN agencies) confirmed that the project has generated enough interest to initiate **discussions** within their own institutions; discussions that would have been very difficult to initiate or start otherwise:

“We are having technical discussions ... it is something that we have definitely not talked about in the past ... maybe we mentioned it in the context of a protracted emergency or refugee situation ... but never concurrent stunting and wasting.”

[Donor representative]

Some interviewees recalled how such discussions were prompted by specific outputs of the project, specifically the *Lancet* piece:

“Thinking of the last product ... the Lancet and the narrative around wasting and stunting, that has been disseminated via [name of organisation] and has generated a lot of discussion and reflection on how we are addressing wasting currently.”

[UN representative]

Interviewees highlighted that the project has succeeded in “getting the issues on the table”, specifically during discussions at the international and global level, and that this was considered a major achievement.

Specific examples of how the project has contributed to initiating interest and a **shift in the narrative** included the inclusion of stunting on the agenda of a high-level WHO guidance meeting focusing on wasting. Another example was the inclusion of discussion of growth faltering at another meeting on child growth.

“The project was able to venture into global and international events in order to disseminate the findings.”

[Researcher]

Interviewees reported that there had been a change in the narrative to the degree that governments, countries and ministries are now asking questions and requesting guidance on how to change policies to reflect the relationship between wasting and stunting. However, interviewees also noted that the project is not yet ready to provide guidance on how to change national policies.

In addition to the narrative around wasting and stunting, some interviewees also mentioned that the project has given them the opportunity to reflect on other nutrition issues, including overweight and obesity, especially given the newly published paper on the double burden¹¹. Interviewees noted that the project has created awareness of the need to tackle malnutrition in all its forms in a more holistic way.

Although most interviewees confirmed this change in narrative, a few pointed out that there is still disagreement within the nutrition sector on particular elements of the group's findings.

¹¹ Wells, J. C., Sawaya, A. L., Wibaek, R., Mwangome, M., Poullas, M. S., Yajnik, C. S., & Demaio, A. (2019). The double burden of malnutrition: aetiological pathways and consequences for health. *The Lancet*.

Interviewees acknowledged that more work on influencing change is needed. They described how change takes a long time and, for it to happen, “waves of professional opinions” are needed. Interviewees noted that the project has provided the necessary initial push.

Interviewees also highlighted the contribution the project has made to **bridging the divide** between the wasting and stunting communities. Interviewees described the situation before the project as two distinct communities (the wasting community and the stunting community) and suggested the project has contributed to bringing the two together:

“At the time, we had a significant amount of traction and political interest in stunting They were not willing to create a bridge with wasting ... but wasting created this connection to stunting.”

[UN representative]

“It’s been successful in raising that flag – ‘Hey, it is not just wasting that we need to think about’.”

[NGO representative]

This shift in the understanding of wasting and stunting was considered a huge success in terms of achieving such a change in a short period of time and contributing to a “shifting of the global ecosystem”:

“The stunting-heavy narrative feels inadequate now ... it is no longer the narrative of the future; it is gradually becoming the narrative of the past ... That, in a short period of time, is a huge measure of success.”

[Researcher/Academia]

On the other hand, challenges in getting acceptance of the new narrative on wasting and stunting by the development community were noted by a number of interviewees. This reflects less awareness among this group, as noted in the previous section. The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement was mentioned as an example of a community that might be resistant to change. Similarly, there was a feeling that, given this spilt in the nutrition world between wasting and stunting, it was challenging to bring the two together, so the

project had to reach out to the “stunting world”. Similarly, within certain donor agencies, it was noted that the emergency arm of the agency has been having discussions about the divide but the issues have yet to take root in the development arm of the donor agency.

A number of interviewees gave examples of influences that the project has had on institutional policies.

