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GNC AT-A-GLANCE

2022 MID-YEAR REPORT

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GLOBAL

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AAP	- Accountability to Affected Population
(N)CC	- (Nutrition) Cluster Coordinator/ion
CCPM	- Cluster coordination performance monitoring
CCT	- Cross cutting themes
CLA	- Cluster Lead Agency
CMAM	- Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CVA	- Cash and Voucher Assistance
ERP	- Emergency Response Preparedness
GNC CT	- Global Nutrition Cluster Coordination Team
GCCS	- Global Cluster Coordination Section
GTWGs	- Global Thematic Working Groups
HD(P)N	- Humanitarian Development (Peace) Nexus
HPC	- Humanitarian Programme Cycle
IFE	- Infant Feeding in Emergencies
IPC	- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IM(O)	- Information Management (Officer)
ISC	- Inter-sectoral Collaboration
MAMI	- Management of at Risk Mothers and Infants
NCC	- Nutrition Cluster Coordinator
NiE	- Nutrition in Emergencies
NIS	- Nutrition Information Systems
RRT	- Rapid Response Team
SBC	- Social and Behaviour Change
SBP	- Stand-by Partnerships

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OVERVIEW

The mid-year review is developed by the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) and the GNC Technical Alliance (the Alliance) to reflect on progress and achievements from the first half of 2022 and set a path for the future. Achievements are measured against the 2022-2025 Strategy and the 2022 Work Plan.

Direct and in-depth support is provided by the Technical Support Team (TST) which comprises of staff focussed on both Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) technical and NiE coordination support. Notable support from the first half of 2022 included an increase in the mentoring programme and NiE requests. The TST has continued to provide in-country support, with virtual support remaining an important feature of the GNC's work.

While Covid-19 is still active across the world, many other challenges have surfaced that have increased the frequency of and impact from humanitarian crises globally. Crises such as conflict – including the conflict in Ukraine – climate change, displaced populations, rising food insecurities and increases in malnutrition rates in contexts of fragility and during emergencies.

The efforts of the GNC and our partners remains a critical aspect of responding to global emergencies and protecting the nutritional status of affected people.

Thank you,

The GNC and Alliance team

GNC CT & PARTNER **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Official launch of the e-learning platform: GNC Learn.
- Increase in Inter Sectoral collaboration (ISC) with an inter-cluster statement on the drought in Horn of Africa; GNC partners' call with other clusters on Ethiopia, and more scheduled for 2022.
- Preparedness toolkit developed and uploaded to the GNC website – webinars on its use scheduled.
- GNC 2022-2025 Advocacy Strategy developed and uploaded to GNC website.
- Piloted Regional Rapid Response support for both Coordination and Information Management, based in UNICEF East, Horn of Africa, and West Africa regional offices, with plans to continue with dedicated support.

THE ALLIANCE **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- The Leadership Team reviewed and updated the Strategic Intent of the Alliance, continued oversight and implementation of the Alliance Annual workplan.
- Smooth functioning of the Alliances TST, including demonstrably improved coordination support to the Ukraine response.
- Workstreams addressing cross-cutting themes established: Gender, Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN), AAP, Disability, Anti-racism and Localisation.
- The number of GTWG grew to 5, with the MAMI Global Network joining as the MAMI GTWG.
- The Alliance finalised two knowledge management learning products that were identified as *learning needs* in the previous year.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

1

PEOPLE

To support countries, UNICEF as a Cluster Lead Agency, and nutrition partners at subnational, national, regional, and global levels to ensure they are adequately staffed and skilled in order to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, situations of fragility.

ADEQUATE STAFFING

Generic job descriptions for key IM and coordination functions at the national and subnational levels are developed and awaiting approval

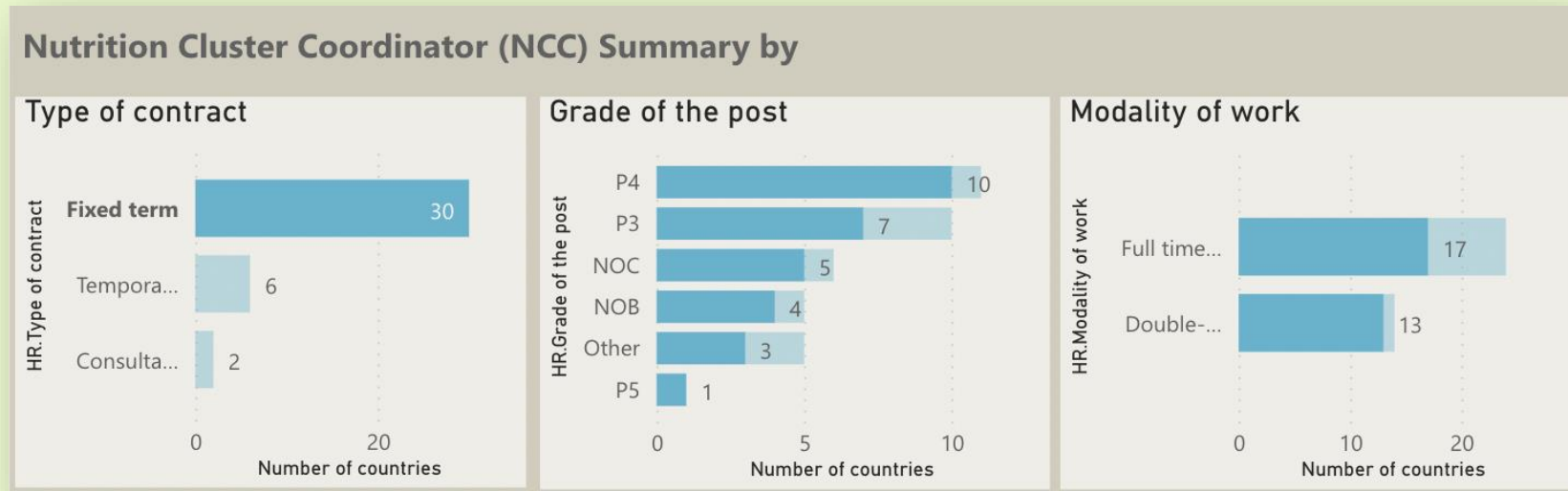
UNICEF as CLA

Guidance has been developed and disseminated for the minimum structure needed for the coordination teams

