

Strengthening action to improve feeding of infants and young children 6-23 months of age in nutrition and child health programmes

Geneva, 6-9 October 2008

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



World Health
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Abbreviations and Glossary of Terms

AFASS: Acceptable, feasible, affordable, sustainable and safe

Behaviour change communication: the strategic use of communication to promote positive health outcomes, based on proven theories and models of behaviour change. It employs a systematic process beginning with formative research and behaviour analysis, followed by communication planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Complementary feeding: the process starting when breast milk alone or infant formula alone is no longer sufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of infants, and therefore other foods and liquids are needed, along with breast milk or a breast-milk substitute. The target range for complementary feeding is generally taken to be 6 to 23 months.

Complementary foods: any food, whether manufactured or locally prepared, suitable as a complement to breast milk or to a breast-milk substitute, when either becomes insufficient to satisfy the nutritional requirements of the infant.

Counselling: listening to clients and helping them decide what is best for them among various options or suggestions; in addition, helping them to have the confidence to carry out their decisions.

DHS: Demographic and Health Survey(s)

Education: activities that impart knowledge or skill. In this context, education usually involves the delivery of specific messages by health care providers or community health workers during clinic, outreach or home visits.

EFA: Essential fatty acid(s)

Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) framework: a framework for managing the advocacy, planning and delivery of an integrated package of preventive nutrition actions encompassing infant and young child feeding, micronutrients and women's nutrition. Multiple programme opportunities and communication channels are used at both the health facility and community levels to deliver life cycle-appropriate nutrition messages at broad scale to mothers and other child caregivers using behaviour change techniques.

Formative research: planning research, specifically a combination of rapid, interactive information-gathering methods with mothers and other key people, through which important information and key cultural and personal concerns are examined and negotiated to arrive at feasible, acceptable and effective strategies and practices that lead to improved health and nutrition.

Fortification: the addition of one or more essential nutrients to a food, whether or not it is normally contained in the food, for the purpose of preventing or correcting a demonstrated deficiency of one or more nutrients in the population or specific population groups.

Fortification at point-of-use (home fortification): adding a micronutrient formulation or a micronutrient-rich, lipid-based nutrient supplement to the infant's or child's prepared food just before consumption in order to fill in the nutritional gaps of the local diet.

IMCI: Integrated Management of Childhood Illness

Lipid-based nutrient supplements (LNS): Family of ready-to-use food products with high energy and nutrient content. Lipids are the main source of energy. Products range from those providing minimal energy (kcal) to those supplying a substantial proportion of energy; all provide multiple micronutrients and essential fatty acids, as well as macronutrients. Those products that provide minimal energy may be used in small amounts as a fortificant of the local diet at the point of use, for prevention of malnutrition. Those that provide very substantial energy are suitable as a temporary replacement of the local diet, for treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

Malnutrition: a broad term commonly used as an alternative to undernutrition, but technically it also refers to overnutrition. People are malnourished if their diet does not provide adequate calories and protein for growth and maintenance or they are unable to fully utilize the food they eat due to illness (undernutrition). They are also malnourished if they consume too many calories (overnutrition).

Micronutrient (MN) powder: a powdered formulation of vitamins and minerals intended to be used in home fortification.

Micronutrient "plus plus" powder: a micronutrient powder that, in addition to vitamins and minerals, contains protein, milk powder and/or essential fatty acids.

MICS: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey(s)

Programme Implementation Pathway (PIP): the pathway from an intervention input through programmatic delivery, household and individual utilization to its desired impact. Analysis of the process from input to impact is the basis for planning, training, supervision and evaluation.

ProPAN: "Process for the promotion of child feeding" (in the original Spanish, Proceso para la Promoción de la Alimentación del Niño), a manual and software package that describes a step-by-step process, beginning with the quantitative identification of nutritional and dietary problems, and the collection of qualitative information on why these problems occur, and ends with the design of and evaluation plan for an intervention to address the problems identified.

Supplementary feeding: providing additional foods to vulnerable groups, including moderately malnourished children.

Trials of improved practices (TIPS): Trials of improved practices, a formative research tool to help programme planners select and "pretest" the actual practices that a programme will promote. Mothers and other family members actually try out and sometimes modify a menu of possible improved practices

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