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Subject: Re: Women's Dietary Diversity Indicator  
Posted by [ellenpiwoz](#) on Wed, 09 Apr 2014 20:22:49 GMT  
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The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation strongly supports the recommendation from FANTA III. We would like to underscore the following points from other posts, namely:

Indicators of diet quality are basic data that are, to date, missing in the world's ability to identify causes of malnutrition. It is difficult to imagine where else, besides DHS, globally-comparable indicators of diet quality could be collected. There is strong, explicit demand for a women's diet diversity indicator from the nutrition community (please refer to the paper below as one example).

Women's dietary diversity is increasingly recommended as an indicator to track progress in improving nutrition through agriculture and other nutrition-sensitive programs. It is also the only indicator currently available that has been validated and shown to accurately reflect the micronutrient adequacy of the diet (an important dimension of diet quality) of women in developing countries. The regular collection of data on women's dietary diversity is critically important for development practitioners, program implementers and policy makers to measure the impact of their investments and track progress in improving access not only to adequate quantity of food but also adequate quality for all, and most importantly for nutritionally vulnerable women from the developing world.

Ref: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation "Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition in the post-2015 Framework": <https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/documents/Post%202015%20Food%20Security%20Discussion%20Paper.pdf>

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