

SMART
GLOBAL
ASSESSMENT
WORKING GROUP
2016 MEETING
REPORT

SMART

Nairobi, Kenya
May 25-26, 2016

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Meeting Overview.....	1
Key Updates.....	2
Action Points AWG 2016.....	3
AWG 2016 Meeting Evaluation.....	4
Annex 1: Agenda.....	5
Annex 2: Participant List.....	6
Annex 3: SMART Global Assessment Working Group Meeting Minutes, Kenya 2016.....	8
Day 1 – Wednesday, May 25, 2016.....	8
Session 1 – SMART Coordination (Updates and Progress).....	8
Session 2 – SMART Plausibility Check.....	10
Session 3 – SMART Tools for Coordination of National Nutrition Information Systems.....	11
Session 4 – National-Level SMART Surveys and Nutrition Information Systems.....	13
Session 5 – Assessment of Older People.....	15
Day 2 – Thursday, May 27, 2016.....	16
Session 6 – Mobile Data Collection.....	16
Session 7 – Urban Sampling.....	17
Session 8 – Data validation, archiving, sharing and utilisation.....	18
Session 9 – ENA Stakeholder Consultation.....	20
Session 10 – Wrap-up and Closing.....	20

Introduction

As SMART Global Project Convenor, the SMART Team at ACF-Canada supports key nutrition stakeholders by enhancing response capacity in emergencies, development settings and displaced populations, and in high-risk contexts with an absence of reliable data. SMART also provides support by ensuring coordination and dissemination of information around the methodology and advancing technical capacity to conduct SMART surveys. Since 2013, SMART Assessment Working Group meetings have served as an essential platform for nutrition partners to convene and share field experiences, lessons learned and good practices in order to provide solutions for nutrition assessment challenges and new contexts. These discussions in turn have and continue to inform improvements to the methodology addressed by the SMART Technical Advisory Group (TAG). This meeting provided an opportunity to share SMART global project updates, review previous action points, promote awareness of the SMART 2015-2017 strategy, and present sustainability mechanisms beyond 2017.

Meeting Overview

The **4th SMART Global Assessment Working Group Meeting** was held in **Kenya** from **25th to 26th May 2016**. The objectives of the meeting were:

1. To update SMART partners on the 2015/2016 progress of SMART initiatives globally.
2. To exchange technical SMART discussions.

In order to achieve these objectives, discussions were organised around identified thematic areas as summarized below (full agenda can be found in Annex 1).

- SMART coordination and overview of global project.
- Plausibility check for anthropometry and new plausibility check for mortality.
- SMART tools for coordination of national nutrition information systems.
- National-level SMART surveys.
- Urban sampling.
- Assessment of older people using SMART.
- Data validation, archiving, sharing and utilization.
- Mobile data collection.
- ENA stakeholder consultation.

The meeting attracted 43 participants, inclusive of 8 members of SMART and TAG.



Key Updates

SMART Manual Version 2

Currently the team is working on the much anticipated SMART Manual Version 2, which will adopt a similar order to face-to-face training modules. This version will reinforce sampling and plausibility check for anthropometry, and provide theoretical and more practical information for undertaking surveys.

SMART ENA Software

The latest ENA software is the **July 9th 2015** version. Funding opportunities are being pursued to design a new version of the software. Feedback from users was consolidated through an ENA stakeholder consultation session during the AWG. The information obtained from the consultation, along with an online survey on ENA software, will be critical for the new design.

Emergency Survey Support

Since its launch in 2014, Emergency Survey Support (ESS) is provided to partners in order to respond to the inter-agency needs in: 1) areas of humanitarian crises, or 2) high-risk nutrition situations with an absence of reliable data. ESS is a means to provide **remote or on-ground technical expertise by SMART** for the coordination and implementation of nutrition surveys. In 2015 and early 2016, SMART deployed the ESS function in Malawi and Nepal in response to natural disasters, in Syria and South Sudan owing to conflicts, and in Afghanistan to support strengthening of national nutrition information systems.

Training Policy

SMART involves three levels of trainings: Master, Survey Manger, and Enumerator. The SMART Global Project facilitates the face-to-face trainings for Survey Managers and Master Trainers. Due to a decrease in funding, SMART has adopted a cost-recovery approach to trainings since the beginning of 2016. A training fee of **USD \$1,200** and **USD \$800** per participants is applied for Survey Manager and Master Trainings respectively. The fee includes all classroom instructions, practical exercises, materials, stationery, and catering for the duration of the training. The first cost-recovery training conducted in Kenya (February 2016) attracted 82 applicants with 16 participants eventually trained as survey managers. The second Global Survey Manager Trainer is planned for July 2016. The call for expressions of interest for Master Trainers is ongoing.

