

All about Nutrition Data in the Service Provision Assessment (SPA) Survey

What is the Service Provision Assessment?

The Service Provision Assessment (SPA) is a nationally representative health facility assessment survey that provides a comprehensive overview of a country’s health service delivery. The survey covers formal sector health facilities, including public and private facilities. SPA surveys take a holistic approach to examining quality of care from multiple perspectives by looking at physical and human resources at a health facility as well as clinical interactions, both in terms of process and experience of care. The [revised SPA](#) was released in May 2022 and is structured around the SPA Quality of Care Framework (Figure 1).

How is SPA data collected?

The [revised SPA data collection tools](#) include:

- **Inventory** of service availability, facility infrastructure, equipment, medicines, and commodities
- **Health worker interviews** on their qualifications, workplace and professional development, recent in-service training, experience of verbal and physical violence in the workplace, and supervision
- **Observations of client-provider interactions** in antenatal care, family planning, and sick child care
- **Exit interviews** with clients in antenatal care, family planning, sick child care, and postnatal care, including their experience receiving respectful and supportive care
- **Simulations** on newborn resuscitation

Figure 1. SPA Quality of Care Framework

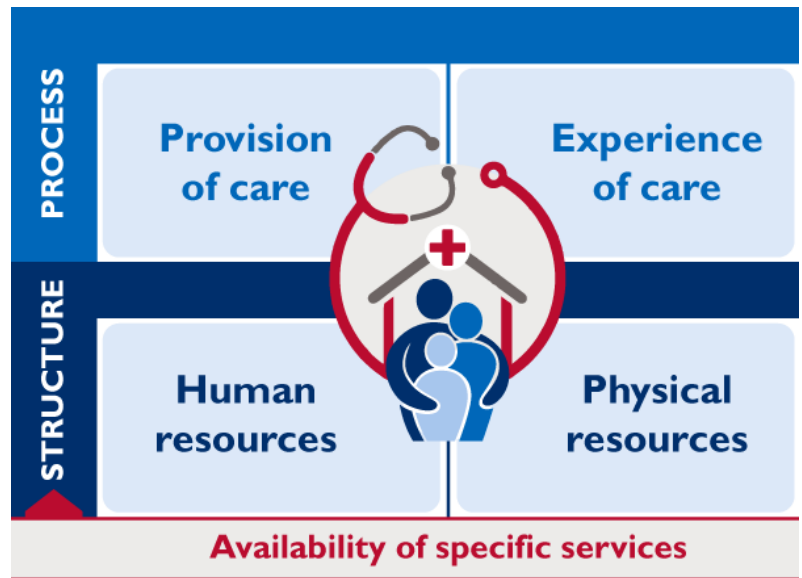


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What are the nutrition data collected in the SPA?

SPA surveys cover several key health services and this brief focuses on the nutrition data collected in the SPA. The SPA includes questions on a range of nutrition interventions received at critical points in the life cycle. It provides information on multiple aspects of quality of care of these interventions, including the human resources, guidelines, commodities and equipment necessary to support the interventions, as well as provision of counseling and other essential nutrition assessments.

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Antenatal Care Services

During antenatal care (ANC), pregnant women receive several nutrition-related interventions as outlined in the [recommendations on ANC for a positive pregnancy experience](#). Nutrition content in SPA include:

- **Availability and provision of micronutrient supplements:** iron, folic acid, iron and folic acid, calcium (all adult dosages), and multiple micronutrients (ANC dosage)
- **Availability of nutrition-related equipment:** adult weighing scale, measuring tape, blood pressure apparatus, anemia testing equipment and supplies, and urine dipsticks
- **Availability of guidelines in facility on:** ANC, micronutrient supplementation, anemia testing, and practices in compliance with International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
- **Health worker training in the last 24 months on:** ANC screening, counseling for ANC, micronutrient supplementation, anemia testing, diagnosis and treatment, and early and exclusive breastfeeding
- **Nutrition counseling on:** pregnant women's diet, physical activity and weight gain, micronutrient supplementation, breastfeeding counseling and support, infant and young child feeding for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and nutrition for HIV positive pregnant women
- **Physical assessments/tests for:** anemia, blood pressure, urine testing, weight



Newborn and Postnatal Care Services

The period during and after birth is critical for mothers and newborns. The [recommendations on postnatal care](#) (PNC) describe several important nutrition interventions for women and their babies and the [guidance on breastfeeding](#) in facilities describe recommended breastfeeding practices that support newborns.

