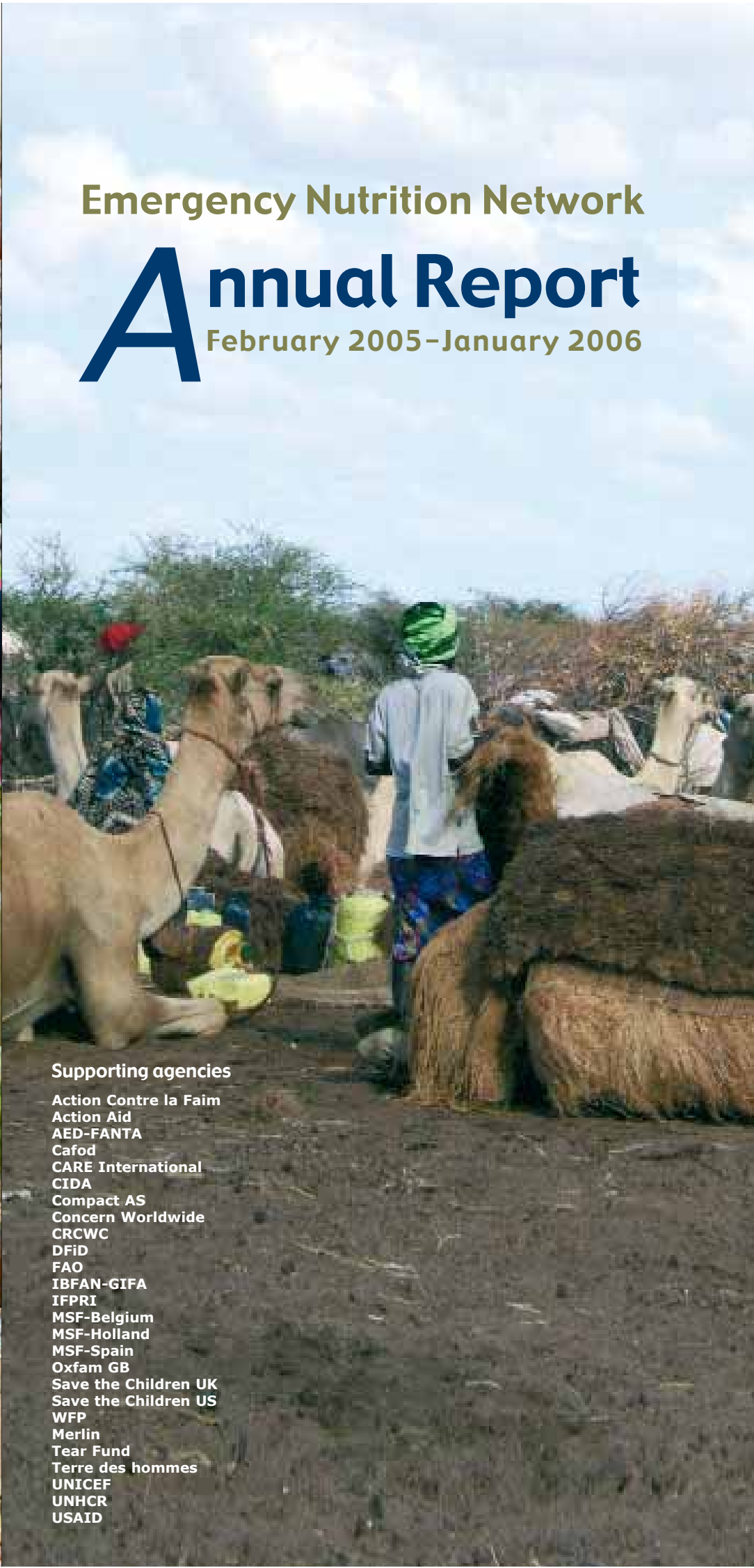




Emergency Nutrition Network

Annual Report

February 2005–January 2006



Supporting agencies

Action Contre la Faim
Action Aid
AED-FANTA
Cafod
CARE International
CIDA
Compact AS
Concern Worldwide
CRCWC
DFID
FAO
IBFAN-GIFA
IFPRI
MSF-Belgium
MSF-Holland
MSF-Spain
Oxfam GB
Save the Children UK
Save the Children US
WFP
Merlin
Tear Fund
Terre des hommes
UNICEF
UNHCR
USAID

Introduction

The ENN was set up in 1996 by an international group of humanitarian agencies to accelerate learning and strengthen institutional memory in the emergency food and nutrition sector. The ENN's 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 (IFE), 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 the 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.

