

SMART

MUAC
Screenings:
Instructions
for data
collection and
reporting





Instructions for data collection and reporting in MUAC screenings

The primary purpose of MUAC screening is to find and refer the children eligible for nutrition treatment. The secondary purpose is to use screening data to better understand the nutrition situation in the area.

Please follow these simple instructions. If you do not follow these instructions and do not use included data collection and analysis tools in the attached Excel file your data **cannot** be used for the secondary objective.

1. Data collection:

Use tally sheet included on the **2. Tally Sheet** tab of the Excel file.

Note, you do not need to establish the exact age of the child, only establish whether (1) the child is in the eligible age range (e.g., 6-59 months), and (2) whether the child is above or below 2 years of age

Optional: Instead of **2. Tally Sheet** you can use **4. Tally sheet 2 Optional**

Using tally sheet 4 will be much more complex, since it requires recording exact MUAC measurement of each child, and then entering these data into Excel using the same **4. Tally sheet 2 Optional** page

However, using the **4. Tally sheet 2 Optional** is highly recommended if feasible, since recording MUAC measurements for each child allows for much more advanced analysis of the quality of data and increases confidence when using these data for decision making.

Using this option is especially useful if doing exhaustive door-to-door outreach screenings

2. Data reporting:

For reporting you will only use attached excel file

- a. First, fill out carefully all fields on the **1. Title Page**. Note, your report will not be accepted unless **1. Title Page** is filled out
- b. If you used **2. Tally Sheet** for data collection in the field, enter the tallied numbers from your sheets into the table on page **3. Results** of the attached Excel file. Follow instructions provided under the table, they are very simple and self-explanatory. Stop here, you are ready to send your report.
- c. If you used **4. Tally sheet 2 Optional** for data collection in the field, first enter the data from your tally sheets into Excel file attached, page **4. Tally sheet 2 Optional**. After entering the data, tally the numbers of children and enter them in the table on page **3. Results**. Stop here, now you are ready to send your report.

3. Data interpretation

Interpretation of data collected in MUAC screenings is a very complex process, and depends on many factors – the setting, sample size, quality of data, representativeness by age and sex, coherence with other available data, etc. It will be conducted by nutrition technical staff at higher levels.

If you are doing MUAC screening of pregnant and lactating women, use **5. Tally sheet PLW** in attached Excel file for data collection in the field.

For reporting, you still must fill out **1. Title Page** information in full. Then report the number of PLW in two categories – below 230 mm and above or at 230 mm, that's all.