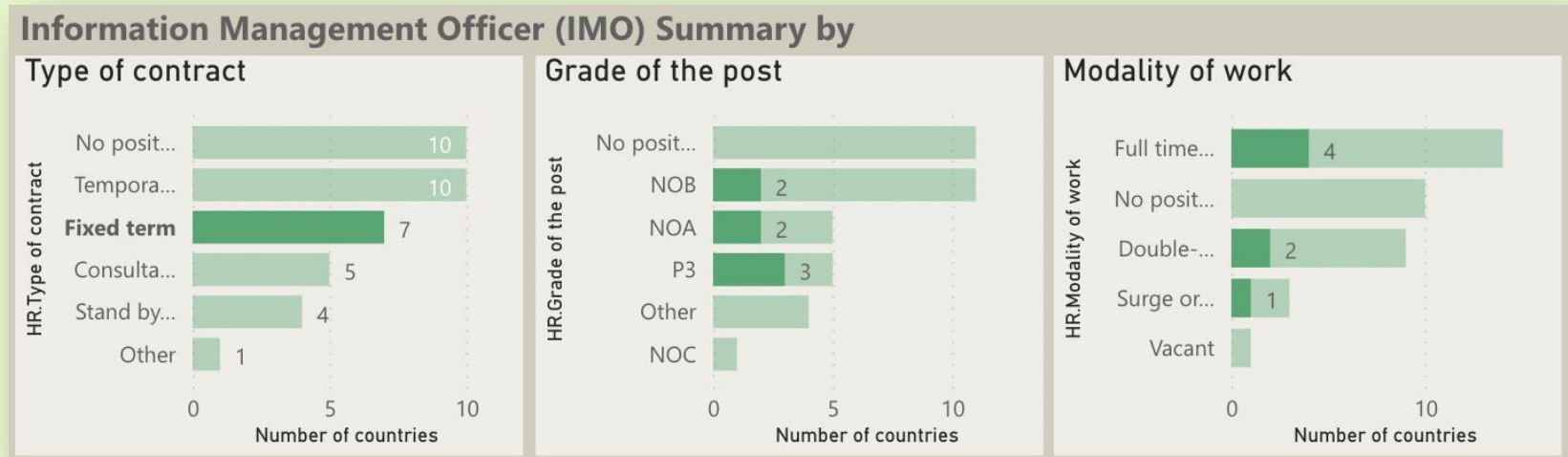
[Review the dashboard](#)

ADEQUATE STAFFING (38 HPC priority countries)

30 HPC priority countries have a fixed (long) term Nutrition Sector/Cluster coordinator in place – 17 are full time dedicated positions and 13 are double hatting



7 HPC priority countries have a fixed (long) term IMO in place – 4 are full time dedicated positions, 2 are double hatting and 1 is supporting other sectors



Staffing is based on national level data only. **Where there were staffing gaps, interim support was provided by SBPs.** Please note that priority countries evolve as contexts change and humanitarian emergencies arise.



GNC
e-learning platform

GNC Learn is an easily accessible platform that allows us to expand training by maximising our efforts to reach more partners globally. **The aim of GNC Learn is to be the *go-to* platform for capacity strengthening** for all individuals, groups and organizations working in nutrition coordination, information management and nutrition in emergencies in general.

[Review the dashboard](#)

- GNC – Learn on AGORA has been widely launched and is accessible to all.
- Users come from **53 countries and five regions**, completing more than **770 modules and courses**.
- 83% of users are local NGOs/CBOs, government, and frontline workers – contributing to GNC localization agenda.
- Three modules on cross-cutting issues – Gender Based Violence, Cash and Voucher Assistance, and Disability – and a large amount of general modules were developed for the [Humanitarian Coordination E-Learning Channel](#) of GCCS.

Future lens

- An additional 6-7 **modules** on Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) will be integrated into both GNC Learn channels (NCC and IMO) by the end of 2022.
- Once developed, modules with practical tips and tools that reinforce capacity support for improved Inter-Sectoral Collaboration (ISC) will be amplified.
- Translating more modules into French, Spanish and Arabic.

- GNC developed two fast-tracked blended learning packages on nutrition coordination.
- DRC, Madagascar, and Somalia received blended training, including one UNICEF regional office (WCARO), totaling 143 participants.

Future lens

- By December 2022, another seven countries will benefit from blended training and similar packages will be developed and rolled out on Information Management.

