



en-net update

Over the past six months (April to September 2020), 121 questions have been posted on en-net, generating 146 responses. The new

forum area for COVID-19 and nutrition programming generated 66 questions, 18 of which were escalated to the GTAM Wasting sub-working group to facilitate responses. Thirty-six vacancy notices and announcements have been posted, accumulating 17,986 views. Although no training opportunities were shared, numerous posts across forum areas announced webinars.

The *Prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition* and *Prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition* forum areas were recently merged into one *Management of wasting/acute malnutrition* area to better reflect the continuum of care and to enable discussions on prevention to be housed in one place.

To join any discussion on en-net, share your experience or post a question, visit <https://www.en-net.org/> or <https://www.fr.en-net.org/>

To provide feedback on the site, please write to post@en-net.org

Sectoral learning

In September 2020, ENN hosted a webinar in collaboration with WHO on the guideline development process and plans for the update to the wasting guidelines by WHO throughout 2021. Available at: <https://www.enonline.net/mediahub/video/whowebinaronwastingguidelinesanddevelopment>

NUTRITION EXCHANGE

Nutrition Exchange

The second edition of a series of special issues of Nutrition Exchange on South Asia, born out of a partnership between ENN and UNICEF ROSA, was released in July 2020 on improving young children's diets. This follows the first edition published in June 2019 on maternal nutrition.

See the news item in this edition of *Field Exchange* for more information or visit www.enonline.net/nex

Field Exchange

Field Exchange

In June 2020, as a follow-up to our special edition

on the continuum of care for wasting (issue 60), ENN delivered a webinar on key actions identified in this edition in the context of the GAP on Child Wasting: Framework for Action released in March 2020. The recording and a technical brief is available at: <https://www.enonline.net/mediahub/video/fex60gaponchildwastingwebinar>

Nous sommes déterminés à faire en sorte de mieux documenter les expériences des praticiens francophones dans Field Exchange. Nous avons développé notre capacité afin de recevoir et traiter les articles en français. N'hésitez pas à nous faire part de vos idées - nous pouvons vous soutenir tout au long du processus de rédaction. Le contenu sera disponible en ligne en français puis traduit pour figurer dans l'édition imprimée de Field Exchange (en anglais).

Coming up for *Field Exchange* we have two general issues due out in December 2020 and April 2021. We are also continually adding new articles to our website at www.enonline.net/fex and in French at www.enonline.net/fex/fr

If you have programming experiences or research that you would like to share via *Field Exchange*, please contact Chloe at chloe@enonline.net

Tackling child wasting: A review of costing tools and an agenda for the future

By Lani Trenouth, Emna Kayouli and Minh Tram Le



Jubil, age 2, recovers at the Kutupalong Makeshift Stabilisation Centre (MSC), where he is being treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM)

There is emerging global recognition of the urgency of efforts to reduce child wasting. Of the estimated 47 million children under five years old who were wasted in 2019, just over half lived in South Asia. The overall prevalence of child wasting in South Asia is 14.8% – substantially higher than other regions of the world.¹ Given this, the call to action to address child wasting is especially pressing in this region, where governments are seeking to integrate proven treatment and prevention solutions into their national systems.

The financial investment required to implement a nutrition plan is an important element in the process of designing and prioritising nutrition interventions, yet much uncertainty remains around this critical aspect. Accurate costing of nutrition plans is labour-intensive and complex and, while there is a range of costing tools to facilitate analysis, each tool has its own strengths and weaknesses. Moreover,

guidance is lacking on detailed analytical choices made during the process of costing an intervention or plan.

In response, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is engaging in a global exercise to facilitate the process of costing nutrition-specific interventions to address child wasting, with the support of its regional offices in the Asia and Africa regions. The result will be a comprehensive review of existing costing tools, an assessment of their applicability for costing nutrition interventions, and a synthesis to provide guidance on which tools are best to use under which circumstances. Country case studies will be carried out to validate the conclusions of the synthesis and to model real-life scenarios to estimate costs of select nutrition interventions in case studies in South Asia and globally. Detailed guidelines will be developed on how to standardise common analytical choices in costing and to generate cost scenarios. The specifics

of how wasting interventions may be implemented differently in each region will be factored into the guidelines.

It is anticipated that this exercise will foster greater consistency and transparency in costing processes, thereby improving cost data reliability and comparability and ultimately leading to better data on the cost of nutrition programmes for governments and partners to use in advocacy and planning to support the scaling up of wasting programming. The review of existing cost data of wasting interventions and synthesis of costing tools will be available by the end of 2020, with the costing guidelines to follow shortly thereafter.

For more information, please contact: Minh Tram Le, mle@unicef.org

¹ UNICEF/WHO/The World Bank Group joint child malnutrition estimates: levels and trends in child malnutrition: key findings of the 2020 edition