**International Malnutrition Task Force.**

**Meeting 29th May 2013, Bangkok, THAILAND**

**Participants:** Tahmeed Ahmed, Bangladesh; Paluku Bahwere, Valid International; Sultana Khanum, Scaling Up Nutrition; Ken Maleta, Malawi; Najat Mokhtar, IAEA; Ellen Muehlhoff, FAO; Dolores Rio, UNICEF; Zita Weise-Prinzo WHO; Emorn Wasantwisut, Scaling Up Nutrition. Chair: Alan Jackson; Rapporteur: Ricardo Uauy.

**Agenda:**

1. IMTF is a joint Task Group of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences and the International Pediatric Association. It was formed in 2005 following the 18th International Congress of Nutrition in Durban to provide added focus on the need for nutritionists and paediatricians to accept responsibility for the more effective prevention and treatment of severe malnutrition in childhood. This area of concern had not had priority in previous ICN and needed special focus and attention, especially against the background of achieving the MDGs. For the past 18 months IMTF, with the assistance of IAEA, has been planning towards the 20th ICN meeting in Granada, Spain in September 2013. For the Congress, IMTF has sponsored a Symposium on Scaling Up Prevention and Treatment of Malnutrition and a workshop around the treatment of severe acute malnutrition, with the opportunity to introduce the new guidelines developed by WHO as a part of the NUGAG activity (see Annex 1). For the Symposium on Scaling Up nutrition, David Nabarro, the SUN Movement Coordinator, has been invited to give the keynote John Waterlow Lecture. In anticipation of the need for practical action following the ICN, IMTF/IAEA have organised two regional meetings, one for sub-Saharan Africa held in Ghana in December 2012 and the other for South-East Asia, held in Thailand in May 2013. The notes from the Ghana meeting were received and acknowledged.
2. IMTF has a primary ambition to improve training and systemic capacity building at national level with a focus on effective collaboration between health professionals and nutritionists responsible for the care of children. There is an emphasis on inter-sectoral collaboration to improve the prevention of malnutrition and more effective integrated care across the community and facility based settings. With others IMTF has played a role in addressing the current problems and contributing to the future agenda.
3. IMTF will report to the Council of IUNS at the forthcoming meeting in Granada, and will seek approval for continuance. Discussion took place around IMTF’s structure and function; a review of its governance; and planning for the next cycle of activity.
   1. **Purpose**. It was agreed that the mandate for IMTF would be better described as addressing the problems of malnutrition in childhood in all its forms (to include, stunting, wasting and obesity).
   2. **Governance.** The benefit of the current governance from IUNS, IPA, IAEA, UNICEF and WHO was acknowledged and appreciated. There was discussion around the desirability of widening participation in the governance to include FAO and SUN. Formal exploration of these possibilities was recommended. The weakness in the current system of meetings of IMTF was identified and it was proposed that for the future regular quarterly meetings by teleconference would be preferable to the current system.
   3. **Finances.** There have been great difficulties in receiving committed support from sponsors and some of the reasons behind this were discussed. There is the need for IMTF to develop a work plan with specific objectives and tasks that can be supported in their own right through accepted mechanisms and processes. The need for the modest core support to maintain a minimum secretariat and administrative capability was acknowledged.
   4. **Structure and Function.** In the IAEA/IMTF Technical Meeting that had just taken place working groups considered the needs under four headings: capacity building; measuring effectiveness of interventions; integration of SAM into other health and nutrition initiatives; research gaps. Following discussion it was agreed that the outcomes from these work groups could form the basis of the work plan for IMTF in collaboration with others for the coming 2 year period.

