

MAMI

(Management of Acute Malnutrition
in Infants)

Funded by UNICEF-led IASC Nutrition Cluster



Emergency
Nutrition
Network



A retrospective review
of the current field management of
acutely malnourished infants under 6 months of age

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cihd/research/nutrition/mami>

AIM

To investigate
the management of
acutely (moderately and severely) malnourished
infants under six months age (0-5.9m)
in emergency programmes, in order to

*establish consensus
on (interim) good practice guidelines*

Objectives

- 1) To establish what currently is advised or recommended in the form of guidelines, policies and strategies by different organisations.

Particularly to consider:

- admission and discharge criteria
- therapeutic management
- care practices & psychosocial support
- breastfeeding support

Objectives

- 2) **To determine what is carried out in practice**
 - are policies reflected by practice?
 - numbers and % of TFP/SFP admissions 0-5.9m age
 - numbers admitted vs numbers expected (*DHS surveys*)
(proxy measures of coverage)

- **To examine current outcomes for 0 – 5.9m infants**
 - what affects outcomes?
 - key contextual factors
(*modifiable* vs non-modifiable)
 - what are key challenges and constraints?

Collaboration

*TO BE OF
PRACTICAL RELEVANCE
TO FIELD-BASED PROGRAMMES:*

→ We need your inputs *NOW...*

***** INVITATION TO COLLABORATE *****

→ The closer our collaboration...

→ The better & more useful the final outputs...

**Interagency Steering Group
Research Advisory Group**

Background

- Very few formal research studies investigating acute malnutrition in infants 0- 5.9 months of age
 - ➔ *Poor evidence base upon which to base field guidance materials*
 - ➔ *Difficult to know how best to support these infants in practice*
 - ➔ *Many current malnutrition strategies do not specifically address the needs of this age group*

Background

- Over 6 years of published concerns, documented field experiences and debate by ENN and by the IFE Core Group
- WHO Technical review of the Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (2004):
 - “ No new research was identified pertaining to the optimum dietary management of severely malnourished infants aged < 6 months. The evidence base for defining the most advantageous formulations for feeding this age group remains weak ”

Field Reality

- Young infants still present to field based programmes !
- Variable capacity and skills to manage them:
 - Some programmes good → *we need to learn from them*
 - Some 'could be better'
- Lactating women with infants 0-5.9 months may be admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programmes (SFPs),
But...
 - No standard guidance on the breastfeeding & infant feeding support that should form part of the package of care.

Field Reality & Field Evidence

- Operational agencies undertake different types of intervention sometimes guided by applied / operational research.

➔ field experience is *growing / significant...*

But...

- Field evidence too often hidden...
 - Programme data collected but not formally analysed
 - Internal reports written but not routinely disseminated / shared



Why field evidence is vital

- **‘Background’ for changes in official guidance (WHO)**
 - Knowing about current field practices
 - ➔ *helps inform, target, and manage change*
 - Stronger understanding of ‘who does what, where’ for MAMI
 - ➔ *directly facilitates future collaborations and research*
- **Project ownership**
 - Collaborations and partnerships during the review process
 - ➔ *project more focused, more relevant to field organizations*
 - Shared project ownership
 - ➔ *guidelines & recommendations more likely to be taken up*

Planned Project Outputs

- **(Interim) 'Best Practice' guidelines**
 - ~ Based on best *currently available* evidence
 - ~ Explicit about underlying evidence (or lack of) for each step
- **Research Agenda**
 - ~ Understanding of gap areas → *can suggest specific studies*
- **Bigger IYCF picture**
 - ~ Consider management strategy in the context of IYCF recommendations for general population
- **Strengthened organizational linkages / ongoing collaborative efforts**
 - ~ Supporting guideline implementation
 - ~ Facilitating new or ongoing research / operational research₁₁

Results Dissemination

- ENN Special Supplement
- Peer reviewed paper(s)
- International fora:
 - IASC Nutrition Cluster meetings
 - UN SCN meeting in 2009
- Inputs into review / update of WHO guidance for Management of Acute Malnutrition

Some contextual issues

- **The rise of CMAM (CTC)**
 - What place for young infants within current CMAM contexts?
 - What place for young infants in future projects?

- **Rollout of new WHO standards**
 - Numbers diagnosed with SAM/MAM differ if
 - NCHS references vs new WHO standards
 - % of median vs Z-score
 - ➔ *Understand likely effects of change in diagnostic criteria*

Other issues to discuss..

- ? Disaggregate age groups (0-1.9m, 2-3.9m, 4-5.9m)
- ? ‘malnutrition’ aetiology:
 - ex-premature infants; LBW infants; postnatal growth failure alone
- ? Infants older than six months but less than 4kg
- ? HIV related issues
 - ‘rapid weaning’ of breastfed infants at ~6 months of age
- ? Focus on NGO programmes (?context of other services/providers)
- ? *Other → YOUR inputs /ideas / comments are CRITICAL...*

Please get involved...



***** 'INVITATION TO COLLABORATE' document *****

**** Special session MAMI WEDNESDAY 7pm ****

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