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Technical Alliance

A photograph of a smiling woman in a grey shirt and a colorful patterned headscarf holding a baby in a blue and black striped shirt. They are in a rural setting with a thatched-roof hut in the background.

GNC MID-YEAR REPORT 2021

Global

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OVERVIEW

The Mid-year Report is an opportunity to take stock of progress, alongside challenges and opportunities encountered and next steps planned. The shadow of COVID-19 still looms large, both in ongoing infections, fatalities and economic fallout, and countries are facing multiple humanitarian crises arising from conflict, climate change and other causes. Demand for operational support from the GNC Technical Support Team (comprising both the GNC Coordination Team and the Technical Alliance) was even higher than at the same point last year. In-country deployments have also resumed though virtual support remains an important feature of the GNC's work.

The first half of 2021 has been a time of reflection on past achievements and planning for the future, with this year's Annual Meeting focused on developing the new GNC Strategy (2022-2025). The GNC collective has fully participated in this exciting phase of growth, and the Strategy and GNC work plan will be launched in the second part of the year.

CONTACTS

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ACRONYMS

CC	- Cluster Coordinator
CCPM	- Cluster coordination performance monitoring
CMAM	- Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
DHIS2	- District Health Information Software 2
ERP	- Emergency Response Preparedness
GTWGs	- Global Thematic Working Groups
HDN	- Humanitarian Development Nexus
IFE	- Infant Feeding in Emergencies
IM	- Information Management
IMO	- Information Management Officer
MAMI	- Management of At Risk Mothers and Infants
NCC	- Nutrition Cluster Coordinator
NiE	- Nutrition in Emergencies
NIS	- Nutrition Information Systems
SBC	- Social Behavioural Change
SUN	- Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

GNC-CT & PARTNERS **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- ★ GNC Virtual Annual Meeting held in June (200+ participants)
 - ★ Part 1: Visioning the Future of the GNC (new strategy)
 - ★ Part 2: Satellite Events (11 webinars)
- ★ Capacity Strengthening Framework/e-learning platform
- ★ Launch of Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) platform pilot in 10 countries
- ★ Global calls for Tigray and Madagascar crises
- ★ Two NCC and four IMO deployments to support 5 country level coordination mechanisms
- ★ Completed 4th round of GNC mentoring programme
- ★ Formation of GNC Advocacy & Communications Working Group

THE ALLIANCE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ Finalized Communications strategy, including development of explanatory video & launch of social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook)
- ★ Finalized Knowledge Management strategy, including learning process to identify technical gaps, learning needs and subsequent knowledge management products
- ★ Gaps identified = documenting processes and difficulties around breastmilk substitutes; learning piece on TST support to local organisations; brief unpacking the differences between using MUAC and Weight-for-height anthropometric criteria
- ★ Resource mobilisation for Alliance activities

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

1



OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

To provide operational support before, during and after a humanitarian crisis to national platforms to ensure quality and timely response

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

63 GNC priority countries (based on [INFORM severity index](#))

51 countries accessed direct support via 1-1 Helpdesk support, webinars & mentoring

34 countries provided data on mid-year achievements for NiE coordination mechanisms (see Country report)

Global Nutrition Cluster | Support Dashboard 2021

January - June 2021



Overview

Summary per country

Helpdesk support

Webinars

Mentoring programme

Deployment

Website statistics



UNICEF regional office grouping | Country

- East Asia and Pacific
- Eastern and Southern Africa
- Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- South Asia
- West and Central Africa

OVERVIEW OF COUNTRIES SUPPORTED

(overview of countries supported by type of support)

