



# MORE THAN POPEYE'S SPINACH: ANAEMIA PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

Presented to AMSANT CQI  
Collaborative

21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

# OVERVIEW

- Background
- Successes
- Lessons learned
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Next steps

# BACKGROUND

- Participated in the AMSANT Child Health Anaemia Collaborative until June 2021
- Excellent opportunity to learn and share from other services
- Provided a feedback loop to clinicians with monthly dashboards
- Shared responsibility within Miwatj - sparked conversations between programs (Child Health, Nutrition, Midwifery, Health Promotion, GPs, etc.)

# SUCCESS

## ANAEMIA PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

- Screening and management have been made a priority
  - i.e., following up on IM Ferrosig on the weekends (in some communities) if necessary, d/t timing

### Collaborating with other programs and services:

- Outreach to FaFT and the School
- For Zone 2 remote communities, link children in with the MECSH program
- Family-centered approach
  - *There is no such thing as a baby ... A baby alone cannot exist, but is essentially part of a relationship*
  - Connecting with grandmothers or other carers to ensure treatment is follow up

# LESSONS LEARNED

## ANAEMIA PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

- Oral iron administration does not always work (i.e. 4/7 days is a good result, we will continue this for 12 weeks until the treatment course is complete)
- Family centered-care is critical to success – mothers aren't always primary carers
- Training of other staff is critical - in-services on CARPA screening and treatment protocol
- Holistic care is essential – consider skin sores, persistent otitis media, infections

# CHALLENGES

## ANAEMIA PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

- Some staff struggle to promote timely introduction of solids, so the Child Health Nurse or Midwife supports this education
- Follow up doses of IM iron (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>) are not always completed because a clinician will take a follow up Hb and think the child is no longer anaemic, not understanding it is important to complete the whole treatment course
- Clinicians need more training to raise awareness and understand appropriate anaemia prevention and treatment strategies

# NEXT STEPS

- Miwatj Anaemia Collaborative
  - Food Security & Nutrition Strategy 2020-2024
- Food Security Position Statement
- Child Health Program Lead
- Rad 67, new kid on the block for Hb Testing

# LETS NOT FORGET POPEYE'S SPINACH



- It's not enough to say 'eat more spinach' – food supply issues, food preparation, etc.
- Anaemia prevention and management requires a collaborative approach





QUESTIONS?