



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

in collaboration with US National Institutes of Health

Regional Consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

Evidence, lessons and recommendations for action
in South-East Asia

Bangkok, Thailand

8-11 October 2007

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

Background

This joint NHD/HIV/AIDS regional consultation is being proposed as a **direct response to resolution EB117.R2** (WHA59.11) whereby the Member States requested the Director-General to strengthen technical guidance to Member States for incorporating HIV/AIDS issues in national nutrition policies and programmes; and to support the development and dissemination of science-based recommendations guidelines and tools on nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In addition, we are using the good example and successful experience of the Durban consultation in 2005 on nutrition and HIV/AIDS which had most of the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries mobilized to include nutrition within their HIV/AIDS policies and response.

Justification

Of the 39.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide in 2006, 7.8 million people were living with HIV in the WHO South and South-east Asia region (SEAR) at the end of 2006. In 2006 alone, about 860 000 additional people were infected and more than 590 000 died. High malnutrition rates are persisting in the South-east Asia Region where food is often identified as the most immediate and critically needed item by people living with HIV/AIDS and others affected by the pandemic. Scaling-up care and antiretroviral therapy cannot be addressed without planning for appropriate nutrition.

Governments are currently grappling with a range of programme and policy challenges related to food, nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Building on global experiences and knowledge, this consultation is intended to recognize the status and extent of the problem in SEAR, proposing both technical and operational plans to address it.

This consultation is jointly sponsored by WHO, the US National Institutes of Health, FAO, UNICEF and WFP. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supported the Scientific Planning Committee held in Vienna, Austria in July 2007.

Objectives

General

To integrate nutrition as a fundamental part of the overall response to HIV/AIDS in SEAR.

Specific

1. Review lessons learnt from the global and regional experiences of integrating nutrition as a fundamental part of response to HIV/AIDS.
2. Identify gaps, challenges and opportunities to formulate evidence-based programmes for integrating nutrition as a fundamental part of the response to HIV/AIDS.
3. Formulate and recommend action plans for national and regional levels ensuring nutrition as a fundamental component of the comprehensive package of HIV/AIDS care, support and treatment programmes, including a research agenda with a regional perspective, for support of evidence-based programming.

Expected outcomes

- A Participants' Statement demonstrating a strong commitment from the competent national authorities and relevant partners and institutions to include nutritional support as one of the crucial responses to the epidemic.
- A joint plan of action with UN agencies and other partners to ensure the integration of nutrition as a fundamental part of a comprehensive package of care and support for those infected and affected by the disease.
- Consensus on the best practices in nutrition and food-based interventions in relation to HIV prevention, care and treatment, in SEAR.
- A research agenda related to nutrition and HIV/AIDS, in SEAR.

Process

- The regional consultation will bring together policy and decision-makers and programme managers, HIV and nutrition researchers and scientists, to be well informed of the latest scientific evidence on issues related to nutrition and HIV/AIDS and to jointly agree on how to translate the science into an action-oriented plan of work. Participants from three areas: 1) Nutrition/HIV, 2) national programmes and 3) NGO/PLWHA groups from each of the 11 member countries will have the opportunity to discuss utilization of available scientific evidence, to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities and to develop the work plans (including a scientific agenda) for integrating nutrition into HIV/AIDS programmes. A preparatory scientific meeting with international and regional experts will be held in Vienna, Austria in July, jointly sponsored by WHO and IAEA.
- **Ground work** will be similar to the one followed for the sub-Saharan Africa consultation but with a regional perspective including the completion and dissemination of a state-of-the-art evidence review for this Region.
- Background resource materials (Annex 1).

- A **Scientific Planning Committee (SPC)** of interested agencies, supporters and selected regional and global scientists to be established (UNAIDS, FAO, WFP, UNICEF as well as IAEA, SCN and GFATM and others) and preparatory meeting planned and convened.
- WHO Regional Office in New Delhi will be the main organizer. The Institute of Nutrition at Mahidol University (INMU) which is a WHO Collaborating Centre will assist in the planning and holding of this consultation.
- Three country experts/programmers/policy makers from each of the 11 countries in SEAR will be invited. In addition, participants will include WHO (and other agencies) collaborating centres, national groups and PLWHA organizations.
- Four countries with high HIV epidemic and nutrition problems from the Western Pacific Region to be invited as well as observers (China, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam)

Dates

This will be a three and a half-day meeting. **Suggested dates are: 8 -11 October 2007.**

Venue

Thailand has taken the lead in addressing HIV programmes through the continuum of care strategies that have a great impact in the region and after much consideration and assessment and discussion with the WHO Collaborating Centre, INMU, Bangkok, Thailand has been chosen with INMU as the local secretariat. Cost issues, easy access, security, availability of hotels, secretariat assistance on the ground and successful past experience in working with this Collaborating Centre, justify the selection of venue.

Participants

1. National focal person from national nutrition programme.
2. Focal person for care, support and treatment from national AIDS programme.
3. Leading NGO/PLWHA group at national level.

