Nutrition Vulnerability Analysis (NVA)

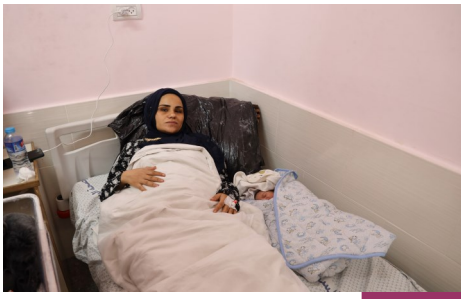
Conducted by a Global NIS-E taskforce under the leadership of the GNC to support the State of Palestine's National Nutrition Cluster.

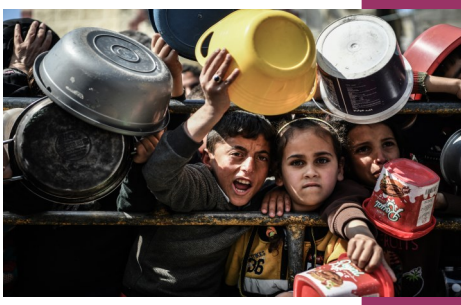
SCAN ME

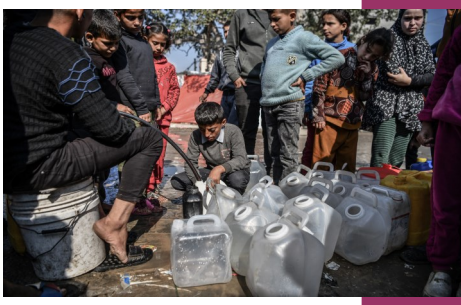
Case study : State of Palestine, Gaza Strip

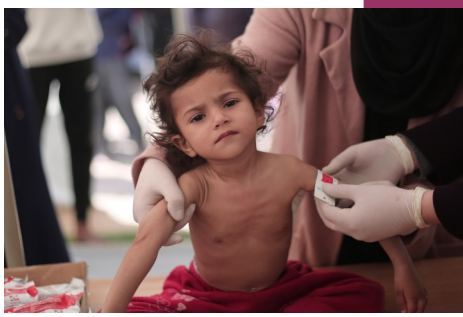
♦ Background information

The Nutritional Vulnerability Analysis (NVA) was conducted in January 2024, with the aim of **documenting the nutritional situation in the Gaza Strip where no recent anthropometric data was available**. The NVA proposed **an innovative and holistic approach, focusing on the drivers of acute malnutrition** such as the diversity of the diet of children aged 6 to 23 and pregnant and breast-feeding women, household access to water and disease incidence in children under the age of 5. It involved **a consensus-driven process involving Nutrition Information Systems (NIS) technical experts** such as the CDC, the Global SMART team, the GNC, IMPACT-Reach, the IPC, UNICEF, WHO and WFP, and was able to **highlight the level of nutritional insecurity faced by the population of Gaza to inform both programming and strategic decision making.**









♦ Process & Methodology

The NIS-E Global Taskforce articulated a **process with various steps and a methodological approach** that is easily replicable in different contexts.

⇒ 12 Steps completed for the NVA process

STEP 1
Overall data mapping

STEP 2
Identification of existing avenues for primary data collection (WFP CATI and UNICEF PDM)

STEP 3
Selection of a set of nutrition sensitive questions to be included into (Diet diversity, Access to WASH, Diseases)

STEP 4
Roll-out of Key Informant Interviews to confirm and inform data

STEP 5
Definition of thresholds for each available data point

STEP 6
Development of scenarios drawing the plausible nutrition situation

STEP 7
Integration of all data points in the analytical framework to support the analytical process

STEP 8
Analytical phase, including Reliability and Severity scoring

STEP 9
Consultation with NCC team and endorsement of results and findings

STEP 10
Finalization of the analytical report and dissemination plan

STEP 11
Dissemination phase

STEP 12
Lessons learned and K&M on methodology, application and process

⇒ Analytical framework methodology

An **analytical framework was developed** based on the existing IPC analytical framework for acute malnutrition. For each of the five Governorates of the Gaza Strip, all available data points were included and looked at independently with no direct correlation analysis to acute malnutrition conducted. To support a transparent and consistent evidence-based analysis, a **RELIABILITY scoring method** was set-up based on 3 criteria: Representation, Timeliness and Quality. A **SEVERITY Classification** was also agreed-upon with the aim to inform decision making on the level of nutritional insecurity among children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women. It represents the final stage of the neutral and unbiased analytical process that relies on a review of available evidence on drivers of acute malnutrition.

RELIABILITY Scoring	
Reliability <25%	Not reliable/not to be used
Reliability 25-50%	Somewhat reliable
Reliability 50-75%	Fairly reliable
Reliability 75-100%	Reliable

SEVERITY Classification
Insufficient sample
Low
Moderate
Severe
Critical
Extremely critical

♦ Key findings

⇒ **Over 90% of children aged 6–23 months and Pregnant and breastfeeding women** face severe food poverty, eating two or fewer food groups each day.

⇒ **At least 90% of children under 5** are affected by one or more infectious disease and 70% had had diarrhoea in the past two weeks.

⇒ **Infant feeding practices,** suboptimal before the crisis, have further deteriorated and an increased number of infants now rely on formula milk for survival – which requires safe and clean water. The scarcity of clean drinking water will further expose young children to an increase in the risk of infection and subsequently malnutrition.

♦ Lessons learned & Way forward

The first round of the NVA in Gaza demonstrated the **value of convening relevant stakeholders to produce a nutrition analysis** under very difficult circumstances and was a step towards the necessary NIS paradigm shift, which aims at **ensuring that the nutrition community is able, in all circumstances, to present and stand behind a clear nutrition narrative**. Building on this experience, a new NVA was carried out for Gaza in early march involving the national NIS TWG, while a new iteration of the NVA is underway in the Sudan.