One donor, focused on emergencies, indicated that the project language relating to wasting and stunting had been incorporated into their newly revised nutrition policy. It reported a shift from using “wasting” per se to using “wasted children who are likely to be stunted or wasted/stunted children.” At the same time, this donor incorporated the term “most at risk” children as a result of the project.

Another example given related to the update of guidance for infants less than six months of age. It was reported that the guidance will include language related to growth faltering and weight loss, and wasting and stunting will not be separated.

A potential change in policy was also noted by an organisation currently reviewing its own strategy and policy:

“Our nutrition vision was focused on acute malnutrition and that article gave us the fuel to have a conversation to expand that out and look into all forms of malnutrition – wasting, stunting and micronutrient malnutrition. So, in the last six months, we have gone through a process of nutrition vision statement to focus more on the wider undernutrition. It was a natural progression, but that article really gave us more evidence to make the case for that.”

[NGO representative]

A few interviewees indicated that the project has influenced parameters for donor allocation of resources. Two donors confirmed a change in their funding guidelines as a result of their individual engagement in the TIG:

“In [name of organisation], I changed our proposal guidelines, so I was influenced – I was convinced and I have convinced my two colleagues based on this.”

[Donor representative]

Similarly, some interviewees noted that the mere fact that donors are funding the WaSt project is an indicator of influence and success. Specifically, the fact that the WaSt study is funded not only by an emergency-focused donor but also by a public health agency was noted as an illustration of influence on priorities beyond the emergency sphere. Some donors have also expressed interest in funding the continuity of the work in the WaSt project for specific pieces of work needed to move the objectives forward.

There was acknowledgement that changes at donor level were not across the board:

“I haven’t seen changes in language in donors ... [we] still have donors who primarily focus on wasting [and] donors focusing primarily on stunting.”

[NGO representative]

Despite the different examples given of influences of institutional policies, most interviewees reported that, “We aren’t there yet”. It was noted that a lack of clarity remains in terms of what changes in policy are needed and to further engage WHO as the normative agency.

“It takes a few years between a paper being published and [it] resulting in policy.”

[Researcher]

4.3.3.3 Programmes

There was a general perception that the project hasn’t yet reached a stage where it can influence programming although it may not be far from it. It was noted that this would be the most important level of influence. Interviewees who are closely engaged in the WaSt study emphasised that the project is suggesting a concrete change to using weight-for-age to identify children who are most at risk, and aiming to answer the question of what is needed to treat them with the new WaSt study. A few interviewees noted that, independently of the study, the evidence of the importance of weight-for-age for identifying risk of death may already

contribute to supporting growth monitoring and create linkages between existing child survival programmes and therapeutic feeding programmes.

Key messages

- The project contributed to increased in awareness around the linkages between wasting and stunting.
- The project has promoted discussions and a shift in the narrative around wasting and stunting and what is needed to address them at the global level.
- The project has contributed to bridging the divide between the wasting and stunting communities (emergency vs. development), although this may be seen more on the emergency than on the development side.
- The project has influenced some institutional policies, but has only minimally influenced the programmatic level, which is linked to the stage the project is at.

4.4 The next phase?

4.4.1 Role of ENN

There was a general sense that ENN is very well equipped to continue to lead on the WaSt project in phase IV.

Interviewees noted that ENN will need to continue to secure funding to keep the momentum of the project going and encouraged ENN to consider mobilising resources and investing in dedicated capacity to coordinate the group:

“Their good reputation can help them get funding.”

[Researcher]

Some interviewees highlighted that ENN can take the project to a certain stage, at which point greater ownership by UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO, is needed. Therefore, it is good for ENN to continue building the evidence; however, further along the line, it was noted that the work needs to be taken up by UN agencies.

In addition, building on the above feedback on engagement of government, a few interviewees noted that it might be worth considering the next phase not as a project but rather as a platform where individual agency effort is coordinated so



that each agency can play to its strengths. For example, in terms of support to governments for the uptake of the project's findings, this was not perceived as something that ENN should do, but rather, it is the role of agencies working directly with country governments.

