**Emergency Nutrition Network**

**Annual Report 1 February 20010 to 31 January 2011**

The ENN was set up in 1996 by an inter-agency group of humanitarian organisations to improve practice and strengthen institutional memory of humanitarian agencies involved in the food and nutrition sector of emergencies. The ENN endeavours to improve the effectiveness of interventions through the identification and rapid dissemination of lessons learnt and, through research and evaluation. Cross-cutting all of the ENN’s activities are capacity development, network building and maintaining impartiality and independence.

The ENN’s flagship publication, *Field Exchange*, was developed as the main means of achieving this. To date (31 January 2011) there have been 39 editions of Field Exchange as well as many complementary activities including research initiatives, the production of three *Special Supplements* on areas of ‘cutting edge’ programming, development of operational guidance and training resources on *Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies*, research initiatives, facilitating workshops and producing reports on international technical meetings.

The ENN is a participatory-based initiative, with networking and collaboration at the core of ENN’s activities. The ENN targets those concerned with humanitarian response at all levels, from international policy-makers to field workers ‘on the ground’. The Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) was set up in 1996 by an inter-agency group of humanitarian organisations to improve practice and strengthen the institutional memory of humanitarian agencies involved in the food and nutrition sector of emergencies.

The ENN was initially established as a self-financing activity in the Department of Community Health and General Practice in Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and later incorporated as a limited company in Ireland (30th April 2001). In September 2003, a transfer of ENN activities to Oxford, UK was initiated and completed in July 2004. Initially operating as a UK company limited by guarantee (not-for profit), the ENN was granted UK charitable status in July 2006. The ENN is governed by a Board of Trustees.

**The ENN’s Aim**

To increase the capacity of national, regional and international practitioners to respond to the food and nutrition related needs of vulnerable and emergency affected populations.

**The ENN’s Objectives**

1. Improve learning in the sector, targeting practitioners involved in emergency response, policy makers and donors.
2. Close knowledge and practice gaps in the sector through a focus on evidenced based operational research.
3. Increase the capacity of national and regional level actors through the active promotion and development of strategic partnerships.
4. Contribute to improvements in leadership/stewardship through advocacy, partnerships and support for key agencies and institutions at international level.

**The ENN’s Mission**

There are three cross-cutting themes to all of ENN’s activities:

* *Building up capacity* – at all levels, from international non-governmental organisations to local community organisations, and, from policy-makers to field workers, to respond more effectively to crises. This involves developing a shared institutional memory of what does and does not work in different crisis situations and delivering that knowledge as widely as possible.
* *Network-building –* so that organisations and individuals support and learn from each other as much as possible. The overarching purpose of ENN is to speed up the sharing of knowledge and wherever possible, reduce the communication chain.
* *Impartiality and independence –* to encourage reporting on failures as well as successes, the independence of the ENN is vital. Protecting this means ensuring that no one source of income predominates.

The ENNs Strategy (2010-2015) four areas of focus to consolidate and develop upon the ENN’s existing work:

* Improving knowledge management and learning
* Closing gaps in the evidence base
* Strengthening national and regional capacity
* Strengthening partnerships for improved leadership

### The ENN’s Activities

* The ENN’s tri-annual print/online publication, *Field Exchange,* records field level programming experience and disseminates this worldwide, to those working in the emergency nutrition and food security sectors. Producing *Field Exchange* offers an unique perspective of emergency programming that continues to help identify ‘gaps’ and challenges in the field and informs the development of ENN’s other activities.
* ENN ‘*Special Supplements’* collate recent experience of best practice in specific ‘cutting edge’ areas of emergency programming. Three ENN Special Supplements have been produced to date.
* The online technical forum, *en-net*, provides field practitioners with access to prompt technical advice from experts and peers for operational challenges faced in emergency programmes.
* Coordination and technical input in the area of *infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE)* and *research initiatives* are geared towards filling gaps in knowledge and developing guidance and resource material to make a difference to ‘on the ground’ implementation.
* Facilitating and reporting on *international technical meetings* is a means of achieving speedier consensus on best practice and disseminating findings to those in the field and/or responsible for programming at headquarters level.
* *Operational research* to strengthen the evidence base for emergency nutrition and food security programming. For example, research into the prevention and treatment of moderate malnutrition, development of a minimum reporting package for supplementary feeding programmes (SFPs) and research into the prevention and management of anaemia in refugees.

