

COVERAGE SUPPORT SERVICES

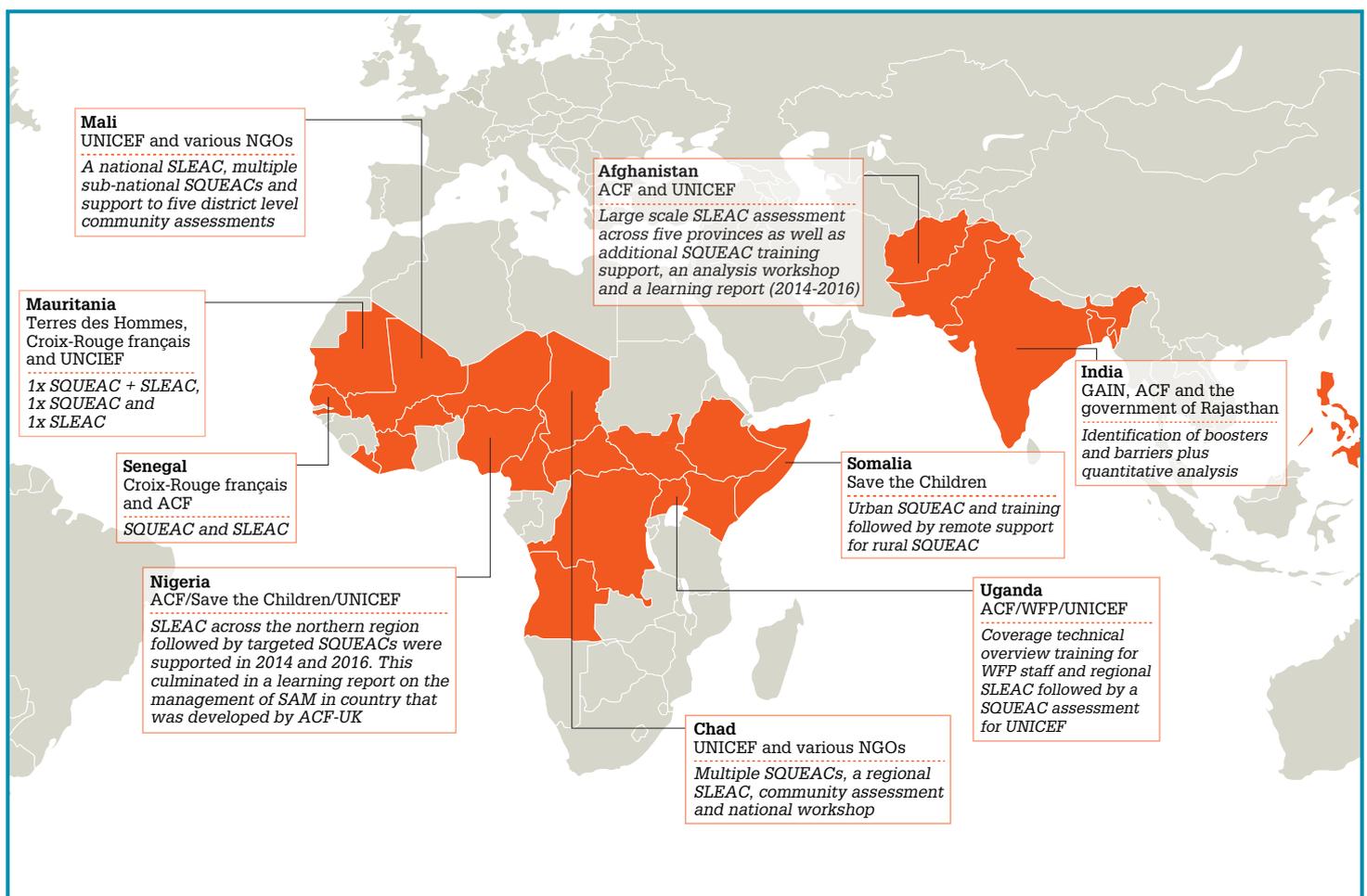


Action Against Hunger UK (ACF-UK) has delivered training on coverage since 2010 and in 2012 created the Coverage Monitoring Network (CMN). The CMN is an inter-agency initiative established in order to improve nutrition programmes through the promotion of quality coverage assessment tools, capacity building and information sharing.

Between 2012-2014 the CMN Project Phase I offered funding through which coverage support was provided free of charge across the globe. The CMN Project Phase II (2014-2016) continued this support to nine priority countries. During this time the CMN has also been able to provide support to ACF and non-ACF partners outside of the priority countries.

Since 2010, the CMN staff have delivered in excess of 100 “on-the-job” trainings in 24 countries, in addition to 15 sensitisation trainings for country partners in 10 different countries and five technical trainings (more information available in the [CMN Capacity Building Review](#)). The map below highlights all the countries where the CMN has provided support with some selected examples. Further details of the assessments and other support provided in all countries can be found on the CMN website www.coverage-monitoring.org

In 2016, the CMN will continue to provide coverage support services in order to ensure the availability of capacity building on coverage methodologies thereby contributing to the improvement in the quality and coverage of nutrition services. The CMN has significant capacity and expertise in coverage methodologies including [SLEAC](#), [SQEAC](#) and [community assessments](#). This document outlines the models of support on offer, our training approach and our cost recovery mechanism.



SUPPORT PACKAGES

Broadly speaking there are eight different support packages that the CMN can provide. Each support package has a different purpose, target and outcome. The cost of each package will be dependent on the volume of work required (measured in days). The CMN can also design bespoke packages in collaboration with organisations based on specific training and information needs.

