

SECTORAL CONVERGENCE TO IMPROVE NUTRITION OUTCOMES-GENERATING EVIDENCE AT SCALE

Archana Choudhary, Dr. Isha Prasad Bhagwat, Dr. Laxmikant Palo
New Delhi

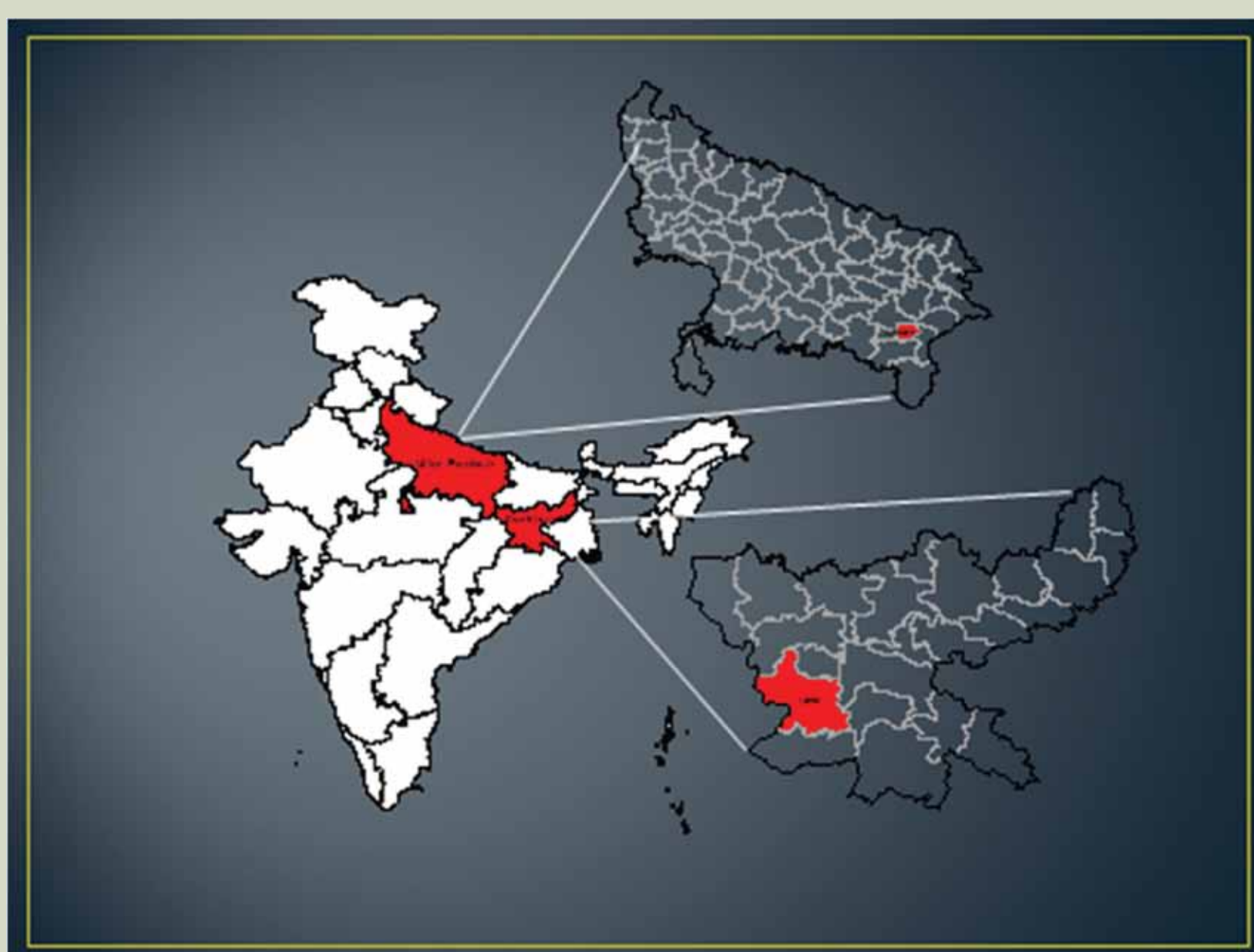
BACKGROUND

Prevention of malnutrition requires a multisectoral action. Evidence indicates that integrated interventions will be required to address malnutrition challenges. Creating a coordination mechanism is essential to bring equitable change in nutrition outcomes.

