



Infant and Young Child Feeding in COVID-19 Context

# Rapid Assessment Report

June 2021

**IYCF Technical Working Group**  
National Nutrition Cluster  
Nepal



# Objectives of the Assessment

## General

- ✓ To assess health and nutrition services with a focus on IYCF practices in the context of COVID-19 in 14 study districts

## Specific

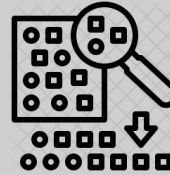
- ✓ To assess key breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices
- ✓ To assess the current status of health and nutrition service access and utilization
- ✓ To explore challenges faced by mothers/caregivers in adopting optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices
- ✓ To assess the current status of health and nutrition services provided
- ✓ To assess challenges faced by service providers in providing health and nutrition Services

# Methodology



## Study Design

### Cross Sectional



## Sampling

Multi-stage cluster  
random sampling



## Study Population

- Health Workers
- FCHVs
- Mothers (children < 2 years)



## Data Management

- ✓ Telephone Interview
- ✓ Open data kit (Android)
- ✓ Stata SE 14

# Number of Respondents



**314**

**Health Workers**



**322**

**Female Community  
Health Volunteers**



**2,208**

**Mothers**

# Findings and Recommendation



**Telephone counselling was the least preferred method among FCHVs (57%)**

Promote and prioritize tele-counselling by FCHVs



**54% of the mothers seek health services for their sick child from private health facilities.**

Private sector should be oriented on IYCF and BMS Act violations.



**None of the health workers observed BMS Act violation**

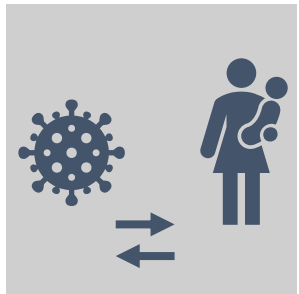
Strengthen mechanisms to monitor BMS distribution

# Findings and Recommendation



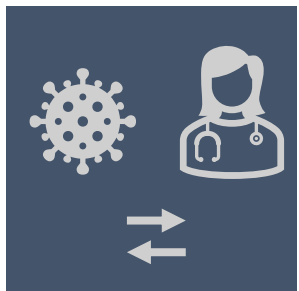
**36% of mothers had ever heard any messages related to IYCF.**

Different approaches to messaging on IYCF through various platforms  
Interpersonal communication on IYCF (both virtual and physical)



**Fear of COVID-19 infection transmission as a barrier for breastfeeding (FCHV -20%, Mothers – 4% )**

RCCE messages on COVID-19 and its impact on nutrition should be developed for FCHVs and health workers for dissemination in the community.



**Fear of COVID-19 as a barrier to service delivery (HW- 32% and FCHVs -24%).**

Enabling environment and PPE support to HWs/FCHVs at workplace

# Findings and Recommendation



**Only, 57% of health workers received MIYCN interim guideline.**

COVID-19 related guidelines - Electronic copies, hard copies and virtual orientations



**Only 42% of the Outpatient Therapeutic Centers (OTC) were functional**

Explore a mechanism to ensure that all OTCs are functional. E.g. OTC functionality checklist



**Stockout of RUTF (HW – 26%) and MNP (HW-37%, FCHV-40%)**

Regular monitoring and replenishing of nutrition commodities by municipalities



# Thank You