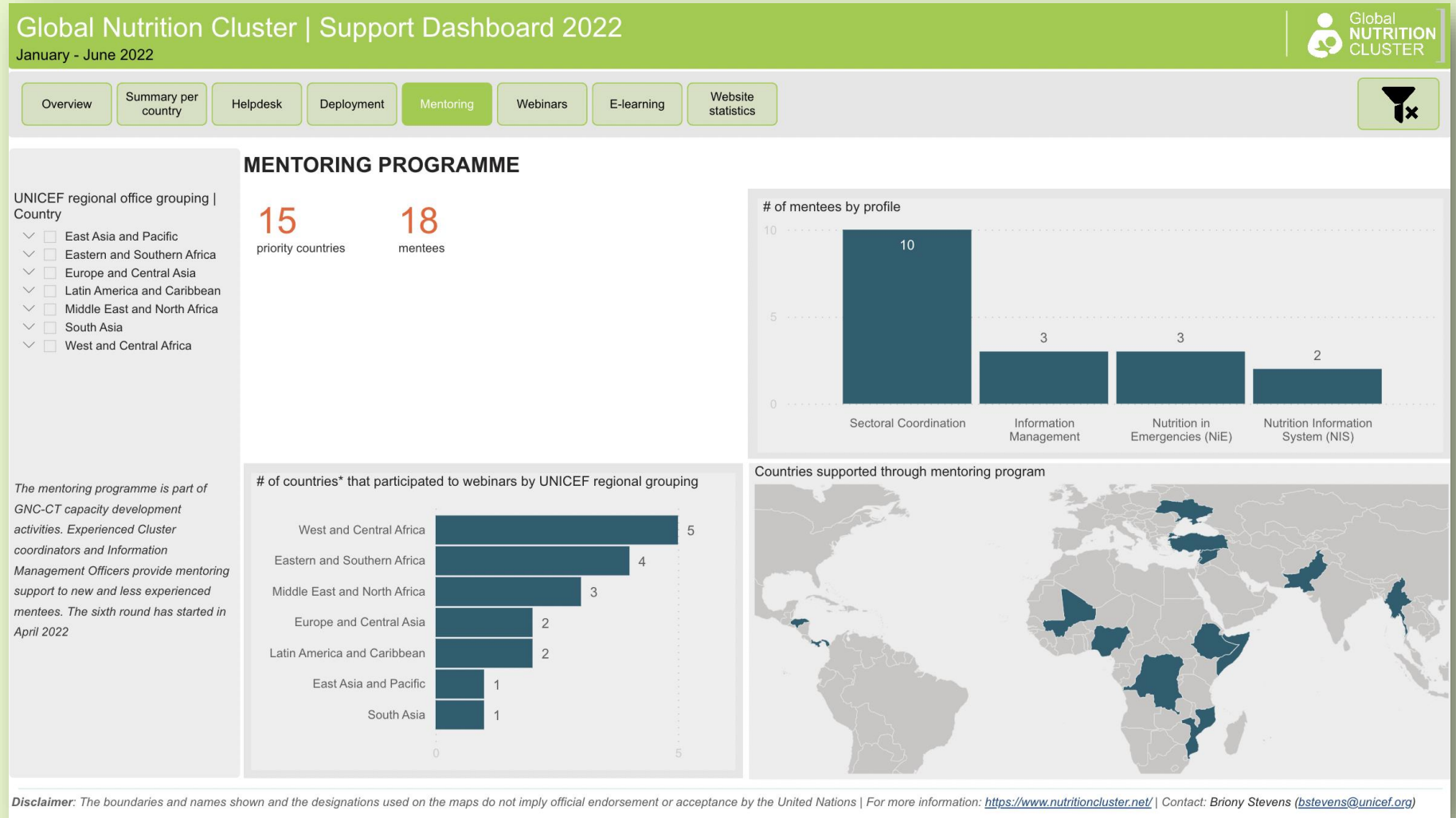
MENTORING PROGRAMME & WEBINARS

The GNC's [mentoring programme](#) aims to strengthen both the knowledge and capacity of **cluster coordinators, IMO and technical working group chairs** to achieve timely and effective nutrition responses through nurturing tailored mentoring partnerships.

We regularly conduct **webinars** to introduce new resources and provide training for newly developed tools, so colleagues, partners, and staff are trained and kept up to date with the most recent GNC developments.

MENTORING PROGRAMME

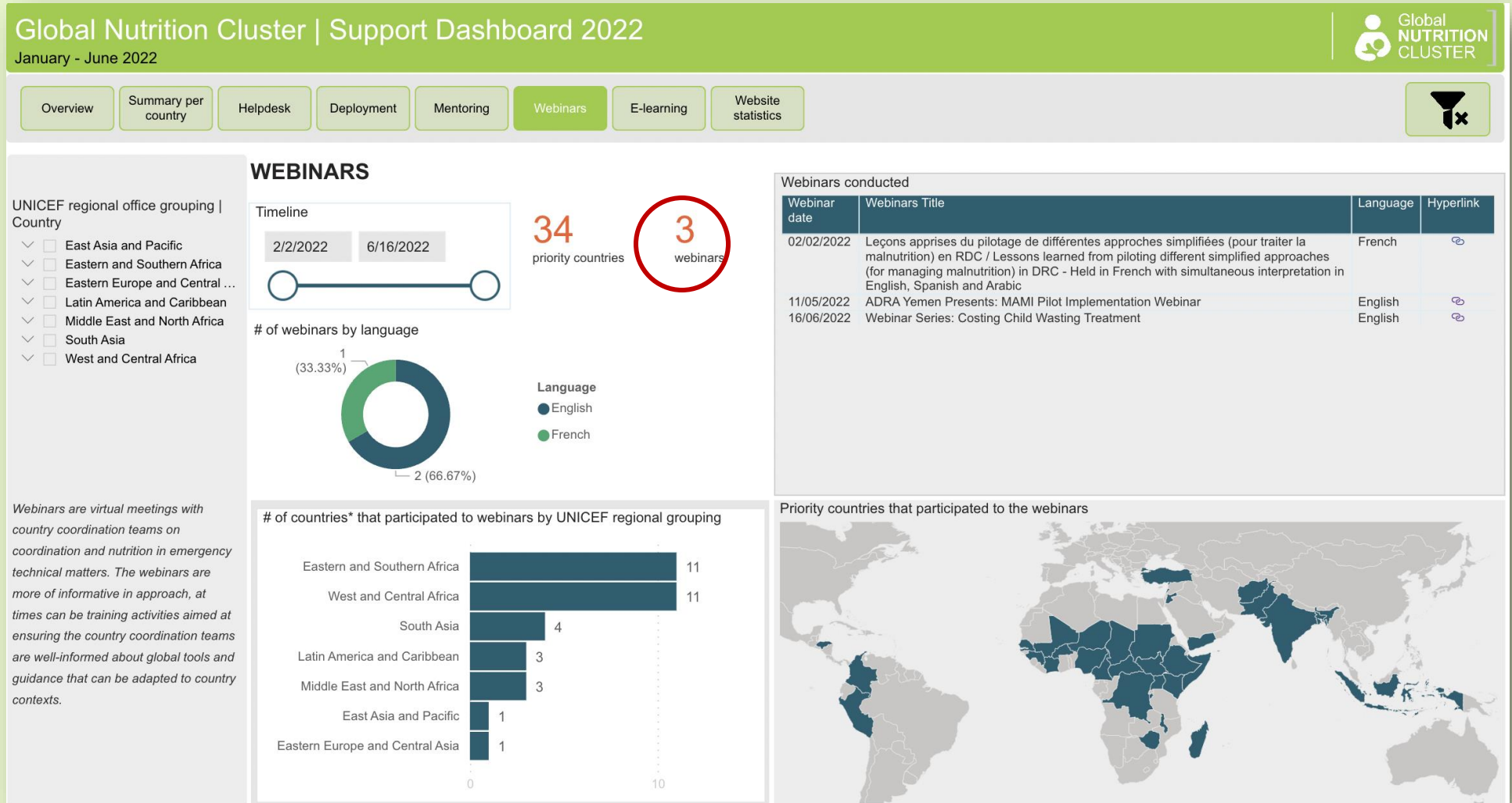
- The 6th round of the GNC Mentoring Programme took place from March until August 31. In total, 18 people were enrolled to be mentored in Coordination, IM, NiE and NIS; however, two mentees were postponed until Q3/Q4 due to mismatching. **This was the first round to include a NIE-specific mentoring stream, which was led and supported by the TST.**



