

10. Nutrition

The prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition: a revolution in child survival efforts?

Goals:

- To provide a thought-provoking introduction to the past, current and future efforts to prevent and treat severe acute malnutrition among children.

Objectives:

- Present past efforts to prevent and treat severe acute malnutrition
- Describe recent innovations in the prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition
- Appreciate the complexities of global health efforts that include private, for-profit companies who seek patent protection for their innovations
- Critically analyze the potential pitfalls of these new approaches to tackling severe acute malnutrition that rely on ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

Response Question:

You are the Medical Director of Operation Help in Ethiopia. You are confronted with a food security emergency and you need to prepare your organization to meet the challenge. In a memo addressed to your Executive Director based at headquarters in Washington DC, argue for a re-orientation in the organization's approach to preventing and treating severe acute malnutrition. To date, your organization has only implemented hospital-based programs to treat severe acute malnutrition and from conversations that you've had with the Executive Director and other senior staff you get the strong sense that they are not convinced of the value of community-based programs that rely on ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

Required:

Black RE, Cousens S, Johnson HL, Lawn JE, Rudan I, Bassani DG, Jha P, Campbell H, Walker CF, Cibulskis R, Eisele T, Liu L, Mathers C; Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group of WHO and UNICEF. Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2008: a systematic analysis. *Lancet*. 2010 Jun 5;375(9730):1969-87.

Manary MJ, Sandige HL. Management of acute moderate and severe childhood malnutrition. *BMJ*. 2008 Nov 13;337:a2180

Tectonidis M. Crisis in Niger--outpatient care for severe acute malnutrition. *N Engl J Med*. 2006 Jan 19;354(3):224-7.

Recommended:

None