MAMI
(Management of Acute Malnutrition in Infants)
Funded by UNICEF-led IASC Nutrition Cluster

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
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
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 \(\Rightarrow\) 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 research
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-prefuse 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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