WEBINARS

3 webinars were conducted – totaling more than 290 participants from 34 countries

Range of topics include lessons learned from applying simplified approaches, child wasting treatment, and localisation.



GLOBAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

The number of GTWGs grew from four to five during the reporting period and includes the MAMI Global Network, the IFE Core Group, Nutrition and Cash Voucher Assistance, Wasting, and NIS. More than 215 members from the GNC collective are engaged in the GTWGs.

- **Key questions in response to emerging technical gaps were escalated** to the GTWGs from country-level practitioners. Questions included:
 - Infant feeding in the Ukraine crisis; Harmonization of CVA design; Interpretation of IFE Operational Guidance regarding follow-on formula.
- **Six guidance notes and reports** were published, such as: wasting programming in the absence of nutritional products, guidance on BMS donations specific to Ukraine, a front-line workers training package specific to Ukraine, a report on updating national CMAM guidelines, and a report on CVA for NiE.
- The **IFE Core Group** developed case studies on complementary feeding in emergencies, translated the IFE Operational Guidance into a broad range of languages, conducted a stocktaking on IYCF-E research and developed the [IYCF-E repository](#).
- The **NIS GTWG** held a four-day in-person meeting in Amman to discuss Yemen NIS and provided support to the multi-year NIS planning for the Afghanistan National Nutrition Survey.
- The **Wasting GTWG** explored the ‘cost of inaction’ – not providing timely prevention and treatment activities – using different methodologies to support country-level guidance.
- The **CVA GTWG** began developing capacity strengthening workshops to highlight best practices and ways to overcome challenges in CVA for nutrition programming; mapping CVA best practices for nutrition outcomes report finalised.

Future lens

- The Wasting GTWG will continue to explore costing methodologies and is planning to host subsequent webinars, building on an initial webinar that explores the use of wasting management cost related data for decision making.

**STRATEGIC
PRIORITY**

2



OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

To ensure that nutrition-related decisions and operational support at all levels are guided by timely and sound technical advice, while the documentation of experiences is undertaken and new evidence is generated.

THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM (*TST)

The TST includes highly experienced individuals available to provide support for NiE coordination and NiE programming, including both Helpdesk and deployable staff.

Support is available to any nutrition actor including governments, national and international NGOs, UN agencies, Red Cross/Crescent Societies and others.

*TST consists of GNC CT, NGO-hosted staff, and three UNICEF staff

THE TST

- A new process for matching HR to NiE technical requests was introduced, prioritizing local experts over global – **of the 15 pieces of in-depth support reported, 6 were delivered by regional or national Advisors.**
- Strengthened framework agreements with TST Partners and increased the [consultant roster](#), effectively expanding the pool of available advisors.
- Most in-depth NiE technical requests were analyzed and supported by the Gender Advisor to identify opportunities for gender mainstreaming.
- Work to strengthen technical support to national organisations continues including engaging a consultant team to support development of a localisation strategy.
- **More than 240 quick remote support requests** were fulfilled through the helpdesks encompassing coordination, IM, NiE, NIS, ISC, Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening in French, Spanish and English.

Future lens

- The Gender Advisor will analyze and provide support for *all* NiE technical requests.

