

## EXHIBITION

Limited space will be available for commercial vendors' displays and exhibits of scientific equipment and services at the venue. Interested parties should send an email to:

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# International Symposium on Understanding Moderate Malnutrition in Children for Effective Interventions

Organized by the



**IAEA**  
International Atomic Energy Agency

In cooperation with the



World Food Programme



Valid International



Micronutrient Initiative

## SYMPOSIUM WEB PAGE

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaeameetings/46087/Understanding-Moderate-Malnutrition-in-Children>

Please include reference number IAEA-CN-217 in all communications.



# International Symposium on Understanding Moderate Malnutrition in Children for Effective Interventions

26–29 May 2014  
Vienna, Austria



Organized by the



**IAEA**  
International Atomic Energy Agency

CN-217

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Undernutrition, already one of the world's most serious health problems, is at risk of worsening as the global economy deteriorates. In poor countries, undernutrition including stunting, wasting, fetal growth restriction, deficiencies of vitamin A and zinc, and suboptimum breastfeeding result in nearly half of all global deaths of children under five years of age, many of which are preventable through effective nutrition interventions (Lancet, 2013).<sup>1</sup> Thus, reducing undernutrition is vital for children's survival, particularly in poor countries, and consequently for socio-economic development. Moderate malnutrition is associated with more nutrition-related deaths than severe malnutrition because moderate malnutrition affects a greater number of children. With reference to the WHO Child Growth Standards, moderate malnutrition includes all children with moderate wasting, defined as a weight-for-height between -3 and -2 z-scores, and those with moderate stunting, defined as a height-for-age between -3 and -2 z-scores. Most of these children will be moderately underweight (weight-for-age between -3 and -2 z-scores). The importance of moderate wasting, i.e., moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) should not be neglected. Although MAM is not a condition of medical urgency, it can easily deteriorate. The symposium will focus on developments in the area of management (prevention and treatment) of MAM in infants and children. Objectives include:

- To share experience related to the implementation and evaluation of programmes to prevent and treat MAM in infants and children, particularly during the first 1000 days;
- To support overall policy and specific evidence-based programmes dealing with the management of MAM;



- To identify knowledge gaps and define needs for future research to improve the management of MAM;
- To issue recommendations on how to improve the monitoring and evaluation of programmes dealing with the management of MAM; and
- To identify the role of the IAEA in addressing knowledge gaps and evaluating programmes to prevent and treat MAM.

## MAIN TOPICS

- Review of current knowledge, evidence gaps and further research needs in relation to the prevention and treatment of MAM
- Experiences with the prevention of MAM during the first 1000 days, lean seasons and emergencies (using local foods, supplementary foods, cash) challenges faced and lessons learned
- Experiences with community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), including the management of MAM in infants aged up to 6 months, challenges faced and lessons learned
- Experiences with the decision-making tool for the prevention and treatment of MAM in emergencies being developed by the MAM Task Force of the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC)
- Effects of prevention and treatment of MAM on growth, body composition and functional outcomes (including stunting) and methodological challenges in impact assessment
- Capacity development in the management of MAM
- Composition, acceptability and use of supplementary foods for the management of MAM
- Lessons learned from SAM management: composition, intake and use of ready-to-use foods
- Hot topics in research related to MAM (possible role of microbiome in the development of acute malnutrition and implications for food based strategies to prevent and treat acute malnutrition, environmental/tropical enteropathy and undernutrition from theory to application in the prevention and management of acute malnutrition)

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Public health nutritionists; health professionals; policymakers in health and nutrition; United Nations agencies such as the (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); national and international organizations involved in the management of moderate malnutrition; The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, including SUN national representatives; private sector; institutes and universities that have research programmes on moderate malnutrition.



## KEY DEADLINES

<b>1 November 2013</b>	Submission of Form for Submission of a Paper ( <i>Form B</i> ) and abstract
<b>1 November 2013</b>	Submission of Grant Application Form ( <i>Form C</i> )
<b>end December 2013</b>	Notification of acceptance of papers

## REGISTRATION AND FUNDS

No registration fee is required. Limited funds are available to assist selected participants from developing countries to attend the symposium.

Approved grants will usually cover only part of the cost of attendance. Please see the symposium web page for details on how to register.

## LANGUAGE

The conference will be held in English.

<sup>1</sup> See the special series of papers on maternal and child undernutrition published by The Lancet in 2013. More details can be found on the following The Lancet webpage: <http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-nutrition>