

# Annual Monitoring Indicators

# 8.

PART

## 8.1. Introduction

Information from regular reporting of activities from growth monitoring and promotion programs (GMP) will enhance program management and can provide valuable insights into the interpretation of anthropometric indicators of impact that is required by USAID. This section describes how annual monitoring indicators that are based upon data from monitoring may be collected and reported in a standard format. This will help make the indicators more useful for management of programs at all levels within countries and for reporting to USAID. Reporting information

to USAID on annual monitoring indicators is recommended but not required.

The recommended annual monitoring indicators for maternal and child health and nutrition programs are:

- Percent of eligible children in growth monitoring and promotion (GMP);
- Percent of children in GMP program gaining weight in past 3 months (gender specific).

## 8.2. Routine Data Collection

These guidelines are designed to avoid any unnecessary burden of reporting on staff at all levels in program implementation and so information for the monitoring indicators should come from routinely collected data rather than special surveys. At this time, there is not a standard format for collecting data from GMP activity and the indicators that are available will vary widely among Cooperating Sponsors and countries, and in some cases, within the same Cooperating Sponsor. It is appropriate to report whatever data are readily accessible and avoid investing scarce resources in attempts to generate or retrieve data that are not readily accessible.

Data needed for the first index, GMP attendance rate:

1. **The denominator:** the number of eligible children in the population, by gender and age (usually the most reliable estimates will be those the project has gathered as part of its baseline survey, or other data collection activities);

2. **The numerator:** the number of children in growth monitoring/promotion. The classification of “in growth monitoring and promotion” is meant to reflect the total number of children whose weight has been monitored in clinic- and/or village-based activities. This number may be the total number of children weighed in the ‘round’ immediately before the reporting period, or it may be an estimate of the usual total number of children attending weighing activities over the reporting period.

How the number is derived is not necessarily important, but it is most important to report clearly how the estimate was made. Because attendance at GMP programs varies widely with age, this number will be more meaningful if it is age specific – e.g., <12 months, 12 - <24 months, 24 - <60 months (ages reported will be influenced by the target age group of the project).

The definition of the numerator of the first index is central to the definition of the second index. Data needed for the second index, GMP increased weight rate among enrolled children:

1. **The denominator:** this will be the same as the numerator from the first index, i.e. the total number of children attending growth monitoring/promotion; and
2. **The numerator:** the number of children in growth monitoring/promotion who gained weight in the last 3 months. Two elements should be considered but the direction of weight change is more important than the second concerning the 3-month time frame.

The reports of many weighing activities, both clinic- and village-based, include a summary that presents a) the total number of children attending, b) the number of children who gained weight, and c) the number of children who did not gain weight. All children weighed should be classified as either gaining weight or not gaining weight – usually over a 3 month period. Calculate the index by dividing the number of children who gained weight by the total number of children attending, then multiply this by 100. This index should be considered available only in those programs

in which the appropriate summary numbers are reported. In some situations, a time frame other than 3 months is the only available information.

Collecting accurate data from weighing is difficult. To ensure the quality of the data, health workers should be properly trained to make accurate measurements of whether or not a child is gaining weight. Data from assessments are central to the usefulness of growth monitoring and promotion programs.

Annual benchmarks are not appropriate for these indicators because their interpretation is specific to the context of the particular program and its activities. For example, when a program extends activities into areas of highest need (perhaps because of remoteness or food insecurity), the overall percent of children in growth monitoring and promotion and the percent of children gaining weight are likely to decrease. Clearly this result will not be interpreted as reflecting poorly on program implementation. This example demonstrates that the monitoring indicators proposed here could not be interpreted independent of the context of the activities of a program. These indicators are not useful for summative evaluation and are not intended to be used for this purpose.

Substantial resources should not be invested to gather data on annual monitoring indicators reported by Cooperating Sponsors. However, it is recommended that Cooperating Sponsors consider the advantages of including the monitoring indicators in their annual reports and to modify training, implementation and information management systems to incorporate these indicators in the future.

### 8.3. Data on Growth Monitoring and Promotion

Relevant items could be added to questionnaires at baseline and end-line to describe changes over the time period of an intervention (provides an assessment of impact of the intervention on service delivery that might help support or explain findings from

anthropometric status of children).

Resources on GMP are available in a Diarrhea Dialogue supplement on Growth Monitoring Health Basics: Issue no. 24, March 1986 at: [www.nand.org/dd/html/su24.htm](http://www.nand.org/dd/html/su24.htm).