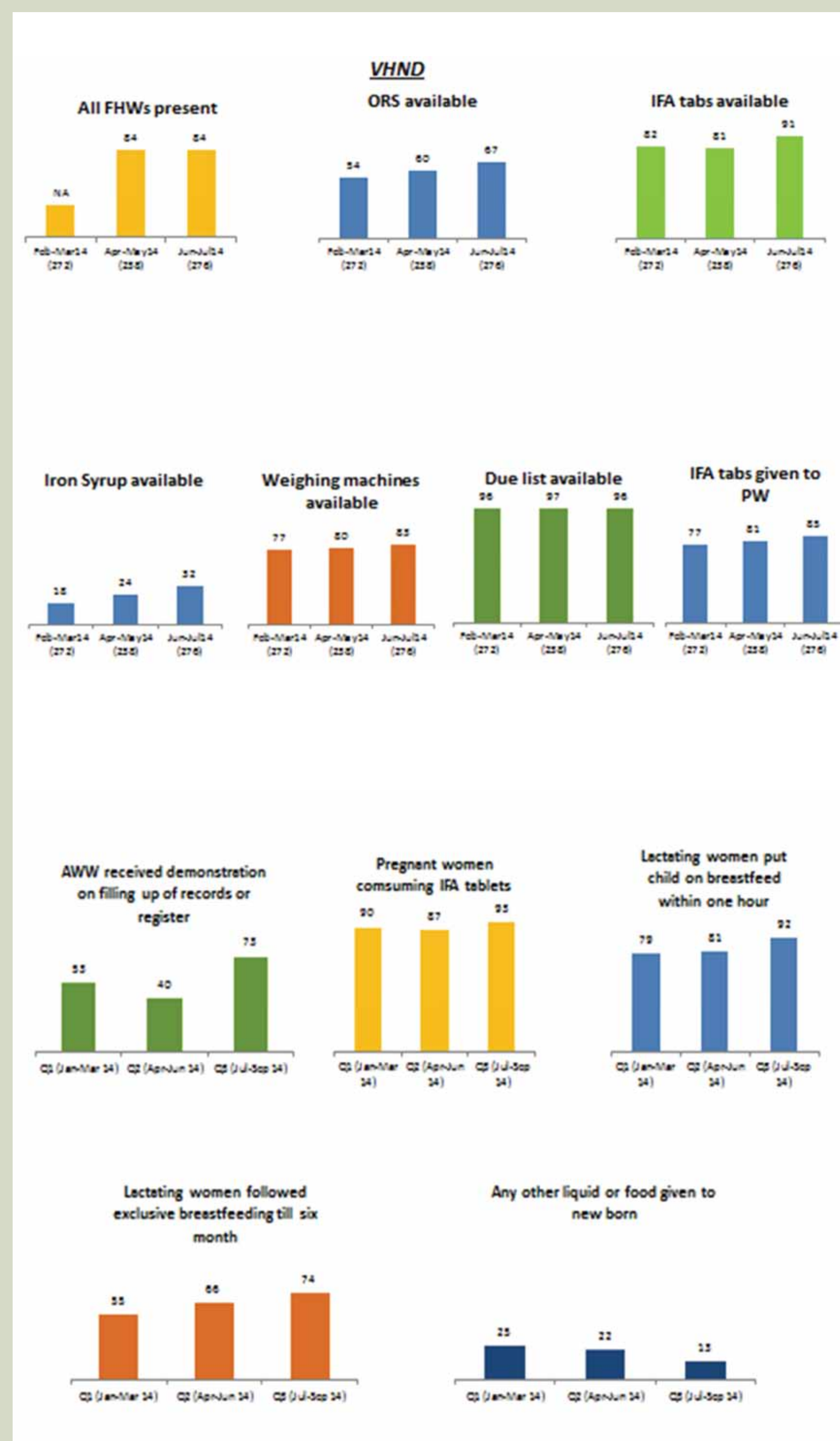
Save the Children, a partner of the Coalition for Sustainable Nutrition Security in India, is implementing a Block Operational Strategy, to catalyse and improve the delivery of nutrition programmes.