ENN Services

Collecting information

- The ENN comprises a network of over 200 agencies worldwide
- Agencies contribute programme experience, research and evaluation findings and news

Facilitation

- The ENN team helps participating agencies draw out lessons and identify research needs based on programme experience – this process strengthens agency institutional memory
- The write up of lessons, research and evaluation findings in *Field Exchange* serves as a resource to further strengthen agency institutional memory, as well as increase sectoral knowledge

Sharing information

- The ENN publishes articles and summaries of research and evaluation findings in *Field Exchange*
- The ENN collaborates with organisations in preparing and facilitating international meetings and is also involved in the preparation, production and dissemination of documents to improve food and nutrition humanitarian response

Institutional base

The Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) was established in November 1996, following a recommendation made at an UNHCR-hosted inter-agency group meeting of food and nutrition professionals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (September 1995). 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 began, which was completed in July 2004. The ENN is presently a company limited by guarantee (not for profit) and has recently applied for charity status in the UK. This application is currently under the consideration of the UK Charities Commission.

Output

Field Exchange



Three editions of *Field Exchange* were produced during this reporting period. An average of 2322 print copies of *Field Exchange* were distributed per issue. Each edition was also posted online at <http://www.ennonline.net>

The 25th copy of *Field Exchange* was marked by a special focus on Food Aid and HIV/AIDS and involved an ENN field trip to gather and report on relevant project experiences. DfiD-UK provided the additional funds necessary for

this undertaking. An ENN consultant visited five countries (Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa) over a six week period, to meet with a wide variety of agency staff implementing HIV programming with a food aid component. Produced in May 2005, Issue 25 included 14 field articles and two evaluations on topics ranging from school feeding in Zambia, to participatory measures to strengthen food security in Uganda, to targeting vulnerable households in Malawi. The field material was complemented by unpublished and published research summaries related to HIV/AIDS, including antibiotic prophylaxis in HIV positive malnourished children and home-based care in Malawi. The ENN field presence offered a unique opportunity to solicit and support contributions from local organisations on the ground, including Meeting Point, REEP and REACH OUT, as well as share in the work of INGOs and UN agencies in the region.

Regular Issues 24 and 26 of *Field Exchange* covered field experiences from Afghanistan, Sudan, Azerbaijan, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Argentina, Myanmar, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Field articles covered subjects as diverse as land reform in Tajikistan, micro-gardening in Uganda and the application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in nutrition surveys. In the research and news sections, a number of 'cutting-edge' topics were covered including a piece on World Trade Organisation negotiations on Improving Food Aid (Issue 26) and cash programming in emergencies (Issue 26). Controversial issues included a healthy debate in the letters section on the role of private sector funding and conflicts of interest (Issues 24, 26). Latest research and evaluation pieces covered findings on mortality rates in conflict affected Darfur, research on the impact of emergency feeding programmes, and risk factors for developing nutritional oedema in the DRC.

During the reporting period, staff from 14 INGO/NGOs, including three local/community based organisations, the ENN, one UN agency and 4 research groups or individual researchers, wrote articles or submitted research for *Field Exchange*. Significantly more agencies contributed material compared to previous years, owing to the larger 25th *Field Exchange* and the ENN field presence to solicit and write material for this issue. Approximately one-third of this material was obtained from the 'grey literature', i.e. agency programme reports and internal evaluations. This information would not otherwise be easily accessible to those in the field.

Infant Feeding in Emergencies

The ENN is the co-ordinating agency for an inter-agency collaboration of a core group of agencies (IFE Core Group, comprising UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, WFP, ENN, IBFAN-GIFA, TdH, CARE Int), that have been developing training materials and related policy guidance on infant feeding in emergencies since 1998. Materials developed to date are:





- Module 1 Infant Feeding in Emergencies for emergency relief staff. WHO, UNICEF, Linkages, IBFAN, ENN and additional contributors. March 2001.
- Module 2 for health and nutrition workers in emergency situations. Version 1.0. November 2004.
- Operational Guidance for Emergency Relief Staff and Programme Managers on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, 2001. (Updated version due out May 2006).

