Action Against Hunger’s Tool to Determine Where and When Nutritional Interventions are Needed in Times of Crises

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Malnutrition

Under-nutrition

Acute Malnutrition (wasting)

Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)
WHZ <-2 but >-3, without oedema

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)
WHZ <-3, and/or oedema

Chronic Malnutrition (stunting)

Over-nutrition

Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)
Sum of MAM and SAM prevalence
Malnutrition & Rising Food Prices

• In response to rising global food prices, already-poor households are:
  • Rationing and reducing food consumption
    • Particularly staple foods
  • Further restricting dietary diversity
• Food stocks and assets are depleted over time
  • Greater probability of developing malnutrition in response to food price volatility
Action Against Hunger/Action contre la faim (ACF)

Figure 2. ACF Country Offices
ACF Mandates

**Nutrition & Health**

- Evaluate nutritional needs
- Treat acute malnutrition
- Prevent acute malnutrition
- Build local capacity
Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART)

WHAT IS SMART?
• Standardized survey methodology initiated in 2002 to collect data on:
  • Mortality rate of the population
  • Nutritional status of children under-five

WHO USES SMART RESULTS?
• Government
  • Policy and program development
• Foreign aid organizations
  • What and where resources are needed in a given emergency

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Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART)\(^6\)

WHO DEVELOPED SMART?
- Initiated by USAID & CIDA
- Sustained by an interagency collaborative effort
- Developed by the TAG

WHY WAS SMART DEVELOPED?
- Non standardization of methods
- For conducting nutrition and mortality surveys in emergency nutrition situations
  - For the collection of timely, reliable and valid data

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SMART Training and Education

- Trained over 500 personnel in over 20 countries
  - Regional training workshops
- 9-module course in a Standardized training package (STP)
- Theoretical and practical components
- Written evaluations

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SMART Training and Education

**What is SMART?**
SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition) is an inter-agency initiative launched in 2002 by a network of organizations and humanitarian practitioners. SMART Methodology is an improved survey method for the assessment of severity of a humanitarian crisis based on the two most vital public health indicators:
- Nutritional status of children under five.
- Mortality rate of the population.

**Preparing survey teams in SMART**
The SMART standardized survey methodology incorporates elements of nutrition, mortality, and food security for emergencies or surveillance purposes. It was developed to be used with the user-friendly ENA software.

1. **SMART Manual**
   - The SMART manual provides agencies & field workers with basic tools to collect data necessary for planning direct interventions in emergency settings, as well as for surveillance.

2. **Standardized Training Package (STP)**
   - The STP harmonizes the procedures and tools used throughout the survey process and is broken down into 5 modules.

3. **Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) Software**
   - ENA software is the user-friendly analytical program recommended by SMART. It saves time and effort by simplifying both survey planning and data collection via integrated calculators.

**Standardized Training Package**

1. **Overview of Nutrition & Mortality Surveys**
2. **Survey Teams**
3. **Sampling**
4. **Survey Field Procedures**
5. **Anthropometry**
6. **Standardization Test**
7. **Plausibility Check for Anthropometry**
8. **Mortality**
9. **Interpretation of Results & Reporting**
The Future of SMART
Continuing Education Online

- To increase the number of individuals, NGOs, and governments who conduct, validate and interpret standardized surveys
- Not a replacement for in-field and hands-on training
- Collaboration with universities to teach SMART methodology in class
- McGill Dietetics stage placement opportunity
Conclusion

SMART:

– Is a method of assessing nutritional status of a population using indicators of acute malnutrition

– Offers human and institutional resource strengthening

– Contributes to the global efforts to meet the MDG 1
  • Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty by 2015
References


