



Nutrition

OVERVIEW

USAID/OFDA's objective is to prevent and treat acute malnutrition, build nutrition and health staff capacity, educate beneficiaries and community members on the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, and support operational research to further best practices in emergency nutrition interventions.

APPROACHES

Prevention of malnutrition should be a focus even during an emergency response. Programs should include nutrition education, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and optimal infant and young child feeding during emergencies, and other caring practices.

Treatment of malnutrition can be implemented through supplementary and therapeutic (community- and center-based) feeding programs. USAID/OFDA encourages partners to implement community-based therapeutic care (CTC) approaches that are integrated into the host government's health care system from the beginning of a response and build the Ministry of Health's capacity to continue treating severe acute malnutrition as part of routine health programs.

GUIDANCE FOR PROPOSALS

The Additional Program Description Requirements (APDRs) section in the newly revised USAID/OFDA proposal guidelines provides a set of indicators for nutrition programs and questions to be addressed by partners. Please use all the indicators for nutrition verbatim from this section. In addition, USAID/OFDA requires partners to provide an update on achievements when requesting cost extensions.

Nutrition and Mortality Data: For new grants in Fiscal Year 2007, USAID/OFDA-funded nutrition and mortality data collection will be shared with the Complex Emergency Database (CE-DAT)¹ (contact@cedat.be) and Nutrition Information in Crisis Situations (prudhonc@who.int or scn@who.int).

COMMUNITY-BASED THERAPEUTIC CARE (CTC)

To build NGO and host government capacity, USAID/OFDA funded the development of a CTC field manual, produced through collaboration between USAID's Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) project, Valid International, and Concern Worldwide. In addition, USAID/OFDA is funding the development of CTC training modules and in-the-field training using these newly developed modules. USAID/OFDA is also supporting a review of CTC programs in Niger, Ethiopia, and Malawi to assess the integration of CTC into the health care infrastructure. Lessons learned from this review will help the humanitarian community to better assist governments in integrating the community-based module of treating acute malnutrition into the health system. For a copy of the CTC manual, please visit the following websites: www.validinternational.org, www.concern.net, and www.fantaproject.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

At the global level, USAID/OFDA is involved and regularly contributes to the nutrition cluster, which is working on a number of initiatives, including assessment standardization, survey methodologies, and response monitoring.

¹ CEDAT is a searchable database on the humanitarian impact of complex emergencies maintained and developed by Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED).