

International Malnutrition Task Force

The International Malnutrition Task Force (IMTF) is an inter-agency advisory and advocacy group on malnutrition that has a two fold purpose:

① To raise the profile of malnutrition: Malnutrition contributes to 60% of deaths of children under 5, so reducing malnutrition is vital in child survival strategies. Although there are as many deaths from the effects of malnutrition as from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, malnutrition currently fails to receive the attention

it warrants in health policies and resource allocation.

② To build capacity to prevent and treat malnutrition: In hospitals in developing countries, severely malnourished children comprise a significant proportion of paediatric deaths. Most deaths can be prevented by following treatment guidelines. Community-based treatment can reduce the burden of care on hospitals, shorten in-patient treatment and benefit children with moderate malnutrition.

An integrated system of prevention, timely referral, correct inpatient treatment and effective community-based care will improve child survival and development and build health worker capacity and strengthen health systems.

IMTF was launched at the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) 18th International Congress of Nutrition held in Durban in September 2005 by the IUNS President Professor Ricardo Uauy.

For more information, visit www.imtf.org