4.4.2 Directions and activities

It was noted that, in order to move forward, the TIG needs to reflect on its objectives and accomplishments; specific recommendations on moving forward were given, including: 1) expanding dissemination and advocacy; 2) moving to translation of the evidence into practice; 3) expanding to other settings; and 4) further exploring the evidence in particular gap areas.

4.4.2.1 Dissemination and advocacy

Although there was consensus that the project has contributed to raising awareness about the linkages between wasting and stunting as processes, the case for increasing efforts in further disseminating findings and investing in advocacy was made.

Some of the interviewees outside the TIG were not fully aware of the outputs of the project and its implications and suggested investing in simple

communication packages to explain the importance of the project and potential involvement/implications to technical and non-technical experts.

Advocacy was considered a main action to be prioritised in the WaSt project work. Some interviewees suggested ENN should shift role from facilitating discussion of ideas and getting research analysis done to getting the ideas "sown in the minds of policy makers and implementers".

A concrete opportunity for influence is the UNICEF-WHO Wasting Global Action Plan (GAP), as it was noted by more than one interviewee that this is an opportunity to reflect the findings of the project; to have more clarity about a child-centred approach and the need to look at linear growth and growth faltering. The ENN team confirmed that feedback on the GAP was provided. Other opportunities were also mentioned:

"Advocate to be part of the WHO guideline development process, to be part of the updating of tools when it comes to it and also review the Global Action Plan on wasting."
[UN representative]

4.4.2.2 Translate the evidence into practice: What is the package we are selling?

The other main recommended action for moving forward was the importance of **translating the evidence into practice**. There was a perception that, so far, most of the work has been on providing the evidence and bringing the issue to the table; however, it was noted that it is now time to move to the next stage and translate that knowledge and evidence into practice and “something that is actionable”.

A number of interviewees highlighted that, at this point, the project is not ready to provide clear directions on how to change national policies; i.e. it is not equipped to meet the market that has been created. Some gave the example that, if at this point countries were to request guidance on how to move forward, there is no capacity to provide that guidance. Interviewees noted that something concrete and practical needs to come out that would provide the necessary guidance:

“The writing of the piece in the *Lancet* needs to be followed by clear steps – you can’t hint at it and then say you are not equipped to help you do what we are asking you to do.”

[Researcher/Academia]

Interviewees also recommended more work at the programme level to work out how programmes need to change. Specifically, for interviewees outside the TIG, there was great interest in what the project means at the programmatic level and how the findings can be translated operationally.

Interviewees who are engaged in the WaSt Study (refer to Annex B) emphasised the importance of getting results from the project in order to be able to answer some of the above issues of translating the evidence into practice and policy. Interviewees who were not aware of the initiative welcomed it as a good step forward to identify operational changes that need to occur, and emphasised the need to fundraise for similar studies and replicate it in other contexts:

“The alarm bell has been sounded, but the devil is in the details. What do we do? This is the biggest challenge moving forward.”

[NGO representative]

Challenges in existing treatment of acute malnutrition were cited as needing to be addressed, including

coverage and anthropometrics. A number of interviewees emphasised the problem of **coverage** and noted that the extent to which the project will actually contribute to improving coverage is not really clear. Similarly, anthropometric measurements, their relevance and appropriate discharge criteria were mentioned as issues needing to be resolved:

“There is still this challenge of what do we do, because we cannot treat one third of wasted children, so how in the context of limited funding do you really address it?”

[INGO representative]

From a donor’s perspective, it was also important to clarify the next steps in order to help donors prioritise actions:

“So what? What do we do differently? How we manage this problem and, if we don’t know what to do, what are the priority areas for investment?”

[Donor agency representative]

4.4.2.3 Expand to other settings – country and regional level

A main theme that stemmed from this review was the need to further engage with governments and countries where the problems of wasting and stunting prevail; i.e., less-resourced settings, particularly Southeast Asia and Africa, and engage more programmers:

“Moving forward, this has to be replicated by other local groups and government and as a result we need to make sure that we now expand this to a larger group. More country level and regional level.”

