

Health Cluster Support Programme 2015-2016



The health cluster programme is an initiative funded by ECHO and OFDA to support the Global Health Cluster (GHC) to achieve well-coordinated humanitarian health responses. Save the Children UK leads the Consortium which is formed with five other international NGOs.

An Introduction to the Health Cluster Support Programme

The Cluster Programme supports the Cluster Lead Agency, WHO, to achieve well-coordinated health responses. To achieve this objective the Programme has two key focuses:

Surge Deployments

The first is to provide surge experts in: humanitarian response coordination, public health and information management, to deploy to countries graded by WHO as level 2 and level 3 emergencies who have requested assistance.

The surge personnel spend 70% of their employment deployed. On deployment their work to achieve good coordination is structured across 6 areas:

1. Support service delivery
2. Inform the Humanitarian Country Team for decision making
3. Planning and strategy making
4. Advocacy
5. Monitoring and reporting
6. Contingency planning/preparedness and capacity building

The surge cluster experts are recruited by the consortium partners and work within WHO country offices on deployment. The remaining 30% of their time is used to support the GHC workplan.

Building Capacity

The second area that the Cluster Support Programme focuses on is to further develop professional capacity for Health Cluster (HC) coordination by providing training for HC professionals.

A vital factor to maximizing the potential impact of the HC is for there to be a good understanding of the HC functionality. In recognition of this factor, the Cluster Programme works to communicate and enhance awareness of the HC among GHC partner organisations.

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