NUTRITION IN EMERGENCIES

Planning, preparedness and management for development out of disaster

Nutrition for Health and Development
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- Role of WHO/NHD in the context of emergencies
- How does NHD address nutrition issues
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ROLE OF WHO/NHD IN CONTEXT OF EMERGENCIES (1)

To provide technical support and guidance to UN partners, NGOs and governments (early warning/preparedness; response; post emergency rehabilitation);

- nutritional standards;
- food/ration composition;
- assessment of malnutrition;
- nutritional surveillance;
- supplementary and therapeutic feeding.

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ROLE OF WHO/NHD IN CONTEXT OF EMERGENCIES (2)

To strengthen national, sub-national and international capacities to manage nutritional needs of populations in emergencies, through:

- production and dissemination of up-to-date guidelines, manuals, field guides and training materials;
- training in improved management of nutrition.
NHD ADDRESSES NUTRITION ISSUES IN EMERGENCIES THROUGH:

- Normative and standard-setting work;
- Technical support;
- Collaboration with UN agencies, NGOs and governments;
- Participation in joint assessment missions for prevention/rapid response and post-emergency rehabilitation

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NUTRITION IN EMERGENCIES

World Health Organization
Geneva
Guiding principles for feeding infants and young children during emergencies

Department of Nutrition for Health and Development
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Food and Nutrition Needs in Emergencies
WHO Representatives should have the resources to:

- Monitor quality of nutrition assessments and nutrition surveillance systems and link with communicable disease surveillance systems.
- Facilitate capacity building in improved management of malnutrition also in post emergencies.
- Develop strategies on how to address nutrition issues during the response phase of an emergency and during the post-emergency phase together with Government, UN and other partners.

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CONSTRAINTS (within WHO)

- Lack of field presence;
- Insufficient acknowledgement of importance of addressing nutritional issues by staff in the field (e.g. nutrition not just a concern of WFP)
CONSTRAINTS (interagency)

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- Insufficient interagency collaboration in the field of:
  - carrying out standardized nutrition surveys;
  - developing functioning surveillance systems;
  - managing severe malnutrition based on WHO’s norms and standards;

- Insufficient presence of main implementing partners in post-emergency rehabilitation

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EXAMPLES ON HOW TO ADDRESS CONSTRAINTS

• Nutrition strategies as part of package of health strategies developed to address problems in emergencies;

• Organization of training workshops within WHO on management of nutrition in emergencies