SMART Consultant Roster

SMART maintains a roster of consultants for nutrition partners so that timely information can be shared with agencies that have not developed internal capacity to conduct surveys, and require personnel for conducting nutrition assessments. Details about eligibility criteria and how to access the roster can be found on the SMART website.

SMART eLearning

SMART eLearning modules are being designed in order to initiate ownership and enable partners to implement SMART autonomously, leading to a larger number of trained persons in-country; national staff and institutional actors. The initiative will also help in increasing the coverage and ensure that nutrition stakeholders have continued ability to improve the quality of nutrition assessments. The initial phase of eLearning development involves 3 SMART modules: overview of field surveys, survey teams and survey field procedures. The development of eLearning for SMART is underway since February 2016 and the expected delivery of these three modules is early fall 2016.

Website and Forum Updates

The current SMART website has been a source of information to stakeholders since its inception in 2014. The website recorded 27,347 visits in 2015 with 16,755 downloads used across 143 countries. The website forum continues to provide a platform for technical queries and exchanges about SMART.



Action Points AWG 2016

SMART Updates and Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focal points to continue attending annual AWG meetings.• Focal points to continue promoting the SMART website and forum for technical discussions within their respective organisations.• SMART to continue providing technical updates through the SMART website, newsletters, and webinars.• SMART to work with the TAG on the development of new ENA software.• SMART to revise and disseminate the SMART Manual Version 2.
SMART Consultant Roster	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SMART to continue maintaining the consultant roster.• Focal points to promote the existence of the consultant roster within their respective organisations, and partners in need of a consultant to request the roster.
Emergency Survey Support (ESS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners to share their ESS needs with SMART.• SMART to activate ESS where feasible and if meeting eligibility criteria, upon partner request.
SMART Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SMART to conduct AWG meetings and continue partnerships with MoH/governments and the wider SMART community.• Partners to continue to share lessons learned and experiences on using SMART.
ODK in SMART	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SMART to develop and share a guidance on the use of ODK in collection and analysis of anthropometric data.
Urban Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SMART to share a guidance note on urban sampling.



AWG 2016 Meeting Evaluation

In order to improve planning and organization of future meetings, an evaluation was conducted among stakeholders in attendance at the 2016 Global SMART AWG using hard copy forms. Of the 35 participants that were not SMART and TAG members, 28 completed the evaluation form. Generally, the majority of the participants found AWG sessions 'very useful' to 'extremely useful'. The use of Mobile Data Collection was the most useful session among participants (71.4% 'extremely useful'). Least useful sessions as identified by participants were Assessment of Older people and UNICEF-SMART Partnership (3.6% for 'not at all useful' and 'not very useful' respectively) (see Figure 1).

