

Helping Babies Thrive: Management of Small and Nutritionally at-risk Infants under Six months and their Mothers (MAMI)

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1. BACKGROUND & PURPOSE



Globally, 1 in 5 infants <6 months are wasted
1 in 5 infants <6 months are stunted
1 in 5 infants <6 months are underweight
1 in 5 infants <6 months are born low birthweight

Resource: Lelijveld N, McGrath M, Mertens A, Mwangome M, Talbert A, Rana R, et al. Growth failure in infants younger than 6 months: a scoping review. Submitted to WHO scoping consultation on growth failure in infants under six months: ENN; December 2020.

Purpose:

- To catalyze impact for small and nutritionally at-risk infants <6 months and their mothers by refining and testing new approaches and tools that complement the existing package of MAMI care in seven countries.
- To take strides towards reaching Save the Children's MAMI Mission: To enable infants <6 months to survive and thrive through increased quality and availability of services for small and nutritionally at-risk infants <6 months and their mothers by scaling up multi-sector programming, enhancing capacity, filling evidence and learning gaps and actively engaging with partners as a global leader.



MAMI
Management of Small & Nutritionally at-Risk Infants under 6 months & their Mothers
MAMI Care Pathway Package

The MAMI Care Pathway, developed by the MAMI Global Network, Emergency Nutrition Network and The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, draws upon and complements existing national and international guidance and protocols.

MAMI Global Network, ENN, LSHTM. MAMI Care Pathway Package. v3. 2021. <https://www.ennonline.net/mamicarepathway>



Left: Newborn support demonstration for health workers in Nigeria.



Right: Dyad nutritional assessment and delivery of Lipid Nutrient Supplement Paste-Small Quantity, a high-energy fortified food used for the prevention of acute malnutrition, for an at-risk Wayuu lactating woman in La Guajira, Colombia.

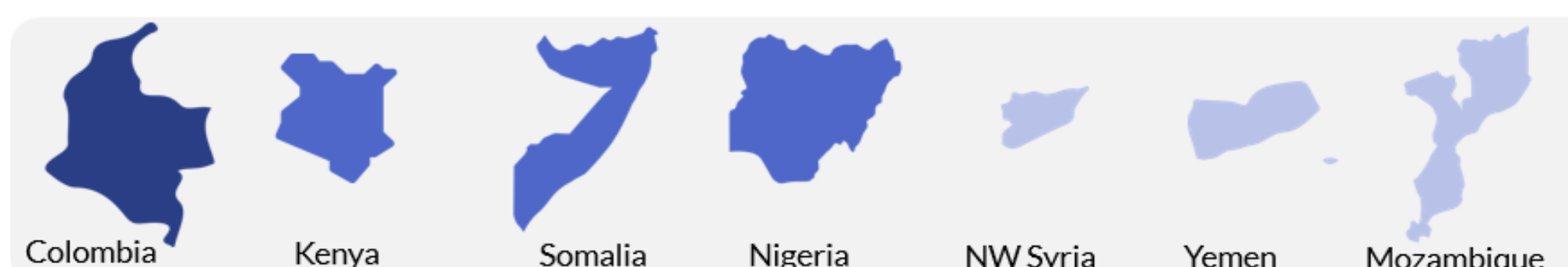
2. APPROACH

Through the Helping Babies Thrive project, Save the Children is:

- Improving **access** through increased community screening & expanded engagement of community workers in MAMI,
- Improving the **quality** of the support provided to nutritionally at-risk amongst infants less than 6 months and their mothers,
- Ensuring services are **inclusive** for adolescent mothers and people with disabilities,
- Expanding quality of and integration with **preventative** services,
- Ensuring maximum **learning and evidence-generation** to benefit the global good.

Donor: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Locations:



Save the Children have been integrating the MAMI Care Pathway into health and nutrition humanitarian response portfolios since 2016. As of today, we have integrated MAMI in to our response in eight countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, Mozambique, Colombia, Yemen and Syria) & have five in planning (Venezuela, Sudan, Haiti, South Sudan & DRC).

To explore key MAMI resources, please scan the QR code:



3. KEY FINDINGS

In year one of this multi-year project, Save the Children has:

- Developed MAMI low-literacy tools, including a MAMI Screening Tool & referral form, community health worker (CHW) MAMI reporting form & a CHW training package for use in Somalia & Kenya Somali region.
- Adapted and delivered a frontliner training package for mental health and psychosocial support for mothers enrolled in MAMI in Somalia & Nigeria.
- Identified antenatal risks for low birthweight & small for gestational age babies have been used to design an antenatal care (ANC) risk assessment and monitoring tool. At-risk pregnant women and girls are linked to preventative maternal nutrition interventions including balanced energy protein (BEP), maternal micronutrient supplementation (MMS), and enhanced nutrition counselling, alongside breastfeeding mothers enrolled in MAMI.
- Identifying gaps in newborn health services, procurement of medical equipment and supplies and capacity development to strengthen access to quality newborn care as part of an integrated MAMI approach.
- Initiated formative research in Nigeria & Somalia to understand barriers and facilitating factors to access and quality care for adolescent mothers within the MAMI Care Pathway.
- In all countries, a standard set of MAMI monitoring, evaluation, and learning tools has been put in place allowing for standardized indicators and foundational learning and monitoring systems to identify evidence-based best practices and adaptive and real-time improvements to interventions.
- Continued to build MAMI capacity in the seven countries, four regions, and in the global team.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- Save the Children's MAMI work is contributing to reaching the MAMI Global Network's vision that every small and nutritionally at-risk infant <6 months and their mother is supported to survive and thrive.
- By leveraging internal strengths and learnings, Save the Children's MAMI implementation is progressively improving and expanding.
- Save the Children's experiences will contribute to global learning on how best to identify and support infants <6 months to benefit others wanting to strengthen their nutritional care for mother-infant pairs who are nutritionally at-risk.

5. NEXT STEPS

In year two, Save the Children will continue to build on year one initiatives & introduce new initiatives, including:

- Include infants <6 months in SMART Surveys in Kenya & Nigeria & document experiences & learning
- Integrate water, sanitation & hygiene into the MAMI care package, with a focus on caregiver handwashing as the primary contamination pathway for this age group
- Take steps to ensure that MAMI care is inclusive for persons with disability through creation and facilitation of a disability-inclusive MAMI training for frontline health workers in Somalia



MAMI Screening Tool for Somali CHWs