TST IN-DEPTH NiE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

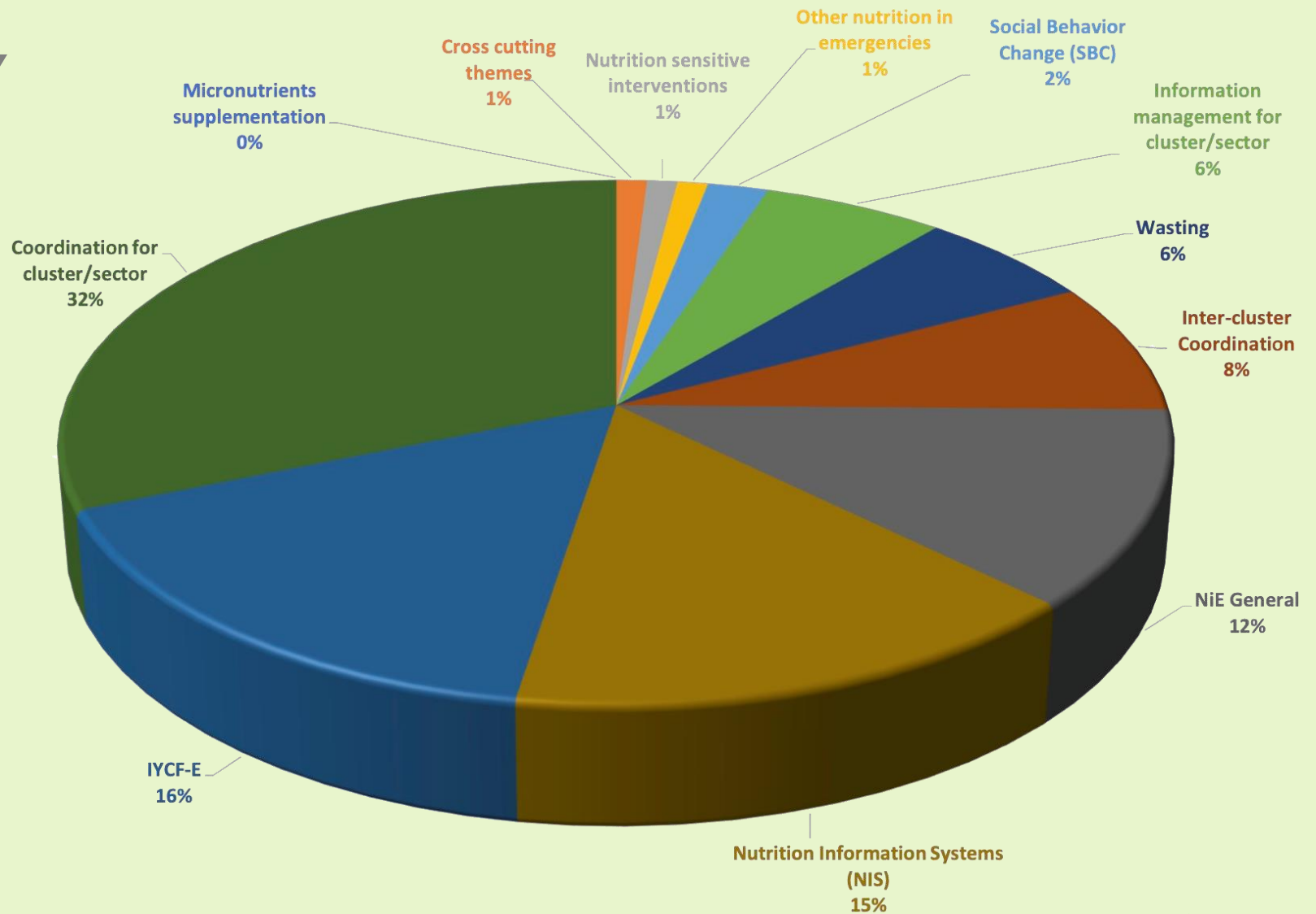
General support in numbers:

- 15 requests for in-depth NiE technical support were started and/or completed:
 - 9 were all or partly in-country; 6 were remote
 - 2 assessment, 3 CMAM, 6 IYCF-E, 1 MAMI, 1 NiE and 2 SBC
- Support was provided to 11 different countries including Afghanistan, Angola, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Honduras, Myanmar, Niger, Somalia, Syria, Uganda and Ukraine, and 1 regional support to Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 18 requests for consultant recommendation with 7 resulting in hiring of consultants (6 for assessment and 1 for IYCF-E).

Country specific support:

- In-country training and on-the-job coaching for **CMAM was provided to the Jubba Valley Development Committee** – a national organisation in Somalia.
- In-country/remote **IYCF-E support was provided to UNICEF Honduras**. Support included a situational analysis, capacity assessment, training, and action plan development.
- Remote support to Ukraine for **IYCF-E was provided**, including development of key messages, a mapping of local lactation specialists, development of a monitoring system for BMS and a joint statement on breastfeeding, as well as technical guidance support for the mother baby spaces.

TST REQUESTS BY THEME



Disclaimer: Coordination helpdesk requests figure reflects Q1 due to staff movements in Q2

Types of support:

