



Trained community health workers are well positioned for early identification of children with severe acute malnutrition. According to WHO guidelines, undernourished children are managed by following an integrated management protocol, involving both community as well as facility based care.

Screening criteria

| WEIGHT FOR HEIGHT Weight relative to height/length (WFH) compared against WHO growth standards | Below -3 sd Less than 3 standard deviations below median | -3 sd to -2 sd Between 3 and 2 standard deviations below median | Above -2 sd More than 2 standard deviations below median |
|--|---|--|---|
| MID-UPPER ARM CIRCUMFERENCE For children 6 months or older | Less than 115 mm | Between 115–124 mm | More than 125 mm |
| BILATERAL PITTING EDEMA Verified when normal thumb pressure applied on top of feet for 10 seconds leaves an indentation | ✓ Present | ✗ Not present | ✗ Not present |

