

Terms of Reference for the Global CMAM Surge Technical Working Group

Background on CMAM Surge

The CMAM Surge approach is designed to build capacity from within the health system to better anticipate, prepare for, and respond to seasonal peaks in acute malnutrition¹. The aim is to ensure all children who require and seek treatment for acute malnutrition receive it. Using an eight-step approach, CMAM Surge endeavors to make health systems more adaptive and responsive to changing demands on their services throughout the year and between years – scaling up capacity efficiently during peak periods and scaling back down once caseloads return to normal. In this way, it also aims to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

A basic framework for the CMAM Surge approach was first proposed in 2010 as an alternative way to strengthen CMAM services with the aim of providing a more sustainable, less disjointed and less emergency focused approach². To address these shortcomings, the CMAM Surge programme model was developed and piloted by Concern Worldwide in Kenya in partnership with the Kenya Ministry of Health, beginning in 2012. To date, the approach has been implemented in 15 countries with support from multiple partners and donors (Annex 1). A number of evaluations and learning reviews have been undertaken to identify areas in need of further refinement as well as successful adaptations and lessons learned as the approach has been scaled up to different contexts. One of the most important adaptations has been a shift to apply the principles and steps of CMAM Surge to prepare health systems to address fluctuations in caseloads of other childhood illnesses such as malaria and diarrhea, alongside acute malnutrition. Support to fully develop such an ‘CMAM-Health Surge’ approach will be a priority in 2020/21.

Purpose and Objectives

Given the rapid scale up of the approach across increasingly diverse contexts, there is a need to ensure that technical integrity is maintained and that learning is captured and used to further strengthen and refine the approach, as well as inform the development and implementation of a more holistic Health Surge. The purpose of the Global Technical Working Group is to ensure coordination of CMAM/Health Surge activities to maximize quality, effectiveness, and learning. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

1. Develop and monitor a CMAM/Health Surge learning agenda
2. Identify and promote best practice on CMAM/Health Surge
3. Identify opportunities for, and support advocacy for, the continued scale-up of the approach

Timeline

The TWG as conceived in this ToR will remain in force for 2 years from November 2020 to October 2022. At that time the need for the TWG as well as the ToR will be reviewed and adapted as required.

Structure

Level of engagement. Quarterly meetings will be held via a remote platform. Opportunities for face-to-face meetings will be identified when possible. Establishment of small taskforces under the TWG may be necessary in order to advance specific pieces of work such as revision of guidelines/tools, cost-effectiveness evaluations or other special studies. At minimum engagement, the TWG will require roughly 10-15 hours of members’ time per year. Contribution to any of the smaller taskforces working on specific pieces of work will require an additional time commitment that is entirely voluntary.

Members should have familiarity with the CMAM Surge approach and share the TWG’s vision for, and commitment to, the scale-up of the approach and its eventual integration into standard CMAM protocols and trainings, as well as its expansion to a more comprehensive CMAM/Health Surge. Initial membership has been identified as: Concern Worldwide, Centre for Humanitarian Change, ECHO, Save the Children, Action Against Hunger, UNICEF, USAID, CMAM Surge West

¹ <https://www.concern.net/insights/cmam-surge-approach>

² Peter Hailey and Daniel Tewoldeberha (2010). Suggested New Design Framework for CMAM Programming. Field Exchange 39, September 2010. p41. www.enonline.net/fex/39/suggested

African Regional Taskforce, and representation from an implementing government (Kenya suggested). Membership will be expanded to include a larger variety of health sector partners to support the development to the Health Surge approach. Concern Worldwide will serve as the chair of the TWG (contact: Kate Golden, kate.golden@concern.net). Quorum in order to constitute a meeting will be 8 members.

Mode of communication. Microsoft Teams and Email will be the primary mode of communication. Members will send updates to the chair who will consolidate and share them on a quarterly basis as appropriate. A common platform for document sharing and collaboration will be identified to facilitate completion of the TWG's work plan.

Annexes:

1. TWG 2020-2022 Learning Agenda (Coming soon)
2. TWG 2020-2021 Work Plan (Coming soon)
3. Membership list (Coming soon)
4. Implementation Mapping (Coming soon)
5. Publication list (Coming soon)