

Title of the project	Mercy Corps Healthy Start Baseline Survey North Jakarta, Indonesia
Conducted by	Pusat Penelitian Kesehatan Universitas Indonesia
Supported/funded by	Mercy Corps
Date	2007
Sample size	330 household in 21 villages in 4 sub district
Team	Ahmad Syafik and Sandra Fikawati

The importance of exclusive breastfeeding on infant health and survival has been acknowledged worldwide. However, rate of exclusive breastfeeding in Indonesia is still very low. Barriers to early and exclusive breastfeeding are many and relates to individual, family, and community, health providers, private sector, and government levels. In response to this critical issue, Mercy Corps launched Healthy Start Project aims to increase early and exclusive breastfeeding (until six months of age) in 21 villages in 4 sub districts in North Jakarta. The project aims to increase capacity and support of mothers to breastfeed by improving access to community-based counseling and support; improve health personnel's ability to promote and support breastfeeding, and; build support for the creation, adoption, and enforcement of supportive policy and campaigns by the government and private sector stakeholders. In order to evaluate the success of the project, a baseline survey is needed as a basis for comparison of before and after intervention situation. The topic areas covered by this survey include child spacing, maternal and newborn care, infant and young child feeding, vitamin A supplementation, immunization, control of diarrhea, acute respiratory infection, water and sanitation, and anthropometrics. Population in this study is mothers of children up to 23 months old in project areas with a special focus on infant up to five months of age. The Survey was conducted in three and half months from January to March 2007 using questionnaires. The Survey found that almost all (97.3%) respondents ever had breastfed their infants. After delivery, only 27.7% infants were immediately put on their mother's breast. Only 76.0% infants are still breastfed and around 24.0% mothers has stopped breastfeed their infants when the infant's age is under 2 years. The anthropometric results show a rather skewed to the left curve where more than 15% children were underweight (2.1% severe underweight and 14.5% moderate underweight), and the anthropometric status dropped drastically after 6 months of age.