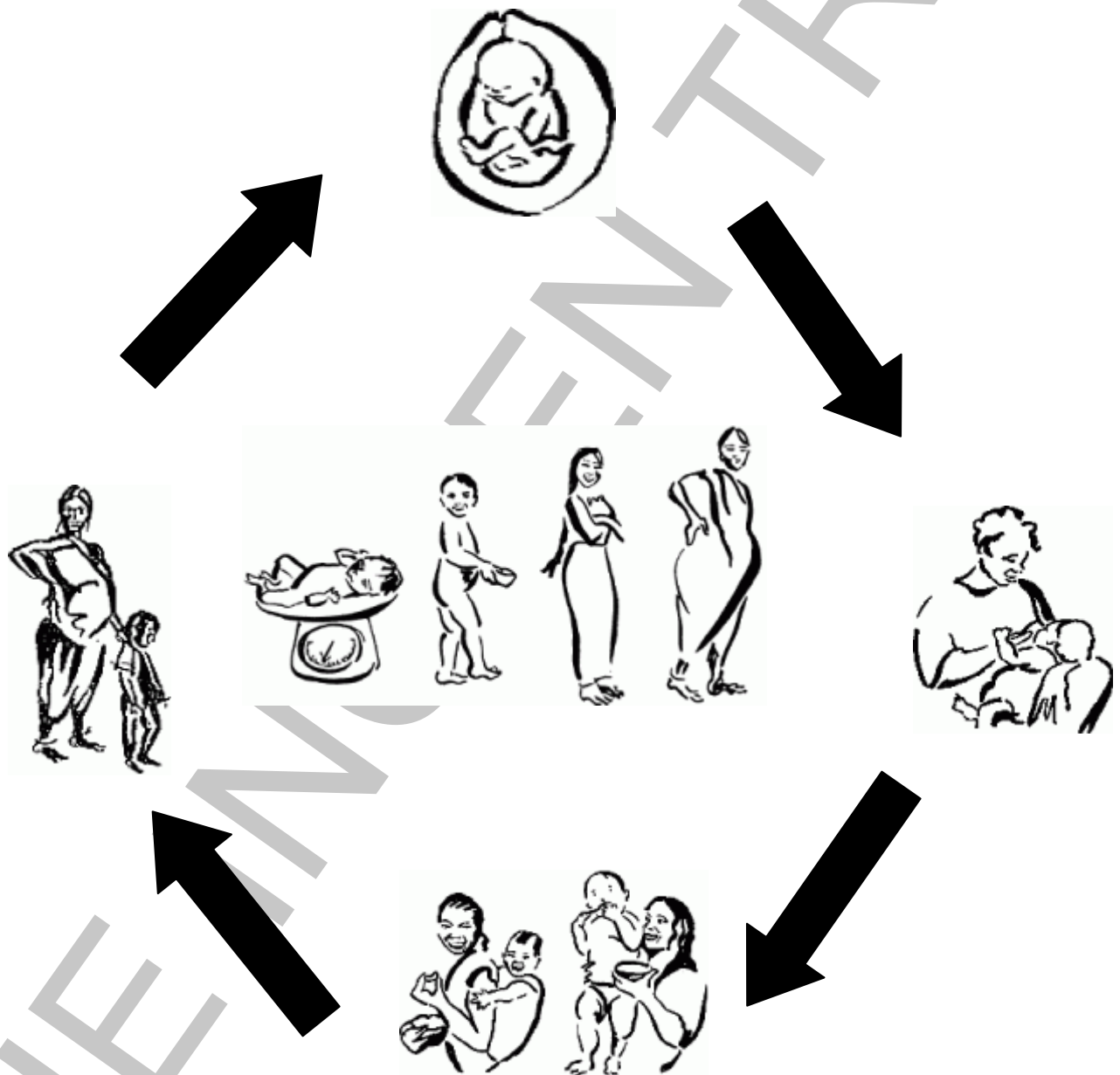


# Research Priorities in Maternal Nutrition

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## Priority Research Options in Maternal Nutrition