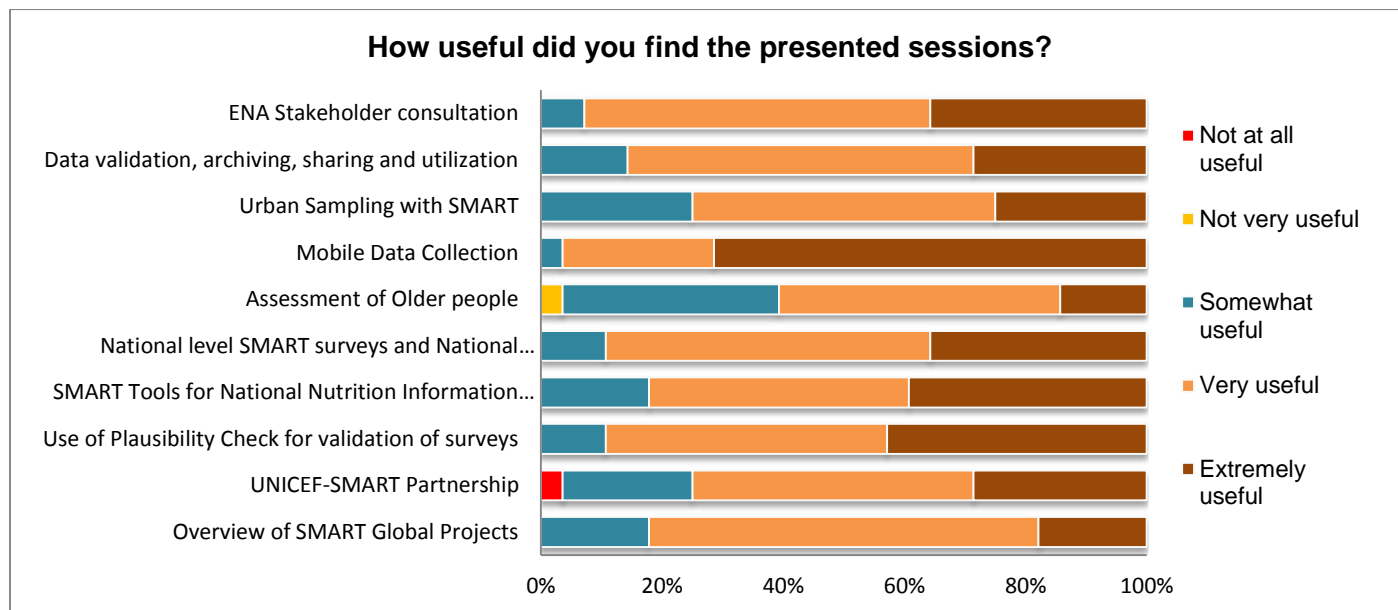


Figure 1: Usefulness of the AWG Meeting Sessions

The rating of presentations and meeting venue was generally 'good' to 'excellent'. The overall rating of the workshop was excellent for 57.1% of the respondents, very good for 32.1% and good for 11%.

The participants were probed on how future workshops could be improved. Some participants felt the need to allocate more day/s for enhanced interaction and involvement of several countries to share lessons and experiences from varied contexts. The team felt the need to have more group work sessions like the one done during the ENA consultative forum. Other suggestions included regular updates on technical documents, diversification of presentations (social media, advocacy, knowledge management) and early breaks for afternoon sessions.

Annex 1: Agenda

Global SMART Assessment Working Group Meeting Nairobi, Kenya, May 25-26, 2016

Agenda

Day 1 – Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Time	Content
Morning with break	Opening of Meeting Welcome of participants, review of the agenda and objectives of the meeting. SMART Coordination <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of action points from the 2015 SMART Assessment Working Group meetings. 2. Overview of SMART Global Project in 2015.
	Plausibility Check for SMART <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of detailed technical notes for Plausibility Check for Anthropometry. 2. Presentation of Plausibility Check for Mortality.
	SMART Tools for Coordination of National Nutrition Information Systems <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kenya. 2. Ethiopia 3. Afghanistan 4. South Sudan
Afternoon with break	National-Level SMART Surveys and Nutrition Information Systems <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tanzania. 2. West and Central Africa
	Sampling in urban settings using SMART <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. India. 2. Ukraine. 3. SMART guidance note for urban sampling.
	Assessment of older people using SMART <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ukraine.

Day 2 – Thursday, May 26, 2016

Time	Content
Morning with break	Data validation, archiving, sharing and utilization. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNHCR 2. SCI 3. ACF 4. WVI
	Mobile Data Collection <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of ODK manual. 2. Presentation of practical examples and recent advancements in mobile data collection.
Afternoon with break	ENA Stakeholder Consultation
	Wrap-up and Closing of Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification of Global and Regional SMART Assessment Working Group Focal Points roles and responsibilities. 2. Recap of SMART AWG meeting and overview of action points.



Annex 2: Participant List

SMART Global Assessment Working Group Meeting Nairobi, Kenya, May 25-26, 2016

Participant List

No.	Country	Last name	First name	Affiliation	Email
1	SMART	Tenaglia	Paula	ACF CA	ptenaglia@actioncontrelafaim.ca
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26	Kenya	Gathigi	Lucy	MOH	lucygathigi@gmail.com
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Annex 3: SMART Global Assessment Working Group Meeting Minutes, Kenya 2016

Day 1 – Wednesday, May 25, 2016

- Introduction of organizations and welcome
- Introduction of SMART Team and Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
- Opening remarks for Global Assessment Working Group Meeting

Session 1 – SMART Coordination (Updates and Progress)

The objectives of this session were to ensure:

- Participants and facilitators have a chance to get to know each other
- Participants know the general objectives of the SMART Focal Point Meeting
- Participants are informed of the progress of the SMART project since 2015

A. Overview of SMART Global Project achievements since 2015.

Four (4) pillars of the SMART Strategy 2015-2017

1. Technical Coordination and Information Management
2. Provision of Emergency Survey Support (ESS)
3. Promotion of SMART Learning
4. Innovation and Technological Advancements

Overview of SMART Global Project in 2015

- Support to Latin America, Middle East, Asia and Africa
- Discussed capacity building statistics, SMART website visits, downloads and user demographics

SMART Manual Version 2

- Discussed it's development to be released later this year
- Incorporating best practices from SMART surveys with a layout similar to Survey Manager training modules

ENA Software

- Actively seeking funding for a new ENA software and requesting feedback from users

Other topics:

- SMART Consultant Roster and eligibility
- ESS deployments in 2015
- Training Policy for Master Trainer and Survey Manager training and cost-recovery training fees
- Development of eLearning for SMART as a supplement to face-to-face training and not replacement
 - Initial design includes four modules to be released in August

