

Maximizing Service Delivery in Countries Affected by High Levels of Food Insecurity

Illness among children is an important risk factor for acute malnutrition. Sick children with acute malnutrition will have a higher risk of becoming severely malnourished and will need a longer recovery. Pregnant women with malnutrition are at higher risk for complications during pregnancy and delivery. They also risk delivering a baby with low birth weight. Treating illness and acute malnutrition at an early stage reduces mortality and malnutrition rates and mitigates the risk mentioned above from becoming severe.

Existing guidelines for nutrition programs also address prevention and treatment of illness. Guidelines for inpatient treatment of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications provide protocols for the special nutritional care needed by such children, as well as how to address the medical complications associated with severe acute malnutrition. However existing guidelines do not delineate responsibilities nor how to make it happen in a given context (see annex for guidelines).

When nutrition and health programs struggle to address increased numbers of patients, there is a risk that existing protocols are not implemented or that the connection between the programs is compromised. The Health Sector/Cluster partners should work with other Sectors/Clusters such as Food Security, Nutrition and WASH to ensure quality, holistic treatment by addressing malnutrition in all health programs and by addressing illness in all nutrition programs.

There are several key activities to reduce the risks of missed opportunities for screening, prevention and treatment of uncomplicated illness and malnutrition, and to ensure the appropriate referral.

Early treatment of malnutrition and illness saves lives

1. In integrated Community Case Management (iCCM), including the “backpack model” for health delivery in mobile populations, all Community Health Workers (CHW) should be trained to screen, treat and refer as appropriate both acute malnutrition and illness. At least malaria, diarrhoea, and ARIs should be recognized and treated by the CHWs).
2. Frequent screening for acute malnutrition and illness at community level should be used to offer a standard package of preventive care.

- All children screened should receive measles vaccination, LLITN, deworming and VitA (as per protocol, every 6 months).
- All pregnant and lactating women should be referred for preventive care (including tetanus vaccination, ferrous and folic acid, LLITN and malaria prophylaxis) and safe delivery as indicated.
- All outreach personnel should support coordinated social mobilization and messaging campaigns regarding recognition of disease and malnutrition, as well as where and how to seek treatment.

Each contact with health is an opportunity to detect, refer, and/or treat malnutrition

3. All people, but at least all children, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), presenting at both inpatient and outpatient health facilities should be screened for acute malnutrition and referred to the appropriate nutrition program or when admitted, treated for malnutrition.

Each contact with nutrition is an opportunity to detect, refer, and/or treat illness

4. All people, but at least all children, pregnant and lactating women (PLW), that are in nutrition programs (including general food distribution, blanket and targeted supplementary, and outpatient therapeutic feeding programs) should be screened for both illness and malnutrition each time there is a contact.
5. Treatment and preventive health interventions should be ensured, either integrated within the food/nutrition program or by referral to a health facility provided that this can be ensured on the same day.
6. When referring people with either illness or malnutrition ensure...
 - that they actually reach the facility or program (e.g. by supporting transport); and
 - that it has the capacity to treat all those referred on that same day.
7. All health and nutrition treatment sites should ensure the availability of the required quantities of safe drinking water and a correct water, sanitation and hygiene environment.
8. Health information and surveillance data should be shared with other sectors to ensure their inclusion in food security and nutrition analysis.

ANNEX

Nutrition:

Guideline	Link
Updates on the management of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children	http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/95584/1/9789241506328_eng.pdf?ua=1
Management of severe malnutrition: A manual for physicians and other senior health workers	http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1999/a57361.pdf
Integrating Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities into Nutrition Programmes in Emergencies.	http://www.who.int/mental_health/emergencies/ecd_note.pdf
Infant and young child feeding in emergencies	http://files.enonline.net/attachments/378/infant-feeding-emergency-wellstart.pdf
Essential Nutrition Actions: Improving Maternal, Newborn, Infant and Young Child Health and Nutrition	http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/84409/1/9789241505550_eng.pdf?ua=1
WHO child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children	http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44129/1/9789241598163_eng.pdf
SAM/MC kit	http://www.who.int/emergencies/kits/sam/en/
WHO Q&A Malnutrition and emergencies	http://www.who.int/features/qa/malnutrition-emergencies/en/
WHO; UNICEF; WFP; UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition: Community-based management of severe acute malnutrition - A joint statement	http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/a91065/en/

Child Health

Guideline	Link
Pocket book of hospital care for children: guidelines for the management of common illnesses with limited resources 2nd Edition	http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/81170/1/9789241548373_eng.pdf?ua=1
Manual for the health care of children in humanitarian emergencies	http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/9789241596879/en/

Communicable Diseases

Guideline	Link
Communicable diseases and severe food shortage	http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2010/WHO_HSE_GAR_DCE_2010_6_eng.pdf
First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhoea	http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2010/WHO_CDS_CSR_NCS_2003.7_Rev.2_eng.pdf
Outbreak surveillance and response in humanitarian emergencies: WHO guidelines for EWARN implementation	http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2012/WHO_HSE_GAR_DCE_2012_1_eng.pdf
Use of Oral Cholera Vaccine in Humanitarian Emergencies	http://www.who.int/cholera/vaccines/OCV_in_humanitarian_emergencies_15Jan2014.pdf
Evidence of the risks and benefits of vaccinating pregnant women with WHO pre-qualified cholera vaccines during mass campaigns	http://www.who.int/cholera/vaccines/Risk_Benefits_vaccinating_pregnant_women_Technical_Note.pdf?ua=1
WHO guidelines for epidemic preparedness and response to measles outbreaks	http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/measles/whocdscsr991.pdf?ua=1
WHO Technical Note: Communicable diseases and severe food shortage	http://www.who.int/diseasecontrol_emergencies/publications/food_shortage/en/

Malaria

Guideline	Link
Malaria control in humanitarian emergencies – An inter-agency field handbook. Second edition	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241548656/en/
Guidelines for the treatment of malaria . Third edition	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241549127/en/
Management of severe malaria – A practical handbook. Third edition	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241548526/en/
Universal access to malaria diagnostic testing – An operational manual	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241502092/en/
WHO recommendations for achieving universal coverage with long-lasting insecticidal nets in malaria control	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/who_recommendation_coverage_llin/en/
Recommendations on the role of mass drug administration, mass screening and treatment, and	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/role-of-mda-for-malaria/en/

focal screening and treatment for malaria	
Seasonal malaria chemoprevention with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine plus amodiaquine in children: A field guide	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241504737/en/
Disease surveillance for malaria control: operational manual	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241503341/en/
Indoor residual spraying: An operational manual for IRS for malaria transmission, control and elimination. Second edition	http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241508940/en/

WASH

Guideline	Link
WHO Technical Documents on WASH in emergencies (factsheets for 15 different areas of WASH in Emergencies)	http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/technotes/en/
WASH' Nutrition: A practical guidebook on increasing nutritional impact through integration of WASH and nutrition programmes	http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/sites/default/files/publications/fichiers/manuel_wash_nutrition_online.pdf
WHO guidelines for drinking-water quality: 4th Edition	http://whalibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241548151_eng.pdf?ua=1
Practical guidelines for infection control in health care facilities: Chapter 4 Environmental management practices	http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/hygiene/envsan/infcontrolenv_mgmt.pdf?ua=1
Management of solid health-care waste at primary health-care centres: A decision-making guide	http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/43123/1/9241592745.pdf?ua=1

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