

# COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT FOR SAM CHILDREN IN MP: Insight/reflection from the field



The Health and Wellness Centre Intervention (HWCI) brings together community health workers to strengthen the implementation of the government-run community-based severely acute malnutrition treatment (C-SAM) program to ensure better care for malnourished children.

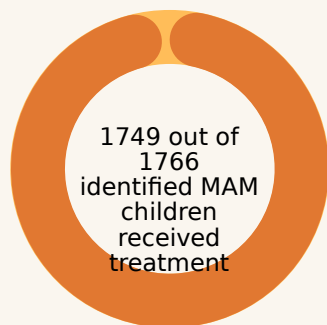
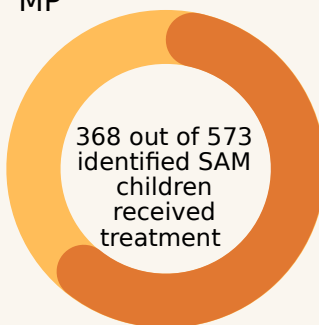
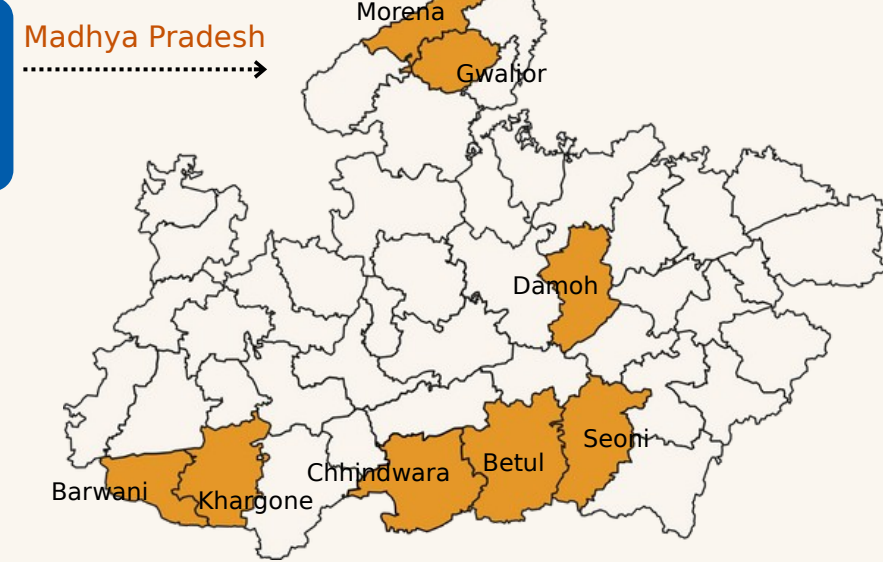
## WHY?

Malnutrition is a preventable imbalance of essential nutrients in the body. Undernutrition (the most prevalent malnutrition) affects millions of children globally, especially from vulnerable and marginalised communities. Access, knowledge and awareness-related gaps in the health infrastructure elicit the need for community-based management as more children are identified as malnourished than can be managed at government health facilities.

## WHERE?

The pilot was implemented across 140+ HWCs reaching 150,000 children under 5 years in Chhindwara, MP

The intervention covers 8 districts reaching 5,700 villages, in Madhya Pradesh, India.

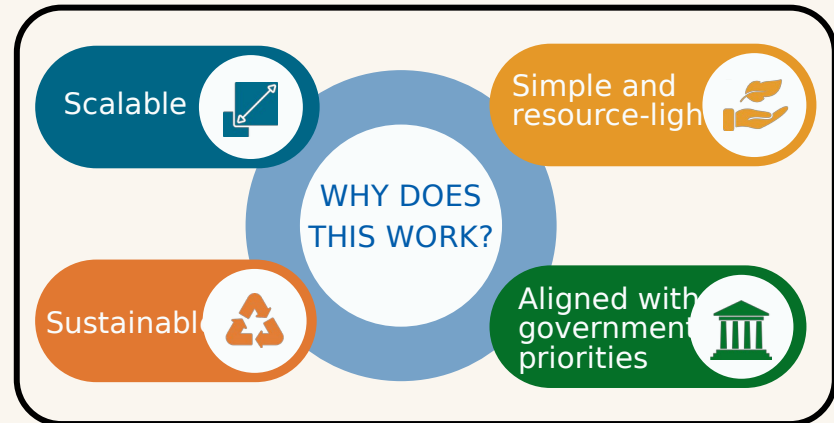


## ACCORDING TO THE NFHS 5,

35.7% Children are stunted  
19% Children are wasted  
33% Children are malnourished

## CHALLENGES :

- Inadequate infrastructure to manage all malnutrition cases
- Lack of practical knowledge and skills on how to identify and manage malnutrition



Footnotes : (1) Chief of Staff to CEO (2) Associate-Knowledge Management (3) Director - Programs (4) State Coordinator - Partnerships (5) CEO