B. Overview of action points from the 2015 SMART Assessment Working Group meetings

East Africa Regional SMART Meeting – January 2015

- Capacity building and technical support was requested and has been met through several trainings, sensitization sessions and technical support to Assessment & Nutrition Information



Working Groups. Other action points that have been met include advocacy for the use of mobile technology in nutrition surveys; development of partnerships with MoH, UNICEF and other stakeholders to broaden the scope of capacity building in SMART; and providing a platform for sharing experiences

- Requests that have not been met include the development of a new tool for measuring MUAC and the provision of training on the use of digital data collection

Global Assessment Working Group Meeting – February 2015

- SMART has met all of the action points from previous Global FP meeting

C. SMART-UNICEF Partnership

Background for partnership

- Varied application and use of SMART surveys in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) indicated variable level of capacity across countries
- What is contribution of SMART in national programmes from NIS perspective in SSA?
- What can we learn from experiences of national SMART surveys in SSA?
- How can partnership better guide national SMART surveys?

Four outputs of partnership

1. Analysis of SMART surveys role and contribution to nutrition programming and nutrition information systems in Sub-Sahara Africa. A three category scale used to classify and describe the use of SMART in 9 countries:
 - a. Those that do not include results from nutrition assessments using SMART (<10 surveys per annum)
 - b. Those that rely on SMART for humanitarian and surveillance needs
 - c. Those that Use national SMART for routine surveillance
2. Case Studies (2): Institutionalisation of SMART methods in national nutrition surveys
 - a. Tanzania and Burkina Faso
3. Advocacy paper for the adoption of national surveys using SMART
4. Mapping of SMART survey capacity and needs across East and Southern Africa
 - a. Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, South Sudan, Malawi, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Namibia
 - o Promotion of SMART across regional offices
 - o Translation of outputs in three languages (English, French and Portuguese)

Discussion

- Importance of relationship building for the implementation of findings from the partnership.
- Focus on generation of information and evidence that is actionable
- Outputs 1, 2 and 4 involved country input or reports were reviewed by country teams
- Coordination lacking in many areas e.g. Malawi has too many surveys
- DHS and SMART – differences in timeliness of results



Session 2 – SMART Plausibility Check

The objective of this session was to demonstrate the use of the Plausibility Check for Anthropometry chapter for the validation of nutrition surveys, and to present the Plausibility Check for Mortality available in ENA software.

A. Anthropometry

Key Messages

- Overview on the purpose of Plausibility Check and importance to validate the results of surveys
- ENA is the sole existing software that provides critical analysis of nutrition and mortality data through the Plausibility Check for Anthropometry and Mortality
- Explanation of 10 statistical tests included in Plausibility Check for Anthropometry used to validate overall data quality
- Description of Table Summary and the importance of going beyond the overall score to ask why and gather more information

Discussion

- In regards to what extent other indicators can be included in SMART, SMART was developed in 2002 upon request that nutrition and mortality be the key indicators used to assess emergencies and their severity, and subsequently clear, transparent checks be developed for these two indicators

B. Mortality

Key Messages

- Mortality is not included in every survey as it is not an indicator to influence programming but used as advocacy for emergency contexts
- Overview of Data Entry Individual Level for the Calculation of Death Rates screen in ENA
- Recommendations for collecting mortality data:
 - Collect and enter data into individual level screen
 - Recall period should always be based on a memorable date for the entire survey population, not exactly 90 days
 - Data for mortality is very valuable for demographic information
- Overview of Mortality Plausibility check
 - Available but still under development
 - No penalty points assigned

Discussion

- Distinction for cause of death (illness vs. injury) is more important in conflict settings
- There are two main reasons why there will be differences in the sample sizes of children for anthropometry and mortality: 1) mortality data is collected for all children in the sampled households irrespective whether they are away at the time of the survey and 2) mortality includes children 0-5 years old.



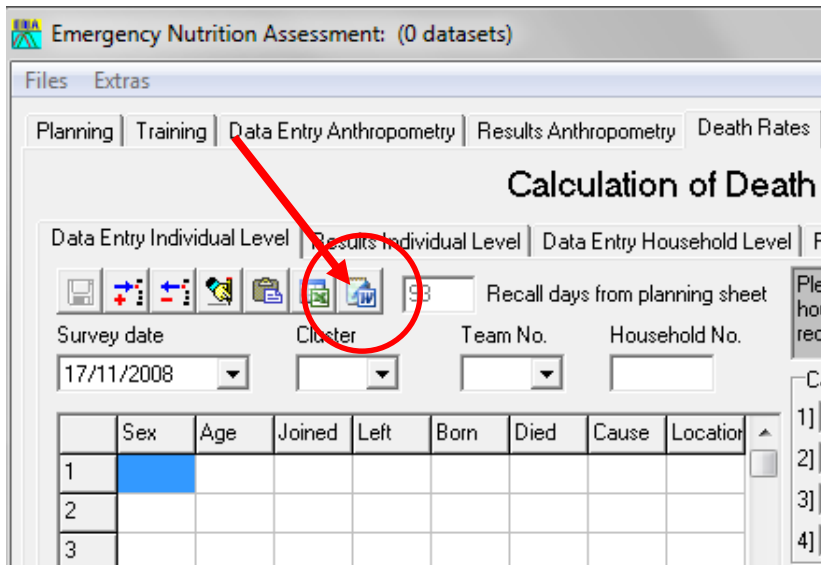


Figure 2. Click on Word icon in the Death Rates>Data Entry Individual Level tab to generate the Plausibility Check for Mortality in ENA.

