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Topic: Malnutrition treatment and prevention

Title: Review of a multi-sectoral approach that contributed to 11% reduction in Severe Acute Malnutrition Case Fatality Rate in children under 5 in Nkandla subdistrict, Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Presentation Type: Oral

INTRODUCTION: Malnutrition is a complex disease with multi-faceted causes. uThungulu District has been affected by a high Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Case Fatality Rate (CFR) linked to factors outside the scope of the Department of Health. The objective of this review was to assess if multi-sectoral support can influence a reduction in SAM CFR.

MATERIALS and METHODS: Baseline SAM CFR was obtained by doing a cross-sectional review of District Health Information System Data. Household screening was done using a standardised profiling tool and standard operating procedure to identify children under 5 that were at risk of malnutrition. An Electronic database using Microsoft Excel was created to capture the information of all the children profiled in the subdistrict.

RESULTS: 4728 households were profiled. 27 children were identified at various stages of acute malnutrition or at risk of becoming malnourished. Through multi-sectoral support the possible underlying causes of malnutrition was addressed. SASSA assisted 73 families with Poverty Alleviation Packages and 39 Children with temporary Child Support Grants. Department of Home Affairs is assisting 108 children with Birth Certificates and The Department of Social Development assisted 36 families with Social Relief of Distress packages. During the profiling period (August 2015 – January 2016) there was a 3% SAM CFR compared to 14.3% in the previous year in the same period (August 2014 – January 2015) when no profiling was done.

CONCLUSIONS: A multi-sectoral approach to the management of malnutrition could significantly reduce the SAM case fatality rate.