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Global Cluster Coordination Section UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes

Quarterly Newsletter | Q2 June 2023 | Issue 8



Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs)

'Supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response, along with national and local stakeholders, and in compliance with humanitarian principles'

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Welcome back to the GCCS quarterly newsletter. With this edition, we inaugurate a new section with a conversation about the **Türkiye and Syria earthquake response coordination efforts** and where we hope to bring you more reflections from the field. The newsletter also includes information about **how to strengthen a people-centered approach** in humanitarian action, a recap of **5+ years of support to UNICEF-led global clusters on cash transfers**, an update on **initiatives recently started** in line with the recommendations to the second Evaluation of UNICEF roles as cluster lead (co-lead) agency and other news that we hope will be of your interest.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

The GCCS Team

IN BRIEF

Manuel Fontaine reflection on coordination

During his recent visit to Türkiye and north-west Syria to meet communities affected by the earthquakes that hit the region early this year, Manuel Fontaine, Director of EMOPS, highlighted the importance of coordination work as the most important contribution to ensure all efforts carry the best support to people.

Watch his remarks in the link below.

[Watch the video](#)



CLARE II update: recently initiated think pieces

GCCS continues to play a leading role in the implementation of the recommendations from the second evaluation of UNICEF's role as cluster lead (co-lead) agency. There is a set of recommendations calling for UNICEF to do more in showing the way of certain policy and guidance themes. In May and June, we launched multiple consultancy exercises to implement the following:

UNICEF Cluster Guidance to Country Offices

Work started to review and update 2015 UNICEF Cluster Coordination Guidance for Country Offices in line with UNICEF Core Commitments for Children, UNICEF Emergency Procedures and other relevant guidance

Guidance on Cluster Transition

Inter-agency consultative process initiated for the development of a guidance on cluster transition to ensure the cost-effectiveness, value for money and efficiency of the cluster approach

Accountability to Affected Populations in UNICEF clusters/AoR

Stock-take of the implementation of Accountability to Affected Populations in UNICEF-led clusters/AoR at country level initiated to support further progress

Guidance to strengthening a people-centered approach

In recognition of the large amount of guidance that currently exists on cross cutting issues this works aims to produce a joint guidance to bring cross-cutting thematic under a more coherent umbrella to better support country teams on coordinating an inclusive and accountable response.

INTERCLUSTER INITIATIVES

Strengthening a people-centered approach in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle

In response to the increasing complexity of humanitarian response and calls for a lightening of Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) processes, the UNICEF Global Cluster Coordination Section (GCCS) is undertaking efforts to better align integration of various cross-cutting thematic under a broader, coherent people-centered approach.

In 2022, the GCCS commissioned a comprehensive review of Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) to assess the extent to which people-centered approaches are reflected in HNOs and HRPs. A report of this review process is available [here](#). We thank the consultant Mireia Cano for her work in the report. Key recommendations include:

- **Strengthen the linkage between HNO and HRP** with regard to intersectional analysis and a people-centered approach.
- **Demonstrate the impact of implementing a people-centered approach**, through strengthened monitoring and documentation of good practices and their results.
- **Further strengthen reflection of localization in HNOs/HRPs**, including to often excluded local actors, such as women-led organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities.
- **Further strengthen collection of data**, including through disaggregation of needs assessment and monitoring data by sex, age and disability

- **Systematically consider how a people-centered approach is reflected in projects** design, implementation and monitoring.

Convening collective reflection on advancing people-centered approaches

As part of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW) in April, the GCCS organized a session on integrating cross cutting issues in the HPC, as a space for interagency sharing of experience and learning on a people-centered approach in the HPC. During the session, key questions were discussed such as:

- How to balance ‘consolidation’ of cross cutting issues with the need to maintain dedicated attention to each?
- What is needed to advance a people centered approach at country and at global levels?
- How is a people-centered approach applied in specific sectors and specific contexts?

The event included panelists from OCHA, Impact Initiatives/ REACH, IOM, UNHCR and the Inclusion Task Force in Yemen. A recording of the event is available [here](#).

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Türkiye/Syria: A conversation about coordination with GCCS colleagues on surge



Three months after the catastrophic earthquakes that struck Türkiye and north-west Syria, we spoke with colleagues from the global clusters. They shared their experience in supporting the scale-up of the response to the earthquakes in the two countries, while recognizing the courage of colleagues who, despite being personally affected by the earthquakes, stepped up to the challenge and led the coordination efforts bringing hope to the millions of people affected.

[Read the full story here](#)

NEWS FEATURE

5+ years of NORCAP deployment supporting UNICEF-led global clusters on cash transfers

Since 2018, UNICEF-led global clusters and area of responsibility have worked to increase the use and coordination of cash transfers, in line with Grand Bargain commitments. This key workstream has been implemented in partnership with [NORCAP](#) with a deployment that resulted in the development of evidence, guidance and training materials, and in technical support to country clusters.

Key achievements include: a Global Education Cluster [Synthesis Report and Guidelines on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Education in Emergencies](#), a Global Nutrition Cluster [Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies](#), and a Global WASH Cluster [Evidence Building Study for Cash and Markets for WASH in Emergencies](#) and [Market-based Programming in WASH Technical Guidance for Humanitarian Practitioners](#). Their findings and recommendations were distilled in a [Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Coordination](#) online training course, which was completed by more than 175 learners in the one year since it has been launched.

Country clusters in education, nutrition, WASH and in the child protection area of responsibility have received technical support on integrating cash transfers, directly from the GCCS or through partnerships with [NORCAP](#) and the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#). The need for field support has grown in the past few years, in line with the growth of this humanitarian assistance modality and providing it with the current limited resources has been a challenge. With the NORCAP support to GCCS ending in June 2023, other approaches would need to be explored for UNICEF to continue this workstream.

LEARNING

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With almost **13,000 enrolments** in the last year and more than **5,000 completion** certificates delivered, the Humanitarian Coordination eLearning channel continues to bridge skill gaps and train staff and partners all around the globe. With consistently new and improved content available in English, French and Spanish, this is your go-to platform to skill up as a professional. Knowledge on emergency and cluster work is highly valued in UNICEF and can open opportunities for new experiences. **REMEMBER** as a UNICEF staff member five per cent of your time can be officially dedicated to training! So, enroll today and boost your career!



Humanitarian Coordination
Learning Channel

Our purpose

Strengthening sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination for equitable and principled humanitarian responses

- We provide strategic leadership, operational field support, capacity development and learning and knowledge management
- We promote cross-cluster initiatives that enable people-centered and inclusive humanitarian services
- We contribute to shaping the tools that govern the humanitarian program cycle

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For additional information on the work of each cluster/area of responsibility please click on the images below.



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