Session 3 – SMART Tools for Coordination of National Nutrition Information Systems

Purpose of session was to discuss the various tools used for National Nutrition Information Systems and identify the key challenges involved.

A. Enhancing Utilization of SMART Surveys Information: Experience from Nutrition Sector in Ministry of Health Kenya

Overview

- Surveys carried out annually to fit into seasonality
- Lead agencies: MoH with support from partners at county level
- Validation of methodology at National Nutrition Information Technical Working Group to strengthen nutrition surveillance
- Ministry of Health:
 - Reviews SMART survey tool, validates and issues recommendations
 - Offers technical capacity strengthening to counties
 - Monitors use of evidence based on information for decision making
- Discussed SMART validation process in NITWG and the utilization of SMART survey results by MoH in the IPC process and for nutrition intervention targeting
- Discussed the purpose and role of a National Nutrition Data Clinic Workshop
- Presented actions moving forward and overall challenges

B. Nutrition Information Systems: Ethiopia (NIS)

Overview

- Discussed the development, composition and main achievements of the NIS in the use of decentralized nutrition data and better data management
- Discussed the purpose and role of the Health and Nutrition Task Force (HNTF), Technical early warning working group (TEWWG) and Child Survival Task Force.



- Seasonality of surveys and implementers of different nutrition assessments
 - Seasonal bi-annual nutrition surveys (BANS)
 - Rapid nutrition assessments (RNA)
 - Nutritional screening/CHD
 - Seasonal (Belg and Meher) assessment
- Discussed the planning tools for assessments and validation procedures from proposal to final report. Noted that sharing of raw data requires prior approval.
- Presented challenges faced and lessons learned

Discussion

- Impact of El Nino on the methodologies used and their results
- Additional indicators used with SMART surveys are WASH, IYCF, morbidity, livestock and Food Security
- Use of rapid assessments and frequency of SMART surveys

C. Nutrition Information Systems: Afghanistan – Assessment and Information Management Working Group (AIM-WG)

Overview

- History and background of NIS in Afghanistan
- Members of Afghanistan AIM-WG: Ministry of Public Health, Public Nutrition Department, BPHS, partners and UN organizations
- There is no seasonality for surveys
- Planning tools for assessments include ENA protocol template and presentation at AIM-WG for approval
- Guidelines outlining validation procedures include specific questions to be answered by AIM-WG before an official letter approving the assessment is provided to agency by the Public Nutrition Department
- Nutrition survey database and data management procedures developed in March 2016
- Presented key success and challenges of the NIS along with lessons learned

Discussion

- Major challenges with no current evidence in most areas, most recent source of information is the National Nutrition Survey in 2013; advocacy for updated high quality nutrition information and SMART methodology through papers and bi-lateral discussions.
- Discussions around the cost of the nutrition surveillance system
- Survey database is a simple Excel spreadsheet that can easily be developed and shared

D. Nutrition Information Systems: South Sudan (NIWG)

Overview

- Composition of Nutrition Information Working Group (NIWG) and frequency of meetings
- Reduced attendance in past year is an issue that has been raised with Nutrition Cluster
 - Exploring the option of having permanent members within NIWG
- Nutrition assessments are bi-annual (lean period and post-harvest)
- Generic assessment tools for South Sudan context have been developed with optional indicators being food security, WASH and IYCF



- Steps of the feedback mechanism to validate the survey protocol are similar for validation of survey results
- Presented common errors found in poor quality anthropometric data
- Discussed data management of all survey results and protocol approval
- Key challenges include the restructuring and decentralization of state boundaries from 10 to 28 resulting in difficulty to conduct assessments because of inaccessibility or insecurity
- Key successes included the NIWG fostering transparency and credibility with improved quality of assessments (1 invalidated in 2015 compared to 5 invalidated in 2014)

Discussion

- Micronutrient indicators are not being included in small-scale surveys
- Priority areas could be determined to maintain seasonality/frequency with such an increase in states but the NIWG has not finalized what adaptations will be made
- Most often a designated team of 3 people within the NIWG is relied upon to validate surveys despite declined attendance. All partners are given raw data.