Total 120 people.

Proposed timeline

2007

January/February	Finalize meeting objectives and expected outcome Budget prepared Approach donors Establish SPC and coordinating committee
February/March	Planning meeting in the identified country to meet different partners and MOH people Establish the site secretariat. Meeting plan and agenda submitted by SPC in SEARO

March/May	Participants and venue identified Sponsors committed Meeting facilitation/logistic services identified/hired Speakers' invitations sent out Participant invitations sent out
June/Sept	Background scientific papers and resource materials collected Speaker presentation drafts due Technical assistance to speakers
October	Technical consultation

Co-Sponsors:

US National Institutes of Health (NIH), UNICEF, FAO, WFP and IAEA. WHO (Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Department at HQ and Regional levels) and others.

Countries in WHO South-East Asia Region

- [Bangladesh](#)
- [Bhutan](#)
- [Democratic People's Republic of Korea](#)
- [India](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Maldives](#)
- [Myanmar](#)
- [Nepal](#)
- [Sri Lanka](#)
- [Thailand](#)
- [Timor-Leste](#)



This map is an approximation of actual country borders.

04 October 2007

Draft Reference Documents

Scientific reviews/guidelines/courses/tools

Nutrition and HIV:

- Executive Summary of a scientific review: Consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Africa, WHO.
- WHO: Nutrition and HIV/AIDS - Executive summary and six background working papers¹.
- WHO/FAO: Nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS: a training course.
- FAO/WHO: Living well with HIV/AIDS: A manual on nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- WHO guidelines for an integrated approach to the nutritional care of HIV-infected children (6 months-14 years) at HIV treatment sites/referral facilities.
- Framework for integration of food and nutrition into funding proposals.

HIV and Infant Feeding:

- UN Framework for priority action on HIV and Infant Feeding.
- Global Strategy for infant and young child feeding.
- WHO HIV and Infant Feeding Technical Consultation Held on behalf of the Inter-agency Task Team (IATT) on Prevention of HIV Infections in Pregnant Women, Mothers and their Infants Geneva, October 25-27, 2006: Consensus Statement
- UNICEF and WHO call for stronger support for the implementation of the joint United Nations HIV and infant feeding framework.
- Guidance for UNICEF Offices to implement the WHO/UNICEF global strategy for infant and young child feeding.
- Revised Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) Brochure and Materials (Sections 1 and 4).
- Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) Counselling: An integrated course.
- Use of population-specific infant mortality rates to inform policy division regarding HIV and infant feeding by E. Piwoz and J Ross.
- An education and counselling program for preventing breastfeeding-associated HIV transmission in Zimbabwe: Design and impact on maternal knowledge and behavior by E. Piwoz and others.
- Early exclusive breastfeeding reduces the risk of postnatal HIV-1 transmission and increases HIV-free survival by P. J. Iloff and others.
- WHO HIV and infant feeding statement on the prevention of HIV infections in pregnant women, mothers and their infants, Geneva, October 2006.

Nutrition and ARV Treatment

- Uptake of HIV testing and outcomes within a community-based therapeutic care (CRC) programme to treat severe acute malnutrition in Malawi, Paluku Bahwere *et al.*
- CD4 levels as criteria for ART in severely malnourished children, P. Fergusson, J. Chinkumba and A. Tomkins.
- Impact of HIV status on patterns of mortality in HIV-infected severely malnourished children, admitted to 3 nutrition rehabilitation in the central region of Malawi.
- Supplemental Feeding with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food in Malawian Children at risk of malnutrition, Monica Patel *et al.*
- Home-based Treatment of Malnourished Malawian Children with Locally Produced or Imported ready to use Food, Heidi Sandinge *et al.*

Food and Nutrition Security and OVCs

¹ 1.Macronutrients and HIV/AIDS: a review of current evidence. 2.Micronutrients and HIV infections: a review of current evidence. 3.HIV and Nutrition: pregnant and lactating women. 4. Growth failure in HIV-infected children. 5.Infant feeding and HIV transmission. 6.Nutritional considerations in the use of ART in resource-limited settings.

- IFPRI/Renewal?
- UNICEF papers
- FAO papers
 - Incorporating HIV/AIDS Considerations into Food Security and Livelihood Projects
 - Pocketbook on integrating HIV/AIDS considerations into food security and livelihoods projects
 - HIV/AIDS Extension Fact Sheets (various)
 - BBC documentary Showing Seed of Hunger
 - The impact of HIV/AIDS: An Update, Committee on World Food Security. Twenty-Ninth Session Rome, 12-16 May 2003
 - New Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools Programme Leaflet
 - The impact of HIV/AIDS and drought on local knowledge systems for agrobiodiversity and food security, SD Dimensions Report No. 50, July/August 2006
 - Rural women, dynamisation of networks and the fight against HIV/AIDS in rural areas, FAO-Dimitra/CTA Workshop, 2005
- Other UN agencies' papers