

COVID-19

IMPACT ON SERVICES AND FOOD SECURITY

INDIA

India is facing extreme levels of the double crises—COVID-19 and health systems challenges—carrying the second highest burden of COVID-19 in the world with nearly 8 million total confirmed cases and 119,502 deaths, as of 28 October 2020. Beyond the direct impacts from the virus, the pandemic will likely have a range of consequences for the provision and use of services and on food insecurity and diets. This study is a follow up to a cluster-randomized trial (2017-2019) which assessed the impact of strengthening delivery of maternal nutrition interventions in Uttar Pradesh, India. The endline survey was completed in December 2019, just before the onset of COVID-19. The pre-existing contacts and the data from before the pandemic provided the opportunity for this follow-up study to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 on health and nutrition service delivery and utilization, as well as on food security.

EVALUATION DESIGN

Longitudinal quantitative surveys, including qualitative interviews with key informants

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What frontline or local management adaptations to health and nutrition service delivery are in place due to COVID-19?
- How has COVID-19 affected households' exposure to health and nutrition services, nutrition practices, food security, and other aspects?
- What feasible solutions arise based on adaptations during the pandemic that have the potential to strengthen delivery and uptake of essential health and nutrition interventions in the context of COVID-19 and beyond?

OUTCOMES

1. Impact of COVID-19 on:
 - Food security
 - Dietary diversity
 - Other aspects of life—e.g., employment
 - Service provision and use
2. Coping strategies during COVID-19
 - In households
 - In provision and use of services (adaptations made)

TIMELINE

December 2019 – August 2020

METHODS

- Phone survey in August 2020
- Health Management Information System (HMIS) data analysis between December 2019 and June 2020
- Key informant interviews with block managers