

ASSESSING NUTRITION SITUATIONS IN EMERGENCIES

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1

Terms and Classification

Anthropometric Terms

| Indicators | Indices | Malnutrition Type |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Stunting | Height for Age (HFA) | Chronic |
| Underweight | Weight for Age (WFA) | Chronic and Acute |
| Wasting | Weight for Height (WFH) | Acute |

Malnutrition Classification and Cutoffs

| | Z-score (SD) |
|----------|----------------|
| Mild | -2.00 to -1.01 |
| Moderate | -3.00 to -2.01 |
| Severe | < -3.00 |

Common Terms for Acute Malnutrition for Children 6-59 Months

GAM (Global Acute Malnutrition)

WFH < -2.0 Z-score or < 80.0% Median
All with edema included.

SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition)

WFH < -3.0 Z-score or < 70.0% Median
All with edema included.



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Categories of Nutrition/ Mortality Situation

| | Wasting % | CMR* |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Low (Acceptable) | < 5.0 | < 1.0 |
| Medium (Poor) | 5.0 to 9.9 | 1.0 to 1.9 |
| High (Serious) | 10.0 to 14.9 | 2.0 to 4.9 |
| Very High (Critical) | ≥ 15.0 | ≥ 5.0 |

Use of categories requires contextual information including aggravating factors and trends.

Wasting defined as WFH < -2.0 Z-score in children 6 to 59 months. Excludes edema.

* Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) expressed as deaths/10,000/day applies to all adults and children.

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Commonly Used Eligibility Criteria for Selective Feeding Programs

| | | Severe | Moderate |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 - 59 Months | WFH | < 70.0 % median < -3.0 Z-score | 70.0 to 79.9 % median -3.0 to -2.01 Z-score |
| | MUAC ¹ | < 11.0 cm | 11.0 to 12.49 cm |
| | Edema | Yes | No |
| Adults | Body Mass Index ² | < 16.0 | 16.0 to 16.99 |
| | MUAC | < 16.0 cm | 16.0 to 18.49 cm |

¹ MUAC = Mid-Upper Arm Circumference

² Body Mass Index (BMI) = weight (kg)/[height (m)]² excludes pregnant women

Sources: Sphere (2004); WHO (1999,1995), OFDA FOG (2005), SCF (2004)