1. Quick remote (helpdesk) support (for technical queries or signposting to relevant resources)

2. In-depth technical support (remote or in-country)

3. Vetted consultant recommendations

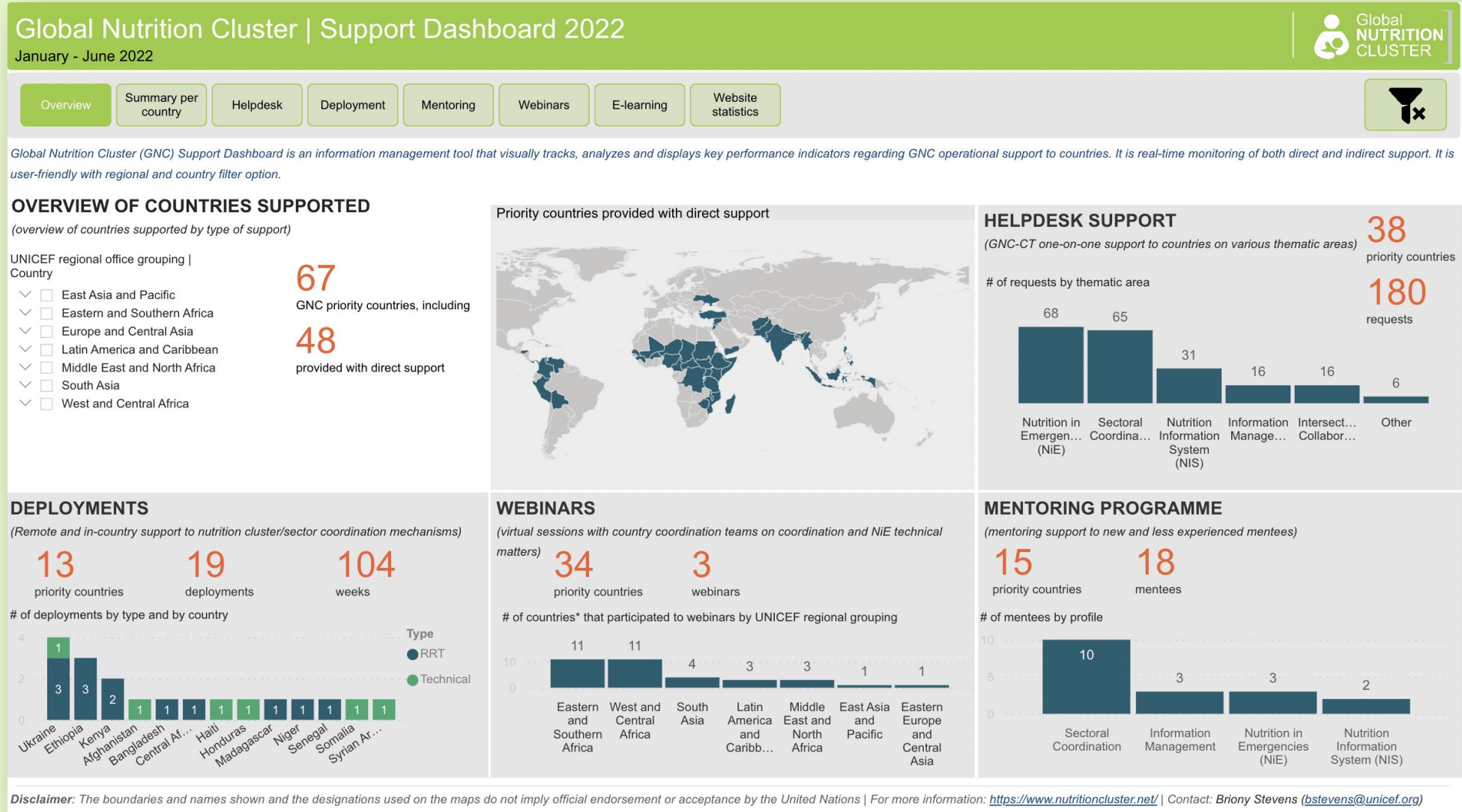
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OVERVIEW

Request Support

Direct support provided to 48 countries:

180 Helpdesk support requests received, from NiE to ISC

In-country and remote support (deployments) provided to 13 priority countries for a combined total of 104 weeks



