Introduction

The Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) aims 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.

ENN Services

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

Facilitating the identification of lessons and research needs and strengthening institutional memory
- 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

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 inter-agency group meeting of food and nutrition professionals in Addis Ababa (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, on the 30th April 2001. In 2003, the decision to transfer ENN activities from Ireland to the UK was taken. On 8th September 2003, the ENN registered as a company limited by guarantee in the UK, setting up office premises in Oxford in February 2004. Following a six month transfer period, the institutional base has now been established in Oxford. ENN Ltd (Ireland) has ceased to operate.

Output

Publications

Three editions of Field Exchange were produced during this reporting period. In addition, some work took place for the preparation of issues 24 and 25 due for publication in March and May 2005 respectively. An average of 2133 print copies of each issue of Field Exchange was distributed. Field Exchange is also available on the web at http://www.ennonline.net. Field articles in issues 21, 22 and 23 have addressed emergency programme experiences in Angola, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, and Uganda, describing and sometimes challenging many different types of emergency food and nutrition situation and response. Subjects have included malaria treatment in severe malnutrition, infant feeding alternatives for HIV-positive mothers, and market support programmes in urban crisis. As well as enabling field workers to document and learn from experiences, new approaches have also been shared through Field Exchange over the last year, e.g. a new method for estimating programme coverage (Issue 21) and a new household economy method for assessing impact of shocks (Issue 23). Field Exchange also publishes latest research and evaluation findings. Research topics have complemented the field issues, with subjects ranging from micronutrient supplementation in protein energy malnutrition, to food intake during pregnancy during crisis, to impact of remittances on vulnerability. Approximately one third of this material has been 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.

During the reporting period, additional funding was secured from DFID South Africa to support the production of a special issue of Field Exchange (no. 25), focusing on Food Aid and HIV/AIDS. Following a period of technical and field consultation and planning, an ENN consultant is visiting five countries (Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa) over the course of six weeks in January and February 2005, to meet with a wide variety of agency staff implementing HIV programming with a food aid component. The brief is to describe these programmes and, where possible, identify lessons learnt and significant related research initiatives or findings in the countries visited. The special issue is due out ahead of the usual Field Exchange schedule, in May 2005.

Infant Feeding in Emergencies

ENN is an active member of an inter-agency collaboration of a core group of agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, WFP, ENN, IBFAN, TdH, CARE), developing training materials on infant feeding in emergencies (IFE). Since the end of July 2004, ENN has been the co-ordinating agency for the IFE Core Group.

Complementing Module 1 on IFE - already in circulation and developed and delivered for emergency relief staff - a second module was completed and produced during the reporting period. Available online and in print from the ENN, Module 2 was developed particularly for emergency relief staff – a second module was completed and produced during the reporting period. Available online and in print from the ENN.

In July 2004, the ENN hosted a three day meeting of the IFE Core Group in Oxford. The meeting was attended by core group member agencies, by a number of external consultants involved in the training material development, and Action Contre la Faim. As well as finalising details of Module 2, an informal partnership was established between the IFE core group and ACF to help support their implementation of lactation support in emergencies, and also capture their programming experiences to inform the development of the training materials. This was with particular reference to field challenges in Afghanistan.
IFE activities in early 2005 were spent preparing materials for the launch of Module 2 at the UNSCN meeting in Brasilia by attending members of the IFE Core Group. Presentations, posters and flyers were prepared and produced by ENN, in consultation with the key presenters.

**Special Supplements**

During the reporting period, the first two ENN special supplements were produced and distributed to the full ENN mailing list. The supplements aim to represent recent learning in key areas of the emergency food and nutrition sector and provide useful tools for operational practice. The supplements draw heavily on recent emergency experiences and attempt to distil these experiences in guidance for field practitioners. The first of the series, *Targeting Food Aid in Emergencies*, was written by Anna Taylor and John Seaman, SC UK and provides guidance on the design of food aid targeting systems in emergencies. The second, *Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC)*, was compiled and edited by Tanya Khara and Steve Collins, Valid International. It contains a selection of articles written by agencies, individuals and researchers involved in the development and implementation of CTC over the past four years. Oxfam field staff are currently working on the next special supplement, which will be on *Livelihood programming in situations of crises*. It is hoped that this supplement will be finalised and disseminated by the end of 2005.

