Abstract

Evaluation of the Nutrition Surveillance System, Sana'a City, Yemen, 2021: Cross-sectional Study

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Abstract

Background: Malnutrition remains one of the most common causes of morbidity and mortality among children in low- and middle-income countries. It is one of the important problems that showed an increasing incidence in Yemen. The Nutrition Surveillance System started in 2018 as a pilot in five governorates to ensure that difficulties of public health importance are monitored efficiently.

Objective: This study aims to assess its usefulness and the performance of the system attributes, and to identify strengths and weaknesses to make recommendations for improvement.

Methods: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated guidelines for the evaluation of public health surveillance were used to evaluate the Nutrition Surveillance System in Sana'a City. Qualitative and quantitative attributes were measured through desk review and in-depth interviews with stakeholders from different levels by using a semistructured questionnaire for collected data. The percent mean of total scores was used for the final rank of the performance as very poor (<40%), poor (40%<60%), average (60%<80%), good (80%<90%), and excellent (≥90%). Epi Info version 7.2 was used for data entry and analysis.

Results: The Nutrition Surveillance System was found to be useful and flexible, with overall scores of 100% and 80%, respectively, and the overall system performance was average (76%). The highest attribute score was 83% for simplicity, and the lowest score was 67% for stability. Simplicity and acceptability at the governorate and district levels were good, but at the health facilities level, they were average. Timeliness of report and completeness of forms and data were 100% and 95%, respectively. The main strength of the Nutrition Surveillance System was continuous expansion in opening new health facilities and that the quality of data was strong with updated databases.

Conclusions: The Nutrition Surveillance System in Sana'a City was found to be useful and met its main objective. Overall levels of system performance were average. Regular training for health staff at the health facilities and gradual replacement of donors with government funds are recommended.

(iproc 2022;8(1):e36426) doi: 10.2196/36426

KEYWORDS

evaluation; Nutrition Surveillance System; Yemen; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guideline; CDC

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Edited by Y Khader; this is a non–peer-reviewed article. Submitted 14.01.22; accepted 17.01.22; published 04.02.22.

Please cite as:
Alturki SA, Al-Mahdi A, Al-Sharafy N, Ghaleb Y
Evaluation of the Nutrition Surveillance System, Sana'a City, Yemen, 2021: Cross-sectional Study
iproc 2022;8(1):e36426
URL: https://www.iproc.org/2022/1/e36426
doi: 10.2196/36426
PMID:

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