All the materials have been produced and are available from the ENN in print, online, and on CD-rom. The content of the materials are both evidence and experience based, drawing on existing best practice and published evidence where it exists, and on extensive field experiences and a broad base of expert opinion where it does not.



In March 2005, Module 2 was launched at the UN SCN meeting in Brasilia by IFE Core Group members. Posters were produced and presentation preparation supported by the ENN. The Working Group on Emergencies endorsed the planned focus of the ENN and IFE Core Group on targeted distribution of the training materials. Since March 2005, 163 copies of Module 1, 808 copies of Module 2 and 47 CD-ROMs were mailed to recipients in 29 countries. In the aftermath of the Pakistan earthquake in November 2005, the IFE Core Group collaborated with UNICEF Pakistan to support appropriate infant

feeding. An account of the experiences from Pakistan will be included in Issue 27 of Field Exchange. A GIFA-funded evaluation of the distribution and use of the modules was initiated in January 2006 and will be completed by the ENN in May 2006.

During the reporting period, the Operational Guidance was reviewed and an update (version 2.0) is in the final stages of completion. Linked with this review, the ENN and the IFE Core Group have been working with UNHCR to review their policy on handling milk products in refugee settings and are also collaborating with IFRC on milk policy issues.

In response to field enquiries, ENN has engaged with the University of Southampton, UK to investigate the most appropriate scales to weigh infants under six months of age in emergency contexts. An MSC student is scheduled to conduct the initial qualitative research, scheduled for May-July 2006.

During the reporting period, a proposal to hold a series of international and regional orientation workshops on IFE was prepared by ENN/GIFA and funding support is being solicited by IFE Core Group members. In the meantime, plans are being developed to hold an IFE meeting in Oxford in October 2006 (funding allowing) to facilitate sharing IFE experiences from the region, and to address agency challenges in implementing the Operational Guidance in the field.

Special Supplements

During the reporting period, the third in a series of Special Supplements, commissioned, edited and produced by the ENN, was finalised and is due out in March 2006. Focusing on livelihood programming in emergencies, the peer-reviewed supplement is written by Suzanne Jaspars with a variety of contributors. 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.



Participation in the ENN

Approximately 75% of the field articles published over this period were unsolicited, while 65% of the research was obtained by ENN staff screening published literature. Contributors represented INGOs, NGOs, UN agencies and research agencies. Many view Field Exchange as an essential resource for relief workers. Thirty agencies now receive bulk copies, which are re-distributed to country offices. In 2005/06, Field Exchange was distributed in over one hundred countries worldwide. The Field Exchange mailing list contains 2,282 individuals from a cross-section of agencies (Figure 1) and geographical distribution has remained consistent since 1994/5 (Figure 2).

Project Funding and Sustainability

Since the inception of the ENN, funding has been broad based involving a range of bilateral donors, UN agencies and NGOs. The number of UN/INGO agencies regularly contributing to the ENN has steadily increased from 10 in 1996 to 26 currently. These recurrent contributions amounts to just over one third of the funding needs, with the balance coming

from bilateral donor organisations - USAID, CIDA, FANTA and DFID have all contributed during this reporting period.

The overall funding strategy of the ENN has been to 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 any perceived bias. During 2005, the ENN involved all participating agencies in a stakeholder review to ascertain views on future funding strategy. This was part of a concerted effort by the ENN to secure longer term funding and establish sustainability for ENN activities. One of the review outcomes was the decision to apply for charitable status in the UK in order to access other potential funding sources and to increase the ENN's transparency and external accountability. An external fundraising consultancy, recommended by a number of the NGOs consulted during the review, has supported ENN to develop a new fundraising strategy. In order to retain independence, the ENN are keen to maintain, if not increase, the current level of INGO/NGO support.

