Changes in household food insecurity between enrollment and exit from a blanket supplementary feeding program for children 6 – 23 months old in Burkina Faso

Background and Objective:
• To assess household food insecurity between program enrollment and exit in a longitudinal trial assessing the effectiveness of four supplementary foods in the prevention of stunting and wasting in young children participating in a blanket supplementary feeding program between Aug/2014 – Jun/2015

Methods:
• Data were collected at baseline and exit from the program
• Descriptive analysis of household food insecurity was conducted among participating households
• Change in Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) score (endline – baseline), stratified by baseline HFIAS category and season of program enrollment and exit were calculated

Results:
• 6,092 children enrolled: 5,236 completed the program; 5,206 analyzed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggregate (all study arms combined)</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Endline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HFIAS score, mean±SD, median (min, max)</td>
<td>3.81±4.82, 2 (0, 27)</td>
<td>4.31±4.95, 3 (0, 26)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HFIAS category, n (%)</th>
<th>Food secure</th>
<th>Mildly Food Insecure</th>
<th>Moderately Food Insecure</th>
<th>Severely Food Insecure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2229 (43)</td>
<td>705 (14)</td>
<td>1417 (28)</td>
<td>780 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1815 (35)</td>
<td>836 (16)</td>
<td>1537 (30)</td>
<td>944 (18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Disaggregated by season, mean changes varied: dry/dry 0.36±5.76, n=1066; rainy/rainy 1.89±5.42, n=1; dry/rainy -1.65±6.17, n=890; dry/rainy 1.10±5.82, n=3080
• Households that were food secure or mildly food insecure at baseline had an increase in food insecurity at endline, on average, while households that were moderately or severely food insecure at baseline had a decrease in food insecurity at endline, on average.

Conclusions:
• Overall, food insecurity increased among households enrolled in a supplementary feeding program for young children, but varied according to baseline status and season of program enrollment and exit
• More work needed to understand the dynamics of household food insecurity in the context of a supplementary feeding program

Keywords: Supplementary Feeding, malnutrition, household food insecurity, Burkina Faso

No conflicts of Interest

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