

Emergency Nutrition Network

Annual Report

1 February 2006 – 31 January 2007

Introduction

The urgent need to improve practice and strengthen institutional memory of humanitarian agencies involved in the food and nutrition sector of emergencies was identified following a number of emergency programme evaluations in the mid 1990s, e.g. the Great Lakes emergency in 1994/5. The ENN was set up in 1996 by an inter-agency group of humanitarian organisations expressly to bring this about, and the ENNs flagship publication, Field Exchange, was developed as the main means of achieving this. Since its inception, the ENN has developed a range of complementary activities including production of Special Supplements on areas of cutting edge programming, production of training materials and policy guidance on Infant Feeding in Emergencies, research initiatives, and independent reporting on/facilitation of international meetings.

The ENN's Vision

That every individual caught up in a nutritional emergency anywhere in the world gets the most effective help possible.

The ENN's Objective

To improve effectiveness of emergency food and nutrition interventions through identification and dissemination of lessons learnt in the course of operational practice and through research and evaluation.

The ENN's Mission

There are three cross-cutting themes to all of ENN's activities:

- *Building up capacity* - at all levels, from international non-governmental organisations to local community organisations, and, from policy-makers to field workers, to respond more effectively to crises. This involves developing a shared institutional memory of what does and does not work in different crisis situations and delivering that knowledge as widely as possible.
- *Network-building* - so that existing organisations support and learn from each other as much as possible. The overarching purpose of ENN is to speed up the sharing of knowledge. Wherever possible, the ENN seeks to reduce the communication chain.
- *Impartiality and independence* - to be able to report on failures as well as successes, the independence of the ENN is vital. This means ensuring that no one source of income predominates in practice or perception.

The ENNs Activities

The ENN combines a set of activities that all contribute towards accelerated learning and best practice in the sector. The central activity of the ENN is production of a tri-annual publication, Field Exchange, in which field level programming experience are recorded and disseminated in the emergency nutrition sector. Through this medium, ENN contributes to a shared institutional and sectoral memory of what does and does not work in different crisis situations, and aims to deliver this information as widely as possible.

Over the past 11 years, ENN has developed a number of related activities that complement the production of Field Exchange, many of which have been identified through agency staff contributions to Field Exchange and the unique perspective of emergency programming that producing the publication offers. These include producing a series of 'Special Supplements' that collate recent experience of best practice in specific 'cutting edge' areas of emergency programming, while coordination and technical input in the area of infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE) and in research are geared towards filling gaps in knowledge and developing guidance and resource material to make a difference to 'on the ground' implementation. Facilitating and reporting on international technical meetings is a means of achieving speedier consensus on best practice and disseminating findings to those in the field and/or responsible for programming at headquarters level.

Institutional base

The ENN was initially established as a self-financing activity in the Department of Community Health and General Practice in Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and later incorporated as a limited company in Ireland (30th April 2001). In September 2003, a transfer of ENN activities to Oxford, UK was initiated and completed in July 2004. Initially operating as a UK company limited by guarantee (not-for-profit), the ENN was granted UK charitable status in July 2006. A Board of Trustees was appointed, comprising two executive Directors (Jeremy Shoham and Marie McGrath) and four non-executive Directors (Bruce Laurence, Nigel Milway, Arabella Duffield, Victoria Lack). Securing charitable status was undertaken to strengthen the organisations transparency and accountability, to access other potential, less traditional funding sources open to charities (including trusts, foundations, ethically suitable companies and philanthropic individuals) and to bring in additional expertise to the ENN through trustees.

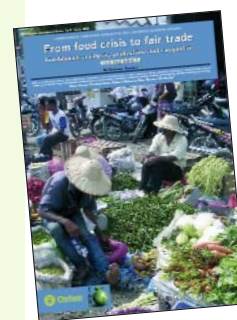
Output



Field Exchange

During the reporting year, issues 27, 28 and 29 of Field Exchange were produced. Staff from 26 INGO/NGOs, including 11 local/community based organisations, the ENN, 3 UN agencies and 16 research groups or individual researchers, wrote articles or submitted research for Field Exchange.

