

1. Background

The Global Health Cluster seeks to better integrate the Nurturing Care Framework actions into health cluster responses, building on existing services and delivery platforms that already reach young children, caregivers, and families. To do so, it is important to understand how existing cluster and inter-cluster coordination can enable (or hinder) the implementation of guidance such as the specific actions described in ‘Nurturing care for children living in humanitarian settings’, and to explore/understand the capacity of health cluster partners to implement these actions. The baseline assessment will also determine what aspects of the nurturing care approach are already being applied by health cluster partners.

The first years of life, from prenatal development to eight *years* of age, are a critical period. The rapid neurological and physical growth that occurs during this period provides an opportunity to optimize developmental outcomes that impact the entire course of an individual's life. Young children are highly susceptible to the effects of crises and emergencies; they face compounding risks that threaten their long-term health, development, and well-being. Therefore, young children and their families are amongst the most vulnerable and affected populations by humanitarian crises and emergencies. Rather than developing new programs and delivery mechanisms, the humanitarian health sector would improve its effectiveness by integrating Early Childhood Development (ECD) into existing services, significantly shaping responsive caregiving, early learning, nutrition, health, and protection of children, which are critical for children's healthy development.

In response to perceived and identified capacity gaps in child and newborn health, that the Global Health Cluster, Child Health Task Force, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies and other key stakeholders are jointly collaborating to strengthen global advocacy and partnership to harmonize coordination and implementation to improve the quality of humanitarian responses for children based on a more detailed understanding of the current status.

2. Deliverables

There are three phases to the baseline assessment: desk review; stakeholder surveys; and findings and recommendations, with four deliverable outputs.

Deliverable 1: Expected by 06 May 2024

Desk review - design and implement desk review in collaboration with other GHC colleagues (inter-sectoral focal point) of health cluster sections of HRP 2023/2024.

Output 1: – preliminary report on findings from the desk review produced

Deliverable 2: Expected by 12 June 2024

Stakeholder surveys

- a. design, disseminate and record qualitative data inputs received through an online survey along three lines of query:
 1. Level of health cluster partner awareness of the nurturing care framework (e.g., five components of the framework, specific actions, etc.)
 2. Existing coordination practices that include the nurturing care framework approach
 3. Six core functions of the health cluster and capacity for health cluster to implement specific actions of nurturing care framework – define enablers, opportunities, and challenges
- b. Design and deliver semi-structured interviews with health cluster coordinators to expand on query lines 2 and 3 of the online survey.
- c. *Findings and recommendations - compile, analyze and describe detailed findings from all three methodologies (desk review, online survey, and semi-structured interviews); produce report with recommendations.*

Output 2:

- online survey form designed and disseminated by 10 May

- *interview guide and data recording / collection tool for semi-structured interviews produced by 10 May*
- *key informant interviews conducted by 12 June*
- *preliminary report on the findings and recommendations & supporting PowerPoint presentation produced by 12 June*

Deliverable 3: Expected by 14 June 2024

Dissemination – preliminary findings and recommendations presented to Health Cluster Coordinators, WHO, UNICEF, CHiEHS and ENAP-E through a webinar format and feedback received.

Output 3:

- *Webinar(s) delivered*

Deliverable 4: Expected by 20 June 2024

Develop workplan / monitoring framework to integrate nurturing care framework actions into health cluster responses based on the feedback and reflections from the dissemination webinar(s) as well as the final report on findings and recommendations,

Output 4:

- *Final report produced*
- *Workplan produced.*