Perceptions and Acceptability of Donating and Banking Donated Human Breastmilk, in an Urban Community, Kenya

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**Introduction**

- Cost-effective way to prevent infant death
- Reduces the risks of mortality
- Shorter hospital stay

**Objective**

**Methods**

**Results & Discussion**

**Funding, Partners/Collaborators**

- Best alternative
- Enhance access to safe high quality DHM
- Through collection, pasteurization, storage, and distribution

IMR 39/1000
NMR 22/1000
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- To assess the practices regarding breastfeeding and feeding of vulnerable infants
- To establish the views, perceptions and acceptability of DHM
- To establish feasibility of establishing HMB
Methods

**Qualitative Survey**

* Community level
  - Embakasi Sub-county
  - Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers
  - Fathers
  - Community leaders
  - Health workers/Health professionals policy/decision makers

**Quantitative Survey**

* Facility Level
  - Mama Lucy Hospital
  - Kenyatta Hospital
  - Gertrudes Muthaiga
  - Gertrudes Lavington Clinic
  - Mothers and caregivers of children < 3 years
  - Health facility In-charges
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<td>Gertrude's Lavington Hospital</td>
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<td>KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL</td>
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<td>Gertrude's Children's Hospital</td>
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<td>Quality healthcare for children</td>
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<td>TELEPHONE 020-299-7000 Email: <a href="mailto:medsupmuk@yahoo.com">medsupmuk@yahoo.com</a></td>
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### Current Practices (%)

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<th>Yes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Have you ever donated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you heard or seen this in your community</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>87</td>
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‘The time I came (to this facility), I heard that it used to be done; there was a container where mothers would come, they express the milk and it's poured there. The one who did not have was given KII, Health worker – Nairobi).
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### HUMAN MILK BANKING

- Previous discussions at the HNDU.

“Quite a number of people had floated the idea within our research subcommittee and many people were quite receptive, they were willing to have it, most of the talking was just around the table. That was around 2006/7 there, we didn't go very far other than just the discussion those sub-committees”

KII with health professional
Perceptions on donating and use of DHM from HMB

- Is it okay for mothers to donate their breast milk to a Human Milk Bank?
- Would you donate your breast milk to a Human Milk Bank?
- Is it okay to feed children on Donated Human Milk?
- Would you allow your child to be fed on Donated Human Milk?
Donating Human Milk to a HMB

- **77%** are not particular on the recipient (would donate to any mother/child)

- Preferred recipients *(for those who are particular)* – child in need of BM (65%), Orphans (60%) relatives (22%), very sick child (21%).

- **80%** would not donate to irresponsible mothers
Concerns on donating HM to a HMB

“In a case where a family member needs, like let’s say my sister’s kid, my cousin’s kid and the owner of the baby actually approaches me and asks me to do that, of course I’ll try my best to do, but my problem is, donating my milk in a bank somewhere ... IDI mother Kayole”

“Like being unsure, what are you going to do with my milk? You know, and there are those bad stories of they took my hair, they took my nails and I don’t know went where” KII - health worker)
Use of Donated Human Milk (DHM)

Circumstances when mothers would allow the use of DHM on their children

Circumstances respondents would allow their baby to be fed on donated breastmilk from a H

- If sick
- If doctor advises so
- If on a medication that restricts breastfeeding
- If unavailable
- If milk is inadequate
- If child was very sick
- Others
Concerns on use of DHM from HMB

“So the fear that maybe they might be sick and not just HIV AIDS, but they believe that a child gets everything from a mother’s breast milk. In that milk the baby gets all the nutrients and still inside there the baby can also get diseases.” KII, Religious Leader, Nairobi
“It is not bad as long, as long as the woman who is giving out that (milk) is not sick or is not transmitting anything bad to the child, any kind of disease to the child.” Father_Umoja
Compensation of Donors

- Majority felt that no compensation/payment should be involved
- Non monetary modes of payment;
  - Certificates
  - Free health services
  - Branded gifts
- A few considered compensation as a motivation factor

“I think, because the donors don’t sell their milk, it should not be sold” IDI Mother, Nairobi.

“You know, what will make people to also be motivated because Kenyans love money, if you say I'll give money, you will see them being motivated, so also, if they will be given something small, it can give mothers morale KII-Health worker”
Ensuring safety of the DHM

“First, they need to screen the mothers who are going to donate. Then if they reach the standards and its safe, they teach them on expressing and hygiene and then now they need to take care of storage as well” KII with a health worker, Nairobi
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**Perceived Challenges in Establishing HMBs**

- Acceptability
- Resources limitation – finances, structures, human capacity
- Sustainability
- Other competing interests – funding, support
- Compensation issues
- Corruption
Human Milk Banks

*Proposed ways of addressing the challenges*

**Education to the community** — “I think the population needs to be education about it for it to be acceptable” IDI mother Muthaiga

- **Advocacy / sensitization at all levels** (community, health workers and policy/decision makers level)
- **Male involvement**
- **Involvement of decision makers** and facility management
- **Capacity building** of health workers
- **Multidisciplinary/ multispectral involvement**
- **Working with mothers** to manage the human milk banks
- **Assuring the communities members of the safety and quality** of the donated human milk
New Project?

Piloting Mother and Baby Friendly Initiative plus Model for Human Milk Banking in Nairobi County (MBFI+ Project)
Acknowledgements

• Donor: DFID - County Innovation Challenge Fund (CICF)

Partners/Collaborators

• PATH

• APHRC

• Ministry of Health (HNDU, NCHAHU)

• UNICEF

• Mama Lucy Kibaki (MLK) Hospital

• Kenyatta National Hospital

• Gertrude’s Children’s hospital

• University of Nairobi (Kenya)

• Collaborators from USA and UK

• Umoja and Kayole communities