**GPcwd Nutrition Taskforce Update #1**

Dear Members of the GPcwd Task Force on Nutrition,

We are pleased you have agreed to join this task force. The purpose of this email is 1) to inform or remind you about the activities agreed on during the first Forum in September 2012 for this task force, 2) to give you an update on work that has already begun and 3) ask for your engagement.

For those of you that attended the 1st Forum, you will recall that the partners identified nutrition as one of four major topics to focus on for the coming year. The aim being to ensure disability is increasingly acknowledged within the global nutrition agenda and to influence the post-2015 agenda.

A [background note](http://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Nutrition_Background_Note-GPcwd.pdf) was developed with support from Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre outlining the key linkages and considerations with regards to nutrition and children with disabilities.

**During the 1st Forum the participants of the nutrition group agreed on the following** **activities from September 2012 to August 2013**:

1.Develop a comprehensive mapping of all of the major stakeholders/initiatives in nutrition around the world, identifying who the actors are, what they are doing, and where they are working.  This mapping will then be made available on the UNICEF website and potentially the WHO website and a mechanism will be identified to maintain the content.

* 1. Timeframe:  next 12 months with priority to complete earlier
	2. Lead: Handicap International  and GlobalPartnersUnited
	3. Progress: Draft survey (attached) is available for review by the task force members until **27th March**. Please send comments to Amy at afarkas@unicef.org.  Once the survey is finalized it will be sent to all GPcwd partners to complete before April 19th. The results will be compiled by UNICEF and shared with all the partners.

2.Collect all relevant evidence and technical content in order to underscore the importance of disability and nutrition and actions needed sector wide.

* 1. Timeframe: 9 months
	2. Lead: Leonard Cheshire International with support from UNICEF and all the technical partners in the working group
	3. Progress: Some work has already been done by Antony Duttine, Evelyn Cherow, Marko Kerac and Amy Farkas - however following the mapping exercise, there will be further discussion among the broader nutrition task force on this activity to ensure we have a complete listing of relevant evidence and technical content.

3.Draft simple and clear messages, converting technical content into accessible advocacy and communication messages that articulate the importance of considering disability and nutrition together.  The output will be targeted to a broad range of stakeholders to guide what they can do, what the obstacles are, and how they can enable families with children with disabilities to get appropriate services.

* 1. Timeframe: end of year with the focus on 10 months
	2. Lead: UNICEF
	3. Progress: UNICEF with support from partners will lead this process once activity 1 and 2 are completed.

4.Target and engage key global mechanisms and players, such as the SUN and REACH and Promise for Renewal Campaigns.  Integrate disability in the highest level of their agendas through use of developed technical and communication materials.

* 1. Timeframe: Year-long
	2. Lead: UNICEF and WHO, as major players in these initiatives can facilitate and conduct advocacy at the highest level for children with disabilities to be on countries’ and partners’  agendas
	3. Progress: This activity has yet to begin. Any suggestions from partners on how to do this are welcome. Please send them to Amy at afarkas@unicef.org.

**Since the 1st Forum the following actions have been taken:**

* A core group of partners from the task force started having conference calls to discuss the work ahead. The group is made up of Evelyn Cherow (GlobalPartnersUnited), Amy Farkas and David Clark (UNICEF), Antony Duttine and Valery Gilbos (Handicap International), Nora Groce (Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre) and Marko Kerac (University College London).
* Antony Duttine and Evelyn Cherow initiated work on activity 1 to develop a mapping survey. They reached and engaged with the Nutrition, International, and Disability Sections of the American Public Health Association to see what else was happening and made contacts with those who have participated in similar initiatives before. They reviewed a number of existing mapping projects to garner lessons learned and see if their approach may be appropriate for the purpose of this mapping exercise. Antony and Evelyn met with the Interaction NGO staff to discuss their process, development and outcomes of two mapping projects, namely ThousandDays.org and NGO AID Map. The Interaction staff suggested speaking to Direct Relief International whose staff created the Global Fistula Care mapping project to learn more about their choices of mapping tools, piggybacking on maps, staffing, processes and costs for map development, and displaying of content. This discussion gave Antony and Evelyn improved clarity on cost effective tools and the requirements for sustainable mapping projects. Further efforts were made to explore opportunities for volunteer interns from US based Universities to help collate and potentially analyse the information collected through the mapping, however nothing has been agreed.  Through this process Antony and Evelyn also started to review nutrition and disability literature, which yielded a number of studies, but it was just an initial undertaking. Finally and with additional input from UNICEF, a mapping survey has been drafted and is now available for review.

A special thank you to Evelyn and Antony for the many hours they put into this so far!

UNICEF is currently coordinating the activities for this task force, so please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

**Also for your information, plans are underway for a 2nd Forum to be held in New York September 24th. More details are forthcoming!** For the report and documents from the 1st Forum visit <http://www.unicef.org/disabilities/index_65319.html>.