Package	Purpose	Target	Outcome	Length
1. ON-THE-JOB SQUEAC, SLEAC & COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SUPPORT	To support the implementation of a coverage assessment and provide an indepth training to key participants	Programme managers and nutrition coordinators	Participants will be able to go on to conduct coverage assessments independently	Typically 20-30 days (for district level SQUEAC or regional SLEAC) depending on the size of the assessment area
2. SQUEAC/SLEAC REMOTE SUPPORT	To support assessments teams to ensure robust methodology. Additional online training can also be provided where appropriate	As above but those who have already been trained in coverage methodologies	Methodologically sound assessment and comprehensive report	Typically 5-7 days over the course of the assessment
3. COVERAGE TECHNICAL OVERVIEW TRAINING	To introduce trainees to coverage assessment methodologies and give them the chance to practice the key steps in a classroom setting	Decision makers at capital level (e.g. Ministry of Health nutrition staff and NGO nutrition coordinators.)	Trainees will be able to select appropriate assessments depending on information needed, budget and plan for assessments, review coverage data and make informed decisions on areas for reform.	5 days
4. COVERAGE SENSITISATION SESSION	To inform nutrition partners on the need to measure coverage and to provide an overview of available methodologies	Nutrition partners	Understanding of the importance of coverage and the methodologies, tools and support available.	1-2 days
5. COVERAGE WORKSHOP SUPPORT	To provide an overview of national CMAM uptake and performance and to facilitate discussions to support partners to set national priorities to scale up coverage	Nutrition partners	A national level analysis of coverage data, highlighting of lessons and national action plans to improve uptake	4-5 days preparation/ analysis work + 1-2 day workshop
6. COVERAGE REPORT REVIEW	Ensure adherence to methodology and completeness	Nutrition programme managers, coordinators and advisors	Comments on report & improved reporting, and inclusion of data into CMN database	Day (free of charge)
7. NUTRITION BOTTLENECK ANALYSIS SUPPORT/ TRAINING	To collect and analyse routine data to identify bottlenecks to effective coverage	Nutrition programme managers and nutrition coordinators	Information on barriers to access and action plan and/or team trained in the methodology	Dependent on the scale required
8. ANALYSIS AND LEARNING SUPPORT	To provide engaging, in depth and accessible analysis of coverage at national and sub-national level including visualisations and mapping.	Policy makers and practitioners	Production of reports or other learning products	Determined on a case-by-case basis

BUILDING CAPACITY WITH CMN SUPPORT

Since 2010, the CMN coverage experts have supported programmes to conduct quality coverage assessments both on the ground and remotely. They have also set out to build the capacity of key staff in programmes to go on to conduct assessments independently.

The CMN therefore designs and delivers its support as a training so that key programme staff involved will be able to independently conduct coverage assessments and write assessment reports following the conclusion of the support. Prior to the start of the assessment, the CMN will therefore aim to identify a number of key programme staff as “core trainees”. To maximise the benefit of the training for the programme, the following conditions will apply:

- 1. Core trainees will be limited to coordinator and programme manager of CMAM programmes (or those with similar responsibilities and competences).**
- 2. Core trainees will be required to lead on the writing of the coverage report.**
- 3. Programme managers/nutrition coordinators of the programme being assessed must play a key role in the coverage assessment.**
- 4 Core trainees must be those that work in CMAM and have the capacity to become well trained survey managers who will be in a position to use their skills to improve the quality and coverage of CMAM programmes in the future.**

A key element of coverage assessments is report writing. Experience shows that often programme managers miss out on this key learning activity, instead relying on the external consultant to write the report. Therefore the CMN will encourage core trainees to take on the report writing using pre-designed templates and guidance with the support of the CMN expert.

Programme managers and/or coordinators must also play a key role in the organisation and management of the coverage assessment itself. Coverage assessments are a great opportunity to analyse programmes and identify strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement. Assessments should therefore be an integral part of the programme manager’s/coordinator’s responsibilities and not something that is subcontracted to external consultants. The knowledge and experience of these staff is critical to ensure the in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the programme that coverage assessments require.

PERSONNEL

The CMN, hosted by the Action Against Hunger-UK Nutrition Department, consists of coverage experts, epidemiologists and public health nutrition professionals. This team will be used to fulfil the support required, however in the case that the CMN team are unavailable, the CMN will recruit and manage a consultant. The CMN has access to a pool of consultants who are rigorously screened and benefit from substantial experience in CMAM and coverage assessments in a variety of contexts. In the case that consultants are used, the CMN team will provide close support to ensure methodological rigor and quality control.

COST RECOVERY

The external funding for the CMN ended in March 2016. Therefore all support provided by the CMN must now be funded by the organisation or body requesting support. CMN support will be charged on the basis of a daily rate. The funding provided will cover the costs of support and should be integrated into any programme budget, including both ACF and non-ACF programmes. Accommodation, travel and other expenses incurred will be claimed against proof of purchase at the end of the assessment. Additional costs for the assessment (e.g. cars, enumerators and training room) must be borne by the organisation however CMN can assist with building a budget and planning. Contact the CMN on the email below for more information on budgeting and costs.

CONTACT

Get in touch with the CMN at ACF-UK for any questions and support in developing a training and support package that is suitable for the needs of your own organisation. Information on planned trainings can also be shared. In some cases staff can join trainings organised by other organisations.

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