

Roles and responsibilities for health cluster focal agencies

The health cluster is a group of more than 30 actively involved partner agencies who are using the approach of coordinated and joint efforts to address the humanitarian health needs in Somalia.

In line with the health cluster efforts to decentralize coordination and strengthen leadership in preparedness and joint response to emergencies in Somalia, health cluster focal agencies are committing themselves to fulfill the following tasks in their respective region. A more detailed outline of this summary of agreed responsibilities is provide in the “health cluster focal agencies terms of reference”.

- establish **coordination mechanisms** (regional meetings, feedback to Nairobi, etc.) in partnership with local health authorities where possible
- **advocate** for commitment (e.g. regional key messages and priorities for joint fund-raising) including local health authorities where applicable
- promote **emergency response** and **preparedness** (contingency planning in cooperation with partners in the region; monitoring of emergency stock levels and informing Nairobi level health cluster of requirements or support where/when needed; in case of emergency provide regular updates to Nairobi and partners in the region to ensure effective response measures and gap filling; facilitating joint response as initiated by health cluster; coordinating disease surveillance and early warning; promoting capacity building of health authorities where applicable and partners for disease outbreak response)
- activate **inter-cluster linkages** and **facilitate local participation** (field/regional level inter-cluster collaboration; screening of new humanitarian agencies joining the health cluster and promote partnerships with active health cluster members; involvement of local authorities, communities and other stakeholders)
- PROMOTE utilization OF **standards** and **policies** (distribute policy and technical guidelines and standards as agreed upon in the health cluster)
- **capacity building** and **training** (identify trainings needs and gaps; coordinate training and capacity building activities involving partners and local health workers)
- **information management** and **reporting** (establish local networks to collect information from the region and ensure regular/weekly reporting/disease surveillance and information sharing)
- provide information for **monitoring** and **evaluation** (facilitate joint assessments; compile data from cluster partners in the regions and actively share with regional partners and central health cluster in Nairobi)