

Prevention and Control of Malnutrition (International Malnutrition Task Force)

Task Force Report Form 2018



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Task Force Chair/s

Joint Conveners:

Professor Ann Ashworth, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK

Professor Alan Jackson, University of Southampton, UK

Task Force Members

Regional focal points and representatives:

South/Southeast Asia

Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, ICDDR, Bangladesh

Sub-Saharan Africa:

The late Professor David Sanders, University of the Western Cape, South Africa;

Dr Beatrice Amadi, University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia.

Latin America:

Dr Ana Maria Aguilar, Medicina Universidad Mayor de San Andres, La Paz, Bolivia;

Professor Michele Monroy Valle, University of San Carlos, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Engagement with young professionals:

Dr Reggie Annan, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana.

Partner representatives:

Dr Paluku Bahwere, Valid International, UK;

Dr Sultana Khanum, Global SUN Civil Society Network, Bangladesh.

Summary of activities in 2018

We have been focussing on two major challenges: capacity building in relation to malnutrition, and helping develop a platform for coordinated action on nutrition and cancer.

The first of a series of papers resulting from a 2-year research project 'Investigating the efficacy and effectiveness of Malnutrition eLearning course for global capacity building' has been published. A second paper has been submitted.

We have continued to promote the Malnutrition eLearning course (now hosted by Virchow) through social media and other channels.

We were represented at the 8th Africa Nutritional Epidemiology Conference (ANEC) in Addis

Ababa (October 2018) by Professor Jackson and Dr Annan, both of whom presented papers. The meeting also provided an opportunity to bring together young researchers to share ideas on how to have wider capacity building impact.

Report of activities and achievements in 2018

1. Building capacity to prevent and treat malnutrition

Our aim is to continue to build capacity among pre-service and in-service health professionals in the development context. We are hopeful that our experience with the Malnutrition eLearning course and publication of papers ensuing from the PATH-NEEP grant will attract significant attention and add further support to building capacity at scale. WHO has already expressed interest.

The first paper of a planned series is entitled: Effectiveness of the Malnutrition eLearning Course for global capacity building in the management of malnutrition: Cross-country interrupted time-series study and was published in J Med Internet Res 2018;20(10):e10396 doi:10.2196/10396.

We have shown that the malnutrition eLearning course improved knowledge, understanding, and skills of health professionals in the diagnosis and management of children with severe acute malnutrition. Changes in clinical practice and confidence were reported following completion of the course.

The second paper of the series is entitled: Improving the management of severe acute malnutrition through an eLearning course: impact on clinical practice and mortality and has been submitted to Arch Dis Child. We show that high quality, interactive eLearning can be effective in scaling up capacity building such that health professionals can manage children with severe acute malnutrition more effectively, leading to a reduction in mortality.

2. Developing a platform for coordinated action on nutrition and cancer. During the year Professor Jackson has been helping to develop a platform for coordinated action on nutrition and cancer in conjunction with IUNS, IAEA, IARC, the Union for International Cancer Control and World Cancer Research Fund International. As a result, a new IUNS Task Force (Nutrition and Cancer) has been formed.