

Guidelines for abstract preparation

Strengthening UK-SEA research partnership – nutrition policies and action plans in Malaysia for the prevention of double burden of malnutrition in school-age children: highlights of findings

Sue Yee Tan^{1,5}, Yit Siew Chin^{1,2,3}, Pui Yee Tan⁴, Yun Yun Gong⁴, E-Siong Tee¹

¹ Nutrition Society of Malaysia

² Department of Nutrition, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia

³ Research Center of Excellence, Nutrition and Non-communicable Diseases, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia

⁴ School of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

⁵ International Life Sciences Institute South-East Asia Region

Introduction: The double burden of malnutrition, where undernutrition exists alongside rising overweight and obesity, remains a serious concern for Malaysian children. This study builds on a BBSRC GCRF-funded project that explored micronutrient deficiencies through a food system perspective. The aim of this study is to develop informed policy recommendations and interventions to address the multifaceted challenges of DBM in this country by reviewing existing nutrition and food security policies, national action plans and programmes among school-age children in Malaysia. **Methods:** A team from the University of Leeds, the Nutrition Society of Malaysia, ILSI SEA Region, and Universiti Putra Malaysia conducted a landscape analysis through document reviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and a strategy workshop. Stakeholders included representatives from government, non-governmental organisations, and the private sectors. **Results:** The review found that Malaysia has various nutrition-related policies and programmes, but gaps remain in multisector coordination, monitoring, and implementation. Stakeholders stressed that supportive food environment, especially in schools and communities, are vital to make policies work on the ground. Enablers include sufficient funding, strong leadership, clear targets, and good inter-agency collaboration. Barriers identified include fragmented efforts, limited resources, weak enforcement, and lack of monitoring. Based on these findings, recommendations on policy directions and strategic plans to address DBM among school-age children shall be shared with all relevant stakeholders. Another important output of this study is the establishment of the UK and Southeast Asia Child Health and Nutrition Network (UK-SEA CHAN), which will support shared learning and practical solutions to strengthen healthy food environment and child nutrition in the SEA region. **Conclusion:** Findings from this study underscores the importance of school and community models, which are supported by robust policies, coordinated action, and sustained investment. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, with nutrition knowledge and healthy food environments at its core, is essential for lasting change and a healthier generation.

1. Title

2. Author(s)
and
affiliations

3. Main text of
abstract

- 1. Title of the abstract.** It should be in sentence case, i.e., only the first alphabet is in capital letter. All others should be in small letters except **proper nouns** (e.g. Malaysia). Limit title to 250 characters, including letters and spacing. There is no full stop at the end of the title. Avoid abbreviations unless widely recognised. Trade names are not permitted.
- 2. Author(s).** Provide names with no punctuation. Use surnames or family name in your name as the last name. Indicate the presenting author by clicking on the radio button, 'O This is the presenting author'. Every author must have an **affiliation**. List authors in the order you would like them to appear in the abstract.
- 3. Main text of abstract.** The abstract should not be more than 250 words. Mathematical symbols, Greek letters, superscripts and subscripts may be used. Abbreviations must be written in full upon first use. Tables, figures, and references are not allowed. Separate text into **Introduction**, **Methods**, **Results**, and **Conclusion**.

4. **Language.** Abstracts should be in the English language. Use **UK English spelling**. Check language and grammar before submitting. The Organising Committee does not provide this service. Make sure the abstract submitted is the final version as no changes will be permitted after submission.