**Field Exchange**

In 2010/11, two issues of the ENNs core publication, *Field Exchange* (Issues 38 and 39), were produced. In addition, the content of a special 40th edition of Field Exchange, focused on Ethiopia, was developed between June 2010 and Jan 2011. This involved field trips to Ethiopia by two senior ENN staff followed by remote editorial support to country based staff to write field articles. The special issue was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Ethiopia. Over 3,500 print copies per edition of Field Exchange were distributed to workers working in a variety of sectors (nutrition, food security, health, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene and agriculture) in more than 120 countries worldwide. The numbers receiving Field Exchange hard copy have increased on average by 10% per year. The ENN website is also a key portal for Field Exchange access. During 2009/2010, 3,957 electronic editions of Field Exchange were downloaded. In addition, individual articles were accessed via FEX’s online search repository (<http://fex.ennonline.net>).

**Field Exchange Digest**

In late 2010, the ENN secured funding from Irish Aid to launch a new publication, *Field Exchange Digest* (FEX-D). This summarises key articles and information from previous issues of Field Exchange, rewritten for a national audience. The aim is to increase access to information published in Field Exchange among national stakeholders and across sectors. The pilot issue of FEX Digest will be available in English, French and Arabic. It will be piloted in 2011 amongst targeted recipients in five countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Niger, Sudan and Bangladesh) and to selected international stakeholders. An e-version will also be widely distributed.

**ENN’s online technical forum (en-net)**

Launched in 2009, the ENN’s online technical forum, *en-net*, continued to provide real-time peer and expert technical support to humanitarian personnel through 2010 ([www.en-net.org.uk](http://www.en-net.org.uk)). The forum provides a mechanism for rapidly answering urgent technical questions and challenges faced by those in the field. This is achieved through the provision of access to key relevant resources and technical expertise through peer support and a back up team of expert technical moderators. Over the last 12 months, there were 14,811 visits to the *en-net* site from 168 different countries. The top four user countries were the United Kingdom with 2,901visitors (21.28%), 2,689 (18.16%) from the United States, 1,113 (7.51%) from Kenya and 591 (3.99%) from India. Ongoing monitoring in 2010 led to further development including adding new thematic areas, and a search facility. The forum was funded in 2010 by OFDA and CIDA. An evaluation is scheduled in 2011.

**IFE Core Group**

In 2010-11 the ENN continued its role a coordinating agency and institutional home for the international inter-agency collaboration on infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE Core Group - [www.ennonline.net/ife](http://www.ennonline.net/ife)). During 2010, the ENN developed and coordinated IFE Core Group inputs into the content of two new infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in emergencies standards (Sphere Project, humanitarian charter and minimum standards for humanitarian response). Funded by World Vision, the ENN undertook a training and stakeholder workshop in Ethiopia in August 2010 to build agency and national capacity to integrate infant and young child feeding into community based management of acute malnutrition. In November 2010, the ENN held a strategy meeting of the IFE Core Group in Oxford that identified the strategic direction of the IFE Core Group and outstanding gaps in guidance and programming. IFE activities were funded by OFDA, CIDA and Irish Aid.

**Operational research**

ENN significantly expanded its operational research in 2010-11 to strengthen the evidence base for emergency nutrition and food security programming. Collaborators and funders include bilateral donors, UN agencies, and international NGOs. Three ongoing projects in 2010 related to moderate malnutrition were:

1. *Reviewing the evidence base and exploring alternative approaches for the prevention and treatment of moderate malnutrition (MAM) in children under five years of age.*

In 2010, the ENN began a study to examine the cost-effectiveness of a variety of programme types and delivery mechanisms for preventing and treating moderate malnutrition in emergencies. The study method was finalised in 2010 and work also began on adapting the generic study method to specific types of programme and delivery mechanism, e.g. cash transfer, blanket supplementary feeding, etc. Steering group agencies have put forward a number of potential study sites for inclusion in the study in 2011/12. The study is funded by OFDA.

