**Tapologo OVC Programme - Analysis of Key Trends from November 2013 to March 2015**

The purpose of this report is to present the key trends related to stunting, weight levels and BMI status amongst beneficiaries of the TOVC Programme, which is supported by the SERVE Development Programme (SDP) 2012-2016. The information is taken from primary nutrition data gathered by Tapologo staff between November 2013 and March 2015. The Appendix contains a summary of key profile data for each monitoring exercise.

**SECTION 1 - STUNTING**

Graph 1.1: Stunting Trend - All OVC

**Comment**: The majority of OVC are suffering from stunted growth - this is consistent across all monitoring exercises. However, as the sample size has increased, the overall level of stunting has decreased from approximately 70% to 51%. Male OVC are approximately 10% to 20% more likely to be stunted than female OVC. The high level of stunting is not a surprise to Tapologo or SERVE as this has been apparent from the very first monitoring exercises and it is not possible for the TOVC Programme to respond to the systemic challenges which lead to stunted growth.

**SECTION 2 - WEIGHT STATUS (for OVC up to 10 years only\*)**

Graph 2.1: Weight Status Trend - All OVC

Graph 2.2: Gender Analysis of Underweight OVC (up to 10 years only\*)

**\* Important Note:** It is important to state that the weight status data only includes children aged 0-10 years. According to the WHO, In older children, i.e. above 10 years, weight-for-age is not a good indicator as it cannot distinguish between height and body mass in an age period where many children are experiencing the pubertal growth spurt and may appear as having excess weight (by weight-for-age) when in fact they are just tall. BMI-for-age is the recommended indicator for assessing thinness, overweight and obesity in children 10-19 years. As a result the sample size is smaller than the samples for Stunting and BMI measurement - see Appendix 1 for more details.

**Comment:** As of March 2015, the majority of OVC (58%) are in the ideal weight range. There has been some fluctuation in this figure since November 2013, with a peak of 65% in March & June 2014.

The % of children who were severely underweight has dropped significantly since November 2013 (15% to 0%) and this is very welcome. This indicates that the TOVC Programme has identified and responded to those children facing serious nutrition problems.

Between November 2014 and March 2015, there has been a significant drop in the % of OVC who are overweight (from 11% to 2%).

The main concern is a significant increase in the % of OVC who are underweight (moderately) between November 2014 and March 2015. Some fluctuations are expected but an increase from approximately 23% to 39% is worrying and needs to be monitored carefully to see if this trend continues.

Gender analysis of children who are underweight shows that male OVC are 10-15% more likely to be underweight.

**SECTION 3 - BMI Status**

Graph 3.1 - BMI Status - All OVC

Graph 3.2 - Gender Analysis of OVC Under BMI

**Comment: The majority of OVC (57%) are at the ideal BMI level. The trend since June 2014 is worrying as there has been a 10% decline and March 2015 figure is close to the starting point in November 2013. The 2015 target with Irish Aid for ideal BMI level is 70%.**

There are now no OVC who are severely under their ideal BMI and this is to be welcomed.

Following the trend of in section 2 above, there has been a decrease in the % of OVC who are moderately over their ideal BMI level - especially in the period from November 2014 to March 2015.

**The % of OVC who are moderately under their ideal BMI level has increased significantly between November 2014 and March 2015 (from 15% to 33%). This is a major concern and needs to be monitored carefully to see if the trend continues**.

Gender analysis shows that male OVC are almost 10-20% more likely to be under their ideal BMI level.

**Appendix 1 - Key Profile Data per Monitoring Exercise**

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|  |  | **Gender Analysis** | **Age Analysis %** |  |  |
| **Date of Exercise** | **Sample Size** | **% Male** | **% Female** | **2-5 years %** | **6-12 years %** | **12+ years %** |  | **Weight Measurement (OVC 0-10 years)** |
| Nov-13 | 155 | 48 | 52 | 8 | 43 | 49 |   | 54 |
| Mar-14 | 249 | 52 | 48 | 6 | 56 | 38 |   | 110 |
| Jun-14 | 347 | 47 | 53 | 11 | 59 | 30 |   | 183 |
| Dec-14 | 199 | 45 | 55 | 6 | 63 | 31 |   | 10 |
| Mar-15 | 252 | 51 | 49 | 3 | 53 | 44 |   | 94 |