Overview of Malnutrition in Yemen

An estimated 7.6 million people require services to treat or prevent malnutrition, including 4.7 million who are in acute need. This includes 3.5 million people who require treatment for acute malnutrition, of whom about 2.3 million are children under age 5 and 1.2 million pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

Children under age 18, especially children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating women, are the most vulnerable groups due to their physiological and biological needs. Women, young girls and boys suffer disproportionately from malnutrition. The risk of acute malnutrition increases among children in distressed conditions for example if they have been displaced or are in a situation of conflict. About 16 per cent of cases of acutely malnourished children under age 5 in Yemen live in 49 front-line districts. These children are more likely to miss out on life-saving nutrition services.

Malnourished children face heightened mortality risks. Children under age5 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) are 12 times more likely to die than their well-nourished peers. One in 5 children with SAM will die without treatment; this risk increases between 9 and10 times for those with complications. Children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), are four times likely to die than their well-nourished peers.52

Less than 16 per cent of children under age 5 meet the minimum acceptable diet in most parts of Yemen. Anemia prevalence in children aged between 6 and 59 months is 86 per cent and among pregnant and lactating women it is 71 per cent.53 Women leaving the family home to collect food may weaken child care and result in a deteriorating nutritional status for mothers and their children. This risk is especially high in female-headed households which may not receive other support.

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No data is available on the nutrition situation of other vulnerable groups, including adolescents, older persons, persons with disabilities, IDPs and the Muhamasheen (marginalized). However, the severity of acute malnutrition among these groups is likely considerable and may exceed that of the general population. For instance, out of 1,452 IDP sites assessed by the Nutrition Cluster in December 2020, only about half were receiving nutrition services.

Sanid Organization for Relief and Development (SORD), as an NGO working in Yemen, tries its best to reduce the malnutrition rate among under-five children and PLWs in Yemen in general and in Sana'a Governorate, in particular, where this project has been implementing : "**Save lives 3025 children U5yr & 1,360 PLW in Yemen**".

This project aims at contributing to the reduction of mortality and morbidity associated with acute malnutrition to children under 5, pregnant women and lactating mothers in the targeted areas that have high acute malnutrition rates. During the last quarter of 2020, children under 5 and PLWs suffering from acute malnutrition have been supplied with the proper nutrition supplementary. Community awareness have been raised among the pregnant women ,lactating mothers and Girls of childbearing age regarding the evils of malnutrition, both for child and mother, the importance of good nutrition for the mental and physical well-being, and how to use the available.

All reached data and achievements regarding this project can be found in the following charts:

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Newly recruited children in program (CMAM), to treat malnutrition for January - February 2021.

Month	Program type	Sex	MUAC<11.5 Cm	Z-SCORE<3	Total	Total of children attending hospital
January	SAM without complications for children <5 Years	Male	3	13	16	16
		Female	1	16	17	17
		Total	4	29	33	33
February	SAM without complications for children <5 Years	Male	1	13	14	14
		Female	1	21	22	22
		Total	2	24	36	36
Total			6	53	69	69

Performance indicators in percentage for TFC/SC

DETAILS STATEMENT for January - February, 2021

	Monthly summary of the number of children from 6 to 24 months									
	Sex			Classification by color, location and measurement of the mid-arm in the measuring tape of the child			Number of children with (Edema)	Number of children	Action taken	
Month	Male	Female	Total	Sever acute malnutrition (SAM)	Average malnutrition MAM	Normal			Referral	Awareness

January	114	128	242	33	87	122	----	70	----	242
February	102	134	236	36	78	122	----		----	122
Total	216	262	478	69	165	244		70		364

Monthly summary of the number of children aged 6 to 24 months according to the schedule at the level of the health center			
Month	Total	Female `	Male
January	132	72	60
February	76	39	37
Total	208	111	97

Month	The total number of pregnant and lactating mothers	Average less than(23)cm		normal		Action taken	
		Pregnant	Lactating	pregnant	lactating	Referral	Awareness
January	251	59	87	35	70	-----	251
February	243	59	45	49	90	-----	243
Total	494	118	132	84	160	------	494

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Today, Yemen is one of the most dangerous places in the world for children to grow up. The country has high rates of communicable diseases, limited access to routine immunization and health services for children and families, poor infant and young child feeding practices, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene systems.

Meanwhile, the already fragile health care system is facing the collateral impact of COVID-19, which has drained meagre resources and resulted in fewer people seeking medical care.

The dire situation for Yemen's youngest children and mothers means any disruptions to humanitarian services – from health to water, sanitation and hygiene, to nutrition, food assistance and livelihoods support – risk causing a deterioration in their nutrition status.

Again and again and over again, we are expressing our gratitude and millions of thank to our generous donors who are the milestone of hope for Yemeni children. Your grants will never ever be in vain. Many thanks to all those helped in implementing the project, staff, health workers and volunteers.

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