

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Development of the Somalia Nutrition Cluster Strategy and Response Plan

1. Background

The Somalia Nutrition Cluster serves as a critical coordination mechanism aimed at ensuring strategic, timely, and effective emergency nutrition interventions. The cluster's primary objectives include needs assessment, capacity building, response coordination, emergency preparedness, and expanding the reach of emergency nutrition programs in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) at both national and subnational levels.

The Nutrition Cluster is coordinated by a national team, including a Cluster Coordinator, a Deputy Cluster Coordinator (WFP), an Information Management Officer (UNICEF), and a Nutrition Cluster Coordinator (IRC). Additionally, five state-level coordinators manage subnational coordination alongside UNICEF and WFP nutrition officers.

Currently, the Nutrition Cluster comprises **82 active members**, including 49 national/local organizations, 25 international NGOs, three government agencies, and three observer organizations. These partners collectively operate over **1,500 nutrition facilities** across Somalia, providing lifesaving services to vulnerable populations.

Despite significant progress in reducing acute malnutrition, Somalia continues to face critical levels of malnutrition, exacerbated by displacement, conflict, food insecurity, and limited access to healthcare. The evolving humanitarian context requires a **strategic realignment** of the Nutrition Cluster's priorities and response mechanisms.

2. Rationale for the Strategy and Response Plan

The **new WHO recommendations on the prevention and treatment of wasting and nutritional oedema** call for an enhanced approach to nutrition programming, including:

- Strengthening **prevention** strategies.
- Mainstreaming nutrition with **WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), and Health** sectors.
- Integration with **Social and Behavior Change (SBC), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), and Child Protection (CP)** frameworks.
- Reinforcing **health and nutrition system linkages** to strengthen Somalia's public healthcare system.

- Development of a **Cluster Advocacy Strategy** to enhance visibility, engagement, and policy influence.
- Establishment of a **Resource Mobilization Strategy** to ensure sustainable funding for nutrition interventions.
- Development of a **Cluster Rationalization Strategy** to optimize resource allocation and avoid duplication of services.

Additional emerging priorities include:

- **Prevention of aid diversion (PDAD)** to enhance accountability and transparency.
- **Digitization of nutrition records and real-time monitoring** to improve program oversight.
- **School nutrition and adolescent nutrition** as part of broader nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- **Resource optimization and rationalization** amid declining humanitarian funding.

The **Somalia Nutrition Cluster Strategy and Response Plan (2025-2028)** will align with current global best practices, Somalia's **MIYCAN guidelines**, and the new **WHO recommendations**, ensuring a **cohesive and streamlined** response to the country's evolving nutrition needs.

3. Purpose of the Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop a **Nutrition Cluster Strategy and Response Plan** that enables partners to respond effectively and efficiently to the evolving nutrition landscape in Somalia. The strategy will provide a **clear framework** for emergency response, protracted crisis interventions, and recovery efforts.

4. Scope of Work

The consultant will work under the guidance of the **Nutrition Cluster Coordinator**, in close collaboration with **FMOH, partners, and other key sectors**. The assignment will include:

- **Reviewing relevant documents, strategies, and guidelines** to ensure alignment with national and international frameworks.
- **Developing a structured Nutrition Cluster Strategy and Response Plan**, covering:
 - Emergency response strategies for **acute crises, protracted crises, and early recovery**.

- **Operational strategies** for urban, rural, IDP, and hard-to-reach areas.
 - Mainstreaming of **AAP, SBC, CP, PDAD, and digitization**.
 - Integration with **SUN and other multi-sectoral forums**.
 - Defining **priority indicators** to monitor and measure progress.
 - Clarifying the role of **Technical Working Groups (TWGs)** within the Cluster.
 - Identifying **gaps, challenges, and key recommendations** for program improvement.
 - Development of a **Cluster Advocacy Strategy** to enhance visibility, engagement, and policy influence.
 - Establishment of a **Resource Mobilization Strategy** to ensure sustainable funding for nutrition interventions.
 - Development of a **Cluster Rationalization Strategy** to optimize resource allocation and reduce duplication of services.
- **Conducting virtual and in-person workshops** to solicit feedback from all stakeholders.
 - **Finalizing and disseminating the endorsed strategy and response plan.**

5. Deliverables and Timeline

Task	Deliverable	Timeline
Review of key documents	Assignment work plan developed	1 week
Develop initial draft	Zero draft of the Somalia Nutrition Cluster Strategy and Response Plan	3 weeks
Stakeholder consultations	Virtual & in-person workshops to gather feedback	1 week
Incorporate feedback and finalize document	Final Nutrition Cluster Strategy and Response Plan (2025-2028)	1 week

6. Qualifications and Experience

The consultant should have:

- **Advanced degree** in Public Health, Nutrition, or a related field.
- **Minimum 7 years of experience** in nutrition programming and humanitarian response.
- Demonstrated experience in **developing sector-wide strategies** and response plans.
- Knowledge of **WHO guidelines, Sphere Standards, and humanitarian coordination mechanisms**.
- Strong skills in **stakeholder engagement, multi-sector integration, and strategic planning**.
- Excellent **analytical, writing, and facilitation skills**.
- Familiarity with the **Somalia context and nutrition landscape** is an asset.

7. Reporting and Coordination

The consultant will report directly to the **Somalia Nutrition Cluster Coordinator**, with oversight from the **Nutrition Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and the Recruiting Agency (WHH)**. Regular updates will be provided to the Cluster partners, FMOH, and key stakeholders.

8. Resources and Support

The consultant will have access to:

- **Relevant Cluster and MoH documents.**
- **Stakeholder interviews and workshops.**
- **Technical guidance from the Nutrition Cluster team.**
- **Administrative and logistical support as needed.**

9. Budget and Payment Terms

The total consultancy budget will be determined based on the **level of effort and deliverables**.

10. Application Process

Interested candidates should submit:

- **A CV and cover letter** highlighting relevant experience.
- **A technical proposal** outlining their approach to developing the strategy.
- **A financial proposal** with a detailed budget breakdown.