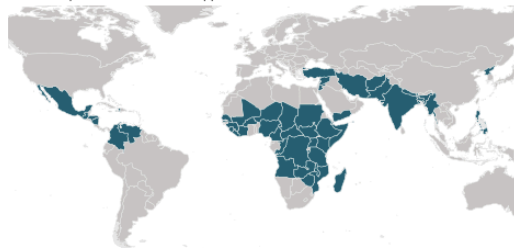
63

GNC priority countries, including

51

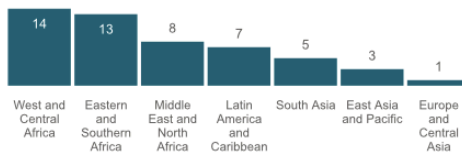
provided with direct support

Countries provided with direct support



Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) Support Dashboard is an information management tool that visually tracks, analyzes and displays key performance indicators regarding GNC operational support to countries. It is real-time monitoring of both direct and indirect support. It is user-friendly with regional and country filter option across several pages for easy navigation.

of countries provided with direct support by UNICEF regional grouping



HELPDESK SUPPORT

(GNC-CT one-on-one support to countries on various thematic areas)

of requests by thematic area



40

countries

225

requests received

WEBINARS

(virtual sessions with country coordination teams on coordination and NIE technical matters)

of countries by UNICEF regional grouping



44

countries

12

webinars

MENTORING PROGRAMME

(mentoring support to new and less experienced mentees)

of mentees by profile



14

countries

17

mentees

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM (TST)

Types of technical support offered by TST

1. Quick remote support (for technical queries or signposting to relevant resources) - **Helpdesks**
2. In-depth remote support (remote working with country-based partner for extended period) - **Deployments**
3. In-country technical support - **Deployments**
4. Consultant recommendations

- ★ Countries can now access support for cluster/sector coordination, information management (IM) and Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) technical support via the GNC-CT & the Alliance Technical Support Team (TST)
- ★ [TST comprises 20 experienced personnel](#), including deployable personnel & Helpdesks, available to provide NiE support
- ★ TST includes former Tech RRT, GNC-CT & UNICEF
- ★ 'Request Support button' (see above) created to align requests to both GNC-CT and the Alliance (work is ongoing to increase its use to manage all requests)

TST HELPDESKS

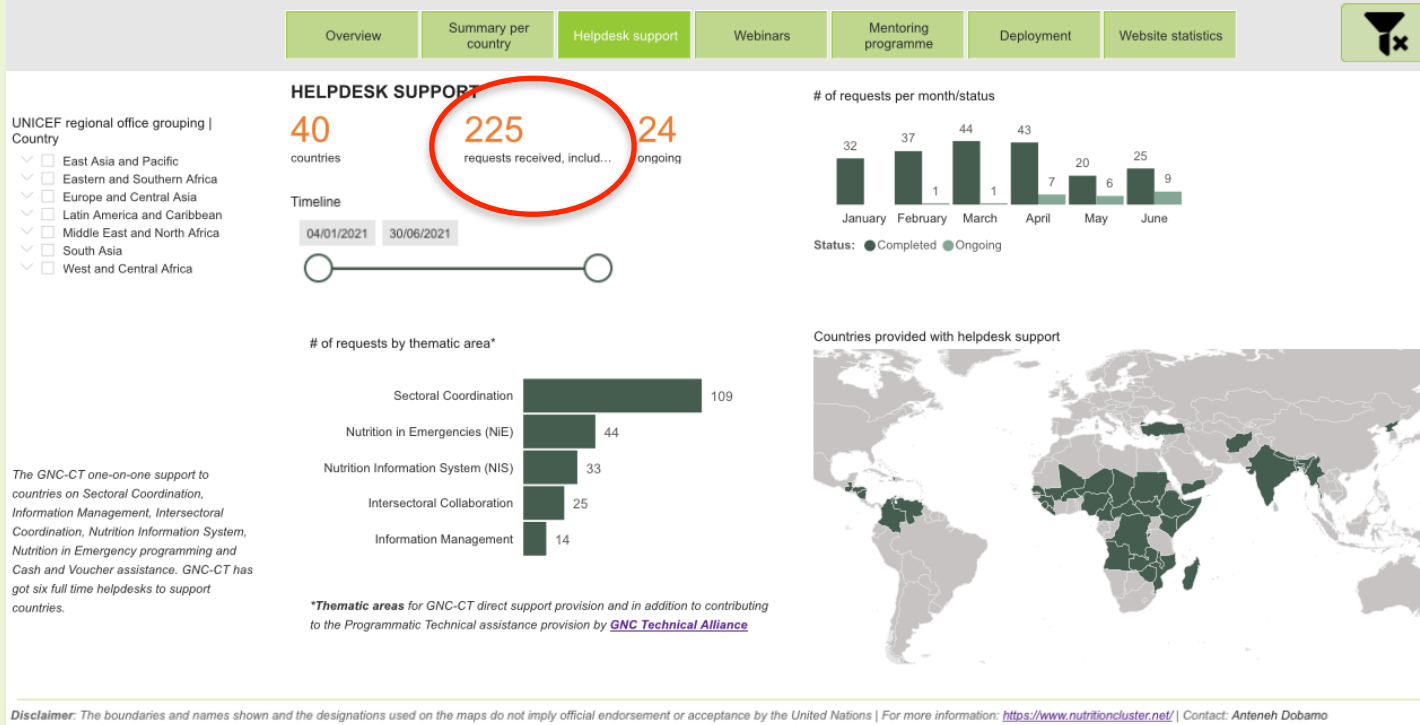
5 Helpdesks responded to 225 requests from 40 countries

