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Topic: Food and nutrition security

Title: Overcoming nutrition information challenges in Emergency: Lesson learnt from South Sudan

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Type of session: Skills-Building Workshop

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Purpose:

Since 2013, the nutrition information systems in South Sudan, once weak and unreliable, have been transformed into a well-developed system supported by government, donors and Nutrition Cluster (NC) partners. This case study identifies the challenges to nutrition information and coordination raised in the aftermath of the 2013 conflict and how the Nutrition Cluster (NC) has addressed these. This articles is a summary that captures and intended to disseminate knowledge about the Nutrition Cluster experiences of responding to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies.

Motivation:

Since 2013, ongoing conflict has led to mass population displacement; resulting in a large scale, challenging humanitarian response in South Sudan. The Nutrition Cluster has been active since 2010, co-chaired by the MoH and UNICEF. Cluster coordination is well capacitated, supported by equally strong UNICEF technical and information management capacity. A Strategic Advisory Group and Working Groups support cluster activities. The NC has prioritised information management due to significant gaps impeding programming quality and coverage. Actions have included development of a validation process for SMART surveys (with ACF and CDC support); training of partners and government; development of a nutrition information system; harmonisation of

MAM/SAM reporting; and successful advocacy to integrate nutrition indicators in the Food Security Monitoring System. Strong leadership, cluster independence from UNICEF's technical role, and transparent communication with engaged partners have been critical to successes. Outstanding challenges include capacity in information management, engagement with development actors in preparedness planning and sustainability of staff and funding. This presentation will be a cross cutting across all the different themes as management of information is key to prompt interventions and programming and therefore is expected to capture interest of the participants in the audience. This document is developed in collaborations with Global nutrition cluster, Emergency Nutrition Network, South Sudan Nutrition Cluster and UNICEF. The presentation will help the audience appreciate the common challenges in nutrition information in emergencies, innovative methods used to overcome as well as outstanding challenges to date.

Disclosure of conflict of interest:

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. Both authors are employed with UNICEF and the case study was developed out of the routine response to the emergency intervention in South Sudan.