[Researcher/Academia]

In addition to the group engaging with more country and government entities, and as a next step, it was recommended to further engage programmers, including more organisations and UN agencies. One interviewee suggested this could be a sub-group of the TIG.

4.4.2.4 Further explore the evidence

Interviewees reflected on the next phase in terms of further generation of evidence. In line with the recommendations of the *Lancet* piece, interviewees mentioned that there is scope for greater understanding

of the risk factors of concurrent wasting and stunting, which will help guide policies for interventions.

The need to have access to longitudinal data and its value was mentioned as key by some interviewees. It was recommended that the project should find ways to support longitudinal studies in order to further shed light on the trends in concurrent wasting and stunting over time and document this process:

“[There is a need] for better data to understand wasting and stunting as processes. [We] can’t sit back and watch a child become wasted.”

[Researcher]

Interviewees recommended expansion of the research base into other countries and specific contexts where the need is high. One interviewee mentioned clinical trials that would contribute to putting the work into practice; however, the interviewee noted that this would probably be the role of other groups. Another interviewee was keen on seeing more work on the concurrence data in order to further clarify implications.



Technical Briefing Paper

The relationship between wasting and stunting, policy, programming and research implications

by Tanya Khara & Carmel Dolan



July 2014

Key messages

ENN is well equipped to move to the next phase, including to secure funding and keep the momentum going. It is also worth considering the role in the project of agencies mandated to support governments.

Recommendations for the next phase include:

1. Further disseminate the findings via clear and simple communication packages and increase influencing efforts.
2. Increase the focus on disseminating the various outputs to wider audiences in order to increase the project’s influence.
3. Increase efforts to translate the evidence into practice, including the implementation of the WaSt study and other similar research studies in order to provide clearer directions around the programmatic implications.
4. Expand the TIG to include membership from other settings, including those at country and regional levels.
5. Engage further with the organisations represented on the TIG and who work directly with governments to increase the uptake of the project’s findings.
6. Tighten up the process for agreeing and articulating the research questions.

5. Conclusion



This review shows that ENN has played a crucial role in initiating and driving forward work on the relationship between wasting and stunting via a collaborative, multi-disciplinary group of experts, UN agencies, programmers and donors. Members' trust and confidence in ENN, as well as ENN's facilitation skills, expertise, knowledge, credibility and history, all contributed to maintaining the momentum of the project. The work has been successful in generating a useful body of needed evidence around the linkages between wasting and stunting, contributing to a change in awareness in the nutrition field and suggesting a change in the narrative on undernutrition among donor agencies, UN agencies, NGOs and research

institutions. It has also contributed to creating a bridge between the different nutrition communities (emergency vs. development). Moving forward, there is a need to reflect on the make-up of the TIG and roles within it, particularly in relation to government representation and engagement. There is a need to concentrate attention on further dissemination, communication and advocacy of the work so far. Alongside this, there is a need to invest in translating the evidence into programmatic practice, expanding on operational research and engaging with national/regional authorities to do so. Clearer guidance is also needed for policy change, as well as expanding the evidence to other contexts and settings.

