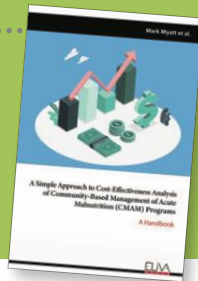


CMAM programmes: A handbook to analyse cost-effectiveness



Mark Myatt and colleagues have published a short handbook¹ to help guide nutrition programmers and monitoring and evaluation staff to perform simple cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) for community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) interventions. CEA is a way of examining the costs and health outcomes of one or more interventions. It enables comparisons between one intervention and another (or to no intervention) by estimating how much it costs to gain a unit of a desired health outcome. Results are presented as a cost-effectiveness ratio, for example cost per year of life gained, cost per case cured or cost per life saved, allowing comparisons between interventions. Without CEA, CMAM may seem an expensive intervention. However, when the cost-effectiveness is tested, it is usually found to be cheap and effective.

This handbook provides a useful guide to CEA in the context of CMAM programming. The handbook covers the types of outcomes used in cost-effectiveness analyses (cases treated, cases cured, deaths averted or disability adjusted life years averted), the creation of counterfactuals to model the absence of an intervention and the building of models of programme outcomes, accounting for uncertainty. It also details the types of costs that need to be considered in CEAs, the methods and tools needed to collect and work with costs data from a variety of sources and how to interpret cost-effectiveness estimates. Examples of CEA for CMAM programmes in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria are provided that give concrete illustrations of the steps to follow and the results that may be obtained. This book is now available from international booksellers.

¹ Myatt, M et al (2021) A simple approach to cost-effectiveness analysis of community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) Programs. Eliva Press.

Food Systems Summit 2021

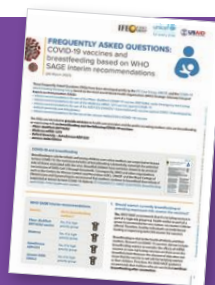
News Item¹

This year,² the United Nations Secretary-General will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This Summit aims to launch bold new actions to advocate for and accelerate a transformation in the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food. Five action tracks have been developed to facilitate work to meet the Food Systems Summit's aims and to identify 'game changing and systemic solutions' for the global food system:

1. *Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all* – aims to work to end all forms of malnutrition through increasing food availability and affordability and reducing food access inequities.
2. *Shift to sustainable consumption patterns* – aims to build consumer demand for sustainably produced food, strengthening local value chains and promoting recycling of food resources.
3. *Boost nature-positive production* – aims to realign incentives to reduce food loss and environmental impacts and to support small-holder farmers across the food value chain.
4. *Advance equitable livelihoods* – aims to contribute to the elimination of poverty by promoting employment and decent work across the food value chain.
5. *Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress* – aims to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas prone to conflict or natural disasters. These actions include a focus on broader global challenges.

Much work has already been done across the action tracks, including 'idea generation' surveys, two public dialogues on each track and the development of discussion starter papers to further drive the work forward. A number of food system dialogues have also been conducted, with more planned in the lead up to the Food Systems Summit in order to support the transformation of the global food system.

Frequently asked questions on COVID-19 vaccines and breastfeeding



Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the initiation of COVID-19 vaccinations in different countries from December 2020, varied advice regarding the safety of vaccines for breastfeeding mothers has been emerging. Initially, different scientific and advisory groups recommended that breastfeeding mothers should not receive the vaccine or were cautious about recommending it. However, from January 2021 onwards those recommendations changed, particularly after the issuing of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) interim recommendations for the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine¹ which clarified that breastfeeding mothers can be safely vaccinated with minimal risk. These WHO interim recommendations were later followed by the interim recommendations for the use of the Moderna mRNA-1273 vaccine against COVID-19² and the interim recommendations for use of the AZD1222 (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) vaccine against COVID-19 developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca.³

In response to the need to ensure that these recommendations are disseminated and adopted at a country level and that breastfeeding mothers are

optimally supported, a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has been jointly developed by the IFE Core Group (www.enonline.net/ife), UNICEF and the COVID-19 Infant Feeding Working Group based on the most recent WHO SAGE guidance. The FAQs are intended to provide answers to healthcare providers and the public, including mothers who are breastfeeding or expressing milk, regarding breastfeeding and the Pfizer-BioNTech, BNT162b2, Moderna and AstraZeneca AZD1222 COVID-19 vaccines. The FAQs are regularly updated and confirm that breastfeeding mothers should be supported to breastfeed and that they can be vaccinated when part of a high-risk group. However, the lack of data available for recommending the vaccine to breastfeeding women is acknowledged by WHO SAGE which has called for this topic to be prioritised by researchers.

Download the FAQs from <https://www.enonline.net/breastfeedingandcovid19vaccines>

¹ https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1

² <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/interim-recommendations-for-use-of-the-moderna-mrna-1273-vaccine-against-covid-19>

³ https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-AZD1222-2021.1

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/about>

² The tentative date for this Summit is from the 13th September but this is still to be finalised. A pre-Summit gathering is planned for July 2021.