1. *Strengthening implementation of SFPs through the development of minimum reporting guidelines and research into causes of beneficiary defaulting from programmes.*

Through 2010, the ENN developed a minimum reporting package (MRP) comprised of software and associated guidance for emergency SFPs. The MRP package (guidelines and software) was piloted in four countries and the software updated as a result of the pilots. The MRP package development was presented at a WHO technical consultation on moderate malnutrition in February 2010. The MRP package will help standardise and strengthen data management of SFPs and enable meta-analysis of multi-agency data. Adoption of the package by agencies and donors will be pursued in 2011. The study is funded by OFDA.

The Defaulter Study (DAS) is the first quantitative study to investigate factors leading to defaulting from emergency supplementary feeding programmes. During 2010, data collection on defaulting in three project sites (Chad, Kenya and Sudan) was completed. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Atlanta) is collaborating with the ENN to undertake data analysis. The study is funded by OFDA.

1. *Preventing and managing anaemia in refugee populations*

In 2010, the ENN was approached by UNHCR to provide technical support and analytical services for the assessment of anaemia and micronutrient malnutrition and the implementation of nutritional services. A collaborative project was developed funded by UNHCR, with ENN engaging international experts and an experienced team based at University College London Centre for International Health and Development (UCL CIHD). Key activities undertaken in 2010 were the development of Standardised Nutrition Survey Guidelines and Operational Guidance for UNHCR. The project will develop into Phase 2 in 2011-12.

**Training and capacity development**

The ENN has also developed projects on capacity development through four closely linked projects that aim to build the capacity of national, regional and international practitioners. These were implemented though 2010:

* *Technical update of nutrition in emergencies training material.* The Harmonised Training Package (HTP) is a ‘one-stop resource’ aimed at covering all aspects of food and nutrition in emergencies to inform training. Version 1 was developed through interagency collaboration with the backing of the Global Nutrition Cluster. Through 2010, a technical update of all 21 modules to version 2.0 began, implemented in collaboration with NutritionWorks (a partnership of international nutritionists who led the development of Version 1) and will be completed in 2011. The update was funded by OFDA. See
* A *pilot of pre-service and in-service training for ‘front-line workers’ in nutrition-related programming* is being undertaken in an ENN/NutritionWorks collaboration in 2010/11 in Africa and Asia. The pilot project operates at the national level in Kenya and Bangladesh. In Kenya in September 2011, a seven day Colloquium attended by Ministry of Health representatives and operational agencies was held. Twenty nutrition teaching staff from eight higher education institutions (HEIs) updated their skills, knowledge and networking capacities. Follow up in Kenya is scheduled for mid-2011, as well as expansion into the second designated country, Bangladesh. The project is funded by OFDA. See <http://www.ennonline.net/meetings/servicetraining>
* A *post-graduate and professional nutrition in emergencies training* project is being undertaken in partnership with UCL CIHD. See <http://www.ennonline.net/network/nietn>. This project is working with southern based academic institutions to develop masters and diploma level modules based on the HTP content. Through 2010, the project team has worked to establish regional training centres for nutrition in emergencies in Lebanon and Uganda. Professional short courses have been run at the American University of Beirut (Lebanon) and Makerere University (Uganda), and an MSc module at Makerere University. Preparations are underway to undertake regional training in Thailand at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre. The project is funded by OFDA. See <http://www.ennonline.net/professionaltraining>
* *Development of e-learning on nutrition in emergencies*. Through 2010, the ENN developed an online *e-learning package* in collaboration with and funded by UNICEF, on basic concepts on nutrition in emergencies. The project was developed to help develop UNICEF national staff capacity as well as provide freely accessible capacity development resource in the emergency sector. Open access is available at <http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/training/>

**International ‘lesson capture’** In the last quarter of 2010, the ENN secured funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to undertake *an international conference to capture government experiences of scale up of community based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM).* The conference is scheduled for November 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It will be implemented in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia.

1. **Finance and Management**

Since its inception, the ENN has undergone external annual audit of accounts. A copy of the ENN’s audited accounts report and financial statements for 2010/11 are available on request.

The ENN’s accounts are prepared on an accrual basis. The ENN is not in any financial deficit. The organisation only undertakes expenditures for which there are committed funds. ENN Trustee meetings were held in March and July (annual general meeting) 2010 and January 2011.