Session 4 – National-Level SMART Surveys and Nutrition Information Systems

The objective of this session was to discuss the use of SMART surveys at national level.

A. Tanzania: National Nutrition Surveys using SMART

Overview

- Composition of Tanzania Working Group: National Nutrition Survey and its Steering committee members of which Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) is lead agency
- Timeline of preparation for a National Nutrition Survey (NNS)
- Role of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in validation procedures from survey protocol to final report
- Results of the Tanzania Nutrition survey are used for policy and at program levels
- Key successes include an available national team with knowledge of SMART methodology for nutrition surveys and basic knowledge of SMART for district nutrition officers
- Remaining gaps and challenges include lack of data analysis knowledge within technical team and no independent survey dissemination plan locally or internationally
- Lessons learned include the need to increase ownership to involve all nutrition stakeholders in survey planning and implementation. Also, create a realistic timeline to avoid over working survey teams.
- Discussed involvement of TFNC in Tanzania DHS (TDHS) 2015 with lead agency being NBS and Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS).
 - TFNC was involved with training the enumerators in anthropometry and performing standardization test, and provided field-level support during data collection.
- Key successes included standardization test feedback to ensure quality anthropometry data. Remaining gaps/challenges include limited time for training also the weather was not appropriate to undress children
- Lessons learned included finding other methods to train survey enumerators

Discussion



- The process of advocating for a standardization test of DHS enumerators resulted in DHS adopting the standardization test for all future surveys. Results have not been released and therefore, quality of anthropometric data has not been assessed.
- SMART always requires two measurers be part of a team and does not advise mothers to replace a measurer.

B. National Nutrition Surveys in West and Central Africa (WCARO)

Overview

- In 2005, there was a nutrition crisis but lacking up-to-date information to guide emergency programs. SMART methodology was introduced around this time. With the first SMART survey conducted in Niger, results were available within one month to create action.
- In 2008, WCAR office adopted the policy to promote at least one nutrition survey per year following SMART guidelines. Since 2008/09, WCARO has conducted national surveys annually or every two years in most countries in the region.
- In 2015, the Global Nutrition Report called for annual National Nutrition Surveys to ensure regular and timely data available for advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.
- Importance of National Nutrition Surveys and why they should be conducted
- Differences in NNS from "usual" (regional/district/county) SMART surveys
- Budget of NNS is critical. They have set it intentionally low (USD\$10,000 per strata) in order to manage the budget carefully and complete data collection within maximum one month and be able to mobilize the resources again next year.
- An NNS requires extensive planning and in WCARO is undertaken at the same time every year during peak of the hunger season.
- In WCARO, second stage sampling is employed using systematic random sampling. Complete listing in advance has an extra cost and has not always been reliable in the past.
- NNS keep indicators to a minimum in order to assess acute malnutrition in children and women. Always think about immediate actions from the results when selecting indicators to include in any survey.
- NNS coordination mechanism at national level and the role of the Technical Survey Coordination Committee
- Dissemination plan for NNS: Preliminary reports are published within 1 month after the survey. WCAR Info is an online database that was in place and will be re-established to host all reports and available datasets.
- Encourage collecting data at national level and first administrative level if data is to be shared globally.
- High data quality outcomes of NNS are a result of a long-term commitment of capacity building, funding and continuous technical support.

Discussion

- Sampling based on livelihood zones - not necessarily the best approach for national nutrition surveys. (Malawi discussion point: strong association between livelihood zones and nutrition outcomes - reason for choosing LZ for Malawi sub-national surveys).
- Added value of SMART (decrease in measurement bias, quality checks, standardisation etc.), applying to DHS and MICS.



- NNS advantage over DHS and MICS: short survey data collection, NNS estimate represents a point in time (vs. much longer data collections in MICS and DHS over 6-12 months), availability of results.

C. Implications of Poor Data Quality (add-on)

Overview

- Poor data quality affects prevalence programming/data use
- Example of Nigeria. SD from NNS low vs. DHS (almost 2). Implication of high SD: higher prevalence (overestimation).
- Example #2 Nigeria. 2013 anomaly (reflection of actual situation?) or bad SD/bad data. Likely issue of data quality.
 1. Cost
 2. Policies and priorities
 3. Global goals

Session 5 – Assessment of Older People

This session elaborated how you can use SMART to assess older people in emergency and other contexts

