



September 19, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to re-affirm our commitment to do everything we can to support your efforts to reduce malnutrition among children and families. In a climate of increased challenges and heightened expectations for results, it is only by working together that we can help children have the best possible start towards a healthy and productive life.

Last year, we updated our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify our respective roles and responsibilities, and we expect to start a process in the fall to provide further clarification based on ongoing feedback from the country level. For now, we would like to highlight and build on a few themes from the current agreement to respond to recurring challenges.

For the reduction of stunting, WFP's entry point is food security, specifically, improving access to adequate, nutritious food; supporting the development of associated policy; supporting home based and other fortification efforts. The entry point for UNICEF is health and caring practices, specifically, improving maternal, infant and young child feeding, providing micronutrient supplements and food fortification, as well as supporting the development of relevant policy.

For acute malnutrition, WFP focuses on the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, whereas UNICEF focuses on the prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition. Experience has shown that a close linkage of these programs leads to improved prevention and treatment, reduced child mortality and more cost effective supply chain management.

We encourage you to meet regularly to avoid gaps or duplication in our collective efforts to reduce malnutrition, and to maximize opportunities to work together. Our complementary cluster leadership responsibilities provide a good opportunity to encourage further collaboration. In addition, any concerns or disputes that cannot be quickly resolved locally should be referred to the Regional Directors or to Headquarters for clarification or additional support.

This spirit of enhanced collaboration, transparent dialogue and information sharing should guide all our efforts. Together, we can strengthen our response and achieve better results for the people we jointly serve.

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