**Research**

The ENN completed a literature review of published evidence for the impact of nutrition interventions in humanitarian crises in September 2004 (commissioned and funded by CIDA). This resulted in a published letter in the LANCET and the ENN is now finalising an article based upon the review for the same publication. The findings of the review led to an SC UK/ENN initiative to convene an inter-agency group (currently comprising 14 INGOs and UN agencies) which will examine evidence in the ‘grey’ literature (project reports and evaluations) for impact and cost of emergency supplementary feeding programmes. The first inter-agency meeting was held on November 4th 2004 in London. The meeting reached a consensus on scope and methodology of the research. Since then, a funding proposal has been prepared and the 14 agencies have agreed to provide data from over 200 country SFP programmes for the research. A number of donors were approached in early 2005 and funding for this research has now been secured. The research will commence in September 2005.

**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 March 2004, ENN attended the 31st session of the SCN in New York, and presented on IFE activities to the Working Group on Nutrition in Emergencies. The ENN were also asked to facilitate a WFP meeting on the development of guidance on non-food aid responses to emergencies in October 2004. The proceedings of this meeting were written up by the ENN and included in guidance material on emergency needs assessment subsequently developed by WFP. By the end of the reporting period, ENN were in the final stages of preparing to rapporteur at a second CTC meeting in New York, funded by FANTA, CONCERN and SC US, following on from the first meeting reported on by ENN in Dublin (October 2003).

**Participation in the ENN**

Approximately 40% of the field articles published over this period were unsolicited, while 65% of the research were obtained by ENN staff screening published literature. The special 25th issue of Field Exchange, underway by the end of this reporting period, marks a departure from the usual method of soliciting submissions for publication. The presence of an ENN person in the field helped prompt and encourage submissions for publication.

Contributors to Field Exchange come from INGOs, NGOs, UN agencies and research agencies. Field Exchange is seen by many as an essential resource for relief workers. Forty agencies now receive bulk copies (> 5), which they then redistribute to country offices. In 2004/05, Field Exchange was distributed in over one hundred countries worldwide. The field exchange mailing list contains individuals from over 220 agencies (including country offices of INGOs, universities and government ministries). Compared to 2003/04, the profile of recipients (Figure 1) and geographical distribution has remained consistent (Figure 2).

![Figure 1: Field Exchange distribution by institutional type](image1)

![Figure 2: Geographical distribution](image2)
Finance

Agency Funding and Support

Overall, 26 agencies supported the ENN during this period (see below). While funding was largely related to supporting Field Exchange, funding was also provided for IFE activities by five agencies (USAID, UNHCR, UNICEF, GIFA, CARE), for research activities (CIDA) and for a CTC meeting in New York (FANTA, Concern and SC US) scheduled for March 2005.

The operating deficit for the year was £25,626. This is offset in the balance sheet by a special reserve, which is the reserve transferred to ENN by ENN Ireland. This amounted to £73,253 and leaves ENN with a reserve of £52,866.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>GBP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy for Educational Development (FANTA)</td>
<td>10,909</td>
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<td>CIDA</td>
<td>54,656</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>2,830</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>31,036</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Supporting Agencies</td>
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<td><strong>Total 2004 - 2005</strong></td>
<td><strong>122,738</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Wages and Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultancy Fees</td>
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<td>Rent, Rates, Service charges and Light and Heat</td>
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<td>Office equipment</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Telephone and Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelling Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audit and Accountancy Fees</td>
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<td>Bank Charges</td>
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<td><strong>Total 2004 - 2005</strong></td>
<td><strong>149,926</strong></td>
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<td>Interest Received</td>
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<td><strong>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</strong></td>
<td><em>(25,626)</em></td>
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Supporting agencies

WFP
WHO
Save the Children (UK)
UNHCR
GOAL
Trocacire
Oxfam
MSF
Merlin
Terre des hommes
Fanta (AED)
USAID
Nutriset
Cafod
Tearfund
ActionAid International
FAO
Feinstein International Famine Centre
Help Age International
Action Contre la Faim
IFPRI
CIDA
DFID
CARE
GIFA
CONCERN

Capacity building

Material from Field Exchange and other ENN publications (e.g. IFE) 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 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.

Staff

Jeremy Shoham: Field Exchange technical editor and ENN director

Marie McGrath: Field Exchange production/assistant editor and ENN director

Rupert Gill: ENN administrator and project coordinator, 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

Orna O’Reilly: designs and produces all of ENNs publications

Jon Berkeley: manages ENNs website 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

Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN),
Unit 13, Standingford House,
Cave Street, Oxford, OX4 1BA, UK
Tel:  +44(0)1865 722886,
email: office@ennonline.net
ife@ennonline.net
www.ennonline.net

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Background: