



Participants at the workshop on management of severe acute malnutrition. With the support of WHO Yemen, a two-day long workshop on management of severe acute malnutrition was concluded on 24 February 2014 targeting 25 paediatricians and academic staff in Hadramout governorate.

Dr Fekri Dureab, nutrition coordinator at WHO Yemen, said that the workshop aimed to give academic staff an introduction to and orientation about the protocol for severe acute malnutrition management in the internal paediatrics wards at hospitals, in order to promote incorporation of this protocol into the teaching curriculum for medical students.

In Yemen, there are approximately 1 million acutely malnourished children, with 12 of 21 governorates facing serious or critical malnutrition, according to the recently released humanitarian response plan for Yemen.

Dr Salem Miftah, head of Child and Mother Hospital in Muaklla, said that outcomes of the workshop were positive, indicating that the head of Paediatrics Department at the Medical College, Hadramout University, had agreed to include malnutrition management in the curricula.

"This step will help us hire staff equipped with good knowledge about malnutrition case management, as we are struggling to find those who are capable of dealing with such cases," said Miftah, adding that the knowledge of current staff about malnutrition is not up to date.

The malnutrition department at the hospital has come a long way after the intervention of WHO, according to Miftah.

"We could establish a typical malnutrition centre with the help of WHO, but we still seek experienced staff. I'm optimistic that this workshop will help us to fill this need."

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