- Sectoral/Cluster Coordination (CC)
- Nutrition Information Systems (NIS)
- Information Management (IM)
- Inter-sectoral Collaboration (ISC)
- Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE)

Nearly 50% requests for coordination

Global Nutrition Cluster | Support Dashboard 2021

January - June 2021



TST DEPLOYMENTS FOR COORDINATION & IM SUPPORT

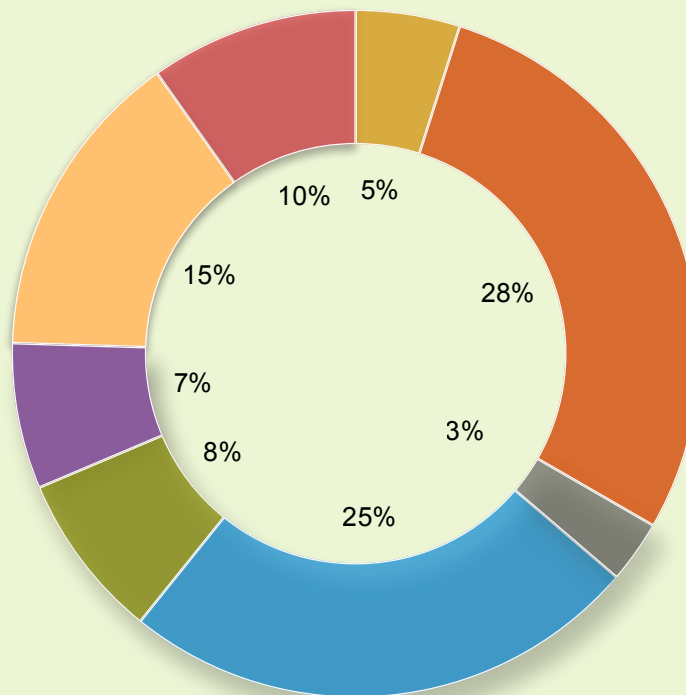
- ★ GNC resumed in-country deployments to provide in-depth support, though remote deployments also continued where travel was restricted due to COVID-19 or other factors
- ★ Total of **6 deployments** to **5 countries**
- ★ **Coordination** (x2):
In-country deployment
(8 weeks) to **Sudan** for interim coordination capacity for nutrition sector

Remote deployment
(12 weeks) to **Myanmar** to strengthen nutrition response coordination following military coup
- ★ **IM** (x3): in-country support to Ethiopia; 2 remote deployments to Mozambique & Sudan

TST TECHNICAL REQUESTS

Types of request by theme *

- Cross cutting themes
- IYCFE
- Micronutrients
- Programmatic NIS
- Other NIE
- Social behaviour change
- Wasting prevention
- No classification



Total number
of requests:

102

* Chart reflects technical requests coming through the Request Support button (Alliance Request Form), with work on-going to increase its use to manage all TST requests, including coordination & IM

