



Editorial

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I am very delighted to let all know that the National Nutrition Services (NNS) of the current sector program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is publishing 5th issue of the NNS newsletter.

The Government of Bangladesh has embarked on accelerating the progress in reducing the high rates of maternal and child under-nutrition by mainstreaming of nutrition interventions into health (DGHS) and family planning (DGFP) services, scaling-up the provision of area-based community nutrition. This publication will be a necessary source of information containing the service statistics of nutrition sector.

The newsletter reports on some programmatic information and decisions, current activities, progress and coverage of NNS supported services at facility levels and also on community-based nutrition activities, including the service status of IMCI & Nutrition corners and Community Clinics. The newsletter also covers different approaches taken by government and its partners.

I thank the respectable Secretary, MoH&FW, and the Director Generals of DGHS & DGFP for their continuous support to NNS, and acknowledge the contribution of health managers and other service providers who collaborate with NNS. Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and efforts of the professionals of Nutrition Information and Planning Unit (NIPU) staff and UNICEF in making this newsletter a successful monitoring, knowledge sharing and advocacy tool for improving nutrition in the population of Bangladesh. I express my sincere thanks to the entire team of NNS for their support and contribution to publishing this newsletter.

Dr. Md. Alamgir Ahmed

Micronutrient Initiatives (MI) on the occasion, jointly with IPHN/NNS implemented "Vitamin-A Supplementation Hard to Reach (HtR) Area Program" in 24 upazilas of 6 districts besides NVAC. Total of four child to child searches were conducted in those upazilas after NVAC and 42072 Vitamin-A capsule were distributed among the missed out children.

National Vitamin A Plus Campaign 2015



Picture 1: Launching of National Vitamin A plus campaign 2015

National "Vitamin-A plus Campaign (NVAC)" was observed on 25 April 2015 to prevent Vitamin-A deficiency disorders which have consequences on child morbidity and mortality. The Honorable Member of the Parliament and Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Nasim, inaugurated the campaign at the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), Mohakhali, Dhaka. Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, His Excellency was also present on the occasion. Over 20 million children, aged 6-59 months were supplemented with a preventive dose of Vitamin A from 120,000 health centres across the country during the campaign. Bangladesh continues to maintain high universal coverage of vitamin A in all divisions.

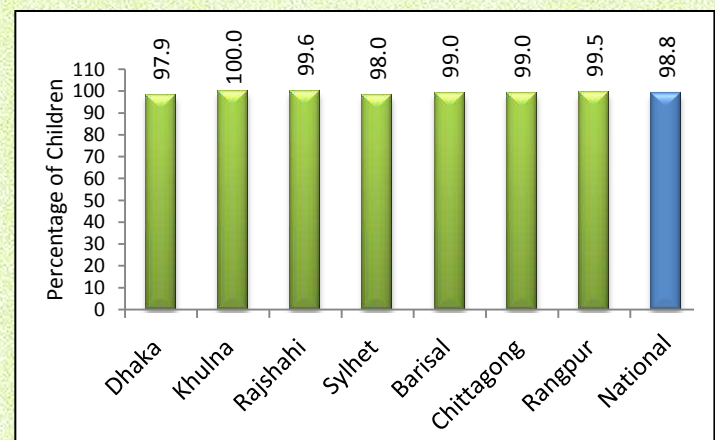


Figure 1: Coverage of Vitamin A consumption based on target in seven divisions of Bangladesh.

Key Highlights (April- June 2015)

Training of Trainers (TOT) on M&E on Nutrition Activities

A two-day ToT was organized to orient district and upazilla level supervisor on the basics of Monitoring & Evaluation, monitoring issues for implementing nutritional activities, nutrition information system and role of supervisor.

The first TOT was held on 24-25 May 2015 at IPHN Conference room and 34 participants attended in this training session. The 2nd ToT was held in 26-27 May 2015 at IPHN Conference Room where 34 participants attended.

Outcomes of the Workshop:

- Agreements on standards for routine monitoring of nutrition interventions
- Enhanced knowledge and skill on nutrition monitoring and evaluation; supervision issues, using standard tools & templates.
- Clarity of roles & responsibilities of supervisors on nutrition activities.



