
WHO guideline development group meeting – the efficacy, safety, and effectiveness of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) with less than 50% of proteins coming from milk products compared to the ‘standard’ RUTF for treating uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition in children aged 6 months or older

07 November 2019 (10:00 – 12:00 CET and 16:00 – 18:00)
Geneva, Switzerland (via WebEx)

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¹ Guidelines for declarations of interest (WHO experts). Geneva: World Health Organization. (<https://www.who.int/about/ethics/declarations-of-interest>, accessed 4 November 2019)

GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT GROUP BIOGRAPHIES

Janine Lewis BSc, DND, DPH

Principal Nutritionist at Food Standards Australia New Zealand
Australian Capital Territory (Canberra), Australia

Area of expertise: Food regulation

Janine Lewis has had a career in food regulation dealing with public health nutrition matters for over 25 years. Janine's current role is manager of a work unit that is responsible for developing regulations for special purpose foods including foods for special medical purposes and infant formula; and food fortification with vitamins and minerals. Janine has also served as leader of the Australian delegation to the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) from 1998 to 2016. During that time, she led two projects involving physical and electronic working groups. These projects developed nutritional risk analysis principles applicable to the Committee (2009), and reviewed Codex nutrient reference values for vitamins, minerals and protein for labelling purposes (2010–2015). Through previous contacts at CCNFSDU, Janine was engaged by WHO as a temporary advisor to contribute to Guidelines on food fortification with micronutrients (WHO/FAO, 2006). Janine subsequently spent two periods totalling 11 months at WHO headquarters assisting the development of a scheme for provision of scientific nutrition advice.

Kenneth Maleta, MBBS PhD

Professor of public health and epidemiology, School of Public Health and Family Medicine (SPHFM), College of Medicine
Blantyre, Malawi

Area of expertise: Research in child undernutrition

Kenneth Maleta is a medical graduate with specialist training in epidemiology. Previously, Dr. Maleta has served as Dean of the College of Medicine in Malawi and Head of the Public Health Department in the School of Public Health. Ken started his professional career as Medical Officer for a rural primary health care training and development project. His academic research interests are in the field of maternal and child health focusing on prevention and management of undernutrition, childhood growth and development, and the interactions between nutrition and infection. Aside from academic research, Dr Maleta has professional interest in HIV, health systems and medical education. He serves as a public health advisor and consultant nationally and internationally.

Gilbert Tshimangadzo Tshitauzi, MSc

Deputy Director, National Department of Health
Pretoria, South Africa

Area of expertise: Nutrition policy and programs

Gilbert Tshitauzi has over 16 years' senior management experience in leading the development of policies, strategies, and health programmes within the broader framework of maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programmes, involving multiple stakeholders, and complex integrated

programmes. He also has experience in diagnostic evaluations of the health care systems and integration of strategic nutrition, maternal and newborn care priorities into existing delivery platforms. He has been involved in health sector reforms with specific reference to the re-engineering of primary health care and advocate for implementation of child, maternal and nutrition services.

Mark Manary, MD

Professor of paediatrics, Washington University
St Louis, United States of America

Area of expertise: Production and research in ready-to-use therapeutic foods

Mark Manary conducted the first controlled clinical trials with Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), proving that home-based therapy with RUTF was an effective and superior way to treat uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition in children. After conducting 3 trials in 2001-2003 in Malawi, Dr. Manary supported larger scale operational work to demonstrate the robust nature of the intervention. In 2004 he started Project Peanut Butter to produce RUTF locally with local ingredients. There are factories in Malawi, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Ivory Coast. He is at present working with studies of how to replace some of the original ingredients of RUTF with locally produced foods. In 2009-11 he conducted a large-scale trial treating severe acute malnutrition proving that the addition of oral antibiotics to the treatment regimen reduced mortality. Dr. Manary has developed and trialed about 50 alternative recipes for RUTF.