6. Annexes

6.1 Annex A. List of interviewees

INTERVIEWEE #	NAME	ORGANISATION	TIG MEMBER?
1	Saul Guerrero	UNICEF	YES
2	Jay Berkley	KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya	YES
3	Andrew Hall	Independent	YES
4	Martha Mwangome	KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya	YES
5	Steve Collins	Valid International/Director	NO
6	Nicki Connell	Eleanor Crook Foundation	YES
7	Natasha Lelijveld	LSHTM, UK	YES
8	Mark Manary	University of St Louis, USA	YES
9	Mark Myatt	Brixton Health	YES
10	Robert Black	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg school of Public Health	YES
11	Zulfiqar Bhutta	Aga Khan University	YES
12	Susan Fuller	Consultant	NO
13	Kevin Phelan	ALIMA	YES
14	Michel Garenne	Independent	YES
15	Abigail Perry	DFID	YES
16	Marko Kerac	LSHTM, UK	YES
17	Marie-Sophie Whitney	ECHO	NO
18	Helen Young	TUFTS	NO
19	Leisel Talley	CDC	YES
20	Cesar Victora	University of Pelotas	NO
21	Casie Tesfai	IRC	NO
22	Erin Boyd	OFDA	YES
23	Grainne Maloney	UNICEF ESARO	NO
24	Ben Siddle	Ireland Aid	NO
25	Zita Weise-Prinzo	WHO	YES

6.2 Annex B. Documenting process; programme output

DATE	ACTIVITY	OUTPUT
Phase I		
2014	Start of the project.	Establishment of TIG made of 30 experts in child growth, nutrition, epidemiology and those engaged in policy and programmes.
2014-2015	<p>Narrative review of the relationship between wasting and stunting.</p> <p>Aim: to further the understanding of the links between wasting and stunting.</p>	<p>Report: Khara, T., & Dolan, C. (2014). Technical Briefing Paper: Associations between Wasting and Stunting, policy, programming and research implications. Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) June 2014.</p> <p>Field Exchange: Khara, T. (2016). The relationship between wasting and stunting: policy, programming and research implications. <i>Field Exchange</i> 50, p.23.</p>
2015	Research prioritisation exercise (with TIG).	Manuscript: Angood, C., Khara, T., Dolan, C., & Berkley, J. A. (2016). Research priorities on the relationship between wasting and stunting. <i>PLOS ONE</i> , 11(5), e0153221.
2015	Analysis of five high-burden country datasets to estimate the burden of concurrent wasting and stunting.	GNR 2015: 2015 Global Nutrition Report, page 25. Carmel Dolan, Martha Mwangome and Tanya Khara. Panel 2.1: Extent of wasting and stunting in the same children.
Phase II: Utilising existing data sets for analysis		
2016	Re-analysis of DHS and MICS datasets from 84 countries to generate a pooled prevalence and estimate of the burden of concurrent wasting and stunting in those countries.	<p>Manuscript: Khara, T., Mwangome, M., Ngari, M., & Dolan, C. (2018). Children concurrently wasted and stunted: A meta-analysis of prevalence data of children; 6-59 months from 84 countries. <i>Maternal & Child Nutrition</i>, 14(2), e12516.</p> <p>GNR 2016: 2016 Global Nutrition Report, page 23. Tanya Khara, Martha Mwangome and Carmel Dolan, based on data from DHS (2005–2015) and UNICEF (2016c).</p> <p>Blog post: Dolan (2017). Wasting and Stunting – making progress on understanding the links</p>
	Analysis of cross-sectional datasets (SMART surveys) carried out to examine in more detail and look at how best to identify concurrently wasted and stunted children.	Manuscript: Myatt, M., Khara, T., Schoenbuchner, S., Pietzsch, S., Dolan, C., Lelijveld, N., & Briend, A. (2018). Children who are both wasted and stunted are also underweight and have a high risk of death: A descriptive epidemiology of multiple anthropometric deficits using data from 51 countries. <i>Archives of Public Health</i> , 76(1), 28.
	Analysis focusing on identifying those children at most risk of mortality using cohort data from Niakhar, Senegal.	<p>Manuscripts: Myatt, M., Khara, T., Dolan, C., Garenne, M., & Briend, A. (2018). Improving screening for malnourished children at high risk of death: a study of children aged 6–59 months in rural Senegal. <i>Public Health Nutrition</i>, 22(5), 862-871.</p> <p>Garenne, M., Myatt, M., Khara, T., Dolan, C., & Briend, A. (2018). Concurrent wasting and stunting among under-five children in Niakhar, Senegal. <i>Maternal & Child Nutrition</i>, 15(2), e12736.</p>