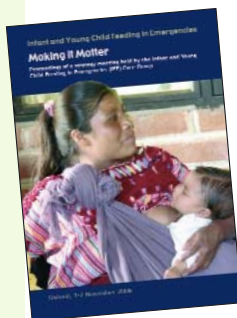
A breakdown of the type of article included in Field Exchange is given in Figure 1. Field articles covered a wide range of topics ranged from infant feeding in Pakistan post-earthquake to impact assessment in Ethiopia (issue 27), to large scale therapeutic programmes in Niger and home based treatment of malnutrition in Sudan (issue 28), to infant feeding in Indonesia post-earthquake and in Lebanon during the 2006 conflict (issue 29). During 2006, one of the ENN editorial team was based in South Africa, which is reflected in the regional section of issue 29 devoted to topical issues from Southern Africa. As well as contributions from those working in Botswana and South



Special Supplements

In March 2006, ENN produced the third in a series of 'Special Supplements'. Entitled *From Food Crisis to Fair Trade: Livelihoods Analysis, Protection and Support in Emergencies*, the publication was authored by Suzanne Jaspars, (OXFAM) with many contributors, and produced by the ENN. This supplement documents key new

experiences on livelihood programming, particularly in the use of cash programming in emergencies. Case study material from a large number of recent livelihood programmes including cash transfers, cash for work, market and production support, formed a central element of the supplement.



Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IFE)

ENN is an active member in a collaborative interagency effort (the IFE Core Group) concerned with developing policy guidance and capacity building on IFE since 1999. Since 2004, ENN has been the coordinating agency and the institutional 'home' for the work of the group. The

IFE Core Group currently comprises United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, the International Baby Food Action Network - Geneva Infant Feeding Association (IBFAN-GIFA), Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and CARE USA. This collaboration complements other international efforts to protect and support infants and young children in what are deemed exceptionally difficult circumstances. Fundamentally, the work of the IFE Group seeks to aid the practical implementation of key international strategies, and policies and is mandated by the Convention of the Rights of the Child (Article 24).

Africa and key research from the region, ENN visited programmes in Swaziland and Namibia and articles were produced in collaboration with the implementing agencies and relevant government ministries. Key research summaries included interpreting mortality data in emergencies (Issue 27), micronutrient deficiencies in longterm Africa refugees and experience-based measures of household food security (Issue 28), and infant feeding strategies and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in Botswana (Issue 29). Local NGOs featured in agency profiles - COUNSENUH from Tanzania (Issue 29) and Lutheran Development Services based in Swaziland (Issue 28), alongside ALNAP (Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance Humanitarian Action) in Issue 27.

Currently there are 2545 recipients of Field Exchange print copy in 110 countries (see Figure 2) in a variety of disciplines (Figure 3)¹. Training institutions and agencies regularly utilise Field Exchange articles as cases study material for training humanitarian staff. A total of 231 training and academic institutions regularly receive Field Exchange and other ENN publications and related materials are also available online at <http://www.ennonline.net>.

¹ Recorded expertise is a feature of the updated database of Field Exchange and so is only available for new recipients or where regular subscribers have updated their details.

Figure 1: Article types for Field Exchange (issues 27 - 29)

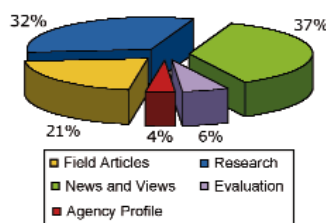


Figure 2: Geographic coverage of Field Exchange print recipients

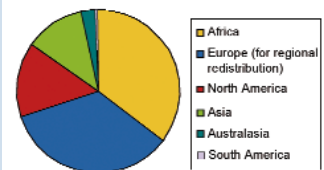
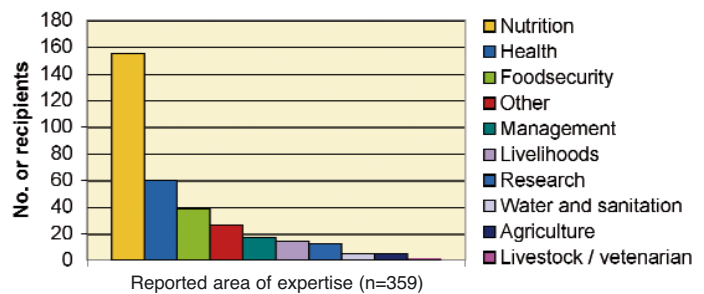
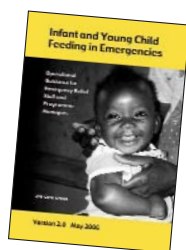


