

Starved for Attention

The Neglected Crisis of Childhood Malnutrition

A meeting to spotlight the urgent need to scale-up effective interventions - NYC 2008



Institute of Human Nutrition
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

September 11-12, 2008 - Lerner Hall, Columbia University, NYC

Agenda

Meeting Synopsis

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Columbia University's Institute of Human Nutrition (IHN) convened this meeting to explore ways to improve the effectiveness of current nutrition and food aid programming which target undernutrition in high-burden regions. At a time of rising food prices and food insecurity, the need to scale up efforts to prevent the deaths, illnesses and disabilities caused by malnutrition every year is even more urgent.

The meeting will bring together leading experts, policy makers, and national and international implementers to examine the nutritional deficits of food aid and why current nutrition programs and recommended strategies have limited impact on undernutrition in food insecure populations.

Presentations and working groups will explore successful strategies to address deficits in the complementary diets of children living in food insecure populations, including the role of food supplements, the composition and targeting of supplements, as well as complementary strategies to optimize nutritional outcomes.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Riverside Church, 120th St and Riverside Drive. [View directions.](#)

6:00 Public Event

» **Starved for Attention: The Neglected Crisis of Childhood Malnutrition**

A discussion on realizing the right to good nutrition in high-burden areas, including the relationship between food insecurity and malnutrition and the role of international nutrition and food aid with representatives from national right-to-food groups, aid groups, and lead UN agencies. Dr. Ronald Waldman, Mailman School of Public Health will moderate a panel that includes Biraj Patnaik, Principle Advisor, Office of the Commissioners to India's Supreme Court; Flora Sibanda-Mulder (TBC), UNICEF's Senior Advisor for Nutrition Security/Emergency; Dr. Milton Tectonidis, MSF nutrition advisor; and Dan Maxwell, Tufts University.

» Visit the [Public Event - Starved for Attention](#) page for details.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

Alumni Auditorium, Columbia University, 168th Street Campus. [View directions.](#)

Welcome Remarks and Keynote Address

» 8:30-8:45 – **Welcoming Address**

Dr. Richard Deckelbaum, Director, IHN, Columbia University

Symposium Goals

Dr. Christophe Fournier, President of MSF's International Council

» 8:45-9:00 – **Preliminary Address**

» *Biraj Patnaik, Principle Advisor, Office of the Commissioners to India's Supreme Court, "The Right to Food and Nutrition"*

» 9:00-9:30 – **Keynote Address**

Stephen Lewis, Co-Director of AIDS-Free World, "Mobilizing Political Will to Address the Crisis of Undernutrition"

Session 1 - Meeting the Nutritional Needs of Developing Children in High-Burden Regions

» **Introduction by Chair**

Dr. Joia Mukherjee, Medical Director, Partners in Health

» 9:30-9:50 – **The crisis of undernutrition and the role of poor diet quality**

André Briend, Department of Child & Adolescent Health and Development, WHO

» 9:50-10:10 – **Guidelines for complementary feeding and a review of effective interventions in high-burden areas**

Kay Dewey, University of California-Davis

» 10:10-10:30 – **The minimum cost of a healthy diet: implications for low-income families in high-burden areas**

Abigail Perry, Save the Children-UK

» 10:30-10:50 – **The limits of current food aid targeted at children between 6 and 24 months**

Lisa Fleige, SUSTAIN

» 10:50-11:20 – **Q&A Session 1, with respondent:**

Improving diet quality – historical perspectives and a needed research agenda

Mike Golden, University of Aberdeen

11:20-11:40 Coffee Break

Session 2 - Effective Nutrition Strategies for High-burden Regions

» **Introduction by Chair**

Dr. Mark Manary, Washington University School of Medicine

» 11:40-12:00 – **The use of conditional cash transfers and supplements in the reduction of undernutrition, Progreso/Oportunidades**

Dr. Juan Rivera, Nutrition and Health Research Center, National Institute of Public Health, México

