



Terms of Reference
Global Nutrition Cluster
Inter-Sectoral Collaboration Working Group (ISC-WG)
08 March 2021

The Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) Inter-Sectoral Collaboration Working Group (ISC-WG) provides strategic and technical support to the GNC to guide its engagement in inter-sectoral collaboration at country and global level. The group is comprised of representatives from GNC partners and country-level coordination teams with expertise and interest in nutrition-sensitive programming and inter-sectoral collaboration.

1. Background

The GNC has always contributed to bilateral and multilateral collaboration with other sectors to address malnutrition and wider multidimensional vulnerability. A particularly close collaboration with the Global Food Security Cluster has been fostered through the inter-cluster nutrition working group since 2012. As the GNC continues to broaden its Inter-Sectoral Collaboration (ISC) with the Global Health, WASH, Food Security and other clusters, there is a need for a working group that can support the GNC in formulating an engagement strategy. This group will help in defining working modalities and projects to develop and sustain effective collaborations with other sectors/clusters in bilateral or multilateral initiatives. The GNC aims to build on past and current efforts to ensure closer and more extensive collaboration with Food Security, WASH, Health, and other sectors/clusters, to prevent and treat malnutrition and other multi-dimensional risks.

2. Goal of the ISC-WG

The ISC-WG will support the GNC in maximizing opportunities for more effective and efficient collaborations across sectors for the achievement of objectives commonly agreed with other clusters, at the country and global levels.

3. Role of the GNC ISC-WG

The ISC-WG members will support the ISC Helpdesk, the GNC Coordination Team (GNC CT) and GNC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) in:

- Setting the strategic direction and proposing key decisions related to maximizing GNC's efficacy and effectiveness in ISC at country and global level;
- Assist the GNC in formulating and regularly updating inter-sectoral collaboration strategies to address current needs and prepare for future crises;

- Develop and guide the implementation of the GNC workplan for ISC;
- Actively contribute to bilateral and multilateral fora such as the Global Cluster's Inter Sectoral Platform (ISP), as and when required;
- Monitor the GNC's progress towards the ISC workplan and suggest revision to plans as needed.

Detailed activities of the ISC WG will be agreed by members of the ISC-WG and documented in the workplan, along with monitoring indicators.

3. Composition and membership of the ISC-WG

Membership of the group consists of GNC partners and Nutrition Cluster Coordinators. Membership is for GNC partner organizations rather than individuals. Each member organization is requested to nominate at least one focal person to ensure consistency in representation and to facilitate communication. The focal point would ideally have a level of seniority and experience commensurate with the importance and complexity of ISC development and sustained support.

Membership is also open to National and Sub-national Nutrition Cluster Coordinators.

The ISC-WG is also open to other entities and individuals, such as researchers and academics, national or local development actors, and other sector colleagues in order to enrich the subject matter if and when needed. If those institutions are not members, then they would need to be kept informed of the group's work and invited to participate in specific meetings.

Selected individuals must commit to representing the interests of the GNC and not their own agency's interests.

4. Implementation Arrangements

Members will be expected to attend at least 70 per cent of meetings, which will be held monthly, with ad-hoc meetings were required. There will also be an expectation that members undertake additional activities as outlined in the TOR above. It is essential that the agencies and individuals who take up these positions are committed to fulfilling these responsibilities.

Membership of the group will be evaluated periodically, and non-active members will be removed.

The ISC Helpdesk will act as chair of the group. This will involve engaging partners, calling for meetings, setting the agenda, preparing or consolidating the documents that need to be reviewed, ensuring minutes are taken at every meeting, following up on the action points and reminding pending deliverables. A co-chair will be identified among partners during the first ISC-WG meeting, to be organized on a rotational basis as agreed by the group. The chair and co-chair will ensure impartiality, identify challenges and request support. The chair(s) is (are) responsible for reporting back to the GNC Coordination Team on a regular basis as agreed, and to provide a handover report before leaving the group or the position.

5. Accountability and working methods

- The ISC-WG contributes to the development of the strategic vision for ISC by the GNC and other global Cluster Coordination teams through the ISP and other fora.
- The chairs of the ISC-WG need to ensure the group develops and regularly updates a work plan and monitors its implementation.
- Decisions made by the ISC-WG will be based on consensus, to the extent that this is possible.
- Presence of at least 50 per cent of the ISC-WG members at a meeting constitutes a quorum.
- Meeting outcomes will be recorded in the meeting minutes.
- Agendas and minutes of the ISC-WG meetings/teleconferences will be uploaded on the GNC website.
- The ISC-WG will report to the GNC Annual Meeting on its achievements and constraints.
- While benefitting from the technical and strategic guidance of the ISC-WG, the GNC-CT and the GNC SAG have final accountability for decisions related to the strategy and modalities of the GNC's contribution to ISC.

6. Review of ISC-WG functions

A review of the need of the GNC ISC-WG and its functions will be conducted in December 2021, in consultation with the GNC-CT and GNC SAG, in order to establish next steps for this working group. If required, the WG's ToRs will be reviewed and aligned with the 2022-2025 GNC Strategic Plan.