TST DEPLOYMENTS FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- ★ **22 pieces of work completed** for in-depth technical support
- ★ **4** all or partly in-country + **18** remote deployments
- ★ Support in **16 different contexts** including: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- ★ 1 piece of NiE support assisted various countries across Latin America
- ★ 2 pieces of SBC support delivered to staff across different contexts for International Medical Corps & Save the Children
- ★ Other support = 5 for IYCF-E, 5 for CMAM, 4 for SBC, 3 for assessments, 3 for general nutrition, 2 for MAMI & 2 for NiE
- ★ 18 requests for consultant recommendation with 6 resulting in hiring of consultants

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- ★ Project to customise existing DHIS2 features for use by nutrition IMO's & other stakeholders: templates for nutrition service delivery - completed
 - new features for additional functionality of data management tasks specific to nutrition operations
 - ongoing
- ★ Induction of staff taking on first cluster IM deployment in **3 countries** (Guatemala, Yemen & Zimbabwe) + on-the-job support & orientation to IM staff in the field in 5 countries (Afghanistan; Burkina Faso; Central African Republic; Gaziantep, Turkey; & Myanmar)
- ★ Support to **6 countries** (Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Guatemala, Madagascar & Yemen) for cluster coordination performance monitoring (CCPM)

GLOBAL THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

- ★ **145 members** of GNC collective engaged in **4 GTWGs**: IFE Core Group (71 members); Wasting (39); new group - Cash for Voucher Assistance (18); NIS (17)
- ★ New GTWG guidance: revision of operational guidance on how to apply WHO's Breastfeeding Counselling in Emergencies course; FAQ on COVID-19 vaccines & considerations for PLWs; guidance on use of multi-sector needs assessments in nutrition
- ★ Revision of guidance on programming in context of supply breaks (ongoing)
- ★ Formation of NIS global task force to support Yemen
- ★ Mechanism established to support funding requests for specific gaps identified

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

2



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Relevant Nutrition Stakeholders (national and global) have the capacity to coordinate a quality and timely response

WEBINARS

12 webinars
(average of 1 every fortnight)

Participants from
44 countries

Wide range of topics, including:
ERP Planning;
lessons from the DRC nutrition response during COVID-19 + providing remote support to an assessment in Turkey

Global NUTRITION CLUSTER
Global Nutrition Cluster | Support Dashboard 2021
January - June 2021

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WEBINARS

44
12

countries webinars

Timeline

23/02/2021

01/06/2021

Webinars conducted

Webinar date	Webinars title	Language	Hyperlink
23/02/2021	Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Planning for Nutrition Coordination Mechanisms (English)	English	🔗
12/05/2021	GNC Partners Call on emergency response for Ethiopia and Madagascar	English	🔗
01/06/2021	GNC Webinar on Inter Sectoral Collaboration	English	🔗
24/03/2021	Nutrition care for children under five with acute malnutrition (English)	English	🔗
24/03/2021	Nutrition care for children under five with acute malnutrition (Spanish)	Spanish	🔗
22/04/2021	Preparación para responder a las urgencias para los mecanismos de coordinación nutricional (ERP en inglés)	Spanish	🔗
17/03/2021	Prevention of malnutrition in children under five - infant and young (English)	English	🔗
17/03/2021	Prevention of malnutrition in children under five - infant and young (Spanish)	Spanish	🔗
10/03/2021	Prevention of malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women (English)	English	🔗
10/03/2021	Prevention of malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women (Spanish)	Spanish	🔗
30/03/2021	Webinaire sur les leçons apprises dans l'intégration de la nutrition dans la réponse à la COVID-19, expérience de la RDC et panel de discussion	French	🔗
23/02/2021	Webinaire: Planification de la préparation des interventions d'urgence (ERP) pour les mécanismes de coordination de la nutrition (Français)	French	🔗

of countries* that participated to webinars by UNICEF regional grouping

West and Central Africa	14
Eastern and Southern Africa	9
Middle East and North Africa	8
Latin America and Caribbean	7
South Asia	3
East Asia and Pacific	2
Europe and Central Asia	1

Countries* that participated to the webinars

Webinars are virtual meetings with country coordination teams on coordination and nutrition in emergency technical matters. The webinars are more of informative in approach, at times can be training activities aimed at ensuring the country coordination teams are well-informed about global tools and guidance that can be adapted to country contexts.