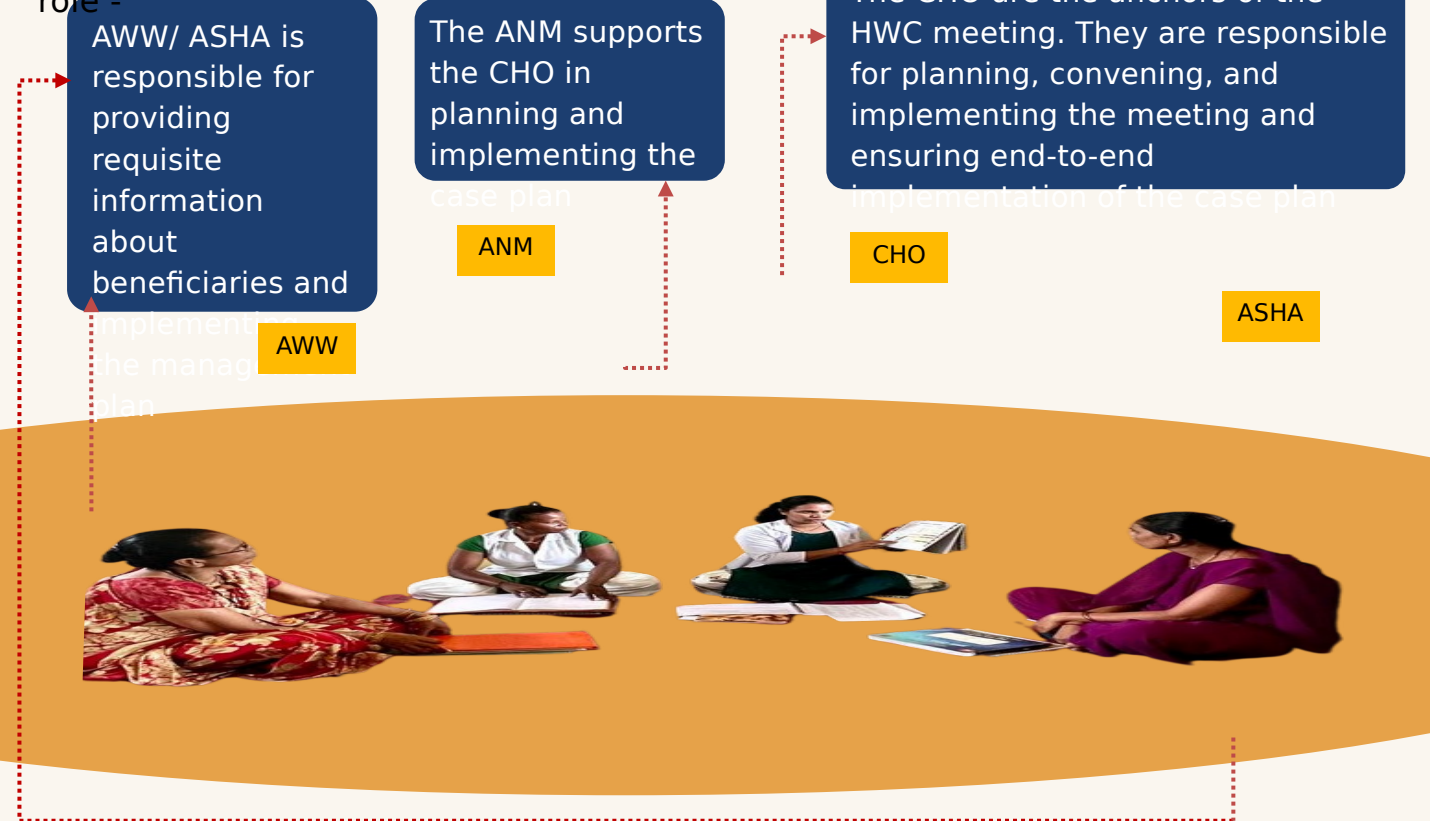
## HOW?

- Identify all the severely acute malnourished (SAM) children in the HWC area
- Ensure these children are entered on the government portals for better review and case management
- Develop a plan for the community-based management of each case e.g., medicines to be provided, dates for follow-up, and counselling the parents of the child
- Use the HWC platform to prioritise and plan for SAM-MAM management based on the severity, assign responsibility to each health worker and devise a follow-up schedule.
- Share learnings and progress of children discussed in the previous meeting.
- Building the capacity of CHOs through appropriate resources (tools, protocols and supply management).

**Dr. Rahul Sahu**  
Community Health Officer  
Chhindwara

## WHAT IS AN HWC?

Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) provide comprehensive primary health care (CPHC) services to rural and tribal communities under the Ayushman Bharat Program. These facilities and services are run by a savvy, technology-enabled, new cadre called Community Health Officers (CHO). The CHOs are supported by three types of frontline health workers - ANM, ASHA, and AWW who each play a distinct role -



"The Anganwadi worker (AWW) identified a SAM child during one of the checkups. She ensured that during the AAA meeting at the next Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) the child's family was informed and counselled on good nutrition. We devised a plan and provided the child with the five types of medicines under the C-SAM program and his family with all the required information. During the AAA meetings and monthly meetings, with support from the TAF team, we regularly discussed whether follow-ups were done for all SAM and MAM cases. The AWW, the ASHA, the ANM, the TAF team and I all worked together, and it was only because of this collaborative effort that the child recovered from SAM to MAM."