THE TST HELPDESKS

Request Support

5 Helpdesks responded to 180 requests from 38 countries:

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

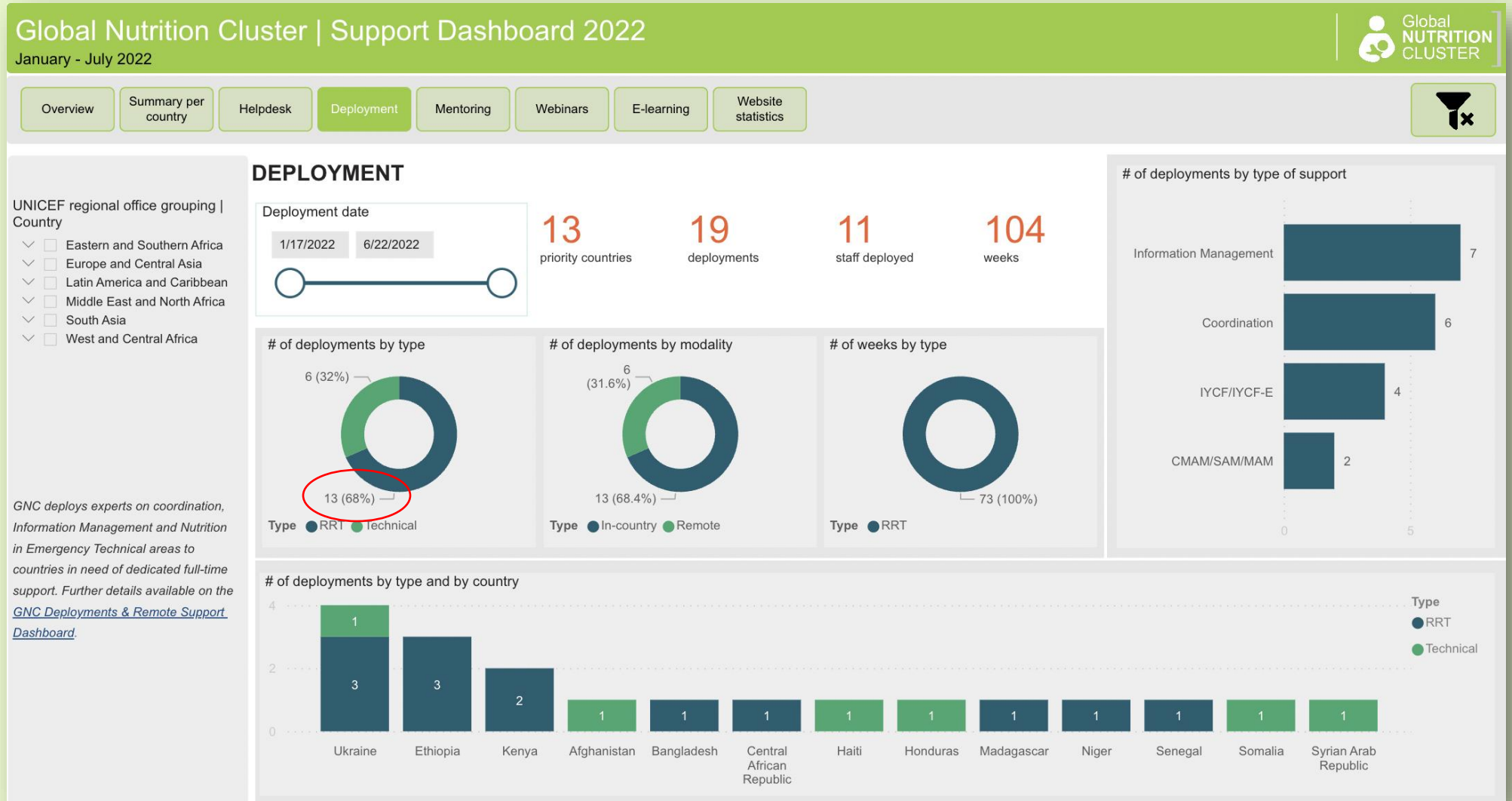


TST IN-DEPTH COORDINATION & IM SUPPORT

Request Support

Total of 13 requests for support from 8 countries – 7 for IMO and 6 for NCC.

4 RRT members fulfilled requests and supplied both in-country and virtual support for over 70 weeks, combined.





➔ *How prepared is your Nutrition Cluster / sector to respond to the next emergency?*

➔ *Why is it important to have an emergency response plan?*

➔ *How would you evaluate your Nutrition Cluster current level of Nutrition emergency preparedness?*

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS (ERP)

To strengthen all nutrition clusters' capacities to reach a higher level of preparedness and increase early and timely nutrition responses in emergencies, the GNC revised its existing preparedness guidance and developed several additional tools to support standardizing and systematizing the ERP approach in countries.

The [toolkit](#) includes:

- An ERP step-by-step guide with accompanying 2-pager.
- A multi-risk ERP plan template.
- A preparedness actions workplan template.
- ERP online forms to support each step of the planning process and build an ERP plan dashboard.
- An ERP workshop package – for a Country level workshop for Nutrition Clusters/sectors to facilitate their ERP process independently, with minimal external support.

Future lens

- In July and August 2022, two global virtual workshops were organized to coach Nutrition Cluster Coordination teams and UNICEF personnel on the ERP guide and tools. 60 participants from 35+ countries were targeted.
- In September 2022, ERP-specific eLearning modules will be developed and integrated into the GNC Learn platform to promote the mainstreaming of ERP in all components of the Nutrition cluster work.

CROSS- CUTTING THEMES

Cross-cutting themes (CCT) are those that are not technical in nature and are not limited to nutrition but are important for ensuring good quality programming.

The priority cross cutting themes for the GNC are: AAP, Disability, HDPN, Localisation and Anti-racism, and Gender.

- Joining existing workstreams for Anti-racism and Localisation, and Gender/Gender Based Violence, **the GNC Strategy now includes a focus on five key cross-cutting themes (CCT)** for NiE: AAP, HDPN, Localisation and Anti-racism, Disability and Gender. Dedicated workstreams have been developed for these new themes.
- All workstreams are developing terms of reference (ToR) and identifying focal points.
- All workstreams meet regularly to strengthen the scope of the CCTs link to NiE responses.
- Members of CCT workstreams include the GNC team, the Leadership Team at the Alliance, TST, and subject matter experts / key resource people.
- Localisation workstream addresses Anti-racism, recognizing the importance of equity in achieving localisation objectives.
- HDN workstream renamed as HDPN – "Humanitarian, development and peace actions all have a role to play in many crises: humanitarian response to save lives and protect people, development assistance to address multi-dimensional structural challenges, and peace action to ensure that countries can sustain peace."

Future lens

- All workstreams, including AAP, will broaden membership in Q3-4 2022.
- The TST now has a Gender Advisor – a dedicated resource for all TST support to be gender-sensitive and to identify opportunities at country level for more gender-responsive programming.

COMMUNICATIONS

The role of communications is to develop, publish, and promote key communication products and maintain consistency and alignment across all communications, both internally and externally, to raise the visibility of the GNC.

- Website
 - Created new [landing page](#) to explain relationship between GNC CT and the Alliance.
 - Began website refresh: replacing outdated resources and links.
- Email marketing
 - 9 email blasts, including 6 monthly newsletters from January to June.
 - Reformatted and streamlined newsletter to include a global focus advocacy section.
 - High engagement, with an average 35% open rate and an increase of more than 300 subscribers in 6 months.
- Social Media (GNC CT & the Alliance)
 - Twitter: 137 new followers.
 - LinkedIn followers increased by 334%.
- Involvement in two working groups
 - Financing WG – co-leading development of Nutrition Financing Report.
 - Advocacy & Communications WG.

Future lens

- Leverage GTWG, Advocacy and Comms WG, and Finance WG to help elevate the GNC identity.
- Develop a multi-year Communication Strategy.
- Create an organizational narrative to drive all messaging.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The Alliance develops knowledge management products based on identified learning and knowledge gaps. Gaps are identified during monthly meetings where common emerging themes in question are analysed and best mechanisms to explore such themes are identified as outlined in the Alliance's KM Strategy.

During the reporting period, the Alliance finalised two learning products that were identified as *learning needs* in the previous year.

