



Foreword

Dear Readers,

Wish you all a very Happy New Year!

We are happy to continue our engagement with you through WeConnect. We are bringing you the 14th Issue of the quarterly dose of latest news, views, events, and stories from nutrition space in India.

About this Issue:

The current issue brings you the expert opinion by Dr Hemang Shah from CIFF on innovative ways to fight anaemia in India, mobile technology-based innovation in Gujarat to improve quality of nutrition services, latest events like Delivering for Nutrition from Southeast Asia region, state level ToTs to strengthen MIYCN and Quality Improvement approach in medical colleges and district hospitals.

Moreover, get an exclusive access to a range of recently developed knowledge products including technical brief to understand the bottlenecks and opportunities in adopting evidence based MIYCN guidelines in private sector health facilities, a multi country paper on integrating maternal nutrition interventions in ANC services and an e-learning course on MIYCAN by IIPH Delhi.

We also welcome your contribution to the next issue of WeConnect. Please share your stories and insights from the field, products or latest innovation in nutrition at a&tindiainfo@fhi360.org

Wish you an enjoyable read!

Approaches to Anaemia Reduction in India



Author

Dr. Hemang Shah is a public health, nutrition and management professional who leads child health and development portfolio in Children's Investment Fund Foundation in India

Iron deficiency anaemia is one of the leading contributors to the global burden of disease, and particularly affects children, premenopausal women, and people in low-income and middle-income countries. Anaemia continues to remain widespread in India as its prevalence across age and gender groups has increased. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has launched multiple programmes in last two decades to address the issues of anaemia including the Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) programme under the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment – POSHAN Abhiyaan.

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Leveraging Mobile Technology to Improve the Quality of Nutrition Services in Gujarat

Addressing malnutrition has been a challenging issue in a country like India with diverse culture and complex demography. However, in this digital age, technology can be leveraged to strengthen the nutrition programming and improve the quality of nutrition service delivery. With this approach, Commissionerate of Women and Child Development (CWCD) Gujarat with technical support from Alive & Thrive India has launched first of its kind mobile-based application to streamline and strengthen supportive supervision for ICDS functionaries for improved service delivery and beneficiary experience. On the occasion of Good Governance Week 2021, CWCD Gujarat brought special focus on innovative digital solution for ICDS services to further work towards achieving the mission of Minimum Government Maximum Governance.

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Strengthening MIYCN Protocol and Quality Improvement in Nutrition Services in Medical Colleges And District Hospitals

Bihar

A two-day training of doctors & nurses in Sakra Referral Hospital, Nalanda & Kanti Community Health Center (CHC) in Muzaffarpur has been organized in three batches in November and December 2021, to institutionalize Quality Improvement (QI) approach in the facilities. The three selected facilities of Muzaffarpur, technically aided by SKMCH, Muzaffarpur and Nalanda district hospital was supported by Vardhmaan Institute of Medical Sciences, Pawapuri, Nalanda.

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Uttar Pradesh

AIIMS Gorakhpur and Other Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh

Two-day ToT on MIYCN protocol and Quality Improvement (QI) approach was organized on 1 & 2 September 2021 in AIIMS Gorakhpur. The training aimed to enhance the technical knowledge and skills of service providers for the faculties of OBGY, Paediatrics, and Community Medicine & Family Medicine and Nursing staff on MIYCN and QI.

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Joint efforts by partners on integrating and strengthening maternal nutrition during ANC in Bihar

In an effort to strengthen maternal nutrition, Integrated Child Development Services, Bihar in collaboration with Alive & Thrive, UNICEF and Piramal Foundation has rolled out revised Ante Natal Care (ANC) guideline in selected districts of Bihar.

The training of trainers (TOT) has been organized in Gaya, under the guidance of State Program Officer, Maternal Health, State Health Society, Bihar, in October 2021. The training was participated by Medical Officer in Charge, Child Development Project Officer and block level training. A&T supported the training in 12 blocks out of 24 blocks of the district. Till date, A&T with support of district and block level officials, have completed training in 6 blocks and trained 257 ANM and Lady Supervisors, who will further orient AWW and ASHA and ensure counselling during Village Health and Nutrition Day and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan day and eventually leading to improved status of mother and child.

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Status of MIYCN in Private Healthcare: Technical Brief

Over 60% of India's healthcare infrastructure is private – with 58% more hospitals and 60% more beds than the public sector, private health systems are essential to fighting malnutrition. Recognizing this factor, Alive & Thrive in partnership with the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) and in collaboration with IAP and FOGSI conducted a study in 2020 to assess maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) knowledge and practices among private obstetricians and gynaecologists (OBGYNs) and paediatricians.

Paper by A&T recommends specificity in national guidelines for integrating maternal nutrition interventions in ANC among other measures

Antenatal care (ANC) is the largest health platform globally for delivering maternal nutrition interventions (MNIs) to pregnant women. Yet, missed opportunities remain in nutrition service delivery. This paper examines how well evidence based MNIs were incorporated in national policies and programs in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and India.

MIYCAN eLearning Course by IIPH- Delhi Enhancing Knowledge and Capacity of private practitioners

An eLearning course on Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition developed by the Indian Institute of Public Health Delhi, the Public Health Foundation of India, in collaboration with Alive & Thrive and WeCan was launched on 26th June 2021.

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Key Events

Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia 2021: Lessons From Research And Implementation in the Context Of Covid-19 to Improve Nutrition

COVID-19 has caused major economic and health shocks globally. Since the onset of the pandemic, there have been daunting projections on the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition, particularly in resource-constrained settings like South Asia if the epidemic is prolonged. What does the available evidence and ongoing implementation efforts in South Asia suggest about our progress in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19?

On December 1-2, 2021, IFPRI and a consortium of 15 co-hosts convened the virtual conference, Delivering for Nutrition (D4N) in South Asia: Implementation Research in the Context of COVID-19, which gathered about 800 participants from South Asia (100-200 participants per session) to explore the available evidence to inform and support policy and program initiatives aimed at prioritizing and improving maternal and child nutrition during COVID-19 and beyond. This year represents the fourth annual and first regional conference of its kind, covering research and implementation from eight South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

Alive & Thrive launches partnership in India with nutrition initiatives

Alive & Thrive has launched a new partnership with two widely recognized nutrition initiatives in India – WeCan and POSHAN – to support and accelerate the goals of the government's primary national nutrition mission, POSHAN Abhiyaan.

"Through this partnership, we will increase our technical capacities to strengthen the quality of nutrition service delivery," said Thomas Forissier, director of Alive & Thrive's South Asia regional program. "We will do this by supporting joint approaches to define, improve, support and assure quality, and to explore ways to improve the convergence at the household level of all the services and social protection benefits that can help families improve their nutrition outcomes."

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