

Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition



Advice | Guidance | Expertise | Learning

Supporting countries in humanitarian situations to meet the nutrition rights and needs of people affected by emergency

What is Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?

A common global approach endorsed by over 40 Global Nutrition Cluster partners to provide systematic, predictable, timely and coordinated nutrition technical support to countries in order to meet the nutrition rights and needs of people affected by emergencies. The Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition (GTAM) is co-led by UNICEF as the Cluster Lead Agency & World Vision.

What is the composition of the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?

The GTAM is composed of a core team that includes UNICEF, World Vision, Emergency Nutrition Network, Technical Rapid Response Team, and the Global Nutrition Cluster Coordinating Team. The core team works with nutrition partners and with existing Global Thematic Working Groups (GTWG) to meet the country technical needs. Some examples of existing GTWGs that the GTAM would engage with include, the Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) Core Group, No Wasted Lives,

Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), The Council for Research and Technical Advice on Acute Malnutrition

Why Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?

A glaring absence of leadership and coordinated approach among global partners in providing technical support to countries on nutrition in emergencies was experienced by many stakeholders. This was also confirmed in two studies^{1,2}. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, limited technical coherence, delayed and inadequate response to country nutrition technical needs, the GTAM therefore aims to:

- Provide coherent technical guidance across a range of resources
- Facilitate easy access to technical resources
- Ensure that countries are able to secure technical support at the right time
- Effectively meet country technical advice and guidance needs in real time
- Bring order and excellence to the provision of technical support to countries

What does the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition do?

When country and regional capacities are exhausted, any unresolved technical issues will be escalated to the GTAM.

Depending on the issue, the GTAM will:

Provide technical advice

Provide feedback to questions from individuals working in countries in emergencies within a relatively short timeframe, primarily when normative guidance exists and is available.

Facilitate consensus driven guidance

Identify and address the need for developing interim operational guidance in order to enable a specific emergency response.

Provide specialized technical expertise

Secure specific technical expertise that a country needs in order to deliver results for nutrition. The technical expertise support might be in form of deployments or remote support of technical staff as well as capacity building.

What are the benefits of the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism for Nutrition?

Provides a platform for countries to access technical resources

Leverages and maximizes existing global, regional and country capacity

Provides a clear & predictable process to efficiently respond to the technical needs of NiE practitioners

Reduces time NiE practitioners take to find a technical resource

Flags priority areas for guidance and knowledge generation

Promotes and coordinates learning



For more information contact: Ruth Situma, rsituma@unicef.org & Juliane Gross juliane.gross@wveu.org

1 Rapid Response Team Evaluation (2014)

2 Position of the Global Nutrition Cluster on Providing Technical Support to Country Clusters by Save the Children USA, 2015