



IMTF

International Malnutrition Task Force
Equipe Speciale sur la Malnutrition
Grupo de Trabajo de Malnutrición

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Networking for the Prevention and Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition

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INTERNATIONAL MALNUTRITION TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES DURING 2013

Report for IUNS prepared by Ann Ashworth and Alan Jackson, May 26th 2014

1. Building capacity

a) Technical Meeting

A Technical Meeting focusing on South East Asia was held jointly with IAEA in Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 May 2013.

The objectives were to:-

- discuss current recommendations for treatment of severe acute malnutrition and recent initiatives for improving its management
- discuss the research agenda, including the role of stable isotope methods to improve the management of severe malnutrition
- share experiences and lessons learned from case studies in different countries and settings
- discuss capacity building issues related to the prevention and treatment of moderate and severe malnutrition
- explore how to join efforts to scale-up capacity building in the regions.

b) Body Composition Group

An IMTF working group on body composition assessment in infants and children was initiated during 2013, chaired by Lena Davidsson. A major focus of the working group is to raise awareness about the usefulness of body composition assessment during early life to better define "healthy growth". The standardization of nuclear and non-nuclear techniques used for body composition is also being addressed by the group.

c) eLearning course 'Caring for infants and children with acute malnutrition'

The course has been updated to match the new WHO guideline. Uptake of the three competency-based eLearning modules for the identification, treatment and prevention of malnutrition has progressed at a rapid rate. Many users are health professionals updating their knowledge and skills as well as academics using the material for teaching students. The modules were developed by IMTF and the University of Southampton and a small award scheme is available to help academic institutions integrate the course into their existing medical, nursing, nutrition and/or dietetics curricula. Recipients in 2013 were Makerere University, Uganda, and the Catholic University College of Ghana. 'Best Practice Awards' were made to four lecturers (from Kenya, Ghana, Pakistan and Guatemala) who have shown innovative approaches in introducing and using the eLearning course in their teaching and training.

d) Strengthening research

IMTF/University of Southampton successfully bid for funding to the British Council for a link with Professor Youssef Aboussaleh, Nutrition and Health Laboratory, Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, for a joint workshop in

Morocco in 2014 to facilitate discussions among 20 UK-based researchers and 20 Moroccan academics around issues of scaling-up nutrition with an emphasis on helping new researchers progress in their careers.

e) Action Contre la Faim

IMTF and Action Contre la Faim have agreed to have a closer working relationship through which IMTF will provide technical advice and support to strengthen capabilities in the 40 or so countries where ACF has a strong presence, especially for francophone countries.

f) IMTF website

This continues to provide information about resources, training, evidence-base for treatment guidelines, current events, recent research, and answers to frequently asked questions, as well as information about the Task Force and its activities.

2. Advocacy

a) ICN Granada (September 2013)

A half-day pre-congress Workshop (*Update on the management of severe malnutrition*) and a Parallel Symposium (*Scaling up prevention and treatment of malnutrition*) with additional discussion time were organized with speakers from international organizations, UN agencies, NGOs and academia. The Body Composition Working Group organized a Parallel Symposium (*Assessment of body composition from birth to 2 years*).

b) Scaling up Nutrition (SUN Movement)

Important links between IMTF and the SUN Movement are provided through the Steering Group of the Global SUN Civil Society Network. The Coordinator of the SUN Movement, Dr David Nabarro, gave the keynote lecture at the ICN IMTF Symposium.

3. Case-management guidelines

- participated as a member of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) as part of the WHO Guidelines Development Process
- developed and disseminated job aids, wall charts, monitoring tools in relation to implementation of case-management guidelines, and provided technical support, including the Department of Health, South Africa.

4. ICD 11th revision

Changes to the International Classification of Diseases regarding undernutrition were recommended at the IMTF-IAEA Ghana meeting in 2012. These recommendations have been incorporated by WHO into the proposed new structure for nutritional disorders.

5. Policy and planning

- supported the scaling-up and integration of community- and facility-based management of moderate and severe malnutrition as a member of the CMAM Forum Steering Committee
- accepted invitation to join the UNICEF/WHO Task Force on Integration of the treatment of SAM into health systems.

6. Regional Reports

In Bolivia, South Africa, Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, IMTF focal points helped conduct training sessions to enable doctors and nurses to be competent in treating children with severe malnutrition. In a recent monitoring exercise in South Africa, approximately 250 hospitals out of approximately 380 were reported to be implementing the WHO protocol for managing severe malnutrition.