The broad objective of this intervention is to improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women, adolescents and children less than 2 years of age. The project is being implemented in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

The project is being implemented in 108 villages of Gumla Sadar block in Gumla district of Jharkhand and 190 villages of Pindra block in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh.

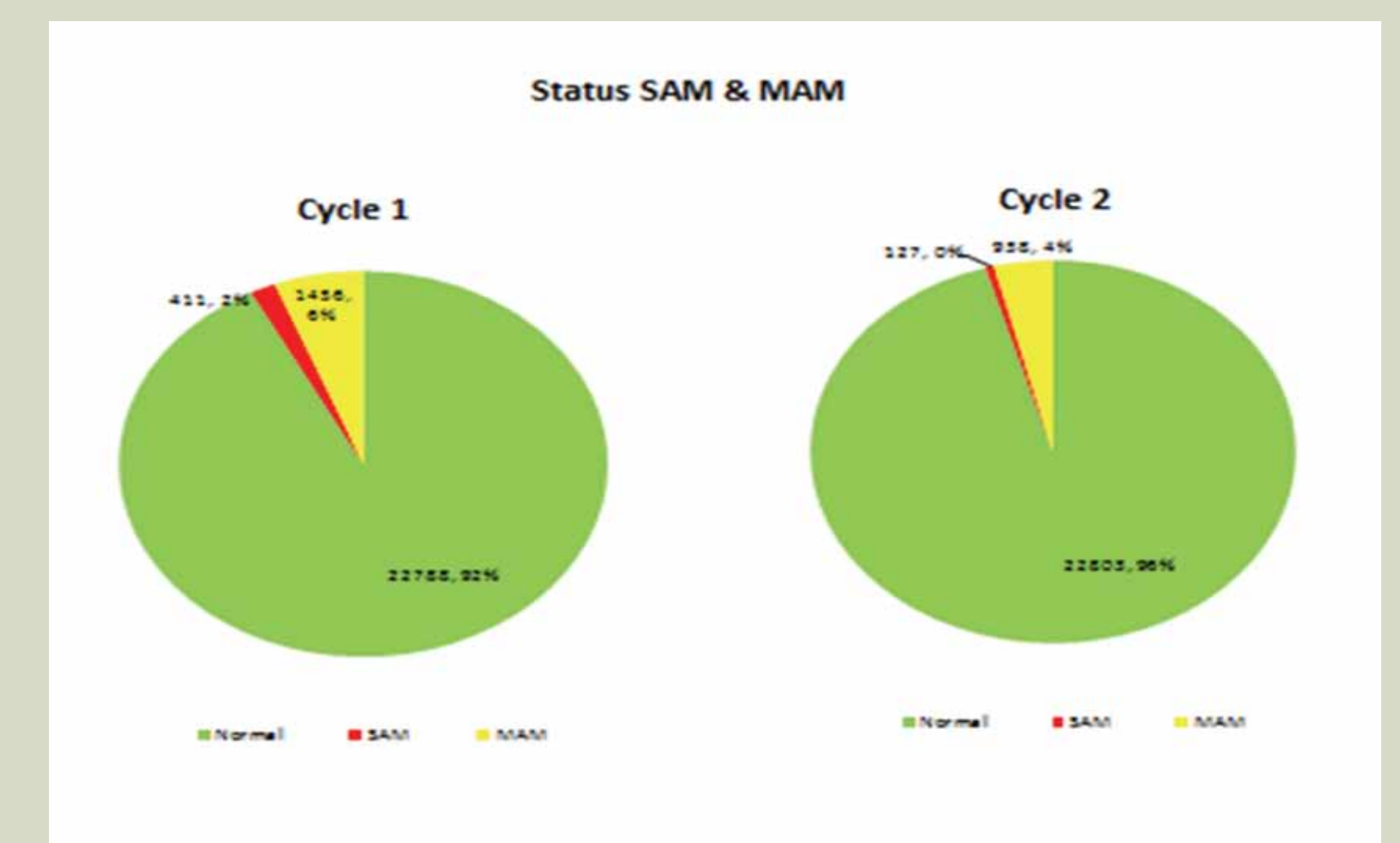


FINDINGS*



Preliminary results from the project MIS indicate:

- Government Coordination- The district and block level committees now have enhanced coordination among government departments and programmes
- VHND- Improvement in the availability of vaccines, weighing scales, IFA, counseling, presence of all three FHWs, presence of PRI, THR distribution
- VHNSC- Regular meetings improved from 10% to 40%, budget being utilized for purchase of weighing scales, BP instruments, water filter, curtains for ANC
- AWC- Improvement in growth monitoring, record keeping, home visits
- IYCF- Improvement in early breast feeding, exclusive breast feeding, reduction in prelacteal food
- Supportive Supervision- Increased visits and on job support by lady supervisors, CDPO and MOi/c
- Early Screening and treatment of SAM- 365 SAM children have recovered so far



KEY STRATEGIES

The focus is on introducing strategic inputs and new activities, to catalyse and improve the delivery of programmes that are already funded by the Government. The critical components of the initiative include:

- Increased coordination between the government departments and programs
- Focus on nutrition awareness and accountability
- Improving Infant and Young Child Feeding practices
- Improved oversight and monitoring mechanisms



INTERVENTION

- Creation of district and block level nutrition coordination committees
- System strengthening - Strengthening Village health and nutrition days, Functioning of Anganwadi Centres, strengthening VHNSCs
- Capacity building of government officials at district and block level and frontline health workers