Anna Maria Aguilar, MD

Professor at the Institute of Research on Health and Development Medical College at University
"Mayor de San Andres"
La Paz, Bolivia

Area of expertise: Management of child undernutrition

Anna Maria Aguilar is a pediatrician with two Masters in Human Nutrition (London UK) and Nutrition and Applied Dietetics (Leon Spain). Over her 30-year career in child health and malnutrition policy, she has played a key role in the implementation of mother and child programmes in Bolivia. In the last ten years worked in the Ministry of Health first as National Coordinator of the Multisectorial Malnutrition Zero Program and later as adviser to the National Food and Nutrition Council, where she helped with implementation of food and nutrition policies, promote the approval of national documents and laws to improve health and nutrition, particularly breast and complementary feeding. In her current professorial position she is engaged in multicountry research on health, nutrition and food. In previous years coordinated the severe malnutrition network in Latinoamerica, translate, helped adapted and implemented the WHO guides for the severe malnourished child in Bolivia. Professor Aguilar has authored or coauthored articles on child health and nutrition, cooperated with chapters in international and national pediatric texts.

Kerstin Hanson, MD, MPH

France

Area of expertise: Nutrition programs

Kerstin Hanson is a pediatric malnutrition expert with a background in pediatrics and six years of experience working on malnutrition-related programming with Médecins Sans Frontières, first in the field then most recently as Nutrition Advisor for Operational Center Paris (March 2013-March 2019). In 2017-2018 she took a sabbatical year to compliment her academic and professional experience with an MPH in Global Health, with special focus on Humanitarian Studies. She currently works as an independent consultant. Kerstin has experience in providing medical and operational technical support to field, capital- and headquarter-level coordination teams, for nutrition programming in both development and emergency settings, in a variety of regions and countries. An important part of her work at MSF involved collaborating with pharmacy and food quality assurance advisors for procurement and quality control of specialized nutritious food products. She also represented the MSF intersection nutrition working group in numerous international platforms and working groups including the Global Nutrition Cluster, the Interagency Working Group for Specialized Nutritious Food Products and Codex Alimentarius. She has taken an active role in drafting the current Codex Alimentarius Guidelines for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods, including involvement in discussions regarding to milk-protein content.

André Briend, MD, PhD

France

Area of expertise: Research in child undernutrition

André Briend is a former scientist of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France). He has a long experience in research in child nutrition in developing countries. In the late 90's, he played a key role in the development of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) which led to a revolution in the management of severe acute malnutrition. Dr Briend joined WHO in 2004 at the department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development. He retired from WHO in 2009 and is now Adjunct Professor at the University of Tampere, Department for International Health, Finland, and Affiliated Professor, Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports, Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Henrik Friis, MD, PHD

Professor of International Nutrition and Health, University of Copenhagen
Denmark.

Area of expertise: Research in child undernutrition

Henrik Friis has a medical background but has spent the last 30 years conducting research with colleagues in many African countries on nutrition and health. The research topics include interactions between nutrition and parasitic infections, HIV and TB; the role of micronutrients in reproduction; interactions between infections and diabetes; and the relation between early growth and body composition and later chronic diseases. Over the last ten years he and his colleagues have focused on the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, including the role of milk in food aid products.

Alan Jackson, MD

Professor of Human Nutrition, University of Southampton
United Kingdom

Area of expertise: Undernutrition and growth

Alan Jackson has been Professor of Human Nutrition, University of Southampton since 1985 where with Professor David Barker he established the Institute of Human Nutrition in 1994. He has a major interest in the biological and social factors that enable optimal growth and development during childhood and the implications of poor growth for lifelong health. He is an Honorary Consultant Physician having established and developed the nutrition support team and its support services within the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. He trained in paediatrics in Cambridge and London and as Director of the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit, University of the West Indies, Jamaica, helped develop the evidence base for the WHO guidance on effective treatment of severe malnutrition. He has been a Senior Advisor on nutrition to the UK Government for many years and has also advised the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the European Union. He was recently Director for Nutrition Research with the National Institutes for Health Research in England and Chair of their Cancer and Nutrition infrastructure collaboration. He was Chairman for the Continuous Update Panel of the World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute for Cancer Research, is convenor for the International Malnutrition Task Force of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, and Emeritus President of the Association for Nutrition.

Ali Arabi MBBS MD

Associate Professor of Paediatrics University of Khartoum
Sudan

Area of expertise: Management of undernutrition

Ali Alabi is Associate Professor of Paediatrics at University of Khartoum and consultant paediatric gastroenterologist in Sudan. He also serves as Director General at Dr Gafar Ibnouf Paediatric Tertiary Hospital in Khartoum, Sudan and Head of Technical Working Group at Nutritional Directorate Federal Ministry of Health. He has several publications in the field of nutrition.

