



STOP No Time to Waste stunting

Scaling-up Care for Children
with Severe Wasting
in South Asia



16-18 May 2017, KATHMANDU, Nepal

AGENDA



Despite progress in reducing stunting, South Asia remains the epicentre of the global child wasting and stunting crisis. The region is home to half the world's wasted children (25 million) and severely wasted children (8 million), and 40 per cent of the world's stunted children (63 million).

These considerable burdens have far reaching consequences for child survival, growth and development in South Asia: poor nutrition in early life can result in life-long consequences including poor cognition, lower learning performance at school, and reduced earnings in adulthood.

South Asian countries have endorsed the global targets of Sustainable Development Goal 2 to reduce the number of stunted children by 40 per cent and maintain the percentage of wasted children below 5 per cent by 2025. In-line with this ambition and the Regional Action Framework on Nutrition of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), there is recognition and renewed impetus among stakeholders to increase the political commitment and financial investments in actions to improve maternal and child nutrition. Concerted efforts are underway across the region to develop, resource and implement multi-sector plans to address the multiple causes of poor nutrition. However, progress in scaling up essential nutrition actions is uneven both across and within countries in the region.

Actions to *prevent* wasting, stunting and other forms of malnutrition should always be the first programme priority. But when preventative actions fail, and children become severely wasted, it is essential that they have access to appropriate care and treatment. Alarming, less than five per cent of severely wasted children in South Asia receive treatment. This unacceptably low coverage is adding to the burden of mortality and morbidity in South Asia and is limiting the growth and development of millions of untreated children.

The Regional Conference is bringing together government representatives, UN partners and civil society organizations from across South Asia, together with regional and global experts on nutrition, to exchange regional analyses, expertise and experience on addressing wasting in the context of overall nutrition programming.

Objectives

The Regional conference on **Stop Stunting | No Time To waste - Scaling up Care for Children with Severe Wasting in South Asia** has been organized by SAARC and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) to identify actions to accelerate progress in the care of severely wasted children across South Asia.

The specific objectives of the Conference are to:

1. Position the care of children with severe wasting as an essential component of evidence-based interventions to support optimal nutrition and development in the first years of life in South Asia.
2. Celebrate positive developments, and share lessons and best practices in the care of severely wasted children in the region.
3. Identify actions to accelerate improvements in the care of severely wasted children at scale across the region, within the context of ongoing multi-sectoral actions to improve nutrition.

Tuesday May 16th

TIME	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER	SESSION CHAIR
08:30 09:00	REGISTRATION OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS			
Session 1: INAUGURAL SESSION				
09:00 09:30	OPENING CEREMONY	Welcome and introduction	Master of Ceremony	
		Traditional Nepali candle lighting session		
		Remarks by UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA)	Ms. Jean Gough, Regional Director, UNICEF ROSA	
		Remarks by South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	Mr. Amjad Hussain Sial, Secretary General of SAARC	
		Remarks Chief Guest, Government of Nepal	Mr. Gagan Kumar Thapa, Honourable Minister of Health, Government of Nepal	
09:30 10:00	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Childhood wasting in South Asia – the imperative for a transformation in thinking and approaches	Dr. Harriet Torlesse, Regional Advisor Nutrition for South Asia, UNICEF	Mr. Philippe Cori, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF ROSA
10:00 11:00	PANEL DISCUSSION	Panel discussion based on keynote address	<p>Panelists:</p> <p>Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed, Senior Director, Nutrition & Clinical Services Division, ICDDR,B</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Geeta Bhakta Joshi, Honourable Member of National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal</p> <p>H.E. Rensje Teerink, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Nepal</p> <p>Mr. Saul Guerrero, Director of International Nutrition Initiatives, Action Against Hunger</p>	
11:00 11:30	MORNING BREAK			