- Increasing availability of locally grown nutritious food, by establishing kitchen gardens at schools, AWC and community
- Individual and group counselling, regular home visits during pregnancy, lactation and SAM/MAM families
- Community Management of Malnutrition- Early and active screening using MUAC, OTP, referral to MTC and follow up
- Use of Community score cards, Public hearing, KPS analysis
- Semi quantitative evaluation of access and coverage, Household economic analysis, Cost of diet, Cost effectiveness

LESSONS LEARNED/ CONCLUSION

- District and Block level coordination committees play a crucial role in improving departmental actions for influencing nutrition
- For the block level committee it is better to engage with Sub divisional magistrate as the chair instead of block development officer as the former commands a larger number of departments
- Community mobilization and their participation is essential for the success of the nutrition interventions
- Building greater awareness at household & community level on nutrition & positive practices leading to improved nutrition of women, children & adolescent girls
- Community based nutrition counselors are important catalyst for promoting improved nutrition. They work as a bridge between community and government departments and services
- Joint supportive supervision visit by government departments improves the functioning of VHND/ VHNSC/ AWC/ SC
- Regular monitoring, social accountability mechanisms and data review can contribute to improved nutrition

CONTACT INFORMATION

Archana Choudhary, c.archana@savethechildren.in, Project Manager, Save the Children

Dr. Ishaprasad Bhagwat, i.bhagwat@savethechildren.in, National Manager Health & Nutrition, Save the Children

Dr. Laxmikant Palo, l.palo@savethechildren.in, Senior Advisor- Nutrition, Save the Children

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* This is a work in progress and all the findings and conclusions are based on the preliminary findings of the project MIS