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A Pilot Project towards Improving Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in Jaipur District of Rajasthan during 2020-2023

Decentralized Evaluation Baseline Report

Report 1
WFP India Country Office

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Executive Summary

1. The UN World Food Programme India country office (WFP) is supporting the Government of Rajasthan to improve the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in the state by designing and implementing a pilot project that seeks to establish a replicable and demonstrable model for improving infant and young child feeding practices and preventing malnutrition. Under the pilot, a local production unit will be established and women's Self-Help Groups (WSHG) will be trained to produce quality, nutritious and fortified Take Home Rations (THR) for distribution to the ICDS, which targets children aged 6-36 months and pregnant and lactating women. In addition, social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) directed to all sections of the community, is aimed to improve nutritional practices. The pilot will be implemented in five ICDS projects of Jaipur district (Jaipur I, Jaipur II, Jaipur III, Sanganer City and Sanganer Rural) for a duration of 36 months.
2. This cross-sectional evaluation is designed and commissioned by the WFP India Country Office for the proposed pilot in Jaipur, starting from undertaking the baseline evaluation at the stage of initiation of the pilot; and culminating with an endline evaluation towards the end of pilot's implementation (presenting comparative analysis between the baseline and end of pilot/endline stage). The evaluation will cover the period from November 2020 to November 2023. The *baseline evaluation was planned to take place from January 2021 to December 2021, but due to COVID-19 primary data collection was slightly delayed, leading to completion of the baseline in May, 2022. The end line evaluation would be conducted in 2023.* Based on the evidence generated through the evaluation of this pilot, the state government will take the decision to scale up this concept in other districts in the State.
3. The three primary objectives of the baseline evaluation are:
 - To provide an in-depth analysis of the situation and parameters to be targeted through the pilot, especially the current knowledge-attitude-practices regarding IYCF and nutrition, and care during pregnancy; THR demand, availability, uptake, consumption, and acceptability
 - To support in benchmarking of Key Performance Indicators
 - To facilitate operational planning and establishing basis for evaluation on completion of the project.Additionally, based on the request of the Government, this evaluation also examined the nutritional status of children (6-36 months) through anthropometric measurements.
4. The sample for baseline evaluation was spread across aforesaid five ICDS projects and consisted of:
 - 77 Anganwadi Centres;
 - 809 lactating women (mothers of children 6-36 months);
 - 379 children (6-36 months) for anthropometric measurement;
 - 152 currently pregnant women;
 - 70 Anganwadi Workers and
 - 70 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs);
 - 65 Auxiliary Nurse and Midwives (ANMs);
 - 3 Child Development Project Officers of ICDS;
 - 1 Deputy Director/District Program Manager of ICDS;
 - 13 Adolescent girls through Focus Group Discussion (FGD); and
 - 20 community representatives through In-depth Interviews (IDIs).
5. Owing to COVID-19 pandemic, case-control design could not be adopted for the baseline; and a pre-post comparison design was adopted (without a control group). The expected users for this Baseline Evaluation

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