Key Messages

- Survey design - sampling guidelines in SMART can be applied for assessing all populations regardless of age
 - Considerations include: sample size using ENA has an automatic adjustment for % of children in household so you need to take the final size and multiply by 0.9 when sampling older people (similarly to when sampling children 0-59 months).
 - Can adapt sampling strategy if fewer older people in the population
- Anthropometry measurements: height is not measured for older people as it is a major challenge due to scoliosis, bed-ridden individuals, etc.
 - Measuring demi-span is the easiest for older people as clothes don't have to be removed and less equipment is required. Correlation between height and demi-span are very strong.
 - Majority of Ukrainian older people were overweight or obese
 - MUAC thresholds for adults showed consistent results with demi-span and proportion of overweight/obese individuals were similar.
- Dietary Diversity Score to analyze 9 groups (from FAO) showed consistent result between government control and non-government control areas.
 - Note that FAO Dietary Diversity Score has been changed this year to include 10 food groups and a different threshold.
- Household Hunger Scale - FANTA was used but inappropriate in homes where severe hunger was not present
 - Very low numbers suffering from moderate or severe hunger
 - Highlights differences between FAO/FANTA and WFP dietary diversity and food security
- Chronic diseases were a common diagnosis in target population.
 - Survey asked questions about prevalence of diagnosis, use of medication and primary reason if not taking medication



- Disability/Dependency was assessed using Katz Index of Independence in Activities of Daily Living (ADL) to determine moderate or severe dependency. Results show majority had dependency and larger proportion were above 70%
- Mental Health/Psychological Distress using Kessler K6 Score
- Discussed other indicators to assess the Health and Nutrition of Older People

Discussion

- Point of clarification: SSC (0.9 for children 6-59 months, therefore need to multiply by 0.9)
- Debate and discussion on most appropriate methodology to use for nutrition dietary diversity (new guidelines released 1-2 weeks after survey). Debate is still open.

Day 2 – Thursday, May 27, 2016

- Round tables recapped key messages from previous day's sessions.

Session 6 – Mobile Data Collection

This objective of this session was to introduce standardised ODK questionnaires for nutrition and mortality surveys, the development of an accompanying manual, and updates on ODK use and SMART.

A. Mobile Data Collection Sampling. Pt. 1 (Manual and Questionnaire templates)

Key Messages

- Mobile data collection is less expensive than paper, however there is usually a need to hire a consultant.
- This presentation demonstrated that a new manual that will soon be available to partners will allow survey managers to create mobile questionnaires from paper with public software themselves, and train enumerators to collect mobile data without external help from an IT department.
- Benefits of using mobile devices:
 1. Reduces risk of data manipulation
 2. Reduces the need for data entry
 3. Improved error control
 4. Easier and timely monitoring of teams' performance
- SMART Mobile User Manual is very visual with 70-80% being screenshots
- Uses Kobo Toolbox which is compatible with ODK software
- Chapters of the manual:
 1. Build
 2. Collect
 3. Aggregate
- Manual includes instructions to create a survey from template and from scratch to be used for any kind of survey (e.g. WASH), Kobo Form Builder.
- Two templates (Excel format):
 1. Anthropometry only
 2. Anthropometry and additional variables based on SENS (all modules included in this template, modules can be deleted if not collecting data for them).
- Option to aggregate data with and without internet access



- The manual and templates will become available shortly on SMART website

B. Mobile Data Collection Sampling. Pt. 2

Key Messages

- Discussed the history of mobile technology for improved data quality
- ODK can be easily operated and can calculate z-score alongside questionnaire
- Discussed the convenience of using tablets in the field despite security concerns in some countries
- Have used mobile data collection in NNS in Nigeria, Senegal, Guinea and Liberia
- Innovations include calculation of WHO flags and standardization test identification of outliers and inliers
- Re-measures are requested for flagged data, and to prevent invented data random re-measure is requested for 5% of all measures taken
 - Discussions around the fact that the re-measure will be used as the correct measure for analysis and not the first measure
- GPS and time stamp analysis will allow for validation that enumerators visited the exact cluster/village/district/region to have high quality data
- Benefits and complimentary uses: emergency tool, improved data quality in large surveys, nutrition surveillance and introduction of greater accountability

Discussion

- Benefits to using server or cloud to upload data (data uploaded via cloud is ready to be imported into ENA without transposing columns), and options to charge tablets in areas with frequent power cuts (solar batteries, cut access to browsing, low battery mode)
- Troubleshooting issues with mobile devices in the field

Session 7 – Urban Sampling

The objectives of this session included:

- Sharing experiences and challenges with urban sampling
- Identification of the key challenges and concerns around urban sampling
- Discussions on the ways forward for a SMART urban sampling guidance note.
- Comparison of the pros and cons of various urban sampling methods
- Discussion on the urban sampling paper produced based on presentations of the AWG

A. Mumbai

Key Messages

- Overview of date and target population of survey: difficult context for movement (no clear boundaries) and unclear division of households because of illegal squatting
- Barriers during data collection: local cooperation. Solution: involvement of local informal authorities allowed for safe data collection
- Extensive enumeration strategy to number households and use trivial landmarks to navigate survey zones, use of enumeration codes to mark households to be surveyed within 12 days
- Exclusion of households due to ongoing intervention with conflict of interest and resistance from community



