

# Prevention and Control of Malnutrition (International Malnutrition Task Force)

## Task Force Report Form 2023



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SCIENCES

### 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:**

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

(Professor David Sanders who was a regional focal point for sub-Saharan Africa has sadly died and there is thus an unavoidable change from the original proposal)

**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 Sultana Khanum, Global SUN Civil Society Network, Bangladesh (until mid-2022), and Global Health Forum (from mid-2022)

## Has your objective(s) as a task force been modified since the original proposal? If so, please provide brief justification.

Our mandate was to address problems of malnutrition in childhood in all its forms. We have worked with partners successfully to build capacity of pre-service and in-service health professionals to prevent and treat malnutrition, and we have facilitated the successful scale-up of improved inpatient management in under-resourced hospitals in low and middle income countries. We are now broadening our ambition to improving school meals and nutrition education of young children by applying the experience gained by our Task Force in capacity building and scaling up.

## Have the activities to be undertaken been modified since the original proposal? If so, please provide brief overview and justification.

We are utilising our links to various organisations and individuals to see how best to position our future activities.

## Brief overview of activities since last annual report

Our main activities have been:-

- 1. Malnutrition Guideline Development:** Professor Jackson continued to serve as Chair of the WHO Guideline Development Group on the management of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children. A Report has been published '[WHO guideline on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema \(acute malnutrition\) in infants and children under 5 years](#)'.
- 2. School feeding and healthy development:**
  - a) Professor Jackson and Dr Khanum continued interactions with policy makers regarding school feeding and healthy development of children in low and middle income countries.
  - b) Professor Jackson represented IUNS/ IMTF on the UN School Nutrition Panel, which is a coalition of UN agencies, academia, and civil society, and gave a presentation at its November 2023 meeting.
  - c) Professor Jackson addressed the 5th International Congress Hidden Hunger in Stuttgart (September 2023). The presentation was entitled 'Improving food and nutrition security through school feeding'.

## **Please list any successes accomplished during this period (aligned with proposed measures of success from original proposal, or include justification for modifications).**

### **22nd IUNS-ICN, Tokyo**

A Symposium entitled 'Building capacity to scale-up improved inpatient treatment of severe malnutrition: experiences of South Africa, Bolivia, Malawi and Ghana' was successfully held with 4 international speakers.

## **Please mention your plans for the coming year and how they have been adapted based on success to date (if appropriate).**

We are at the end of our current extension and, if granted a further extension, we propose that we apply the experience gained by our Task Force in capacity building and scaling up WHO malnutrition guidelines to a new task of improving school meals and nutrition education of young children, and thereby help them and their teachers to understand better the relation between nutrition, physical activity and NCDs and improve their own health.

In anticipation, contact has been made with a) the coordinator of the Global SUN Civil Society Network (Alexandra Newlands), b) the Senior Advisor for School Feeding, SUN Civil Society Network (Barbara Reh binder), c) Chair of the UN Nutrition Community of Practice (Dr Catherine Ogden), d) Chair of UN Nutrition (Dr Najat Mokhtar).

### **Planned activities**

To liaise with WHO regarding publication of the scoping review which we were commissioned to prepare. 'A scoping review of the evidence related to severe wasting and oedema in children aged six months and older: screening, management approaches and recovery'.

September 2024, Dhaka, Bangladesh: workshop/seminar to include school nutrition in the 10-year celebration of the LSHTM Alumni Bangladesh Chapter.

October 2024, Accra, Ghana: 2-day workshop jointly with the Africa Nutrition Society and ICONIC to review school health and nutrition across Africa, share positive/negative experiences, identify challenges and the role of nutritionists in their resolution, and plan how best to establish a realistic school feeding programme.