

FHFI Case Study

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Harris Patel was born as the third child of Rangi and Sambu Patel, who are running a small farm in the village Mundri in Anandpuri Block of Banswara District, Rajasthan. On their farmland of 5.5 bigha, the family cultivates seasonal grains like rice, maize or gram and wheat for home consumption. When the harvest is good they can even sell some grains on the market. The oldest son of the family is currently studying in 5th grade, his three year old sister is going to the nearby Anganwadi centre for pre-school education and Harris, the family's youngest child, is only 13 to 14 months old. His mother Rangi can't remember the exact date of birth, but she tells, that the small boy frequently became ill, suffering from diarrhoea and fever and that he was not taking his mother's milk properly. The parents brought Harris two times to a private doctor in the village and bought medicines for him, but after a few days he was as ill as before. So the family

brought the child to a private clinic in Anandpuri, where they also had to pay for the medicines and the treatment and again, the child was falling ill after a few days.

As Mundri is located in the project area of VAAGDHARA's "Fight Hunger First Initiative" (FHFI), a screening of all infantile children was held in the village, where their weight, height and mid-upper arm circumference were recorded. Thanks to this intervention Harris was identified to be critically severely acute malnourished (critically SAM category) and the FHFI team brought him directly to the Malnourishment Treatment Centre (MTC) in the District Hospital of Banswara. Besides Harris, three other critically SAM children, 27 SAM children and 25 moderate acute malnourished (MAM) children were identified in the screening in Mundri village. His parents accompanied Harris to the District Hospital, where he should receive therapeutic feeding for approximately 15 days. The treatment in this government hospital is free of costs for the family, but already after five days the family returned back to their village due to the death of the mother's sister.

Harris and his mother Rangi participated in the Nutrition Camp, which was organized in Mundri by the FHFI team. Here, Harris received a special diet for 15 days to treat the



malnourishment and his mother learned to prepare supplementary diet for the small child. Rangi explains that she usually doesn't prepare separate food for the small children, they are breastfed until they are able to eat the normal meals of the family. Also Harris with his age of 13 to 14 months is still breastfed, but since the Nutrition Camp he is taking supplementary food as well. His diet diversity score has increased to 4 since he is now regularly eating grains, pulses, vegetables and sweets. After the treatment in the MTC in Banswara and the

following Nutrition Camp, Harris health condition is good and he is gaining weight, as regular follow-up visits at the ANM in the nearby Anganwadi Centre have shown. The family expressed their satisfaction with the MTC because the child started eating properly and did not fall ill again after the treatment. The small boy is now out of malnourished category and is getting stronger day by day. VAAGDHARA has also provided seed kits to the family and linked them with the horticulture department for further support.