National Weighted Priority Ranks	Research Options
1	Determine characteristics of mother friendly work place policies and governance framework that enable optimal care and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and their children: identify barriers and challenges to implement(E.g., financial security and compensation for loss of pay; crèches at workplaces; provision for breast milk expression and storage for working mothers)
2	Identifying strategies for engaging the male partners, families and communities to improve the nutrition of women of reproductive age group and under-five children
3	Development and popularisation of improved varieties of traditional food items rich in micronutrients (e.g., iron rich millets): adoption of viable business models and modifying value and supply chains
4	Strategies to overcome barriers and improve implementation of WASH practices in the community with particular focus on poor, socially disadvantaged groups
5	Identifying challenges of intersectoral partnerships between agriculture, nutrition and health sectors
6	Identify program innovations to improve delivery and compliance to therapeutic and prophylactic supplementation of Iron and Folic Acid in women of reproductive age group and adolescents (E.g. IEC; co-administration of parenteral iron with antenatal tetanus toxoid; simultaneous deworming, absorption enhancers like Vit. C rich foods, directly observed administration; developing a mobile app, incentivization; co-packaging of IFA tablets with sanitary napkins)
7	Development and evaluation of a governance model for improving mother and child nutrition [e.g., setting up a multi-sectoral (including community representation) District Nutrition Board that oversees implementation and monitors the district nutrition programs particularly those focusing on women and children of poor and socially backward communities; making the Block Nutrition Development Plan operational as suggested by the Nutrition Coalition, etc.]
8	Developing strategies to overcome the barriers for mothers to exclusively breast feed their infants for six months within the existing socio-cultural and economic environments

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National Weighted Priority Ranks	Research Options
9	Design context and culture specific nutritional interventions for preconception and post-conception women to promote optimal fetal growth, reduce the risk of LBW (preterm and SGA) and to minimize the risk of fetal programming for obesity and other chronic diseases in later life
10	Process, impact and efficiency of current programs to ensure food and nutrition security for poor and socially backward communities
11	Modifying existing IFA supplementation program to include Vit B12 and evaluating effectiveness, affordability and impact on prevalence of anemia in different age groups
12	Cost-effective strategies to make the ICDS food supplements (freshly cooked food and Take Home Ration) more nutritious, attractive and locally acceptable
13	Designing and evaluating curricula for skill building and their retention for health personnel to promote nutrition of women of reproductive age group, adolescents and EBF-IYCF for infants and children in community and health facilities
14	Identifying barriers and challenges <sup>^</sup> in translating the current IEC and BCC messages (related to both macro and micro nutrients) to improved dietary intake in women of reproductive age group and children, and developing strategies to overcome these <sup>^</sup> familial, social-cultural, economic, gender, demography, health system related, environment
15	Process, impact and economic evaluation of the programmatic services provided through the public health care system for prevention and control of nutritional anemia in different age groups: National Nutritional Anemia Prophylaxis Programme and nutrition supplementation services
16	Process, impact and economic evaluation of Iron and Folic Acid supplementation services in pregnant and reproductive age women: Barriers to effective implementation and strategies to improve coverage
17	Development and evaluation of novel and innovative point-of-care diagnostics for use by frontline workers and primary care physicians for identifying nutritional disorders

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National Weighted Priority Ranks	Research Options
18	Improving administrative data quality and strengthening data-driven monitoring, action and accountability at PHC and district levels for programs related to nutrition of women of reproductive age (E.g., building community based registry of maternal health and nutritional disorders, use of ICT, develop novel indicators)
19	Developing evidence-based strategies to accelerate the impact of current policies and programs aimed at empowering women's status in the society
21	Characterization of refractory anemia in women of reproductive age group and developing novel, affordable, therapeutic strategies
27	Epidemiology, etiological profile, risk and prognostic factors <sup>^</sup> of anemia in women of reproductive age & their health outcomes <sup>^</sup> biological, genetic, maternal, familial, social-cultural, economic, gender, demography, health system related, environment
36	Dynamics of iron absorption in individuals residing in diverse environmental and sanitary conditions, belonging to different socio-economic classes, and nutritional status