Subject: Re: Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Counseling 6-23 Months
Posted by jruelbergeron on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 18:28:12 GMT
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The Global Financing Facility (GFF) Secretariat supports the proposal put forth by DataDENT.

The GFF Secretariat feels strongly that data on growth monitoring and promotion coverage should be included in the new DHS 8 questionnaires. Data on coverage of growth promotion that is tied to growth monitoring activities can be collected by additions to two of the categories of proposed questions put forth by DataDENT. The first is through an addition to DataDENT's proposal on child growth (labeled #6, please see comment there). The alternative option would be to include the source of information from which counseling on IYCF was received, building on DataDENT's proposal on IYCF counseling 6-23 months questions (labeled as #5, this thread). This recommendation is tied to the need to better understand how much growth promotion is being done as part of national growth monitoring and promotion programs/activities.

Evidence has demonstrated that growth monitoring as a stand-alone intervention produces little to no effect on child nutrition outcomes (Mangasaryan et al., 2011; Bhutta et al., 2008; Garner et al., 2000). Thus, its use is not recommended without adequate nutrition counselling and referrals (Bhutta et al., 2008). Without data on the extent to which growth monitoring is accompanied by promotion as it is meant to be by design, however, policy makers and program planners are limited in the degree to which they can inform program improvement decisions. As stated in DataDENT's proposal, 61% of the 167 member states who responded to the WHO 2016-17 Global Nutrition Policy review are implementing GMP, making it the second most widely implemented nutrition intervention globally. Moreover, over half of countries report that GMP happens monthly, representing an important opportunity to seize data on its coverage and functioning to stimulate appropriate, data-informed action.

References:
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Mangasaryan N, Arabi M, Schultink W. Revisiting the concept of growth monitoring and its possible role in community-based nutrition programs. Food Nutr Bull 2011;32(1):4253.