These included:

- A learning piece on ‘How local NGOs can receive technical support from the Alliance?’ The [localization packet](#) is available in multiple languages with an accompanying podcast.
- A [learning piece](#) on ‘A brief overview of the debate around anthropometric measurements for identifying children requiring nutrition treatment.’

Future lens

- Currently developing documentation on the lessons learnt on the implementation of infant feeding in emergencies programming within the Ukraine emergency response, as well as further documenting working with local actors.
- A light touch mapping of research gaps is in progress and will be disseminated upon completion.



**STRATEGIC
PRIORITY**

3

BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

To be a driver of change for improved collaboration, partnerships, and innovation on nutrition to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, situations of fragility at the global, regional, national, and subnational level; and, creating a supportive financial and policy environment, both internally and externally, to strengthen technical and coordination capacity for nutrition in situations of fragility.

ADVOCACY / **HDPN**

GNC Advocacy efforts include **strengthening coordination** for nutrition in contexts of fragility and **scaling up intersectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-year action** and financing to prepare for, respond to, and recover from nutrition shocks during emergencies.

- Finalized and published the 2022-2025 [GNC Advocacy Strategy](#) and a workplan was developed.
- **Established two working groups (WG)** – the Global Advocacy and Communication WG and the Financing WG – to create a supportive financial and policy environment to strengthen technical and coordination capacity.
- Key global advocacy networks mapped for engagement - ensuring the GNC contributes to shape the global and national narrative on nutrition and fostering alignment between humanitarian and development nutrition advocacy across the HDPN.
- Established the Advocacy Helpdesk and responded to **24 requests for support**, including to strengthen coordination structures and support the development of country advocacy strategies to advance ISC.
- **Continuing to work with SUN Movement** with joint conversations in the GNC Advocacy WG and the Financing WG to align humanitarian and development priorities and plans (e.g. the SUN newly created Convergence hub).
- **Strengthened collaboration with the GNC Communication Specialist** – developed collaborative talking points, messaging for key meetings and a monthly advocacy article in GNC newsletter.
- Developed several [advocacy tools](#) to support country advocacy efforts, including: a 10-step approach to develop an advocacy strategy and the process to develop advocacy notes.

Future lens

- Alignment of coordinated and consistent messaging to create and further support an enabling environment using collective effort.

INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION (ISC)

Effective **inter-sectoral collaboration (ISC)** is an essential part of any emergency response.

In addition to collaborating with all critical humanitarian sectors, the Global Food Security, Health, Nutrition and WASH clusters are committed to work together at the global level to support country clusters to respond to crisis scenarios. The four clusters have an ISC helpdesk linking country needs to joint guidance and tool development.

- Held monthly partner calls, led by the ISC Working Group, and **the first joint partner call** with the Global Food Security, Health and WASH clusters was held in early July for Ethiopia – Somalia and Kenya soon to follow.
- A **joint statement** was issued calling for coordinated action and urgent investments to prevent widespread catastrophe for 12 priority countries.
- An assessment to understand the level of ISC programming was conducted in the 12 priority countries – all countries have joint response planning but only half conduct ISC activities.
- **Strong collaboration with the Advocacy Helpdesk** to develop tools such as advocacy statements and guidance to address funding issues and offer support to countries to develop their advocacy strategy with an ISC angle.
- **Provided consistent support to countries** for launching ISC approach (e.g. Mali); provided inputs into strategic documents / advocacy notes (e.g. CAR); identified monitoring indicators to track ISC project outcomes (e.g. Burkina Faso); participated in national workshops to clear monitoring indicators to reflect best ISC project outcomes (e.g. Yemen).

Future lens

- Scale-up and strengthen joint monitoring, advocacy, and funding efforts at the global level and align priorities with the four global clusters.
- Increase ISC collaboration and activities in the 12 priority countries.

CHALLENGES OPPORTUNITIES NEXT STEPS

The objective / aim of the GNC and our partners is to support countries as they prepare for, respond to and recover from nutrition emergencies or in context of fragility. Regardless of efforts, challenges and gaps are a natural part of any emergency. Identifying challenges gives us an opportunity to address what is working and what needs improvement and use them as a guide for next steps.

KEY CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Country staffing gaps – currently there is no reporting system in place to track subnational staff recruitment.
- GNC-CT capacity overstretched in Q1-Q3 of 2022: protracted vacancy of deputy GNC coordinators has resulted in multiple double-hatting during a time of increased need. This gap has now been addressed.
- Delayed recruitment to fill vacant leadership roles has resulted in double-hatting during a time of high need from the GNC. Update: this gap has been addressed and interim support will be provided in Q3 2022.
- Gaps across cross-cutting themes work streams – in the process of hiring a consultant to support harmonization of efforts across CCTs.
- Unprecedented increase in RRT support requests in 2022 – additional capacity and advocacy for more specific support to East and West Africa countries will be sought, with the highest number of L2-L3.

NEXT STEPS

- Develop a donor engagement strategy for global support in achieving the GNC strategic objectives.
- Finalize the Knowledge Management Strategy.
- GNC priority countries will receive support to strengthen their preparedness and ensure development of Nutrition ERP plans; the recently developed ERP toolkit will be translated in French and Spanish; one additional global virtual ERP workshop will be organized.
- The TST has been working on localisation since 2020 with the aim of improving the support provided to national organizations. A consultancy team was engaged in Q2 and will continue strengthening this area of work into 2023.
- GNC Annual meeting to be postponed to January 2023 due to major scale up of service delivery in Q2-Q4 of 2022 and important changes to wasting care requiring support and documentation.
- The TST members retreat in November 2022 – plan for the 2022/2023 GNC Annual Meeting, measure progress against the 2022 Workplan, and develop 2023 Workplan.