Introduction

The ENN was set up in 1996 by an inter-agency group of humanitarian organisations to improve practice and strengthen institutional memory of humanitarian agencies involved in the food and nutrition sector of emergencies. The ENN endeavours to improve the effectiveness of interventions through the identification and rapid dissemination of lessons learnt and through research and evaluation. Cross-cutting all of the ENN’s activities are capacity development, network building and maintaining impartiality and independence.

The ENN’s flagship publication, Field Exchange, was developed as a means of achieving this. To date (31 January 2013) there have been 44 editions of Field Exchange as well as many complementary activities, including research initiatives, the production of three Special Supplements on areas of ‘cutting edge’ programming, development of operational guidance and training resources on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, research initiatives, workshops and reports on international technical meetings.

The ENN is a participatory-based initiative, with networking and collaboration at the core of its activities. The ENN targets those concerned with humanitarian response at all levels, from international policy-makers to field workers ‘on the ground’. The Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) was set up in 1996 by an inter-agency group of humanitarian organisations to improve practice and strengthen the institutional memory of humanitarian agencies involved in the food and nutrition sector of emergencies.

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. The ENN is governed by a Board of Trustees.

The ENN’s Aim

To increase the capacity of national, regional and international practitioners to respond to the food and nutrition-related needs of vulnerable and emergency affected populations.

The ENN’s Objectives

1. Improve learning in the sector, targeting practitioners involved in emergency response, policy makers and donors.
2. Close knowledge and practice gaps in the sector through a focus on evidenced based operational research.
3. Increase the capacity of national and regional level actors through the active promotion and development of strategic partnerships.
4. Contribute to improvements in leadership/ship/stewardship through advocacy, partnerships and support for key agencies and institutions at international level.

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 organisations and individuals support and learn from each other as much as possible. The overarching purpose of ENN is to speed up the sharing of knowledge and wherever possible, reduce the communication chain.
- **Impartiality and independence** – to encourage reporting on failures as well as successes, the independence of the ENN is vital. Protecting this means ensuring that no one source of income predominates.

The ENN’s Strategy (2010-2015) four areas of focus to consolidate and develop upon the ENN’s existing work:

- Improving knowledge management and learning
- Closing gaps in the evidence base
- Strengthening national and regional capacity
- Strengthening partnerships for improved leadership

The ENN’s Activities

- The ENN’s tri-annual print/online publication, Field Exchange, records field level programming experience and disseminates this worldwide, to those working in the emergency nutrition and food security sectors. Producing Field Exchange offers a unique perspective of emergency programming that continues to help identify ‘gaps’ and challenges in the field and informs the development of ENN’s other activities.
- A new ENN publication, Nutrition Exchange (piloted as Field Exchange Digest) summarises articles and information from previous issues of Field Exchange and aims to increase access to information amongst busy workers and across sectors.
- ENN ‘Special Supplements’ collate recent experience of best practice in specific ‘cutting edge’ areas of emergency programming. Three ENN Special Supplements have been produced to date.
- The online technical forum, en-net, provides field practitioners with access to prompt technical advice from experts and peers for operational challenges faced in emergency programmes.
- Coordination and technical input in the area of infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE) and research initiatives 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.
- Operational research to strengthen the evidence base for emergency nutrition and food security programming. For example, research into the prevention and treatment of moderate malnutrition, development of a minimum reporting package for supplementary feeding programmes (SFPs) and research into the prevention and management of anaemia in refugees.
Now in its fifth year, en-net has evolved from a forum with eight discussion areas to fourteen. It continues to provide fast technical response to urgent field issues for which text book answers are not readily available. During the reporting period discussions continued to be primarily peer-led, allowing experiences to be shared and advice provided by others working in similar situations, while a team of 15 technical experts is on-call to respond to questions that receive no spontaneous answers or to clarify complex technical issues from an informed and balanced perspective. The forum is open for anyone to view, though people can sign up to receive email alerts of new discussions or responses. Approximately 800 people have signed up to receive en-net updates to date (many more can view exchanges without having to register). Over a 12 month period, there were 33,374 visits to the site by 21,324 people.

The most popular forum areas continue to be Assessment and Prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition, followed by Prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and Infant and young child feeding interventions. This reflects the key areas for the nutrition community where both guidance and practice are evolving.