Income received from donors increased by 70% in the year to £710,421. ENN returned an operating deficit of £40,680 decreasing the reserve to £162,713. Reasons for the deficit were currency exchange losses (US dollar to sterling), technical inputs into training-related projects, new staff recruitment costs, and development costs.

In 2010-11, the ENN received support from three UN agencies, thee bilateral donors and 13 non-governmental organisations. OFDA providing the majority of the income in the year (£344,613), funding a number of ongoing projects that run until September 2011. Irish Aid provided £30,153 for Field Exchange Digest production, IFE Core Group coordination and en-net. Funding support from a number of agencies was project-specific (Anaemia in Refugees Study/UNHCR, e-learning development/UNICEF, IYCF workshop/World Vision, Minimum Reporting Package/Dan Church Aid). Recurrent contributions of UN agency and NGOs remain a critical support to Field Exchange and the ENN.

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| **ENN Income and Expenditure for the financial year February 1st 2010-January 31st 2011** |
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| **Income** |  |  |
| OFDA | 344,613 |  |
| UNHCR | 138,436 |  |
| UNICEF | 134,310 |  |
| Irish Aid | 30,153 |  |
| World Vision Canada | 24,340 |  |
| DFID | 9,342 |  |
| Dan Church Aid | 8,183 |  |
| Concern Worldwide | 4,332 |  |
| WHO | 4,050 |  |
| Save the Children UK | 3,480 |  |
| BRC - British Red Cross | 2,100 |  |
| MSF Holland | 1,950 |  |
| MSF Spain | 1,390 |  |
| FAO | 1,298 |  |
| CIKD | 1,100 |  |
| CIDA | 1,044 |  |
| Merlin | 300 |  |
| Sundry | 5,132 |  |
|  | 710,421 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Wages and salaries | 188,942 |  |
| Rent and rates | 9,419 |  |
| Insurance | 1,028 |  |
| Repairs and maintenance |  |  |
| Postage and stationery | 17,240 |  |
| Production and printing | 24,028 |  |
| Telephone | 5,036 |  |
| Computer costs | 4,134 |  |
| Internet & website charges | 7,238 |  |
| Travelling and accommodation | 54,819 |  |
| Entertaining | 253 |  |
| Legal and professional | - |  |
| Consultancy fees | 410,060 |  |
| Accountancy | 4,658 |  |
| Bank charges | 619 |  |
| Profit/loss on exchange | 18,821 |  |
| Sundry expenses | 5,133 |  |
| Depreciation on FF & Equipment | 454 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | 751,882 |  |
|  |  | (41,461) |

## HR

There were a number of staff changes during 2010-11. Both Diane Crocombe and Rupert Gill left the ENN and Thom Banks and Chloe Angood joined the Oxford-based team. Carmel Dolan was recruited as a third ENN Technical Director.

**Current Staff:**

## Jeremy Shoham is *Field Exchange* Editor, Moderate Malnutrition Research Coordinator and Director/Trustee

## Marie McGrath is *Field Exchange* Sub-editor, IFE Core Group Coordinator, MAMI Project Coordinator and Director/Trustee

Carmel Dolan is Technical Director and Field Exchange Digest Co-editor.

Thom Banks is ENN Desk Operations Officer

## Matt Todd is ENN’s Finance Manager

Katherine Kaye is Mailing Assistant

Chloe Angood is Nutritionist/HR support.

*Additional ENN expertise is provided by:*

Orna O’Reilly who designs and produces all of ENNs publications.

Phil Wilks who provides IT expertise.

### Trustees

Jeremy Shoham

Marie McGrath

**Bruce Laurence** is a Consultant in Public Health in Derbyshire, UK. Previously he was Medical Director of the UK-based NGO, Merlin, and has also worked with Oxfam and MSF.

Nigel Milway was a senior executive with British Telecom for over 14 years and is now director of his own own leadership and coaching consultancy.

**Victoria Lack** is a Lecturer in Public Health and Primary Care, at City University, London and spent years working in the field with ACF.

Arabella Duffield is an independent nutritionist with academic and field experience in nutrition and food security, and most recently was a SC UK nutrition advisor.

**Auditors:**

Wenn Townsend