**Only GNC priority countries are included in the list countries that attended webinars.*

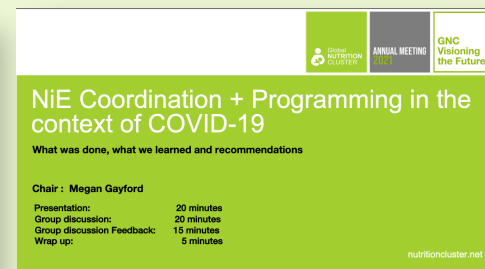
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations | For more information: <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/> | Contact: Anteneh Dobamo

GNC SATELLITE EVENTS

To view the GNC Annual Meeting Satellite Events led or co-led by the GNC-CT and the Alliance, click the image to go the GNC website page and select the video link

[GNC Annual Meeting Report 2021](#)

[View all GNC Annual Meeting Satellite Events](#)



EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS (ERP)



- ★ [ERP introductory webinar](#) with 52 participants from 29 countries
- ★ Bilateral calls with 10 countries included in Phase 1 of the GNC ERP roll-out initiative
- ★ ERP platforms have now been rolled out in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Somalia

TRAINING

- ★ **17 trainings** conducted by the Alliance (6 - NiE; 5 - SBC; 3 - CMAM; 1 - assessment; 1 - IYCF-E; 1- MAMI)
- ★ 925 participants (58% reported being from a national organisation)
- ★ 10 trainings across 5 countries (Nicaragua, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Mozambique), 6 trainings across Latin America & 1 training had participants from 7 countries)

- ★ ERP workshops in Myanmar & Niger from the GNC-CT
- ★ CCPM workshop in Madagascar from the GNC-CT

MENTORING

Completed 4th round of mentoring programme

17 new mentees (14 NCC/3 IMO) from 14 countries

Total **68 mentees** since start of programme in 2019

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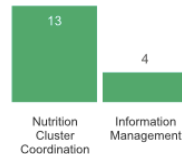
- East Asia and Pacific
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MENTORING PROGRAMME

14
countries

17
mentees

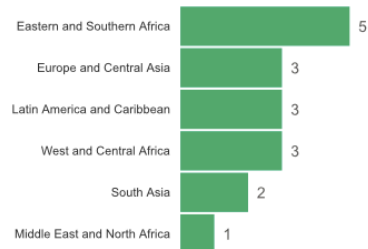
of mentees by profile



of mentees by round of enrollment (2021)



of mentees by UNICEF regional grouping



The mentoring programme is part of GNC-CT capacity development activities. Experienced Cluster coordinators and Information Management Officers provide mentoring support to new and less experienced mentees. The fourth round has started mid-December 2020.

Countries supported through mentoring programme



E-LEARNING



- ★ Development of 75 NCC e-learning modules + 50 IM modules for [GNC Learn](#), in collaboration with RedR UK (BHA funding)
- ★ Defining business case & requirements for a GNC learning management system
- ★ Uploading and testing package of 125 modules on new GNC e-learning platform
- ★ Preparing for pilot launch of modules with targeted learners in a blended format
- ★ Expansion of GNC capacity building approach to the Global Cluster Coordination Unit: harmonisation of strategy, content delivery + development of generic modules for use across clusters, based on common competency frameworks for CC and IM

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

3



INFLUENCING & ADVOCACY

To influence and advocate for improved, integrated and coordinated nutrition response during humanitarian crises

ADVOCACY

- ★ Formation of Advocacy & Communications Working Group
- ★ Developing 'decision tree' with other UNICEF-led clusters, for minimum structure of coordination teams at national & sub-national level, to be used as an advocacy tool for hiring offices
- ★ Developing standard job descriptions with other UNICEF-led clusters, for coordinators & IMOs at national & subnational level to standardize competency requirements for roles worldwide
- ★ Continued engagement with Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Malnutrition Road Map (2021-22); member of global-level steering committee at global level
- ★ Participation in preparation of UN Food Systems Summit