Two new forum areas were launched during the reporting period in response to developments in the field of nutritional emergency response: Coverage assessment and Urban programming.

An en-net evaluation completed in 2012 found that 96% of 135 respondents to a survey found en-net to be user-friendly. The site has been kept simple and functional for ease of use by people with less than optimal internet access and slow connections. “It is very well-designed web page for forum discussion”. The main purpose for members to join en-net was to obtain useful advice for programing (34%) and to keep up with the latest debates in nutrition in emergencies (30%), however 15% said their main purpose was to share their knowledge and experience with others. “I have been implementing a malnutrition project and some of en-net discussions were very helpful when some doubts arose”.

The vast majority (97%) felt it was a useful space to share ideas and field dilemmas with others working in similar situations. “I have seen so many difficult issues about surveys; it may not be clear before and after discussion it is clear for me”. “It has helped me in designing CMAM programme factoring challenging people have encountered and also sharing the responses during training sessions that I have conducted hence increased broader understanding.” “I’ve used en-net to help me draft a policy paper on nutrition supplements for the NGO I work for. The forum gave me lots of tips on controversial issues and resource pages.”

En-net is the forum for technical questions for the CMAM Forum (www.cmamform.org) and the Coverage Monitoring Network Project (http://www.coverage-monitoring.org/forum/); both sites refer their visitors to en-net.

IFE Core Group

The ENN is the facilitator and institutional home for an international interagency collaboration on infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE Core Group) (www.ennonline.net). The ENN represents the IFE Core Group in key fora, includ-

Field Exchange

In 2012/13, three issues of the ENN’s core publication, Field Exchange (Issues 42, 43 and 44), were produced. Field Exchange 42 was published in January 2012 and gave extended coverage to a briefing paper just released by Oxfam and SC UK on the 2011 response to the Horn of Africa crisis. Field Exchange 43 was produced and distributed in July 2012. This was a special double edition focused on scale up of CMAM, and centred on

- About 40% of the respondents reported that FEX has influenced their agency programming or policy.
- The print version was still the most popular form (half of respondents preferred it) but 60% of readers also accessed content online.
- Over half of respondents had shared experiences in Field Exchange.

Target areas for improvement identified in the evaluation include: greater marketing of Field Exchange online resource (one third of respondents were not aware of it) and updates to the mailing request system to maximise targeting print copy. A limitation of the evaluation was that it relied on online access to the survey (although telephone interviews were also an option). In 2013 we plan to look more closely at M&E of activities to enable us to delve more critically into the accessibility and impact of our work. The full report is available at www.ennonline.net.

Targeted distribution was expanded from five target countries in 2011 (Kenya, Ethiopia, Niger, Sudan and Bangladesh) to a total of 10 target countries (addition of South Sudan, Chad, Haiti, Pakistan and Afghanistan). Over 4,000 hard copies of Issue 2 were distributed (English: 2900; French: 800; Arabic: 400) in addition to thousands of soft copy downloads. Extensive efforts were made to expand the database of NEX readers in target countries as well as promoting e-version uptake to as wide an audience as possible. Work also started in this period on exploring social media outlets for NEX (Twitter, Facebook, blogs etc) and specialists in this area have been interviewed to help inform the NEX dissemination strategy.

An evaluation was conducted in October and November 2012 to inform content, format, and scope of future issues. It also provided insight into how best to engage and communicate with the target audience in the future. Individuals interested in submitting original content were self-identified. The evaluation documented the high demand for current information on nutrition-related issues within our target audience. It also highlighted the need to develop our Francophone and Arabic speaking readerships. To address this, regional contacts will be identified to region-specific targeting work in 2013.
ing the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) and during 2012, represented the group at the GNC annual meeting in Geneva (July). During 2012, funding was provided from Irish Aid, Save the Children (UK), Terre des Hommes, Concern Worldwide and UNHCR to support group.

In March 2012, the ENN held an IFE Core Group meeting in Oxford, to further define the nature and scope of the group’s mode of operation, identify funding sources, to prioritise key activities and to identify which activities to take forward.