Nutrition content in SPA include:

- **Availability of guidelines in facility on:** immediate (after birth) newborn care, preterm and small babies care, and practices in compliance with International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
- **Health worker training in the last 24 months on:** essential newborn care, early and exclusive breastfeeding
- **Newborn care:** vitamin K, immediate weighing, skin-to-skin, kangaroo mother care for low birthweight babies, early initiation of breastfeeding, rooming-in, avoidance of prelacteals
- **Nutrition counseling on:** postpartum nutrition, micronutrient supplementation, postnatal breastfeeding and support, infant feeding including responsive feeding

Child Curative Care and Growth Monitoring Services



The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) promotes the treatment and management of common childhood illnesses. The [IMCI guidelines](#) include nutrition assessment and treatment for malnutrition and anemia, and counseling on infant and young child feeding. Child growth monitoring is a routine service that involves the collection of children's weight and height/length measurements and is used to monitor a child's health and development. Nutrition content in SPA include:

- **Availability and provision of micronutrient supplements:** iron (pediatric dosage), zinc, and vitamin A (pediatric dosage)
- **Availability of nutrition-related equipment:** infant weighing scale, child weighing scale, height/length board, mid-upper arm circumference measuring tape, measuring tape, growth charts, anemia testing equipment, and supplies
- **Availability of guidelines in facility on:** IMCI, diagnosis and management of malnutrition, and growth monitoring
- **Health worker training in the last 24 months on:** IMCI, diagnosis/treatment of diarrhea, diagnosis/management of malnutrition, diagnosis/treatment of micronutrient deficiency, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, anemia testing, diagnosis and treatment
- **Nutrition counseling on:** breastfeeding, infant feeding, and feeding during illness
- **Physical assessments/tests:** anemia, weight, height, mid-upper arm circumference, oedema, unable to drink/breastfeed
- **Commodities:** Ready-to-use therapeutic food, Ready-to-use-supplementary food, F-75 or F-100 feeding formula, vitamin A capsules, zinc tablets, iron-containing formulations, oral rehydration solution (ORS), and low osmolarity ORS

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HIV/AIDS Care and Non-Communicable Disease Care Services

Malnutrition can increase HIV-related morbidity and mortality and nutrition assessment and support are an important component of the management of people living with HIV/AIDS. For non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes, nutrition assessment and support are also important for their diagnosis and management. Nutrition content in SPA include:

- **Availability of NCD medicines:** metformin, glibenclamide, injectable insulin, injectable glucose solution, ACE inhibitors, thiazide, beta blockers, calcium channel blockers, and aspirin
- **Availability of nutrition-related equipment:** adult weighing scale, stadiometer or height rod, measuring tape, blood pressure apparatus, anemia testing equipment and supplies, and urine dipsticks
- **Availability of guidelines in facility on:** diagnosis and management of diabetes, diagnosis and management of cardiovascular diseases, and HIV/AIDS care
- **Health worker training in the last 24 months on:** diabetes services, cardiovascular diseases, and HIV/AIDS care
- **HIV/AIDS care:** nutrition assessment, counseling, and support

What experience of care information is collected?

Experience of care information is primarily collected in the exit interviews for antenatal care, family planning, sick child care, and postnatal care services. While not specific to nutrition, the questions capture experience of care, access to care, client personal characteristics, and principal aspects of [person-centered care](#) and include:

- Respectful treatment
- Client engagement
- Client-provider communication
- Privacy
- Perceived discrimination
- Physical and verbal abuse

How can nutrition SPA data be used?

The health system plays an important role in providing universal coverage of [essential nutrition actions](#). SPA data can be used by countries and other stakeholders to improve nutrition in the health system by:

- Tracking coverage of the nutrition interventions in the health system
- Identifying gaps in the quality of nutrition services provided
- Evaluating facility readiness to provide nutrition services
- Assessing nutrition quality of care