» 12:00-12:15 – **Reduction of stunting through the use of fortified spreads**

John Phuka, College of Medicine, University of Malawi; Seth Adu-Afarwuah, UNICEF – Ghana; Per Ashorn, University of Tampere

» 12:15-12:30 – **Reduction of severe wasting through the blanket distribution of ready-to-use foods**

Dr. Susan Shepherd, Nutrition Advisor, MSF Access to Essential Medicines Campaign

» 12:30-1:15 – **Q&A Session 2 with respondent:**

Dr. Kim Michaelson, Department of Human Nutrition, University of Copenhagen

1:15-2:30 Lunch

Session 3: Nutrition and Food Aid Policy – Achieving Improved Outcomes

The afternoon session will consist of a high-level panel discussion on implementing policy reforms to reverse undernutrition in high-burden areas, and strategies to improve the effectiveness of international food aid and nutrition programs targeting undernutrition. This will include examination of the role of direct food-based interventions for successful nutrition programming in food-insecure areas.

» **Introduction by Chair**

Patrick Webb, Tufts University

» 2:30-2:45 – **Global strategy and resource estimates for effective nutrition policy**

Werner Schultink, Chief, Nutrition Section, UNICEF

Ian Darnton-Hill, Senior Advisor on Nutrition, UNICEF

» 2:45-5:00 – **Reformulating nutrition and food aid programming to better target undernutrition**

A Moderated Panel Discussion:

Patrick Webb, Chair

Meera Shekar, Lead Health and Nutrition Specialist, World Bank

Nimal Siripala De Silva, Minister of Health and Nutrition, Sri Lanka

(with technical presentation by Dr. H.A.P. Kahandaliyange, Secretary of Health, Sri Lanka)

- » *Dr. Jean-Hervé Bradol, Research Director and Former President of MSF-France*
Dr. Martin Bloem, Chief of Nutrition, World Food Program
(with technical presentation by Saskia de Pee, Nutritionist, World Food Program)
Francesco Branca, World Health Organization

- » 5:00-5:15 – **Day One Recap**
Nicolas de Torrente, Executive Director, MSF-USA
Dr. Steve Collins, Valid International

5:15-7:15 Reception

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

Alfred Lerner Hall, Columbia University, 116th Street Campus. [View directions.](#)

9:00-9:30 Keynote Address

- » Ann Veneman, Executive Director, UNICEF, "Finding practical solutions to treating and preventing malnutrition worldwide."

9:30-12:30 Working Group Sessions (with Coffee Break at 11:00)

- » **Working Group 1: Reformulating food aid for improved nutrition**

This session will explore ways to overcome barriers to change faced by implementers, national groups, funding agencies and multilateral organizations, including regional managers of programs. How can we ensure that international food aid targets the nutritional needs of young children, especially in high-burden countries? What will be the cost if we do nothing?

- » **Working Group 2: Ready-to-use food supplements – scaling-up safely and effectively**

With the development of lipid-based spreads for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition in resource-limited settings, there is interest in their use at early stages of malnutrition and to promote healthy growth and development in food insecure populations. This session will examine ways to optimize the safety and effectiveness of supplements in high-burden regions.

- » **Working Group 3: RUF supplements – local production, quality assurance, distribution**

This group will examine challenges in the scale-up of ready-to-use therapeutic and supplemental food (RUF), particularly how local and regional production models can be supported while still addressing product affordability, responsiveness of supply, as well as issues related to RUF patent rights.

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-4:30 Reports from Working Groups and Discussions

- » Chairs will present working group conclusions to the plenary session.

4:30-5:00 Closing Remarks

- » Dr. Richard Deckelbaum, Director, IHN, Columbia University
Dr. Tido von Schoen-Angerer, Executive Director, Access to Essential Medicines Campaign

This meeting will be open to members of the media. If participants have any questions, please contact Dr. Buddhima Lokuge at 1-212-655-3762 or Kevin Phelan at 1-212-655-3763