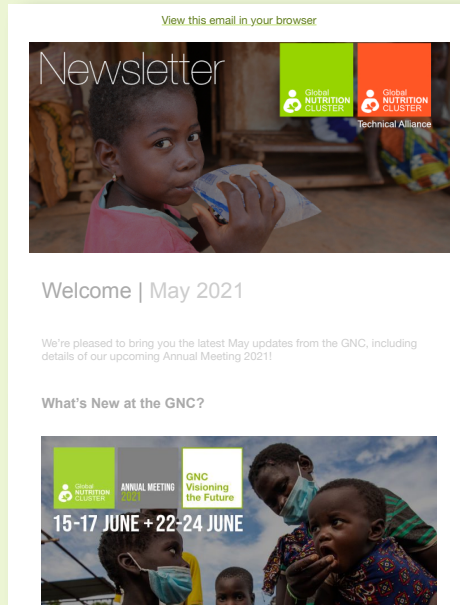
INTER-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

- ★ ISC Working Group relaunched to provide strategic and technical support at country and global level
- ★ ISC webinars/presentations at country level & global cluster Annual Meetings (Health, WASH & Nutrition) to generate understanding of and demand for ISC
- ★ ISC Surveys:
 - With NCCs on ISC work at country level eg multi-sectoral response programming
 - With Health & WASH Global clusters on country-level ISC work including barriers + specific needs for global-level support
- ★ ISC perspective integrated into GNC e-learning modules
- ★ ISC case studies – South Sudan & Yemen French translations & preparatory work for two new case studies (Burkina Faso & DRC)
- ★ Planning for Donor meeting on ISC (October 2021)

HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

- ★ Publication of 3 HDN case studies in English and French (Afghanistan, Myanmar, Niger) on strengthening cluster/sector and SUN Movement collaboration
- ★ Global report on HDN and policy brief with key recommendations, supported by webinars to roll out the guidance
- ★ Development of joint training materials for NCCs and SUN focal points
- ★ GNC part of Governance review working group for development of SUN Movement Strategy, and SUN alignment with GNC Strategy

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT/COMMUNICATIONS



★ Twitter

- **187 new followers** in last 6 months
- High engagement on social media during GNC Annual Meeting
- Alignment of GNC-CT social media with the Alliance (especially Twitter)

★ Email marketing

- **14 mail blasts** since January 2021
- Newsletter redesign & change to monthly frequency
- Increase in subscribers in last 6 months (800 >1900+)
- High engagement, with average 30%+ opens and 10% clicks (above average for the sector)

★ Website engagement

- **190 countries** visited the GNC website in the last 6 months, including 60 GNC priority countries

KEY CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES – GLOBAL (CT & THE ALLIANCE)

- ★ Recommendations from the Alliance Learning Review on COVID 19 response:
 - ★ Include more country-level input for technical guidance development processes & accessible formats for easier contextualization
 - ★ Provide feedback mechanisms to verify that answers provided to questions submitted meet user needs
 - ★ Ensure continuous engagement with countries on available services
- ★ Increased number of high-profile emergencies and requests for remote and on-the-ground support

NEXT STEPS

- ★ Strengthening operational & technical support provided to high profile emergency responses in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Madagascar & Yemen, plus other countries requesting in-depth technical assistance
- ★ Finalizing GNC Strategy (2022-2025) & governance structure
- ★ Guidance for country offices on minimal structure for coordination teams + generic job descriptions for coordination & IM
- ★ Development of GNC Advocacy Strategy (2022-2025)
- ★ Launch of GNC Learn English French & Spanish
- ★ Round 5 of Mentoring programme
- ★ Alignment of new GNC KM Strategy with Alliance KM Strategy
- ★ GTWGs moving forward with key pieces of work to address priority gaps from countries, with funding from BHA



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC



Department
for International
Development



Irish Aid

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Eleanor Crook
Foundation