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Subject: Linking IYCF and disability

Posted by [SPOON](#) on Wed, 13 Mar 2019 00:18:49 GMT

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The inclusion of children with disabilities in the efforts to combat malnutrition is not only ethical, but imperative for aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals' leave-no-one-behind Agenda--an aspiration shared by the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. Children with disabilities, especially those with feeding difficulties, suffer at an alarming rate from preventable malnutrition and dangerous feeding practices (e.g., supine feeding, rapid feeding, inappropriate food textures) that place them at risk for aspiration, pneumonia, and premature death. The vulnerability to malnutrition frequently extends beyond the child with disability to include other children living in the same household. In order to achieve global nutrition targets (SDG2), it is essential that disability status be collected on children 0-5 and linked to IYCF indicators. This allows us to disaggregate global and national feeding and nutrition data by disability to further understand the links between disability and nutrition and monitor progress for this population.

We have suggested the questions below to the Disability Questionnaire to address feeding for children with disabilities. These questions can be also cross-referenced in the Nutrition Questionnaire.

For children 6-24 months:

DOES (name) HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH FEEDING?

WOULD YOU SAY (name) HAS: NO DIFFICULTY, SOME DIFFICULTY, A LOT OF DIFFICULTY OR CANNOT DO AT ALL?

No difficulty..... 1  
Some difficulty..... 2  
A lot of difficulty ..... 3  
Cannot do at all ..... 4

For children 2-5 years:

Q 1. COMPARED TO CHILDREN OF THE SAME AGE, DOES (name) HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH FEEDING?

WOULD YOU SAY (name) HAS: NO DIFFICULTY, SOME DIFFICULTY, A LOT OF DIFFICULTY OR CANNOT DO AT ALL?

No difficulty..... 1  
Some difficulty..... 2 --> Q2  
A lot of difficulty ..... 3 --> Q2  
Cannot do at all ..... 4 --> Q2

Q 2. WHAT TYPE OF DIFFICULTY DOES (name) HAVE WITH FEEDING (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)?

Willingness to eat ..... 1  
Physical ability to eat..... 2  
Problematic mealtime behavior .....3  
Coughing and choking during a meal.....4  
Chewing and swallowing .....5

Ability to sit upright during meals..... 6

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