Figure 1: Field Exchange distribution by institutional type

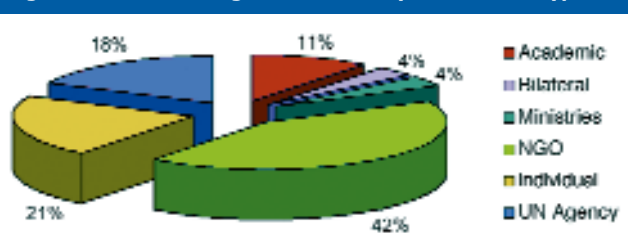
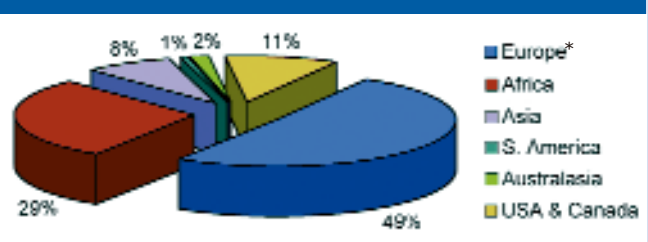


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of Field Exchange mailing



* Redistributed by recipient agencies

Research



The ENN and SC UK are jointly managing a large-scale review of the impact of Emergency Supplementary Feeding Programmes. This study involves fourteen agencies (UN and INGO) who are providing data sets for up to 150 emergency supplementary feeding programmes across Africa and Asia. The principle aim of the study is to assess the effectiveness of these programmes and to determine those contexts where programme outcomes are most favourable. It is anticipated that the study will be completed by December 2006.

International Meetings



The ENN takes part in international fora where there is an opportunity to distil lessons from field practice in emergencies as well as influence best practice. In early 2006, the ENN reported on and produced a report on a meeting held in New York (March 2005) on the operational challenges of implementing community therapeutic care.

Finance

Agency Funding and Support

Twenty-six agencies supported supported the ENN during this period (see cover). Two NGOs (IBFAN-GIFA and CARE International) and one bilateral donor (USAID) financially supported ENN IFE activities. Distinct funding was provided by DfiD to support the production of Field Exchange 25, and by FANTA for the production of the ENN CTC Report and the production of the ENN CTC Report. Through participation and support of the ENN, agencies are showing their commitment to learning from experience, improving practice and transparency.

Income 2005 - 2006	GBP
CIDA	19,454
DFID	12,170
USAID	32,329
Other Supporting Agencies	70,587
Total	134,540
Expenditure 2005 - 2006	GBP
Wages and Salaries	71,304
Consultancy Fees	19,239
Postage, Stationery, Production and Distribution	31,412
Rent, Rates, Service charges and Light and Heat	6,372
Office equipment	0
Insurance	262
Telephone and Fax	1,390
Travelling Expenses	3,560
Audit and Accountancy Fees	1,492
Bank Charges	40
Depreciation	777
Total	135,848
Interest Received	1,006
Interest payable	(48)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(350)

Capacity building

Material from Field Exchange and other ENN publications (e.g. IFE modules) are used in a number of international training courses, particularly to locate theory in current practice and experience. Courses which have regularly utilised ENN publications include; the Human Nutrition MSc at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, International Health Exchange/MERLIN Nutrition in emergencies course, Tufts MSc in Public Health and Nutrition, Trinity College Dublin MSc in Community Health, UDC MA in Humanitarian Assistance, MSF PSP course, ACF internal training, and Nutrition Modules run at the Institute of Child Health in London, as well as APSO courses in Dublin. Extracts from Modules 1 and 2 IFE training materials have been included on the TALC Community Nutrition CD currently being finalised. The training modules were included as resource materials and reviewed as a potential briefing and training documents in a MOH convened two-day workshop on infant feeding in Pakistan.

Staff



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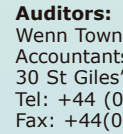
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Arabella Duffield:
Arabella reported on and prepared the ENN report on the CTC meeting in New York in 2005. She is currently a nutrition advisor with SC UK.

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A Kari/SC-UK, South Sudan, 2003. M Lung'aho/CARE Int, Dadaab, Kenya 2005. M Corbett/ENN, Uganda, 2005. S Thurstans, Malawi, 2005. M Lung'aho/CARE Int, Dadaab, Kenya 2005. Oxfam GB, Sri Lanka, 2005.

Background:

A scene from Dadaab camp, Kenya. Credit: M Lung'aho/CARE Int, 2005.