Session 2: SETTING THE SCENE				
11:30 11:40	INTRODUCTION	Agenda overview & introduction of country teams and partners	Saul Guerrero	Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
11:40 12:00	SAARC PRESENTATION	SAARC Regional Action Framework for Nutrition: accelerating development outcomes for women and children in South Asia through investment in good nutrition	Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Director Social Affairs, SAARC	
12:00 12:30	GUEST PRESENTATION	Perspectives on managing childhood wasting in the context of infant and young child feeding interventions and the care of common childhood illnesses in South Asia	Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed, Senior Director, Nutrition & Clinical Services Division, ICDDR,B	
12:30 13:00	PLENARY SESSION	Plenary discussions		
13.00 14.00	LUNCH BREAK			
Session 3: SHARING COUNTRY EXPERIENCES ON THE CARE OF SEVERELY WASTED CHILDREN AND IDENTIFYING COMMON THEMES				
14:00 15:45	COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS	Bangladesh	Government of Bangladesh	Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
		Bhutan	Government of Bhutan	
		Maldives	Government of Maldives	
		Plenary discussions		
15:45 16:00	AFTERNOON BREAK			
16:00 17:45	COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS	Nepal	Government of Nepal	Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
		Pakistan	Government of Pakistan	
		Sri Lanka	Government of Sri Lanka	
		Plenary discussions		
17:45 18:00	END OF DAY 1: WRAP-UP			
18:30 20:00	EVENING RECEPTION	Social reception at Hyatt Regency: all participants and invited guests		

Wednesday May 17th

TIME	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER	SESSION CHAIR
09:00 09:30	WELCOME TO DAY 2	Summary of Day 1 proceedings		Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
Session 4: KEY PATHWAYS TO ACCELERATING THE SCALE UP OF CARE FOR SEVERELY WASTED CHILDREN				
09:30 10:15	UNICEF PRESENTATION	Addressing severe wasting in children: working towards results at scale	Dr Victor Aguayo, Associate Director Nutrition, UNICEF Ms Diane Holland, Senior Nutrition Advisor.	Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
10:15 11:00	GUEST PRESENTATION	A systems perspective to the sustainable delivery of services to care for severely wasted children at facility and community level	Hedwig Deconinck, Public Health Researcher, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium	
11:00 11:30	MORNING BREAK			
11:30 12:15	GUEST PRESENTATION	Strengthening implementation research for improved coverage, quality and equity in the delivery of nutrition interventions	Dr. Purnima Menon, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), South Asia	Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
12:15 13:00	GUEST PRESENTATION	Lessons from the large scale up of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) in South Asia	Dr Meera Upadhyay, World Health Organization Nepal	
13:00 14:00	LUNCH BREAK			
Session 5: VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE - COUNTRY GROUP DISCUSSIONS				
14:00 16:00	COUNTRY GROUP DISCUSSIONS	Country group discussions on visioning for the future		Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
16:00 16:30	AFTERNOON BREAK			
16:30 18:00	COUNTRY GROUP DISCUSSIONS	Country group discussions on visioning for the future		Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
18:00	END OF DAY 2: WRAP-UP			

Thursday May 18th

TIME	SESSION TITLE	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER	SESSION CHAIR
09:00 09:30	WELCOME TO DAY 3	Summary of Day 2 proceedings		Saul Guerrero (Facilitator)
Session 6: ACCELERATING PROGRESS AND MAKING LARGE SCALE IMPROVEMENTS IN CARE FOR SEVERELY WASTED CHILDREN				
09:30 10:30	COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON ADVOCACY, POLICY, PROGRAMME AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES	Sri Lanka	Government of Sri Lanka	Dr. Bikash Lamichhane, Director of the Child Health Division of the Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal
		Pakistan	Government of Pakistan	
		Nepal	Government of Nepal	
10:30 11:00	MORNING BREAK			
11:00 12:00	COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON ADVOCACY, POLICY, PROGRAMME AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES	Maldives	Government of Maldives	Dr. Bikash Lamichhane, Director of the Child Health Division of the Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Government of Nepal
		Bhutan	Government of Bhutan	
		Bangladesh	Government of Bangladesh	
Session 7: CLOSING CEREMONY				
12:00 13:30	MOVING FORWARD	Call to Action	Representative of the Government Participants	Dr Harriet Torlesse, UNICEF Regional Advisor
		Reflections from Government participants	Representatives of the Government Participant	
	CLOSING CEREMONY	Closing remarks by UNICEF ROSA	Ms. Jean Gough, Regional Director, UNICEF ROSA	
		Closing remarks by SAARC	Mr. Amjad Hussain Sial, Secretary General of SAARC	
		Closing remarks by the Guest of Honour, Government of Nepal	Prof. Dr. Geeta Bhakta Joshi, Honourable Member of National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal	
13:30	END OF CONFERENCE			
13:30 14:30	LUNCH BREAK			