Operational research
The ENN has significantly expanded its operational research programme portfolio to strengthen the evidence base for emergency nutrition and food security programming. All research activities have involved steering groups of agencies and academics. Collaborators and funders include bilateral donors, UN agencies, and international NGOs. Two on-going projects in 2012 were:

I. Reviewing the evidence base and exploring alternative approaches for the prevention and treatment of moderate malnutrition (MAM) in children under five years of age. During 2012, research was completed in two sites in Niger and Chad, and ongoing evaluation in UNHCR-funded camps in Algeria produced from work in 2012 was published in a peer review journal in 2013.

II. Prevention and managing anaemia in refugee populations
In 2013, collaboration between the ENN and University College London (UCL) continued to provide technical support and analytical services to UNHCR for the assessment of anaemia and micronutrient malnutrition and the implementation of nutritional services. During the reporting period, a review of the implementation of the UNHCR anaemia strategy in the initial 7 countries targeted for intervention has been conducted. A review of UNHCR survey data was also conducted, to explore how the prevalence of different categories of anaemia change in response to the interventions implemented under the UNHCR’s anaemia strategy. Findings have been shared in the UNHCR Anaemia technical advisory group (December 2012). Under this project, UCL-CIHD led the implementation, analyses and reporting of cross sectional nutrition surveys in the Dadaab refugee camps, Kenya and in the Kakuma refugee camps. A number of analyses were also conducted using existing data led by ENN consultants: a) an analysis of the impact of Nutributter distribution using available data on the prevalence of anaemia in children aged 6-24 months in the Dadaab, Kakuma, and Djibouti camps and b) analysis of the impact of Plumpy’Dox (PD) distribution on the prevalence of seasonal acute malnutrition and anaemia in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh (in collaboration with ACF).

Stemming from this meeting and recommendations of the annual GNC meeting in July 2012 in Geneva, the ENN has led a review by a small working group to identify 4-5 common priorities emerging in the sector. This formed the basis of a concept note of activities under development by the IFE Core Group. In March 2012, UNHCR and IFE Core Group activities, two agencies were invited to join – IOCC and World Vision. The ENN, as IFE Core Group representative, delivered content on HIV and infant feeding to a professional training course on HIV and infant feeding in Thailand by remote link. The ENN also coordinated inputs into key indicators on IFYCF-E to include in early needs assessment (assessment WG of the GNC) and this work will continue in 2013.

Through 2012, the ENN provided technical inputs into a Save the Children US-led, Alive and Thrive Project in Ethiopia on research to explore integration of infant and young child feeding in community based management of acute malnutrition.

A paper on the double burden of malnutrition in refugee camp in Algeria produced from work in 2012 was published in a peer review journal in 2013.

III. Management of acute malnutrition in infants under 6 months (MAMI)
From July to November 2012, the ENN collaborat ed with UCL-CIHD in a prioritisation exercise on research questions on MAMI. The Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI) of the Global Forum for Health Research has been successfully applied to many child health areas; the CHNRI framework was applied to MAMI in order to prioritise research on this age group. A steering group of contributors from the MAMI 1 project defined the context and criteria for priority setting. A total of 150 technical experts and policy makers were invited to take part and 64 individuals participated in the survey. Results were presented at a meeting on MAMI in London in December 2012. A peer-reviewed publication is planned for 2013.

Follow up on CMAM conference
In November 2011 the ENN, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia hosted a 4-day conference in Addis Ababa at which Government representatives from 22 countries in Africa and Asia, as well as members of international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies, the private sector, academic institutions and donor agencies came together to share experiences and to identify lessons for future Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) scale up (meeting reports online at www.ennonline.net). A follow up survey was conducted as part of the conference. The ENN approach government delegates from each represented country regarding progress with committed actions next steps, whether the conference (and the development of the case studies) was useful, and any other consequences of their participation in the Addis conference. Responses were elicited from 17 out of the 22 countries in attendance (77%). The co-funders - DFID, Irish Aid and CIDA - also provided feedback.

Feedback found that the conference was an extremely useful tool in advancing the national agenda for CMAM and for nutrition more generally. This was achieved through encouraging high level attendance to galvanise political commitment, highlighting the importance of taking action with intervention scale to, and by providing a ‘space’ for government representatives to share their experiences and work through the various challenges. Active support for documentation of experiences proved a good investment that enabled countries to tell ‘their story’, and consequently take stock, learn and share vital lessons. The government delegates appreciated the resources provided, and the chance to network, both with each other and with global experts, who they now feel able to contact if they require support. The full report is available at www.ennonline.net.

