

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION: 6979

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 52)

Mrs M O Clarke (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (1) What (a) total number of clinics in each of the provinces offer (i) ante-natal and (ii) malnutrition services, (b) is the name and address of each clinic, (c) type of nutrition services are offered at each clinic and (d)(i) total number of children under five years, differentiated by age, have had some form of malnutrition intervention and (ii) what kind of intervention did they receive;
- (2) what is the total number of (a) community health workers (CHWs) at each clinic, (b) house visits that they do daily, monthly and annually;
- (3) what (a) is the average case load of each CHW at each clinic and (b) tools are used by each CHW at each clinic to measure and/or identify malnutrition?

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REPLY:

- (1) (a) (i) and (ii) The following Table reflects the details in this regard.

Province	Number of facilities
Eastern Cape	777
Free State	220
Gauteng	372
KwaZulu-Natal	608
Limpopo	476
Mpumalanga	295
Northern Cape	161
North West	309
Western Cape	256
South Africa	3474

- (b) **Physical addresses for Primary Health Care Facilities is attached as Appendix A**
- (c) **Ante-Natal and Nutrition Services offered at clinic level includes:**
 - Anthropometric (body mass and height) assessment to identify pregnant women who are underweight / overweight

- Nutrition education, counselling, care and support
- Micronutrient supplementation with iron, folic acid and calcium for pregnant women
- Food supplementation programme for underweight pregnant women

(d) (i) **Total number of children under five years, differentiated by age, offered malnutrition intervention.**

- The total number of children under 5 years who were offered malnutrition intervention in the previous financial year (2024/2025) is as follows:

	Child under 5 years on food supplementation (new cases)	Child under 5 years overweight or obese	Moderate acute malnutrition in child under 5 years	Severe acute malnutrition in child under 5 years	Vitamin A dose 12-59 months	Deworming dose 12-59 months
Total	30 390	21 010	19 186	5 810	4 543 978	4 279 592

(ii) **Interventions offered to children under 5 years**

A range of intervention are offered to children under 5 years at clinic level including the following:

- Growth monitoring and promotion to identified children under 5 who have malnutrition (underweight, overweight or obese, Children with Moderate or severe acute malnutrition)
- Outpatient management of children with acute malnutrition as part of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI).
- Referral for inpatient care for children with Severe Acute Malnutrition with complications.
- Outpatient management for children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition
- Nutrition education, counselling and support including Breastfeeding and complementary feeding as part of Integrated management of childhood illnesses.
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Deworming
- Supplementation programme for undernourished children

(2) (a) The number of Community Health Care Workers (CHWs) varies per Primary Health Care (PHC) health facility. Ideally, each PHC facility should have a team of Ward Based Primary Health Care Outreach Teams (WBPHCOTs) that consists of 6 to 10 CHWs and an Outreach Team Leader (OTL), who is an Enrolled Nurse.

- (b) On average, each CHW conducts between 3 to 6 household visits per day, with a minimum of 3 household visits required. However, this number of households can be influenced by other factors, such as the nature of services provided in each household, the number of household members receiving these services, walking distances between households (especially for CHWs in rural areas). Based on the daily targets, each CHW typically conducts between 54 to 108 household visits per month, which amounts to an annual total of between 648 and 1296 household visits.
- (3) (a) CHWs do not operate in the clinics, they work in the community. Therefore, their case load can be estimated as indicated in 2(b) above.
- (b) CHWs use the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape to assess and identify children at risk of malnutrition. Additionally, CHWs provide Deworming treatment and administer Vitamin A supplements at the household level to those in need.

END.