

DEFAULT RATE

Outcome indicator, Global Cluster indicator

Indicator Phrasing

English: % of children who were absent for two consecutive weighings

French: % d'enfants absents pendant deux prises de poids consécutives

Portuguese: % de crianças ausentes em duas pesagens consecutivas

Czech: % dětí nepřítomných u dvou po sobě jdoucích vážení

What is its purpose?

Default rate is one of the four core performance indicators of the undernutrition treatment programs. It represents the proportion of children discharged from the program who were absent for two consecutive weighings (i.e. so called “defaulters”).

How to Collect and Analyse the Required Data

Divide the number of “defaulters” by the total number of discharged children and multiply the result by 100. The resulting number is the default rate (in percentages).

Disaggregate by

- 1) The indicator **does not require a separate survey** - all data can be gained from the treatment program’s regular records.
- 2) According to the **Sphere Standards**, a default rate of less than 15% is perceived as “acceptable”.
- 3) The **four core performance indicators** of an undernutrition treatment program (esp. the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition, CMAM) are [recovery rate](#), [death rate](#), default rate and [non-recovery rate](#).
- 4) A general way to think about defaulter is "the service is available but the child is absent" so the normal reason for default is difficulty to access the health facilities. However, in case a deficiency arises in the treatment program (such as a stock out of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food) and the child still attends the program, but does not receive treatment, there is a need to capture that deficiency in some way. In case a **new discharge category** (e.g. unplanned service interruption) is created to capture this, the new category should be included in the denominator for total number of discharges

when calculating program outcomes. See more in [discussions at En-Net](#).

Important Comments

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