

**NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF
UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN
AT INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS
IN KYAUT-TAW TOWNSHIP, RAKHINE STATE**

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ABSTRACT

Nutrition is a component of the sustainable development goals. Malnutrition among under-five children is a still public health concern all over the world. However, information regarding nutritional status of under-five children at internally displaced persons camps are still lacking. Therefore, cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to assess the nutritional status of under-five children at IDP camps in Kyaut-Taw Township, Rakhine State by using face-to-face interview method, observation and anthropometric measurement. Sample 192 pairs of 6-59 months children and caregivers were selected from three IDP camps in Kyaut-Taw township. Collected data was analyzed by using SPSS (version 16) and Anthro software (WHO) for nutritional assessment. In this study, the findings of nutritional status were stunting (25.5%), wasting (21.4%) and underweight (26.0%) by using WHO z score references. Severe stunting (5.2%), stunting (20.3%), severe wasting (3.2%), wasting (18.2%), severe underweight (6.3%) and underweight (19.8%) were found in this study. Most of the caregivers were above 33 years of age, mothers, Rakhine, Buddhist, middle and lower educational level. Most occupation of fathers was casual workers and mothers were dependent. Majority of the households earned less than 100,000 Kyats per month. Most of them used untreated water but all of them used VIP latrines. Most common age of under-five children was 36 months and above, and male/female ratio was 1:1. One-third of the children were completely immunized. Majority of the children had exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding was started at 6 months of age. Most common complementary feeding types were rice, fish and vegetables. About half of the children were in low dietary diversity group and majority of the households had low food insecurity. Statistically significant association was found between the occupation of fathers and stunting of under-five children ($\chi^2 = 6.426$, $p = 0.046$). The results of this study indicated that malnutrition was one of the priority health problems of under-five children at the study area. So, multisectoral approaches, community participation and social involvement should be performed more by health professionals and policy makers to provide the nutrition interventions such as nutritional education, immunization and food security for under-five children at these IDP camps.