Understanding Service Provision around Health and Nutrition in Select Woredas of Oromia Region in Ethiopia

Meghan Kershaw

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INTRODUCTION

• In Ethiopia, within the context of the Scaling up Nutrition Movement, the role of the frontline worker is crucial.

• Delivery of services
  - Nutrition specific (health services)
  - Nutrition sensitive (agricultural extension, WASH, gender mobilization)

• Given the reliance for frontline workers in achieving sustainable development and/or nutrition targets:
  - Important to examine their knowledge, attitudes and practices via implementation of key nutrition specific and sensitive activities.
STUDY DESIGN

• A quantitative survey of FLWs: Health Workers (HWs), Health Extension Workers (HEWs) and Development Agents (DAs)
• All available FLW, actively working in the Birth Cohort study areas were recruited for enrollment
• Sought to gain understanding of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of frontline workers (FLWs) in study woredas
## SAMPLE SIZE

560 frontline workers: 154 HEWs, 207 HWs and 199 DAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent Type</th>
<th>Gomma</th>
<th>Tiro Afeta</th>
<th>Woliso</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HW</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS PRESENTATION

Nutrition Knowledge
- Nutrition situation awareness relative to measured outcomes
- Training in nutrition received relative to nutrition knowledge scores

Attitudes
- Beneficiary service usage relative to effectively meeting needs
- FLW attitudes toward nutrition sensitive messages

Practices
- Provision of counseling versus available time for nutrition education and counseling
- Other challenges
### DESCRIPTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Gomma</th>
<th>Tiro Afeta</th>
<th>Woliso</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>50.9</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time lived in Woreda (Median value in years)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time worked in current position (Median value in years)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FLW NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE
## NUTRITIONAL SITUATION AWARENESS

### Yes Response: Is Nutrition of Infants and Children a big problem in this area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent Type</th>
<th>Woliso N (%)</th>
<th>Gomma N (%)</th>
<th>Tiro Afeta N (%)</th>
<th>Total N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>37 46%</td>
<td>17 23%</td>
<td>34 79%</td>
<td>88 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW</td>
<td>16 29%</td>
<td>6 9%</td>
<td>25 74%</td>
<td>47 31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HW</td>
<td>34 40%</td>
<td>31 36%</td>
<td>33 94%</td>
<td>98 47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>87 39%</strong></td>
<td><strong>54 24%</strong></td>
<td><strong>92 82%</strong></td>
<td><strong>233 42%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Yes Response: Is Nutrition of Mothers and Pregnant Women a big problem in this area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent Type</th>
<th>Woliso N (%)</th>
<th>Gomma N (%)</th>
<th>Tiro Afeta N (%)</th>
<th>Total N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>37 46%</td>
<td>14 19%</td>
<td>33 77%</td>
<td>84 42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW</td>
<td>12 22%</td>
<td>5 8%</td>
<td>23 68%</td>
<td>40 26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HW</td>
<td>29 34%</td>
<td>27 31%</td>
<td>28 80%</td>
<td>84 41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>78 35%</strong></td>
<td><strong>54 24%</strong></td>
<td><strong>84 75%</strong></td>
<td><strong>216 39%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MATERNAL NUTRITION PROBLEMS

Data from Recruitment of Birth Cohort Study

**Percentage of Pregnant Women below MUAC cutoff***

- All Women (n=4680)
- Goma (n=1560)
- Tiro Afeta (n=1564)
- Woliso (n=1559)

**Mean Dietary Diversity Score**

- Total (n=4600)
- Goma (n=1548)
- Tiro Afeta (n=1519)
- Woliso (n=1533)

**Prevalence of Altitude Adjusted Anemia*** in Pregnant Women

- All Women (n=4680)
- Goma (n=1560)
- Tiro Afeta (n=1561)
- Woliso (n=1559)

* (<23 cm)

* (<11g/dl adjusted for altitude)
Any Nutrition Training/Course: DA 36% HEW 83% HW 92%

When was your most recent Nutrition Training?

- DA
  - Previous 1 year: 30%
  - Previous 1-5 years: 30%
  - More than 5 years: 40%

- HEW
  - Previous 1 year: 50%
  - Previous 1-5 years: 20%
  - More than 5 years: 30%

- HW
  - Previous 1 year: 40%
  - Previous 1-5 years: 50%
  - More than 5 years: 10%
## NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Correct</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>HEW</th>
<th>HW</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s nutritional requirements remain the same when pregnant as before they were pregnant.</td>
<td>FALSE N</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>93.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good nutrition (a nutritious diet) plays an important role in preventing diseases</td>
<td>TRUE N</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversified food during pregnancy is important to ensure proper physical and mental development of the fetus</td>
<td>TRUE N</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast milk contains all of the necessary nutrients and water that a baby needs until the end of the sixth month.</td>
<td>TRUE N</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>97.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FLW ATTITUDES
Percentage of FLW reporting that families in their area regularly use their health or agricultural services.

Top Reasons why not:

- Lack of Motivation (64%)
- Perception of quality of service (38%)
- Do not see value, importance (23%)

*multiple responses allowed*
MEETING SERVICE NEEDS EFFECTIVELY

Percent Reporting Meeting Needs

- DA
- HEW
- HW

Reasons for Not Meeting Needs

- No funding (52%)
- Lack of logistics (42%)
- High Public Demand (26%)
- Inadequate Human Resources (21%)*

*Multiple Responses
### NUTRITION ATTITUDES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrition-Friendly Responses</th>
<th>DA (n = 199)</th>
<th>HEW (n = 154)</th>
<th>HW (n = 207)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking demonstrations have a decisive role in improving nutritional status of the community. (AGREE)</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing the community improved seeds has no role in improving nutrition status of the beneficiaries. (DISAGREE)</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is not (DA/HEW/HWs) responsibility to promote homestead gardening in this kebele. (DISAGREE)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing homestead garden training for women is a futile exercise. (DISAGREE)</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of nutrition education is the responsibility of (DA/HEW/HWs). (AGREE)</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to diversified diet can solve some of the nutritional problems of the community. (AGREE)</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a woman’s responsibility to avoid getting pregnant. (DISAGREE)</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FLW PRACTICES & CHALLENGES
Out of 193 HW who reported providing nutrition counseling to patients, 84% reported that the amount of time they regularly spend on counseling is insufficient.

61% of HEW and 73% of HW feel they are not sufficiently consulted on community nutrition programs (lack of shared information and engagement)
PROMOTING NUTRITION:

DA Challenges

- 38% reported people resistant to accept new technology
- 23% reported insufficient resources (financial/human)
- 27% reported lack of planning/coordination/implementation
- 24% reported lack of training or refresher training
CONCLUSIONS

Differences in perception of nutrition as a critical issue (across woredas and between respondent types)

Despite perception of high beneficiary usage across sectors, perception of ability to meet needs was comparably low in two of the woredas. Limitations include high demand and lack of logistics and resources (fiscal and human)

Fewer DA’s report receiving training in nutrition, but nutrition knowledge scores are as high of those of HEWs and HWs.

High rates of positive nutrition attitudes across respondent types.