1. Arrangements need to be made to identify a time and place for the next meeting of the Governors on the occasion of the ICN in Granada
2. IMTF has sought to support the activities of SUN, in the first instance through the organization of the Symposium in Granada and with the preparatory planning meetings. The purpose of the preliminary meetings has been to work with representatives from countries, agencies, NGOs and others to develop where possible a coherent and consolidated action plan that might be discussed in Granada, and if possible to obtain commitment and buy in for a common agenda. Discussions have been held with David Nabarro and other representatives of the SUN movement to determine where the best opportunities might lie. Aligning the activities of IUNS and IPA with SUN in the context of capacity building and the delivery of improved services would be desirable. Direct interaction with SUN through Emorn Wasantwisut, Anna Lartey and Sultana Khanum provides exceptional opportunities.
3. Members of IMTF contributed directly to the NUGAG process of WHO for the review of the guidance on treatment for severe acute malnutrition. These contributions were made by individuals in their personal capacity as experts. Zita Weise Prinzo reported on the progress in completing the new guidelines and indicated ways in which IMTF might play a role for the future. She noted that changes and updates from the guidelines from 1999 and subsequent revisions, within the NUGAG process, had been informed by systematic reviews of the literature conducted by a number of academic institutions. There will be the need to review learning material based on the new guidelines, such as the eLearning being offered by IMTF, and the WHO training manual. Specific consideration of the implications of the new guidelines for these factors is still in process and IMTF will be kept informed of progress, and consulted as appropriate. Further progress will be reported in Granada, and this will provide the opportunity to consider the specifics of further involvement of IMTF in the communication of the new guidelines and their roll-out in practice.
4. The meeting in Ghana had discussed the specific problems created by the fact that malnutrition was not recognised as a cause of death, not being considered or having a number within ICD 11. The important implications of this for the failure of the metrics to identify malnutrition as a serious problem at national level and the consequences for poor policy formulation were discussed. Following the meeting in Ghana IMTF had sent a letter to WHO to request formal consideration of the need for this to be addressed as a matter of some urgency. The response had not been encouraging. The need to continue to press on this concern was supported.
5. During the last year the work programme for IMTF has been carried out through the goodwill of colleagues within the framework of five task groups which have sought to pilot opportunities for consolidating particular areas of focus.
   1. Website (lead Reggie Annan, Ann Ashworth Hill, AJ)
   2. eLearning (lead Sunhea Choi, Trevor Pickup, Ann Ashworth Hill, AJ).
   3. Body composition (lead Lena Davidsson, R Uauy, S Wootton, AJ)
   4. Professionalization and accreditation (with Leonie Milliner, Association for Nutrition; Paul Amuna, Africa Nutrition Society; AJ)
   5. Scaling up Nutrition (lead Sultana Khanum, Anna Lartey, Emorn Wasantwisut).
6. At the meeting in Vienna the development of a series of review papers had been proposed:
   1. Determinants and consequences of stunting,
   2. How to prevent and reverse stunting: critical stages for intervention,
   3. Interactions between SAM and stunting that affect child survival and long-term health and wellbeing,
   4. Social and environmental determinants of SAM,
   5. How to mobilize communities and create political will to address SAM.

There was discussion around how to organise volunteers for preparing the documents, and how to interact with others carrying out similar activities. It was agreed that a small group of volunteers form a “publishing group” with A A-H to bring forward advice (TA, KM, RU, AJ offered support).

1. The next meeting to be held at a time/date to be arranged during the ICN in Granada in September 2013.

Ricardo Uauy, Alan Jackson

Annex 1.

**20th ICN meeting, Granada, Spain, September 2013**

**IMTF Workshop Sunday September 15th  ROOM D**

**14.00 – 18.00 Update on the management of severe malnutrition**

*Chair: Alan Jackson, International Malnutrition Task Force, United Kingdom*

*Co-chair: Tahmeed Ahmed, International Malnutrition Task Force, Bangladesh*

14.00 – 14.10 Welcome

*Alan Jackson, International Malnutrition Task Force, United Kingdom*

14.10 – 14.35 The new WHO treatment recommendations

*Zita Weise Prinzo, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland*

14.35 – 15.00 Scaling-up treatment of SAM in the Asian context

*Tahmeed Ahmed, ICDDR, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

15.00 – 15.25 Integrating hospital and community management into routine health services

*Beatrice Amadi, University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia*

15.25 – 15.50 Progress in addressing malnutrition in Latin America

*Ricardo Uauy. Instituto de Nutrición y Tecnologia de Alimentos, Santiago, Chile*

15.50 – 16.15 Coffee Break

16.15 – 16.40 SAM in the context of emergencies

*Paluku Bahwere, Valid International, Genval, Belgium*

16.40 – 17.05 RUTFs: Risks and opportunities of local production at scale

*Jeya Henry, Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, Singapore*

17.05 – 17.30 Capacity building for management of acute malnutrition

*Paul Amuna, Association for Nutrition, United Kingdom*

17.30 – 18.00 Discussion