

**Meeting the nutritional needs of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS
in resource-poor settings: From Science to Practice**

Session Description

Meeting the nutritional needs of adults and children living with HIV and AIDS remains as one of the greatest challenges facing governments and communities that are grappling with providing comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, and care in resource limited settings. The World Health Organization (WHO), together with many UN, governmental and non-governmental partner organizations is attempting to address this issue through a broad spectrum of actions, ranging from the technical to operational/programmatic. This session will provide an overview of the activities undertaken to date, including the publication a 6 volume scientific review, recent technical consultations on priorities and strategies for expanding the implementation of evidence-based integration of food and nutritional care into all aspects of HIV programming, and the development and testing of assessment, monitoring , clinical care and training tools. The experiences and practical challenges facing health providers and communities, particularly in South East Asia, will be presented and discussed.

Purpose

The purpose of this session is to share information on current strategies for the integration of nutrition into prevention, care and treatment of people infected with HIV, and to discuss the practical challenges and experience providing nutrition care and support for adults and children living with HIV/AIDS in resource-poor settings. Specifically this session will present the full range of activities undertaken by the WHO and its partners including presentation of case reports from specific countries and current status of the process for development of technical guidance at the country, community and clinical levels, to address the important role of nutrition and HIV/AIDS in care and treatment of adults and children with HIV/AIDS.

Outcomes – knowledge and action points

Through a combination of scientific and country presentations and discussion, participants will gain an understanding of global efforts to address the nutritional needs of HIV-infected adults and children and the practical challenges of providing this support in settings where food insecurity and malnutrition are endemic. Participants will learn about how malnutrition and food insecurity are managed in the developing world. Participants from developing countries will learn about new tools and experience that may be applied in their programs. Both groups will be challenged to identify ways to meet the nutritional needs of populations made vulnerable by HIV.

Session Process – methods and participatory process

The 2005 World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA57.14), which called on all member states to pursue policies and practices that promote the integration of nutrition into a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and the Participants' statements from the April 2005 Durban Consultation and Bangkok Consultation October 2007 on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS, will be the framework for discussion in this Symposium. A series of issues and questions will be posed at the beginning of the session to define the context of the Symposium. The knowledge objectives will be achieved through short presentations from leading experts in the field and from practitioners who are engaged in either creating policy or delivering services to HIV-affected populations. Each scientific presentation will be paired with a field-based presentation to create a link between

science and practice. Questions from the floor will be taken after each presentation. The session moderator will facilitate discussion of the issues and questions posed during the introductory remarks.

Session chair/moderator:

Chair: Prof. Praphan Phanuphak - Director, the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre, Co-Director, HIV-NAT Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre

Moderator: Randa Saadeh, Scientist, Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD) / WHO

Session Topics and Speakers:

Topic 1: *Overview of the challenges of meeting the nutritional needs of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS in resource-poor settings (30 min)*

- a) Randa Saadeh, Scientist WHO/NHD - Global response (15 min)
- b) Daniel Raiten, Program Officer, NICHD/NIH - HAART and nutrition (15 min)

Topic 2: *Meeting the nutritional needs of HIV- infected children - (25 min)*

- a) what issues to consider? (TBA) (15 min) (Carmen Casanovas, WHO/NHD)
- b) challenges from the field (TBA) (10 min) (Thailand/Cambodia)

Topic 3: *Incorporating evidence-based nutritional interventions into national HIV policies and programs: opportunities and challenges (30 min)*

- a) A global approach - (UNICEF)(15 min)
- b) Country response to the key issues presented (TBA) (10 min)

Moderated discussion from the floor (10 min) Dr Praphan Phanuphak