

# A coordinated response requires every stakeholder

No single institution can solve DRM alone. South Africa needs collaboration across the full healthcare ecosystem.

GOAL

## Coordinated national DRM response

### Department of Health

Policy recognition, mandatory screening mandates, NHI integration

### Medical aids & funders

Reimbursement of medical nutrition therapy as standard benefit

### Professional societies

Guidelines, standards of care, advocacy for clinical nutrition protocols

### Universities

Training, research capacity, evidence generation for local context

### Frontline healthcare staff

Screening, early referral, dietitian involvement from admission

### Hospital administrators

Institutional prioritisation, resource allocation, protocol implementation

**Why this matters now:** The WHO has assigned DRM a specific ICD codeset – giving it equal clinical status with all other recognised diagnoses. This makes coordinated action not just ethically necessary but **systematically enforceable through health funding structures.**