Picture 2: Participants of TOT on M&E on Nutrition Activities

Workshop on 'Harmonizing Nutrition Information System among NGOs working on Nutrition

NNS organized a workshop on 21 May 2015 at Lake Breeze hotel to initiate the standardization of nutrition information system of NGO's. There were a total of 38 participants in the workshop representing of different NGOs working on Nutrition throughout Bangladesh and professionals of NNS were presented in this workshop. Dr. Md. Moudud Hossain, Deputy Director- DGHS and Program Manager- NNS inaugurated the workshop and facilitated the discussion sessions.

Currently there is intermittent flow of information on nutrition program performance from NGOs which result in lack of legible data, duplication of efforts and inefficient distribution of resources among different geographic areas in the country. NNS is working to standardize and harmonize the reporting system to enable data use for analyse the full situation, prioritize activities and used for efficient resource allocation. Program Manager of NNS presented about NNS operation plan and nutrition situation in Bangladesh and Mohammad Aman Ullah, DPM of NNS, presented the workshop objectives respectively Dr. Sharear Farid and Aweke Teklu, DFID Consultants, presented DNI indicators and mapping of nutrition indicators respectively. Representatives of different NGOs made presentation to share their experiences. Next meeting will be arranged to discuss on the detail mapping of nutrition indicators and draft harmonized reporting formats.



Picture 3: Participants of the workshop at Lake Breeze Hotel



Picture 4: Program Manager, NNS is presenting NNS Operational Plan and activities at the workshop

Scale up Iron Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation Program

Micro-nutrient Initiatives (MI) and IPHN/NNS jointly implemented IFA supplementation demonstration program in Narshingdi and Satkhira from 2011-2014 and the findings were shared at a workshop titled 'Strengthening Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Program to Reduce Anaemia Among Pregnant Women' at Hotel Lakeshore in Dhaka on 19 April 2015. Ms Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary (Public Health & WHO) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was the chief guest of that workshop, Dr Shah Newaz, Additional Director General (Admin), DGHS, Dr Md. Alamgir Ahmed, Director- IPHN and Line Director- NNS, John McCullough, MI Regional Director- Asia and Heather McBride, Deputy Director, Planning and Lead Analyst, High Commission of Canada. Dr Deepika Nayar Chaudhery, MI Deputy Regional Director, Asia and other govt. officials and representatives from UNICEF, WFP, WHO, CARE, Save the Children, Alive & Thrive, BBS, BRAC, Plan International, GAIN, etc were attended in the workshop.



Picture 5: Ms Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was speaking in the workshop

Partners meeting

A quarterly meeting was held with various stakeholders and partners of NNS ON May 2015 at IPHN Conference Room. The meeting was held to share and discuss with the partner supported nutrition activities, harmonize strategies and identification gaps. Total of 24 participants from WFP, TDH, Save the Children (MAMI & TCM project), BBF, SPRING, World Vision and MI presented their organizational activities, performance, learning and best practices in the meeting. Everybody participated actively in the discussion session. Planning Specialist of NNS Dr. Md. Moinul Haque presented the details of reporting status of nutritional data of the partners.



Picture 6: Participants of the Partners Meeting

Multisectoral workshop

Workshop on "Multisectoral collaboration among different ministries" held on 1 June 2015 at MIS conference room.

Ms. Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary (PH & WHO), MoHFW welcomed the participants and discussed on the nutritional status in Bangladesh and the achievements of the NNS. Then Dr. Moudud Hossain, Deputy Director, DGHS and Program Manager, NNS talked about the nutrition target groups, current nutrition activities and objectives of the workshop. After that Dr. A.M Zakir Hussain, Senior Advisor, NIPU, NNS discussed in detail about the nutrition situation in Bangladesh and relationship among different ministries with their respective activities. Then Professor Dr Abul Kalam Azad, ADG (Planning and Development) and Director Management Information System under DGHS mentioned the progress on nutrition related MDG. He also mentioned about the responsibility of the different ministries to support the nutrition activities.



Picture 7: Participants of the Partners Meeting

Dr. Mohsin Ali, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Bangladesh also presented the nutrition related results framework and logical framework. Then Dr. K.M Azad, Deputy Program Manager, NNS and Dr. Mohammad Shahrear Farid, Consultant (M&E), NNS facilitated the workshop. Some findings and decisions were come out from the group discussion. Finally, Mr Shuvash Chandra Sarker, Additional Secretary, MoHFW announced the ending of the workshop with a vote of thanks.

Dr. Sharear Farid Consultant (M&E) from DFID presented on indicator and theme of specific and nutrition sensitive intervention. He also discussed about concept of common result framework of nutrition.

