

iCCM, CHWs & Malnutrition: Inter-Agency Roundtable

May 12th & 13th 2014 London, UK

On May 12th & 13th, Action Against Hunger (ACF) and Save the Children UK co-hosted a roundtable discussion on Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM), Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Malnutrition. The meeting was attended by nineteen representatives from ACF, CMAM Forum, Malaria Consortium, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Population Services International (PSI), Save the Children UK and World Vision.

The first part of the meeting served to review past, present and planned operational projects which have relied on CHWs to support nutrition rehabilitation services (e.g. CMAM). Initial experiences from Bangladesh, South Sudan, Angola, Pakistan and Mali were reviewed as part of this process. These experienced helped emphasised six emerging themes and messages

- 1. CHWs can deliver a high quality of care for acute malnutrition
- 2. Adding treatment for acute malnutrition does not necessarily affect the quality of other services
- 3. CCM with treatment for acute malnutrition can be cost-effective
- 4. CHW supervision is essential
- 5. CMAM protocols/tools can be simplified and need to be shared more widely
- 6. Supply chain is a fundamental aspect of present and future implementation

In light of this, the participating agencies concluded that:

NUTRITION SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATED INTO ICCM.

We know that poor nutrition underlies morbidity and mortality in children under-five.

We believe that prevention/ treatment of malnutrition as part of ICCM, maximises the outcomes for child health/survival and development.

We believe that community-based delivery of nutrition and health services is the best way to improve access and coverage of these services

We acknowledge that integration will require adaptation to context-specific opportunities and challenges.

We will work towards building and sharing the evidence base for effective service delivery in different contexts and use this to influence policy and practices of stakeholders.

The agencies agreed, as a matter of priority, to commission a review of available experiences in linking iCCM and Nutrition. The review will be completed no later than September 1st, 2014 and the findings (to be presented in a second roundtable meeting in Q4 2014) will be used to develop specific advocacy messages and recommendations for further research.

For further information about this event, please contact Saul Guerrero on <u>s.guerrero@actionagainsthunger.org.uk</u>