



Towards a local system for screening child malnutrition

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Introduction

- Screening is crucial in the fight against malnutrition
- But the conventional screening tools available are unfamiliar to rural caregivers.
- While caregivers are primarily responsible for child health and they have their own methods for detecting malnutrition in children.
- However, this local method and the way in which it is used are unknown to all community members and beyond the communities

Objective

To describe the local method used by caregivers to assess the nutritional status of their children

Study area

- Nikki et Banikoara/Benin
- Baatonu, Fulani and Gando ethnic groups

Approach : Co-inquiry on child nutritional status assessment

1 Description of the local method

- Discussion on local malnutrition types and forms
- Discussion on signs/symptoms
- Discussion on diagnosis process



2 Planning the Pilot Phase

- Selecting expert caregivers
- Planning
- Proposal of the expert caregivers to be involved in the assessment



3 Pilot survey

- Team: Expert caregivers and investigator
- Diagnosis of 10 children
- Documentation of diagnosis process



4 Briefing

- Presentation of pilot survey results to the mothers
- Discussion on new signs/symptoms



Data collection and analysis

- Groups discussion
- The recordings of the interviews were transcribed and then content analysed using MAXQDA software

Results

1-Category of malnutrition

Ethnicity	Malnutrition forms			
	Normal	Less Severe	Moderately Severe	Severe
Gando	DJANDOUDÔ	PEOURI GONAN KOURI/KAWÊ	PEOURI TAKINORI	«PEOURI FOROUA
Baatonu	BOUANDO	POUTANKOU	-	TIKPIROU
Fulani	DJANDOUDÔ	«DANERI	-	PEOURI

2-Diagnostic process of local method : Decision tree

Baatonu : 11 signs/symptoms

Edema on the cheek and feet/soft cheek/Bloated belly

Tikipirou

Soft body

Tikipirou

Change in complexion

Tikipirou

Red and limp hair

Poutankou

Weight loss

Poutankou

Vibration of the fontanel

Poutankou

Pallor of the palms of the hands/abnormal blood flow to hands and feet

Normal

child continues to be breastfed

Fever/dentition

Poutankou

Child eats sand or clay or charcoal

Poutankou

Other diseases to check

Gando : 16 signs/symptoms

Pale eye / Diarrhea/Weight loss /Child still quiet

Pale face

Peouri kawé

Other disease

The child does not eat well anymore/Wanting to eat everything but not eating anything

Pale body

Peouri kawé

Other disease

Pale foot/watery eyes/Diarrhea/Red, limp hair/Weight loss

Pale body

Peouri takinori

Other disease

The child does not eat well anymore/Child eats sand or clay

Peouri takinori

Edema of the feet/Sex tends to disappear in the pubis area/Pain in the chest/Swelling of the infra-orbital pocket

Peouri foroua

Normal

Fulani: 10 signs/symptoms

Weight loss

Peouri daneri

The child sleeps all the time

Child still quiet

The child does not eat well anymore

Peouri daneri

Other disease

Soft body/Edema on cheek and feet/soft cheek

Peouri

Child eats sand or clay

The child does not eat well anymore

Peouri

Other disease

Heavy breathing

Bloated belly

Peouri

Other disease

5 Similar signs/symptoms

- Oedema of cheeks and feet
- Child eating sand or clay
- Child not eating well
- Weight loss
- Pale eyes

Legend

- Yes
- No
- Signs/symptoms
- Diagnostic result

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Starting point of reliable maternal malnutrition screening system

Conclusion



Similarities between the methods reflecting local expertise



Possible use of their differences to improve each method through mutual learning



Possible integration into the current community-based nutrition surveillance system



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