Review of financing arrangements around CMAM
As a follow up action to the CMAM Conference, the ENN undertook a review of the financing arrangements for programmes that manage acute malnutrition at scale through the community based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) approach. It was funded by Irish Aid and CIDA. The review involved country case studies from Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi and Nigeria (developed based on interviews with government and other stakeholders, plus review of essential documents); in-person and telephone interviews with donors, UN agencies and foundations involved in CMAM financing, programming and research, grey literature review; and donor feedback (CIDA and Irish Aid) on findings. The final report is due in March 2013.

Consultation on anthropometric indicators in acute malnutrition
In collaboration with and funded by the Children UK, ACF and UNHCR, the ENN facilitated a technical consultation with practitioners and academic specialists on the use of mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) and weight for height (WHZ) indicators in acute malnutrition programming. The aim of the consultation was to gain a shared understanding of operational issues, current evidence and its application to inform safe, pragmatic ‘stop gap’ guidance, and identify knowledge gaps and research priorities with regard to these indicators to assess acute malnutrition. The four month consultation involved 19 academic specialists and 10 operational organisations. The consultation culminated in a 2 day meeting led by the ENN in London on 5-6th December 2012. A final report has been produced with recommendations for practice (available at www.ennonline.net) and has been shared with UNHCR as the final stage outcome of the four-month consultation process, which involved 19 academic specialists and 10 operational organisations. The consultation has complemented and informed the WHO Nutrition Guideline Advisory Group (NUGAG) process.

Linked to this review, the ENN reviewed operational issues and challenges faced by UNHCR and its implementing partners regarding anthropometric indicators of acute malnutrition, including relevant national and country experiences.
Finance and Management

Income received from donors decreased by £98,121 in the year to £1,091,469 (2012: -8%). ENN returned an operating surplus of £50,473 (2012: deficit of £19,163). This increases the total reserves to £194,023 (2012: £143,550). The cash balance at the year-end amounted to £171,612 (2012: £367,320).

During the year, OFDA (USAID) provided the majority of the income in the year (£650,260), continuing to fund the Research into the Prevention and Treatment of Moderate Malnutrition project that ended in December 2012, while funding for another series of projects continues until September 2013. Irish Aid provided £97,163 for the donor financing of scale up of CMAM, Field Exchange production, a small allocation to IFE Core Group coordination and to support work on Management of Acute Malnutrition in Infants under 6 months (MAMI). UNHCR (Canada) also supported the donor financing of scale up of CMAM, Field Exchange, Nutrition Exchange and en-net with a combined contribution of £114,985. UNHCR fully funded the Anaemia in Refugees Study to the amount of £190,884.

The ENN has enjoyed the financial support of 12 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and United Nations (UN) agencies that provide recurrent annual funding. Whilst the current economic climate has impacted on funds accessible to ENN via recurrent funders, relationships with stakeholders remain strong and ENN has sustained good levels of recurrent contribution.

Through 2013, the ENN is investing person time to nurture these relationships and actively solicit funding support from established and new agencies working in the humanitarian sector.

ENN Income & Expenditure Statement
For the Year to 31st January 2013

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Expenditure | 1,041,563 |

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<td>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
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Trustees
Jeremy Shoham and Marie McGrath.
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.
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.
Victoria Lack is a Lecturer in Public Health and Primary Care, at City University, London and spent years working in the field with ACF.
Arabella Duffield is an independent nutritionist with academic and field experience in nutrition and food security, and most recently was a SC UK nutrition advisor.

Auditors
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The Emergency Nutrition Network is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. Registered address: 32, Leopold Street, Oxford, OX4 1TW UK. Registered company no. 4889844. Registered charity no. 1115156


Supporting agencies in 2012/13:

Staff
Jeremy Shoham
Field Exchange Editor, Moderate Malnutrition Research Coordinator and Director/Trustee

Carmel Dolan
Technical Director and Field Exchange Digest Co-editor.

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

Tom Banks
ENN Desk Operations Officer

Matt Todd
ENN Finance Manager

Michele Toler
Operations and Finance Assistant

Katherine Kaye
Mailing Assistant

Chloe Angood
Nutritionist/HR support

Valerie Gatchell
Nutrition Exchange Co-editor

Orna O’Reilly
designs and produces all of ENN’s publications

Phil Wilks
provides IT expertise

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