- Used one stage sampling method for survey (simple random sampling)
- Successes:
 - Low cost because survey was compact; complete enumeration without missing HH; one stage simple random sampling made survey simple, quick and easy to conduct; no selection bias (full enumeration prior to survey); less time required for data collection; serial numbers can be used to identify homes for intervention as well
- Challenges:
 - Require good rapport with slums before starting survey; recall period was difficult as very diverse population; navigation within slums; high migration rate affects data collection; narrow alleys and no space for data entry/meetings/lunch etc.; high number of absent households.
- Lessons Learned:
 - Extra attention and time needed during planning phase
 - Used one stage (vs. cluster sampling) to be cost effective (feasible due to full enumeration and compact geographic area).

Discussion

- Time management - neighbours gave contact numbers of missing HH, made appointments, generally home on Sunday (or late at night - 9/10pm - but this late time was not possible for safety of survey teams)
- No parents - if elder sibling (older than 18yo) home, then teams took measurements. If no older sibling, asked for other relative nearby.

B. Urban Sampling in Ukraine

Key Messages

- Showed contrast to the urban surveys seen in Nairobi and Mumbai. This is the same survey discussed in the older people session of Day 1
- 90% of survey zone was urban setting
- Sampling frame included government controlled areas which had electoral precincts with population data available. This had clear boundaries of precinct, names of street and numbers for all residential structures and was readily available eliminating the need to enumerate like in Mumbai.
- Systematic random sampling with second stage sampling was used for government and non-government controlled areas (presence of many abandoned houses in the latter).

Discussion

- Abandoned households were frequent and counted them as abandoned when contextual information was available but in retrospect, there were probably many households counted as empty that were actually abandoned

Session 8 – Data validation, archiving, sharing and utilisation

The session objectives involved;

- Organisational processes around the utilisation of nutrition survey data for programming and surveillance systems
- Good practices around data utilisation
- Identification of the next steps on nutrition data utilisation



A. Data Utilization for Programming Refugee Operations (UNHCR)

Key Messages

- Overview of all SENS modules
- In 2015, 63 SENS surveys have been undertaken in East Africa; not all by UNHCR but joint effort between agencies
- Initiation of surveys is joint field and regional or HQ responsibility, while support from regional or HQ is provided at all stages of survey planning
- When problems arise, raw data is reanalyzed and technical support is provided by SMART and CDC

Discussion

- Discussed use of surveillance systems
- Global database will soon be available on the website (different from TWINE)

B. Data Utilization for Programming at Save the Children

Key Messages

- Discussed validation of data for programming and use of data surveillance systems
- Data utilization for advocacy purposes means dissemination of data is a priority and the window of opportunity must be taken seriously
- Discussed Somalia Case Study, the key successes and challenges

Discussion

- Surveys by livelihood zones can be used for a general overview of a particular area, but administrative divisions should be used for programming

C. SMART Data Utilization for Programming at ACF-Kenya

Key Messages

- Discussed processes for validation and utilization through ACF-Kenya
- ACF and MoH monitor health and nutrition indicators overtime from SMART survey results
- SMART survey results is basis for more detailed research such as:
 - Coverage assessments
 - Nutrition causal analysis
 - Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP)
- Case study: West Pokot
 - Included a response plan developed from NCA and SMART surveys
- Successes come from having national and county government respect the importance of SMART survey for informing national programming

Discussion

- Recommendations should not be 'copy and pasted' but look at county-level data thoroughly



- The tangibility in data utilization for advocacy is the call for action to bring data to decision-makers as soon as updated nutrition information becomes available

D. Data Utilization for Programming at WVI

Key Messages

- Discussed the reasons why WVI uses SMART surveys and the validation process involving NIWG in Kenya
- Described the use of routine vs. survey data
- Surge Model is being adopted
- Explained advocacy at different levels and how the funding landscape has changed since 2011 (decrease to Kenya)
- Benefit to a Google server storage system means raw data is always accessible and limits the use of consultants who sometimes edit data before sharing

Session 9 – ENA Stakeholder Consultation

This session enabled the participants to their inputs towards new ENA functions

Session organization

- Round tables brainstormed and shared their suggestions for improved and new functions of ENA
- Participants chose 3 suggestions as priorities

Session 10 – Wrap-up and Closing

Key messages of all presentations were summarized.

Action Points

- SMART team to send alerts via newsletter and Focal Points to promote the SMART newsletter signup within their respective organisations.
- Urban guidance note including Mumbai slum experience will be available in the coming months
- Detailed manual and standardized ODK questionnaire to be available soon
- How can we translate technical survey information for non-technical policy makers?

