**SNS CONSORTIUM**[1]

**SMART SURVEY SUMMARY RESULTS: BAIDOA DISTRICT**

**MAY – JUNE 2017**

## Background

Baidoa is the capital of Bay region, a strategic town in South Central Somalia, situated approximately 250 kilometers west of Mogadishu. The fertile city is one of the most important economic centers in Southern Somalia, conducting significant trade in local and imported cereals, livestock and non-food items.

Following the prolonged severe drought in Somalia since late 2016, Baidoa and its surrounding villages have faced an extreme shortage of clean water. Food availability has also reduced and households have faced notable challenges in efforts to meet their daily-required intake of nutrients, which has led to a significant increase in acute malnutrition. Despite Baidoa town being relatively well served by development and humanitarian actors, service provision outside the town remains constrained by widespread insecurity and limited access. Apart from lifesaving Health and Nutrition programmes, a significant cash distribution programme is also in place for vulnerable households. The significant influx of IDPs to Baidoa, from surrounding areas controlled by Al Shabaab, has hugely increased the demand for life-saving services within a short period of time. During the survey, for example, one Stabilization Center (for children with SAM and related complications) had exceeded its capacity by 200%.

Most of those who reach Baidoa from surrounding AS controlled areas have been observed to arrive in a very severe condition. Most of the children under 5 years old arrive severely malnourished and are in urgent need of treatment on arrival. From February to May 2017, Baidoa faced significant cholera and AWD outbreaks stemming from the widespread shortage of clean water. AWD has been widespread among children and is a well-known, major contributor to rapid downward spirals of children's nutrition status.

**Aim:** The aim of the SMART survey was to **e**stimate the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children 6-59 months in Baidoa district.

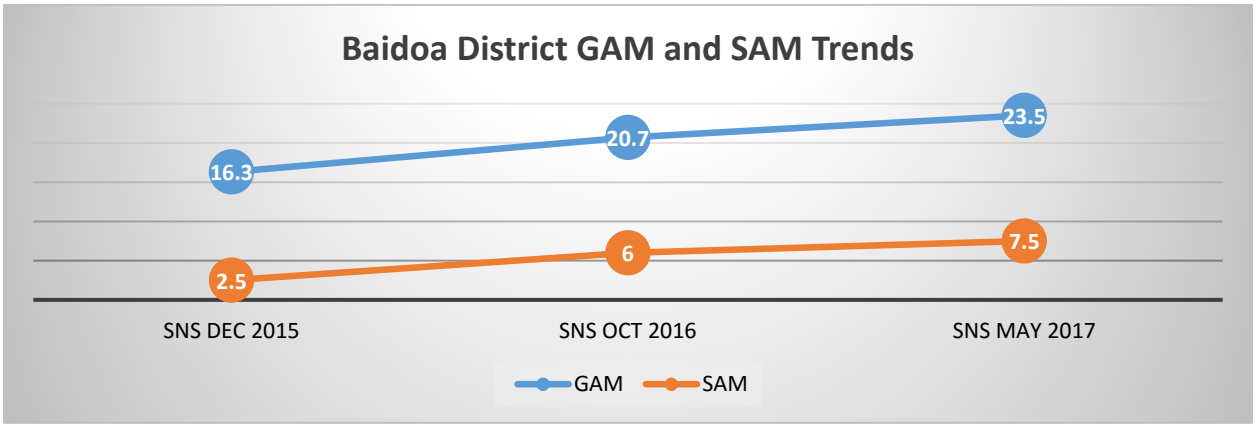
**Methodology:** The standard global SMART (Standardized monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition) methodology was used to conduct the survey.

[1] The Strengthening Nutrition Security in South-Central Somalia (SNS) Consortium is led by Save the Children, and includes Action Against Hunger (ACF) and Concern Worldwide as partners. The Consortium operates across five regions in South-Central Somalia.

**Summary Results**

| Indicator | Results Baidoa 2017 |
|---|---|
| **GAM (Global Acute malnutrition)** | 22.9% (17.8-28.9) |
| **SAM ( Severe Acute Malnutrition)** | 7.1% ( 4.8-10.3) |
| **U5MR** | 0.83( 0.38-1.85) |
| **CMR** | 0.47(0.26-0.85) |
| **Measles** | 1.98% |
| **Vitamin A(Last 6 months)** | 16.35% |
| **Deworming** | 24.97% |
| **Morbidity** | 9.64% |

**GAM and SAM Trends**




**Discussion**

Based on WHO GAM and SAM classification, Baidoa rates fall in Critical and Very Critical rates respectively. This represents notable and alarming deterioration since those reported in the last October 2016 SMART survey. The SAM rate estimation of 7.5% is the highest seen during the past 4 years of SNS surveillance (through annual SMART surveys) in the district.

The situation has been worsened by prolonged access challenges in Bay, where service providers remain limited to relatively small accessible locations. Consequently, the high acute malnutrition rates witnessed in accessible locations strongly suggest a worse situation in the many unserved, inaccessible areas of Bay region. The dire condition that many children coming from inaccessible areas to Baidoa treatment centres arrive in, testifies to this. Thus despite basic health and nutrition services being long available in Baidoa town, thousands of households have long been unable to access any services at all, which largely explains the alarming GAM and SAM rates witnessed in this severe drought period.

**Aggravating factors**

Other aggravating factors include very low vaccination levels in Bay region, e.g. against measles, which

the May 2017 SMART survey observed to be even lower than measles vaccination rates recorded in October 2016. Being a highly contagious killer disease, such outbreaks spread quickly among vulnerable, acutely malnourished children and notably increase the risk of death.

**Immediate Recommendations**

| Survey Findings ( Baidoa) | Action recommended |
|---|---|
| High GAM and SAM- Highest levels of SAM | Sustain the current treatment sites and work to extend life-saving and other basic services across all accessible locations.<br><br>Existing sites to preposition additional life-saving nutrition and health supplies, given the likelihood of additional cases of children with SAM arriving from AS controlled areas.<br><br>Plan for an extended period of high levels of SAM; given the impact of the severe drought, alongside limited access/ coverage and largely unpredictable movements to the nearest services, by families from AS controlled areas. |
| Low immunization rates and Vitamin A supplementation, Deworming and Measles vaccination coverage | Maximize the reach of thorough community mobilization, accompanied by mass campaigns for Vitamin A supplementation. Strengthen routine immunization and integrate immunization efforts into all feasible existing platforms. These supplementation, deworming and vaccination services should not be considered in isolation (as a separate entity). |

Other, longer-term recommendations include strengthening the reach and quality of multi-faceted, cross sectoral prevention and IYCF programmes across and beyond all SNS SMART survey locations, to strengthen the resilience of long-time vulnerable communities in South Central Somalia.

*All full SNS SMART Survey reports will be released in July 2017. FFI contact the SNS Consortium Researcher Job Gichuki, on: Job.Gichuki@savethechildren.org*