Florinda Venzon Panlilio, BSc Food & Nutrition, ME, MBA

Supervising Health Program Officer, Department of Health
Philippines

Area of expertise: Nutrition programs, emergencies

Florinda Venzon Panlilio works for the Department of Health in Philippines and her responsibilities include to initiate/formulate/review and lead the dissemination and implementation of policies, standards, and guidelines for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Health (DRRM-H), lead in the conduct of learning and development activities on disaster risk reduction and management in health, provide technical assistance in the advocacy and promotion initiatives/activities on disaster risk reduction and management, facilitate and participate in the conduct of program monitoring and evaluation and documentation of lessons learned in emergencies and disasters.

Md Iqbal Hossain, MBBS, DCH, PhD

Senior Scientist, Nutrition & Clinical Services Division (NCSD), icddr,b,
Bangladesh

Area of expertise: Paediatrics, nutrition research, guidelines

Md Iqbal Hossain is a medical graduate (MBBS in 1985) from Bangladesh. He completed his residency training in paediatrics and Post-Graduate Diploma in Child-Health in 1990 from Bangladesh and worked as Consultant in a Paediatric Hospital in Bangladesh during 1990 to 1993. Since May 1993 he has been working at icddr,b (for last seven years as Senior Scientist and Head, Child Malnutrition Unit at the Nutrition & Clinical Services Division). He completed his PhD (in International & Community Nutrition) from the UC Davis, USA. He received the fellowship (FRCP) in 2018 from Glasgow and another fellowship (FICN) in the same year from the College of International Nutrition, India. His recent works as principal investigator also include the study of acceptability and efficacy of Soy-Based RUTF (published in Eur J Nutr 2019), revised MUAC cut-off to detect acute malnutrition (SAM & MAM) (published in AJCN, 2018), acceptability and efficacy of Fish Surimi Peptide in children suffering from MAM and stunting (study just completed). He has been involved in the production / acceptability / efficacy of rice-lentil- or chickpea-based -RUTF and -RUSF in Bangladesh as Co-principal Investigator in several research-projects. He has been working as a Task Force Member, for development of National SAM Guideline and National CMAM Guideline in Bangladesh. He conducted > 100 SAM-TOT courses different institute in Bangladesh, icddr,b and Nepal and Myanmar. He has been involved as Adjunct Faculty of Public Health Nutrition at The Brac University, Bangladesh for last 15 years. He published ~ 117 research articles/book-chapters. Alleviation of under-5 malnutrition is his passion.

Tahmeed Ahmed, MBBS, PhD

Senior Director, Nutrition & Clinical Services Division, icddr,b

Professor of Public Health Nutrition, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

Area of expertise: Nutrition and infectious disease research

Tahmeed Ahmed is a clinician with a PhD and he has been working for the last 30 years on the management of childhood malnutrition, childhood tuberculosis, and diarrheal diseases. He developed a protocol for management of children with severe acute malnutrition and diarrheal diseases, the implementation of which resulted in a 50 percent reduction in case fatality among hospitalized children. He has developed ready-to-use foods from local food ingredients that can be used to prevent and treat severe malnutrition. He was a member of the writing team for the Lancet nutrition series in 2008 and 2013. He is the Bangladesh site principal investigator of the multi-country Malnutrition-Enteric Diseases (MAL-ED) Project. This study investigates the association between malnutrition, enteric diseases and cognitive development. He is also leading the BEED (Bangladesh Environmental Enteric Dysfunction) study that will validate non-invasive biomarkers of environmental enteric dysfunction with upper GI histopathology. Dr Ahmed works closely with the Ministry of Health of Bangladesh, WHO, UNICEF and the International Atomic Energy Agency in research and training on nutrition. He has more than 300 papers published in international journals and books. Dr Ahmed was the President of the Commonwealth Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (CAPGAN), an association of professionals in Pediatric GI and Nutrition from the 54 Commonwealth nations. He is Professor of Public Health Nutrition of James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and also Affiliated Professor of School of Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle.