

FHFI Case Study

2



Due to the lack of qualified medical facilities in the rural regions of Banswara district, health problems of small children can quickly become a severe danger for their physical development.

Niru was only 15 days old when her parents Pamila and Valji Patel from the village Mundri in the Anandpuri block of Banswara district, Rajasthan, noticed a swelling on the girl's neck. Due to the swelling the small girl was not able to drink properly and started to cry in pain every time she was being breastfed. The parents brought her to a private hospital in Partapur and paid all the costs for the treatment themselves, because they did not trust in government institutions. The swelling, which turned out to be an abscess, decreased during the treatment, but after a few days it was as big as before. This happened two times and still the small girl had

problems with drinking, was losing weight and often had fever.

In a training (LANN-PLA meeting) of VAAGDHARA's project "Fight Hunger First Initiative" (FHFI) in a nearby village, relatives of the girl told about the case and the FHFI team got to know about the critical situation of the girl. They immediately visited the family and identified the girl, who was now at the age of 3 months, to be in the critically SAM category (severely acute malnourished). So Niru was brought to the Malnourishment Treatment Centre (MTC) in the District Hospital of Banswara.

After examining the girl, the doctors decided that an operation of the abscess is necessary and told the parents to bring her to a hospital in Udaipur. They refused to operate a child of only 3 months in their hospital since they deemed the operation to be too risky. But as a treatment in Udaipur is very time consuming and expensive, it was not possible for the family to bring the child to Udaipur. The FHFI team members called the Child Line 1098 and with the help of the Child Line team, the doctors were convinced to treat the girl in the MTC in Banswara.

So finally Niru got operated and after only four days the doctors sent her home, despite the fact that she was in the critical SAM category and required a longer stay and treatment in the MTC. After the operation the parents took care of the wound and FHFI team members visited the family for the follow-up of the nutritious status of the girl. After one month the

girl completely recovered from the operation and after two months she was out of the SAM category, because she is now able to drink her mother's milk without pain. Before the treatment in the District Hospital in Banswara the parents did not trust in government institutions, because they had heard of too many confusing formalities and rules. They spend a lot of money on private health services, but for the treatment in the government hospital the family had not to bear any costs. Through the successful operation in the government hospital, the family regained their trust in government facilities and is sure to use them in future cases.

Furthermore, Nirus family developed a kitchen garden with the help of the FHF project and seed kits from the horticulture department. Through this, the long term nutrition diversity of the family is ensured.