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EDITORIAL

On January 20th, Fight Hunger Foundation was proud to launch Generation Nutrition in India. Generation Nutrition is a global campaign, supported by individuals and organizations in many countries, calling on governments and the international community to take urgent action to prioritise the fight against malnutrition, thus saving the lives of millions of children under the age of five.

Right now, 52 million children under five worldwide are suffering from malnutrition. And here in India, malnutrition remains the cause of over half of all child deaths before the age of five. And yet, as we at Fight Hunger Foundation know, this disease is entirely treatable and preventable.

As part of the *Generation Nutrition* coalition, at the international level, we are calling on governments to come together to set ambitious global targets to reduce the number of children suffering from malnutrition. Here in India, we urge our

own government to recognize severe acute malnutrition (SAM) as a medical emergency and take urgent preventive action to avert India's nutrition crisis.

At Fight Hunger Foundation, we will not give up until child hunger is gone – for good. By joining forces with like-minded people and organizations nationally and internationally to demand urgent action from decision-makers, and by continuing our live-saving work in communities and hospitals, we believe we are on the right path. Thank you for choosing to walk this path with us. Together, we are walking towards an India where no child dies from hunger. Thank you for your support, and I hope you will enjoy reading this update on what we have achieved together in recent months.

By Ashwini Kakkar
Fight Hunger Foundation's Chairman

FIGHT HUNGER FOUNDATION DEVELOPS NUTRITIONAL EXPERTISE

in Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh

TRAINING AT LOKMANYA TILAK MUNICIPAL GENERAL HOSPITAL

Sion, Mumbai in December 2014

More than 16% of children living in Mumbai's slums suffer from global acute malnutrition. Fight Hunger Foundation helps to save the lives of children living in these slums by building up the skills and expertise of medical staff at the Lokmnya Tilak Municipal General Hospital, so that they can better diagnose, treat and prevent



malnutrition. In December 2014, a three-day training course was attended by over 50 participants, including pediatricians, staff nurses, dieticians and medical students.

Feedback from the participants was extremely positive. As stated by many of them: "topic and content were appropriate and relevant to our work, and we will be able to apply the knowledge gained". The hospital will now incorporate this training course into their on-going medical curriculum, awarding 3 credit points to those who attend.

EXPANDING OUR ACTIVITIES

in rural Madhya Pradesh

Fight Hunger Foundation started its activities in the Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh in December 2014. After several meetings with district level authorities, the project, called "Promotion of community-based management of acute malnutrition in Khaknar block" was officially launched on the 1st of February 2015 in 149 villages, largely consisting of minority communities.



Fight Hunger Foundation is stepping up activities in these villages to better tackle the arrival of the hunger gap in the month of May, when food insecurity and a lack of water often mean increased levels of malnutrition amongst children under the age of five.

Staff, including program officers, field supervisors, nurses and community mobilisers, have been recruited to support these activities. Discussions have also taken place with the Integrated Child Development Services, the National Health Mission and the District Collector, to ensure that all actors are working together to ensure that the project is sustainable.

MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY:

a new treatment for severe acute malnutrition

Fight Hunger Foundation is also working in partnership with Sion Hospital on a research project to develop a nutrient-enriched food called Medical Nutrition Therapy, to be used to treat severe acute malnutrition in children. Locally produced and created mainly from highly nutritious peanut paste, the product also contains added vitamins and micronutrients. The research project aims to design a prototype of the product which can then be easily produced elsewhere in India.



Thanks to the support of Fight Hunger Foundation's Food Technologist, the project has already made progress, with the following activities undertaken: laboratory testing of the product; staff training on use, including fumigation and sanitization; improvement of mixing procedures; and various other technical components of production. Beyond further strengthening of the production aspects, assessment of costs, packaging and guidance for recordkeeping are also on the verge of completion, and the product – complying with WHO specifications – should be available by June 2015.

IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION

BEST PRACTICE: SMART SURVEYS

In November 2014, Fight Hunger Foundation, together with ACF-India, organized a training session in New Delhi on a field survey methodology: the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART). This tool, developed by the Centre for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC-Atlanta) ensures that the data collected for surveys on nutrition, and its subsequent analysis, is as accurate as possible.

Our training, aimed at experts in the field of nutrition, was attended by 31 people, including pediatricians, nutrition



specialists, medical officers and program managers, from Government Agencies, UNICEF, and partners from Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Delhi, Mumbai and South Asia. By building the capacities of these professionals we can ensure that we obtain the most robust data possible, to ensure optimum understanding and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition.

Several government departments and other organizations have also indicated their willingness to benefit from the support of Fight Hunger Foundation and ACF-India to conduct SMART surveys in different states throughout 2015. ▲



GENERATION NUTRITION CAMPAIGN: LAUNCHED IN INDIA BY FIGHT HUNGER FOUNDATION



Generation Nutrition is an appeal for action addressed to the Government of India, and was launched by Fight Hunger Foundation on January 20th 2015 with Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, the Honorable Minister of Rural Development, as Chief Guest.

The campaign, which brings together a diverse and growing group of civil society organisations, urges the government to take action, and end child deaths from acute malnutrition. One in three of the world's malnourished children lives in India, and one million

children under the age of five lose their lives due to malnutrition related causes every year in India. These children's lives can be saved and must be saved. ▲

THE GENERATION NUTRITION COALITION CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 1 Recognize severe acute malnutrition as a medical emergency
- 2 Improve and scale up detection and management of severe acute malnutrition
- 3 Allow adapted treatment at community level
- 4 Improve governance and nutrition surveillance
- 5 Commit and plan to reduce acute malnutrition
- 6 Take preventive action to avert crises

For more information on the campaign, visit the Generation Nutrition website: www.generation-nutrition.org

**GENERATION
NUTRITION**

On social media:

@GenerationNutri
#GenerationNutrition
#GenNutri_India
www.facebook.com/Generationnutritionindia

REACHING MORE CHILDREN THAN EVER BEFORE IN 2015

During 2015, we are extending our programmes in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra to reach even more children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. We wish to reach 20,000 children under the age of five, living in areas with very high levels of this disease, who will be screened on a monthly basis. So far, new cases of acute malnutrition are being identified in 180 children a month, in these areas, with our teams providing care, treatment and nutritional follow-up to all children who require it. ▲



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SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF: MRS. BHAMI VORA

Fight Hunger Foundation's Nutrition and Health Program Coordinator

Bhami joined Fight Hunger Foundation in January 2014. She started her career as a public health nutritionist (pediatrics HIV) within the Regional Pediatric ART Centre (RPAC) at Lokmanya Tilak Hospital in Mumbai, where she developed her interest and skills in public health nutrition.

Working for various international agencies from 2010 to 2013 in India and Bangladesh, Bhami contributed to defining and setting up nutrition analyses, developing projects with a specific focus on community-based management of acute malnutrition, participating in nutrition assessments and nutrition interventions in emergencies. She has also provided training and technical assistance in household food security, nutrition and health issues to government bodies, farmers, women's groups and community volunteers.

Bhami has successfully completed her Master's in Public Health from Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. She got a distinction for her Master's thesis on the identification of the social determinants of malnutrition among children in developing countries. She is also a registered dietitian (Mumbai, 2006), and has a Post Graduate Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics (2005) and a Bachelor of Applied Nutrition (2004). ▲



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FIGHT HUNGER FOUNDATION: FOUNDING MEMBERS MEETING

On 25th of November 2014, Chairman M. Ashwini Kakkar kindly hosted a meeting with our founding members in Mumbai. This was a great opportunity to discuss the Fight Hunger Foundation's action plan and strategy. This warm gathering was a very inspiring, supportive and encouraging exchange. We are profoundly grateful to all those who attended for their insightful and enthusiastic participation.

Fight Hunger Foundation would like to profoundly thank again our Founding Members.

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Because the middle market is global



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& RADHIKA CHOPRA

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