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 comunity 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 cargivers to be involved in the assessment

3 Pilot survey

- Team: Expert cargivers 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/symtoms

Gando : 16 signs/symtoms

Fulani: 10 signs/symtoms

5 Similar signs/symtoms

- 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

Conclusion

- Starting point of reliable maternal malnutrition screening system
- 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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