Highlights

In 2018 reporting remained at 100 percent. All the 619 Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) centres, 104 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU) and 611 Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) centres in Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) reported as follows:

- **45,085** children aged 6 to 59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) received lifesaving treatment in OTP centres and NRUs.
- **36,030** Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) with MAM received supplementary food at the SFP centres.
- **88,465** children aged 6 to 59 months with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treated in the SFP centres.
- **36,030** PLW admitted in SFPs in 2018
- **47,556** Total PLW admitted in SFPs in 2017

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**SAM Admissions Trend Comparison 2015/2016/2017/2018**

In 2018, a 5% decrease in SAM admissions was observed compared with 2017.

**MAM Admissions Trend Comparison 2015/2016/2017/2018**

In 2018, a 16% decrease in MAM admissions was observed compared with 2017.

**SAM Cure Rate Trend Comparison 2015/2016/2017/2018**

In 2018 SAM cure rate recorded at 93.7% while MAM cure rate for 2018 was at 89.7%.

**SAM Death Rate Comparison 2015/2016/2017/2018**

SAM death rate in 2018 was recorded at 2.2% which is within SPHERE standards of <10%.
DISTRICT WISE NUTRITION SITUATION OVERVIEW
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2018

DISTRICT WISE SAM COMPONENT JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2018

SAM Default Rates Jan- Dec 2017/2018

DISTRICT WISE MAM COMPONENT JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2018

MAM Default Rates Jan- Dec 2017/2018

DISTRICT WISE DEATH WATCH

SAM Death Rates Jan- Dec 2017/2018

SAM Death Numbers Jan- Dec 2018
For Manesi Fanuwelo, 33, the thought of losing another child to malnutrition was unbearable. In 2007, Manesi, from Nkhwazi village in Chikwawa, Malawi, lost a son to the condition. The young boy was about to reach his third birthday when he died. And now, her 10-month-old daughter, Laima, was showing the same symptoms that killed her brother.

"Laima had severe diarrhea," says Fanuwelo. "Every day, she was losing weight. I felt helpless every time I looked at her tiny body and protruding stomach."

"I knew she was hungry and needed food but there was none in the house."

Laima was born weighing 3.1 kg (normal birth weight and above the recommended 2.5kg). However, her mother had stopped breastfeeding, complaining her breasts had developed sores.

"I stopped breastfeeding and started giving her any food that I could afford," says Fanuwelo.

As a farmer, Fanuwelo survives by tending her family garden. But in recent years harvests haven’t been good because of late rain and long dry periods. To survive, she works in other people’s gardens.

"I can’t afford to feed my family three meals a day," says Fanuwelo. "Most of the time we go to bed on empty stomachs."

In Malawi, malnutrition is a major problem, especially among children under the age of five years. According to the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey of 2015-16, 37 per cent of the under-five children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

UNICEF is supporting a small army of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA) who are conducting nutrition screenings in local communities to identify and refer children at risk of malnutrition for treatment. The screenings target children less than five years old, pregnant women and lactating mothers with infants under six months old.

It was during one such nutrition screening activities that Gertrude Chipembere, an HSA from Nkhwazi village in the Ngabu district, identified Laima and referred her to Chikwawa District Hospital, located 30 kilometres away.

“When Laima arrived, she was not only underweight, but had difficulties breathing and was placed on oxygen," said Georgina Majidu, a Clinical Officer at the hospital. "We admitted her into the Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit, where she was given therapeutic milk, which helped her gain weight. We also treated the diarrhea."

**Discharged and life after NRU**

Laima was discharged from the hospital a week later and was referred to an outpatient therapeutic program clinic. She continued to be monitored by health workers and received special Ready-to-use therapeutic food as part of her treatment.

"I’m so happy that my child regained her appetite and gained weight," says Fanuwelo. "Every day, she has improved and has regained her strength."

UNICEF is supporting the Government of Malawi to increase access to services around severe acute malnutrition with support from donors including USAID/FFP, DFID and Swiss Natcom among others.

“Reducing malnutrition is a battle that UNICEF is continuously fighting,” says Sangita Jacob, UNICEF Malawi’s Chief of Nutrition, “With support from our donors, we’ve been making great strides. Currently, about 1.5 million children are screened across the country every month.”