Figure 3: Areas of expertise of those receiving Field Exchange in print



The main IFE 'event' of 2006 was an international strategy meeting on IFE organised by the ENN on 1-2 Nov, 2006 in Oxford, UK and funded by UNICEF, CARE USA and IBFAN-GIFA. Attended by sixty delegates from around the world, the meeting identified both constraints and opportunities to supporting and protecting appropriate infant feeding practices in emergencies, and identified specific strategy directions and practical steps to meet identified needs². Subsequently ENN was invited by UNICEF to join the UNICEF led IASC Nutrition Cluster (a United Nations initiative to improve the effectiveness and predictability of humanitarian response)³ to represent IFE on behalf of the IFE Core Group. In January 2007, ENN secured significant funding from the Nutrition Cluster to take forward many of the recommendations of the Oxford strategy meeting. This includes a regional (East and South Asia and the Pacific) orientation workshop on IFE in March 2008 in Indonesia, organized by the ENN in cooperation with the Indonesian government and UNICEF and supported by the Nutrition Cluster.

In May 2006, version 2.0 of the key policy guidance Operational Guidance on Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) was updated and produced by the ENN/IFE Core Group to reflect new policy guidance and recent emergency experiences (available at www.ennonline.net/ife). The ENN and the IFE Core Group collaborated with the UNHCR to update their policy on handling milk products in refugee settings.



Research

In 2006/07, the ENN and SC UK completed a retrospective study on the efficacy and effectiveness of emergency SFPs. This work was funded by the Office for Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the US government, Irish Aid and a number of international NGOs. This was the first time such a study was attempted and stemmed from the recommendations of a previous body of work by ENN in this area⁴.

The study involved an analysis of 82 programme data sets from 22 countries undertaken by 16 international humanitarian agencies between 2002 and 2005. The key findings of the study were critical of current SFPs, in particular inadequate reporting standards making it difficult to assess efficacy, over half (59%) of programmes failing to achieve international humanitarian standards (SPHERE Standards) on outcomes, and difficulty demonstrating the impact of this type of programming (likely low due to poor coverage) at population levels.

Key recommendations were posited in the research report and were scheduled for presentation at international meetings and to key stakeholders in 2007, including donor agencies that fund SFPs. Recommendations included the need to clarify, define and implement minimum reporting standards, the need to establish a research agenda specifically to address gap areas identified in the research, and the need to establish institutional mechanisms so that data from programming can be collated and analysed in order to inform development of appropriate strategies for tackling moderate malnutrition arising from acute crises. In 2007, ENN and SC UK will begin the process of moving this agenda forward by convening a meeting/workshop involving key stakeholders from the humanitarian sector in order to endorse and fund a set of further research initiatives to inform best practice in treatment of mild and moderate malnutrition.

Project Funding and Sustainability

Historically, ENN funding has been broad based involving a range of bilateral donors, UN agencies and NGOs. The overall funding strategy has been to further broaden the funding base to include as many agencies involved in nutrition in emergencies as possible - this minimises the financial burden on individual agencies and reduces the risk of perceived bias. A diverse and wide funding base also increases the sustainability of the project.

During 2006, bilateral support was provided by OFDA and CIDA to support ENN essential support costs and the production of Field Exchange. United Nations agency funding continues to be provided by WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), WHO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), while over 15 international NGOs (INGOs) currently contribute. The ENN is increasingly able to rely on regular contributions from the UN and INGO sector, and the number of agencies regularly contributing to the ENN has steadily increased from 10 in 1996 to 21 by early 2007. This 'recurrent' funding averages one third of minimum operational needs to cover core ENNs core activity (Field Exchange production) and essential support costs, with the balance traditionally coming from bilateral donor organisations.

