

Executive Summary

Background. According to the 2010 Indonesia Basic Health Survey, the prevalence of SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) in Indonesia is 6.0%. It is twofold the current prevalence of SAM worldwide. The prevalence of (Global Acute Malnutrition) GAM in Indonesia is 14% and categorized as serious by World Health Organisation (WHO). If not treated, acute malnutrition results in mortality and morbidity. Case fatality rates of children hospitalized for acute malnutrition range from 10% to 60%. In 2009, the Indonesian Ministry of Health (MoH) agreed to adopt Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach to combat acute malnutrition. Progress of CMAM in Indonesia has been slow and rather stagnant leaving many acutely malnourished children under-five uncovered.

Objectives. This paper reviews existing literatures to examine the state of CMAM implementation in Indonesia and identify the opportunities and challenges for programmes and policy.

Results. Decentralization in Indonesia has made nutrition policies uncertain, especially at regional level. Policies on management of acute malnutrition are rather unclear. Some policies overlap with others without mentioning if they supersede, substitute, or supplant other documents. Weight monitoring for children under-five is largely done at primary care level using weight-for-age standards that may miss acutely malnourished children. Integrated Health Posts (IHP) at community level are a necessary contributing factor to the success of CMAM implementation. There has been some debate regarding the provision of Ready-to-Use Food (RUTF). It is argued that RUTF is costly and may cause dependency on external support.

Conclusion. CMAM can be implemented successfully in Indonesia under certain conditions e.g. presence of an accountable and motivated government, involvement of private and non-government sectors, availability of skilled and trained health care workers, and active community participation. Local production of RUTF also needs to be encouraged to maximize the impact and minimize the cost of the programme.