



## INTRODUCTION

Ideal IYCF practices rehearse stay basic, including when moms are affirmed or suspected to have COVID19. The various advantages of breastfeeding significantly exceed the likely dangers of ailment related with the virus. WHO and UNICEF suggest that moms with suspected or affirmed COVID19- be urged to start or proceed to breastfeed and empowered to stay with their newborn child and practice skin-to-skin principle. At the point when severe sickness keeps a mother from proceeding with direct breastfeeding, she ought to be supported and encouraged to express milk; and breastmilk must be given securely to the infant, while applying appropriate infection anticipation and control measures. The availability of feeding with donor human milk, wet nursing (defined as another woman breastfeeding the child), & appropriate milk formula (feasible, safe, & available) should also be considered as another options.

## MATERIALS & METHODS:

This analysis report was concluded based on an online survey (by mobile phones) that have been conducted remotely by two Nutrition specialist members in AAH – Syria mission in September 2020.

### Inclusion criteria:

- Health workers from 5 targeted primary health cares in Aleppo and Rural Damascus.
- Health workers trained on IYCF/PSS programs by AAH.

### Data collection:

- Remote consent approval was collected at baseline.
- Surveyed by remote semi-structured interviews via mobile technology targeting five health care facilities in Aleppo and Rural Damascus during September 2020.
- Adoption of IYCF recommendations, breastfeeding alternatives, breastfeeding related misconceptions, and food alternatives in the context of COVID19- data were collected.
- Socioeconomic status, gender, and protection impact on the adoption of IYCF practices data were collected.

## RESULTS:

Figure1-: Number of health workers adopting IYCF recommendations in the context of COVID19- with pregnant and lactating women. (n=18, Aleppo), (n=10, Rural Damascus).

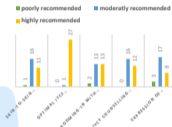


Figure2-: Number of health workers adopting different options when mother confirmed or suspected with COVID19- is too unwell to breastfeed (n=18, Aleppo), (n=10, Rural Damascus).

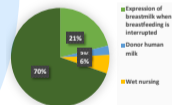
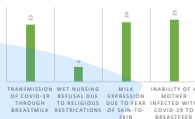


Figure3-: Number of health workers mentioning the adoption of False misconception regarding IYCF practices in the context of COVID19- (n=18, Aleppo), (n=10, Rural Damascus).



## RESULTS:

Figure4-: Number of health workers mentioning the increase in different ways to promote infant formula as an alternative to breast milk in the context of COVID19- (n=18, Aleppo), (n=10, Rural Damascus).

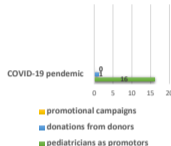


Figure5-: Number of health workers implementing counseling regarding complementary feeding and food alternatives in the context of COVID19- and its negative impact on the economic situation. (n=18, Aleppo), (n=10, Rural Damascus).



Figure6-: Number of health workers mentioning the impact level of the economic status, gender, & protection on IYCF practices and service delivery in the context of COVID19-. (n=18, Aleppo), (n=10, Rural Damascus).



## SUMMARY OF OPEN COMMENTS HIGHLIGHTING CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:

- Misconceptions about IYCF practices in the context of COVID19- are widely reported by most PHCs.
- Different decision makers interfering in applying IYCF practices in the context of COVID19- are widely reported by most PHCs.
- PHCs that are adopting IYCF recommendations in the context of COVID19- are widely reported by most Health workers.

## FUTURE AREAS OF WORK:

- Investigating the distribution chain of BMS in various geographic areas and understanding consumption patterns and key drivers.
- Investigating the effectiveness of cash-based interventions and vouchers for improving IYCF outcomes.

## CONCLUSION:

Corona virus epidemic has manifested itself in several aspects affecting the health and social system worldwide, especially low middle-income countries (LMICs), including Syria. There are several factors that negatively affected the health system and society, including the economic sanctions on Syria, the deterioration of the Syrian currency, the high cost of living, the difficulty in securing livelihoods, the disruption of the infrastructure during the years of conflict, and recently the unknown fires in the Syrian coastline which resulted in the burning of most of farmlands.