² Making it Matter. Proceedings of an International Strategy Meeting. IFE Core Group. Oxford November 2006. Available at <http://www.ennonline.net/ife>

³ www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc

⁴ A Duffield, G Reid, D Walker, J Shoham. Review of the published literature for the impact and cost effectiveness of six nutrition related emergency interventions. Report prepared by the ENN. December 2004. Available at: <http://www.ennonline.net/research/>

Staff

Funding for additional ENN activities was secured from the UN and NGO sector and from bilateral sources. Funding for SFP work was provided by OFDA, Irish Aid, SC UK, SC US, and Concern Worldwide. Specific projects in 2006 on IFE were funded by CARE USA, IBFAN-GIFA, UNICEF, UNHCR, with OFDA support to ENN's coordination role in the IFE Core Group. In January 2007, ENN secured significant funding from the UNICEF-led IASC Nutrition Cluster to undertake a large range of IFE activities through 2007.

To address the dependence on bilateral sources of funding, the ENN undertook a stakeholder review in early 2005, involving all participating agencies in the network to ascertain views on future funding strategy. Our newly appointed Board of Trustees is now working with us to achieve a more diverse and less traditional funding base. This reflects a concerted effort to secure longer term funding and establish sustainability for ENNs essential activities in the emergency nutrition sector.

Accounts

Since its inception, the ENN has undergone external annual audit of accounts. A copy of ENNs audited accounts report and financial statements for 2006/07 are available on request. ENNs accounts are prepared on an accrual basis. The ENN is not in any financial deficit. The organisation only undertakes expenditures for which there are committed funds.

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st January 2007

	GBP
Income	127,556
Administrative expenses	157,841
Operating loss	30,285
Other income and expenses	
Interest receivable	
Bank deposit interest	477
Interest payable	
Bank interest	200
Net loss for the year	30,008
Expenditure 2006 - 2007	GBP
Wages and salaries	81,361
Rent and rates	5,980
Insurance	362
Heating and lighting	57
Repairs and maintenance	78
Postage and stationery	5,148
Production and printing	14,809
Telephone	1,074
Computer costs	485
Internet & website charges	965
Travelling and accommodation	3,716
Entertaining	230
Event costs	3,372
Consultancy fees	36,517
Accountancy	1,630
Bank charges	24
Depreciation on FF & Equipment	1,571
Profits/losses on disposal of intangible assets	462
Total	157,841

Supporting agencies in 2006/07:



Jeremy Shoham:
Field Exchange Editor, SFP Research Coordinator and Director/Trustee



Marie McGrath:
Field Exchange Sub-editor, IFE Core Group Coordinator and Director/Trustee



Rupert Gill:
Project and Office Manger, based in Oxford



Dan George:
ENN finance assistant, working part-time in Oxford.



Matt Todd:
Financial Manager, oversees the ENN accounting systems, budgeting and financial reporting.



Chloe Angood:
IFE Project Officer, working part-time in Oxford



Lynden Guiver:
IFE/Field Exchange administrator, working part-time in Oxford.



Orna O'Reilly:
designs and produces all of ENNs publications.



Jon Berkeley:
manages ENNs web-site and supports the production of ENN publications.

Auditors:
Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, 30 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LE, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1865 559900
Fax: +44(0)1865 310019

Trustees:

Bruce Laurence

Bruce Laurence is a Consultant in Public Health in Derbyshire, UK. Previously he was Medical Director of the UK-based NGO, Merlin, and has also worked with Oxfam and MSF.

Victoria Lack

Victoria Lack is a Lecturer in Public Health and Primary Care, at City University, London and spent years working in the field with ACF.

Nigel Milway

Nigel Milway was a senior executive with British Telecom for over 14 years and is now director of his own own leadership and coaching consultancy.

Arabella Duffield

Arabella Duffield is a nutritionist with academic and field experience in nutrition and food security, and is currently a SC UK advisor.

ENN Associates 2006/07:

Carlos Navarro Colorado

Carlos is the principal researcher on the ENN/SC UK supplementary feeding research project.

Ali Maclaine

Ali Maclaine is a nutritionist working with ENN on infant feeding in emergencies activities.

Emergency Nutrition Network

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The Emergency Nutrition Network is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. Company reg. no. 4889844
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M. Arts/UNICEF; John Cobb/Help the Aged, India, 2005; Veronique Priem, Niger, 2002; S Sharif, T Shah (Eycon Solution), Pakistan, 2005; Anne Yzebe, Niger, 2005; M Corbett, Indonesia, 2006

Background:

J Beesley/Oxfam, Malawi