More News

SUN Self Assessment Workshop

SUN Self Assessment Workshop was held on 11 May 2015 at IPHN Conference Room. Ms. Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary (PH & WHO), MOHFW and Country Focal Person on Nutrition and SUN presided over the meeting. Representatives from Government and non-government organizations attended the workshop.

Self-assessment exercise gave a snapshot of progress and current status of institutional transformations for scaling-up nutrition in Bangladesh through scoring and feedback from the attendees of the workshop.



Picture 8: Participants of the SUN Self Assessment Workshop.

MAMI Project Visit in Barisal

Dr. Md. Moudud Hossain, Deputy Director, DGHS and Program Manager, NNS along with Dr. Md. Moinul Haque, Planning Specialist, NNS/IPHN visited Barisal Sadar upazila and observed MAMI research activities on 19 May 2015 long with Dr Yasir Arafat, Project Manager, MAMI Research .

They observed ongoing prevalence survey for infants <6 months with acute malnutrition in Billubari village of Kashipur union and Dharmadi village of Roypasha Korapur union. They observed the methods and quality of data collection using tablet computers at various research sites, and its supervision process onsite and offsite. They also visited the referral site for infants <6months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) at Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal to observe their involvement and readiness in the SAM corner at the Paediatric unit.



Picture 9: At Household in Billubari village of Kashipur union, Barisal Sadar; observing prevalence survey data collection process using tablet

Launching Mobile Voice Call on Nutrition

Nutrition related Mobile Voice Call of the Government of Bangladesh was launched by the Honorable Speaker and Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP on 18 March, 2015 at CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Dhaka. The theme of the Launching of the mobile Voice Call has been enunciated for "Creating awareness: Combat malnutrition" This 29 seconds voice call focused on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), Maternal Nutrition and message on services availability.

This was an exciting initiative. The mobile voice call will directly contribute in improving awareness, behavior changes and nutritional practices for saving lives in Bangladesh.



Picture10: Launching Ceremony of "Nutrition related Mobile Voice Call".

Mr. Syed Monjurul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was the Chief Guest, Mr. Md. Nur Hossain Talukder, Director General- Directorate General of Family Planning, Dr. Makhduma Nargis, Additional Secretary-MoHFW and Project Director- RCHCIB and Dr. Md. Shah Nawaz, Additional Director General (Admin) Directorate General of Health Services were present as special guest. Ms. Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary (PH & WHO), MOHFW presided over the launching ceremony. Dr. Md. Alamgir Ahmed, Director, IPHN and Line Director, NNS was also present in the occasion.

Other activities

Workshop on “Other Micronutrients” in Arai hazar upazila

Workshop on “Other Micronutrients” was held in Arai hazar upazila of Narayanganj district. Dr. Md. Moudud Hossain, Deputy Director, DGHS & Program Manager, NNS; Dr. Taherul Islam Khan, Program Manager, NNS; Dr. Fatema Akter, Deputy Program Manager, NNS; Dr. Dulal Chandra Chowdhury, Civil Surgeon, Narayanganj and Dr. Ramesh Chandra Saha, UH&FPO, Arai hazar UHC were present in the program.



News 1: The nutrition workshop was reported on a local weekly newspaper named “Amader Arai hazar”

Progress Review Meeting on Mainstreaming Nutrition of TCM project



Picture 11: Participants of the meeting

TCM (Tackling Childhood Malnutrition) project of Save the Children organized a “Progress Review Meeting on Mainstreaming Nutrition” on 13 April 2015 at BRAC-CDM, Rajendrapur. The main objectives of the meeting were to share the progress and challenges in implementing nutrition interventions at Satkania, Kulaura, Nakla and Muladi upazilas and to identify recommendations for scaling up NNS recommended nutrition activities throughout the country.



Picture 12: Participants of the workshop

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Taherul Islam Khan, PM-NNS/IPHN while Dr. Md. Shah Nawaz, ADG (Admin), DGHS was present as Chief Guest in the meeting. The Civil Surgeons, DDFPs, UH&FPOs and UFPOs from the participating upazilas attended the meeting and discussed on different issues regarding mainstreaming nutrition at all level.

Training on IYCF and Maternal Nutrition for Internee Doctors

A training program on IYCF and Maternal Nutrition for Internee Doctors was conducted by Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) and was supported by NNS/IPHN in Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal. Dr. Md. Moudud Hossain, Deputy Director, DGHS and Program Manager, NNS was the Chief Guest in the inaugural session of the training program held on 19 May 2015. Dr. Md. Moinul Haque, Planning Specialist, NNS/IPHN and facilitators from SBMCH and BBF were also present on the occasion.



