Monitoring visit schedules of community resource persons (CRPs) trained on Multiple Micronutrient Powder sachets (MNPs) were delivered through a network of community resource persons (CRPs) trained on MNPs.

A total of 180 MNP sachets were distributed, to a cohort of 17,156 infants 6-10 months old, in three cycles over 18 months. Formative research was conducted to develop information, Education and Counseling (IEC) material. CRPs visited children regularly to counsel on dosage, benefits, and method of administration and also measured adherence through systematic visit schedule.

A project monitoring information system (MIS) to streamline the routine monitoring and supportive supervision was developed.

In Rawalakot district, 99% of the children 6-24 months registered in project area received 180 sachets of MNPs of which 20% consumed all 180 while 94% consumed at least 80% (145+) sachets. In Khushab, 99% children received 180 sachets of MNPs of which 25% consumed all while 98% consumed at least 80% (145+) sachets.

This operational research demonstrated that distribution of MNPs is feasible for the remaining 40% population by partnering with a large community based organization.

The overall prevalence of anemia (Hb<10.99gm/dL) in children under five years is 62% (National Nutrition Survey 2011).

Home fortification of foods with MNPs is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to improve iron status and reduce anemia among children.

In 2008, MI supported the Lady Health Workers’ program (LHW) in Pakistan to complete a pilot project which demonstrated that the integration of MNPs into the LHW program was both feasible and effective in reducing anemia among children. The LHW program covers only 60% of the population; to reach areas not covered by LHWs, an alternate demonstration project was implemented by MI working through a network of community resource persons (CRPs) working under the National Rural Support Program (NRSP), a large community based organization.

The MNPs intervention is well embedded in the complementary feeding program messages and it’s administration and benefits have been clearly defined.

The objective of the project was to reduce anemia among children 6-24 months not currently reached with MNPs through LHWs by testing an alternative MNP delivery platform in Khushab and Rawalakot Districts.

A negligible proportion of children reported incidence of diarrhea after consuming MNPs at the end of three cycles.

Reports indicated MNPs are highly acceptable in the community and a mechanism of non-governmental community based organization worked to reach areas not covered by LHWs.

This demonstrates a successful approach for partnering with non-governmental community-based organizations to develop an alternative MNP distribution platform for populations not reached by government LHW program. Similar platforms may be of interest in areas where the governmental programs are not reaching all desired recipients.

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REFERENCES