

Evaluate strategies for improving household nutritional diversity in Mali

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Key research activities

- Strengthen the capacity of agriculture extension agents to deliver nutrition message
- Develop Behavior Change Communication approach to foster adoption of infant, young child and women optimal nutrition practices.
- Evaluate strategies for improving household nutritional diversity in Mali

Results and main findings

Evaluation of Dietary Diversity Score showed that:

- More than two thirds of the households targeted by nutrition activities had a high probability of being food secure at the end of the lean period.
- More than 80% of targeted women of child bearing age and young children still exhibited low Dietary Diversity Score.
- The prevalence of stunting and wasting are 30% and 14% respectively in targeted communities.

Implications of the research for generating development outcomes

- Household economic access to food is not always translate to improve quality of individual's diet of household's members and especially of women and young children.
- Identification and addressing barriers to behavior change in addition to more efforts on community mobilization and BCC are needed to improve intra-household accessibility of food to women of child-bearing age and young children.

How this work would continue in Africa RISING phase 2

Strengthening the capacity of targeted communities to adopt improved nutrition practices is necessary for the sustainable eradication of under five year malnutrition.

In AFRICA RISING phase 2, it is planned to:

- Continue with Behavior Change Communication and Community Mobilization.
- Strengthen the capacity of targeted communities to growing, processing, post-harvest handling and processing of healthy and nutritious food.

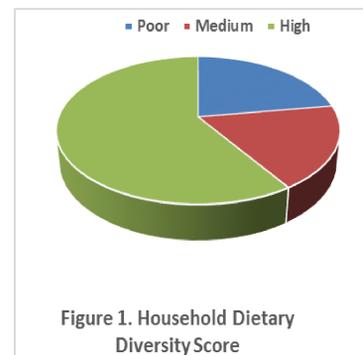


Figure 1. Household Dietary Diversity Score

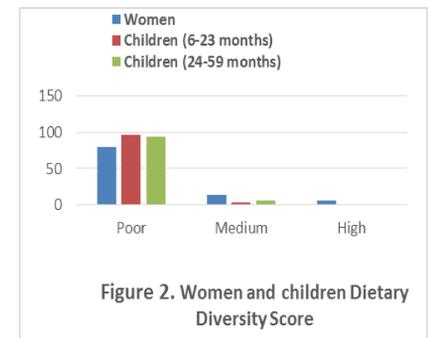


Figure 2. Women and children Dietary Diversity Score

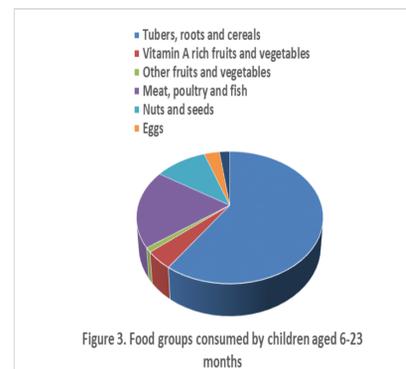


Figure 3. Food groups consumed by children aged 6-23 months

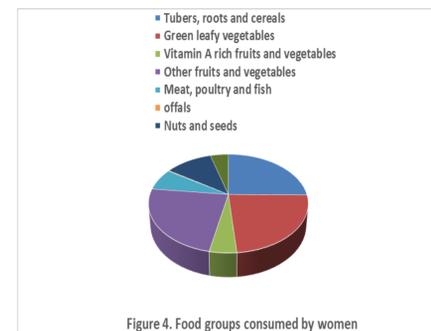


Figure 4. Food groups consumed by women

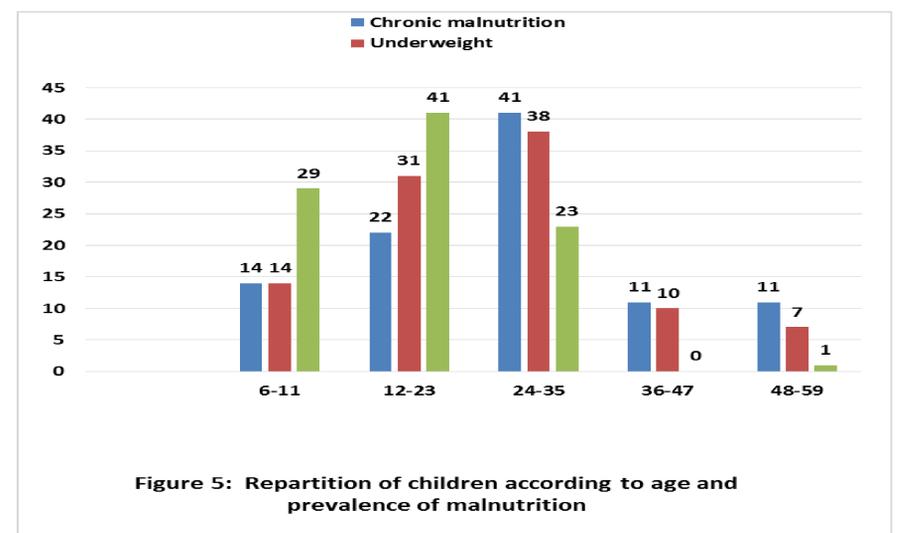


Figure 5: Repartition of children according to age and prevalence of malnutrition

Current partnerships and future engagements for out scaling

Partnerships have been developed between ICRISAT, AVRDC and AMEDD, IER and AMASSA through the implementation of nutrition field school and beneficial linkages with other USAID MALI-funded project.