Picture 13: Participants of the meeting

COVERAGE OF NUTRITION SERVICES

Nutrition Services from IMCI-N corners

Figure 6 shows the online reporting status of IMCI & Nutrition corners in the 4th quarter of 2014 collected through HMIS software. Currently almost 300 IMCI & Nutrition Corners at upazila and district levels are reporting on nutrition related services through online HMIS software. In June 2015, online reporting came from 337 IMCI & Nutrition corners including nutrition service data (approximately).

Monthly Progress Report On IMCI-N Corners

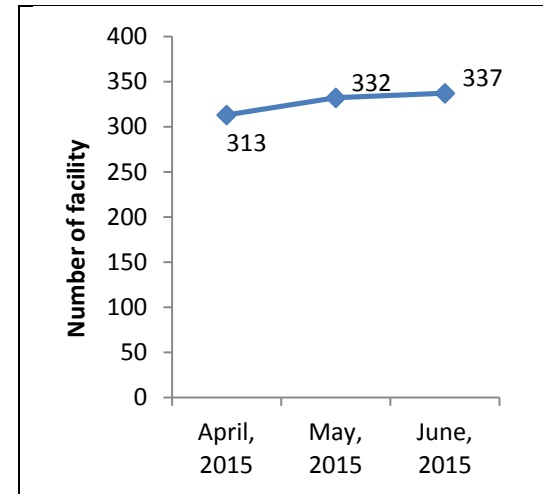


Figure 6: Monthly online reporting status from IMCI & Nutrition corners (April –June 2015)

In April, the number of reporting was little bit lower as 313 which collected on mid of May. Figure 7 shows, the graphs of services provided in the IMCI & Nutrition corners in the 5th quarter of 2015, sent through DHIS2 software. The graph shows that IYCF practices have decreased in the last month the reporting month (June, 2015).

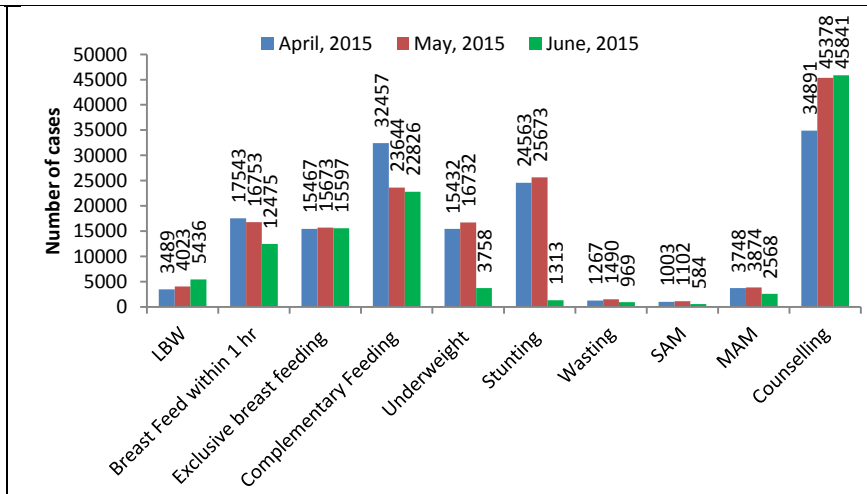


Figure 7: Number of under 5 children reached by IMCI & Nutrition corners and PLW who have taken nutrition counseling (April –June 2015)

Source: Online HMIS, MIS-DGHS

Nutrition Services from SAM units

Figure 8 shows that the Percentage of SAM facilities those provided SAM information in the last 3 months. These facilities have been providing reports to IPHN through e-mail or postal address. It is shown that the reporting rate, June is higher (70.1%) than month of May.

Figure 9 shows the status of discharged patients from different SAM units in the last 3 months. Among these the Cure-Rate is higher (70%) than others in the month of May. On the other hand, transferred or referred rates are lower than defaulter patients. It may be a reflection of the management of severe acute malnutrition the relevant SAM units which might have been improving with time.