6.2 Annex B. (continued)

DATE	ACTIVITY	OUTPUT
2016	<p>Development of a concept for a research study.</p> <p>Aim: to bring learning on the relationship between wasting and stunting and their combined impact on mortality into existing programme practices.</p>	<p>Programme in Nigeria: Funded by OFDA</p> <p>Research: Bringing new evidence on undernutrition and mortality risk into practice.</p>
	<p>Analysis conducted on data from Medical Research Council Gambia surveillance programme – cohort of 0-24 months in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seasonality and growth - Wasting as a risk factor for stunting and vice versa. 	<p>Manuscript: Schoenbuchner, S. M., Dolan, C., Mwangome, M., Hall, A., Richard, S. A., Wells, J. C., ... & Moore, S. E. (2019). The relationship between wasting and stunting: a retrospective cohort analysis of longitudinal data in Gambian children from 1976 to 2016. <i>The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition</i>.</p>
2018	<p>Policy brief and viewpoint article culminating research and discussion of the group for the past four years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presents compelling scientific grounds for concluding that the current separation between wasting and stunting in policy, programmes and research is not justified and may even be detrimental. - Calls for a radical change in how we view, finance and intervene to reduce child wasting and stunting. 	<p>Field Exchange: WaSt TIG (2018). Child wasting and stunting: Time to overcome the separation. <i>Field Exchange</i> 58, 43.</p> <p>The Lancet: Wells, J. C., Briend, A., Boyd, E. M., Berkely, J. A., Hall, A., Isanaka, S., ... & Dolan, C. (2019). Beyond wasted and stunted—a major shift to fight child undernutrition. <i>The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health</i>.</p> <p>Blog post: Child wasting and stunting – are we where we need to be? Dolan and Khara 2019</p>
	Third face-to-face meeting	
2019		<p>Blog post: May 2019 – Is the separation between wasting and stunting justified?</p>

6.3 Annex C. Interview guides

TOPIC GUIDE
WaSt TIG members
Information about interviewee
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell me what you do (title, position, years in position) 2. Tell me about your role in the WaSt project. How long have you been engaged? Are you part of the TIG? What has been your contribution to the WaSt project?
Process and accomplishment
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. What are the key objectives of the WaSt project? What is the project trying to accomplish? 4. Can you describe the process adopted so far? (timeline, modality, participation) Can you elaborate on the role of ENN in moving forward with this process? 5. In your opinion, what are the main accomplishments of the WaSt Project? To what extent do you feel the Project has contributed to expanding on the evidence base? 6. What are the main recommendations that stemmed from the work that the WaSt project has conducted?
Perception around obstacles and facilitators – role of ENN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. In your opinion, what are the key facilitators and factors contributing to the momentum of the TiG including those related to ENN? Can you describe specific attributes of ENN that have enabled progress? What are some lessons learned?
Contribution of the Project and role of ENN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. What is your perception around the uptake of those considerations / recommendations at different levels (probe: policy, research, institutional, programmatic etc.)? can you give examples of certain uptakes? Can you reflect on own organization? Do you perceive a change in the Policy/programming landscape since 2014? 10. In your opinion, is there a demand for ENN to continue to coordinate the work on WaSt and if yes, why and on what areas?
Recommendations and other
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. What would you like to see achieved in the next phase? 12. Any other comments or feedback?
External interviewees
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell me what you do (title, position, years in position) 2. Have you read or are you aware of any of the work that has come out of the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) coordinated wasting and stunting technical interest group? (publications, podcasts, blogposts etc.) 3. If yes, are there particular areas of this work that you have found particularly interesting? Which? 4. Have you or your organisation been influenced by any of this work? How? 5. For the future what would you like to see the wasting and stunting technical interest group focusing on?

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