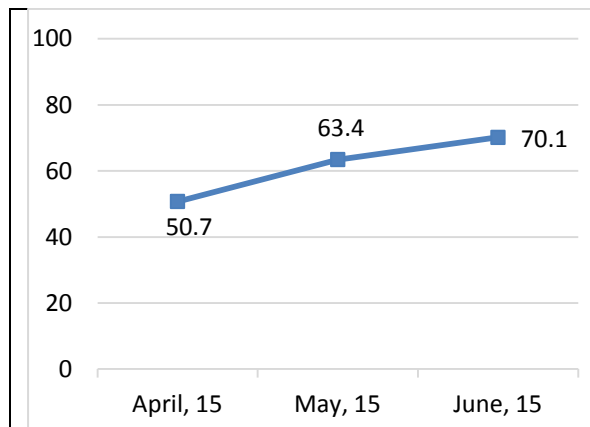


Figure 8: Percentage of received report from SAM Units by months (April –June 2015)

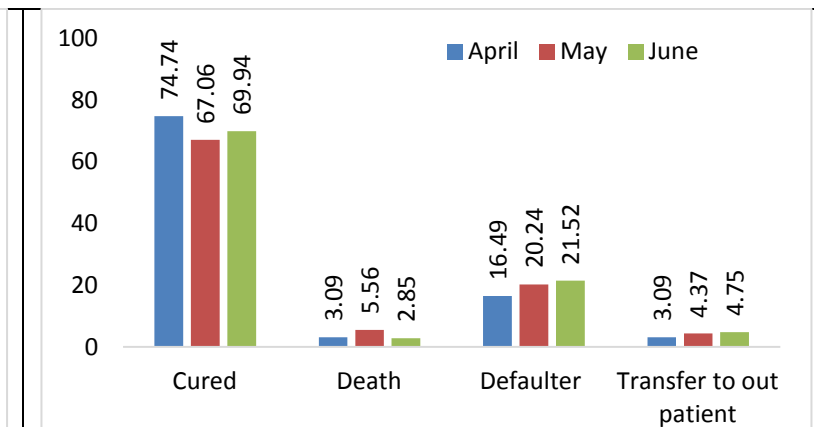


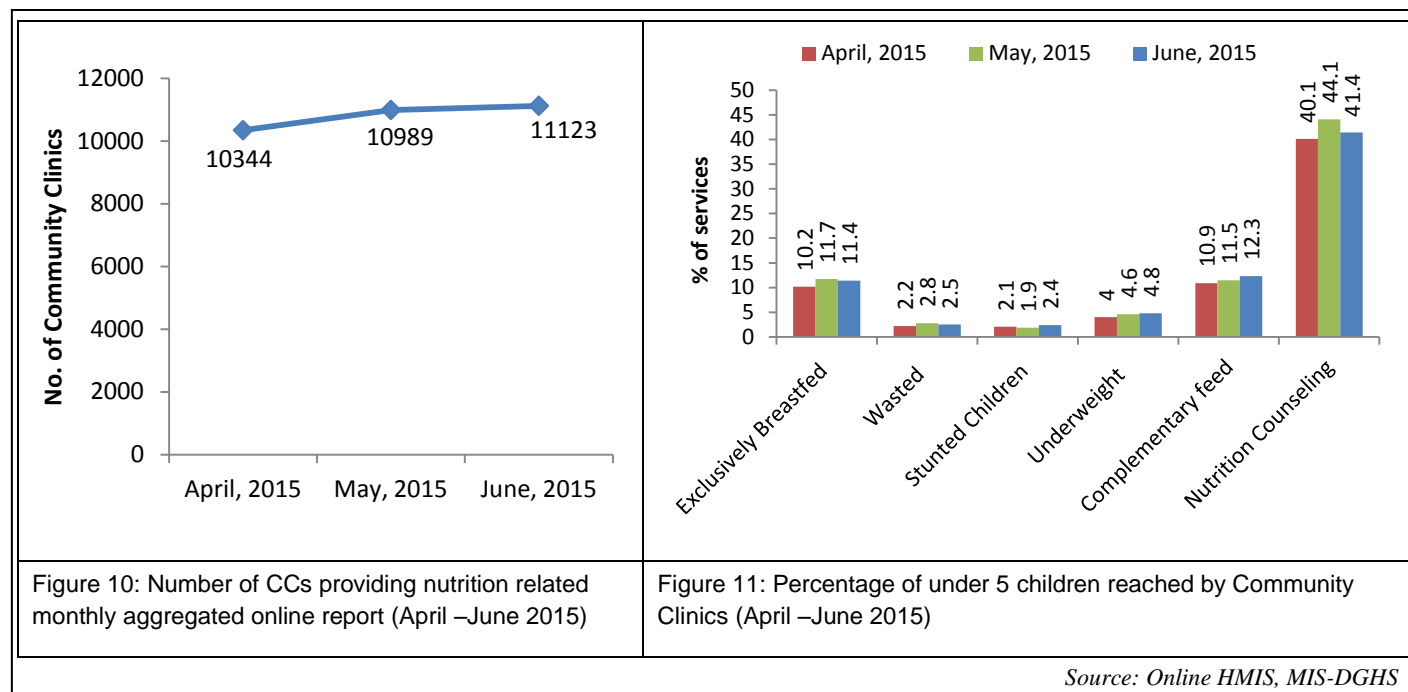
Figure 9: Percentage of SAM patients according to the discharged type by months (April –June 2015)

Source: SAM units

Nutrition Services from Community Clinic

Figure 10 shows, the number of community clinics sending aggregated online reports on nutrition related indicators in the 1st quarter of 2015 through HMIS data management software DHIS2. The figure shows the reporting tendency is increasing day by day. At present the reporting has increased more than 11000 CCs are reporting through online.

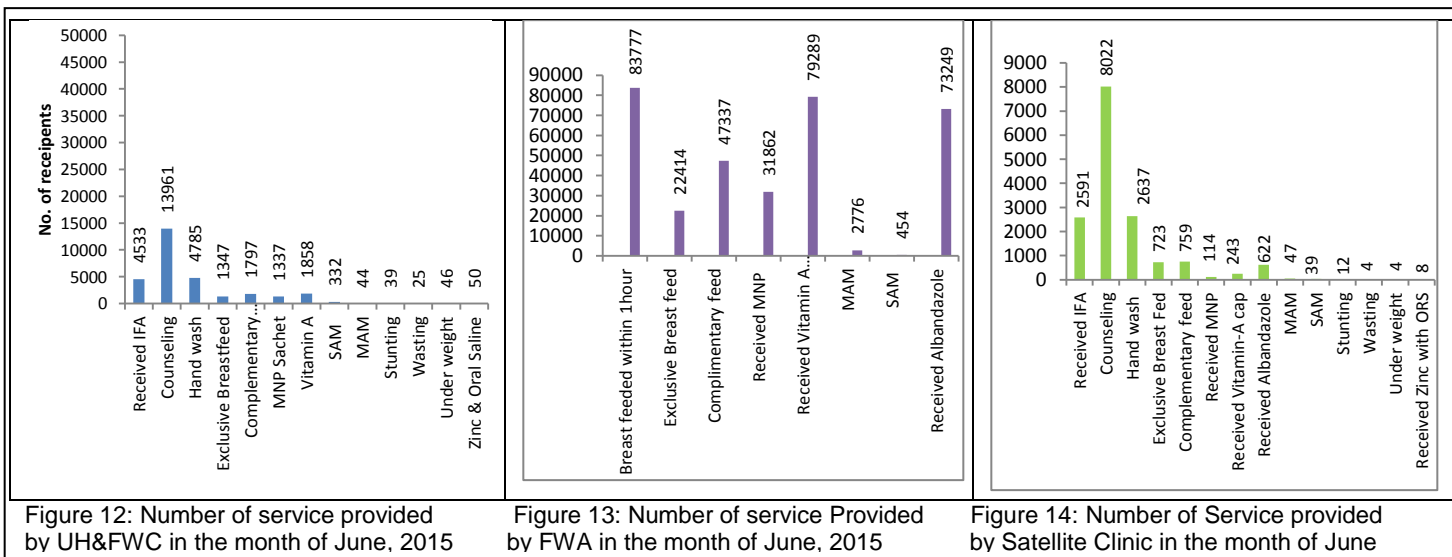
Figure 11 shows the graphs of services provided in Community Clinics in the 2nd quarter of 2015 submitted through online HMIS. The graph shows that the IYCF practice has been increasing in the last 3 months (April-June, 2015) in Community Clinics.



DGFP Reporting and Service Status

Figure 12 shows, the number of services provided in the UH&FWC in the last reporting month collected from DG-Family Planning, collected through its online information system. In this graph, counseling is comparatively high.

As well as, Figure 13 shows the graphs of services provided by FWAs showing IYCF practice which has been increasing gradually in the last month. Figure 9, describes the nutrition related services provided in Satellite Clinics in the last month.



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