



# Nutrition Service Delivery (NSD) during the COVID- 19 Pandemic

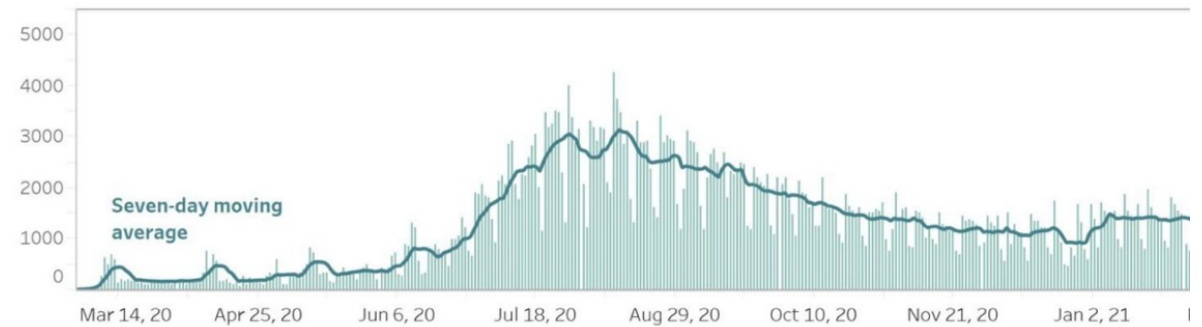
**A report on a survey of Local  
Government Units (LGUs) conducted  
January-February 2021**

# COVID in the Philippines

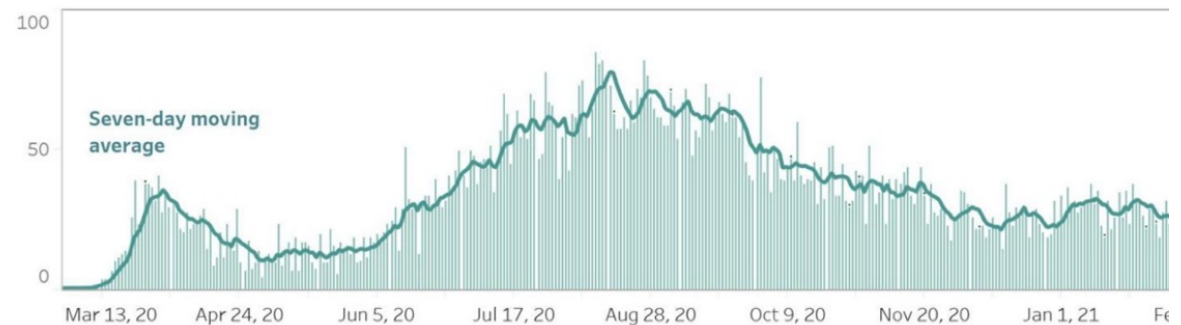
- Among the longest & strictest lockdowns globally
- Movement restrictions affected economic activity & service delivery
- National guidelines provided, but local implementation varied considerably

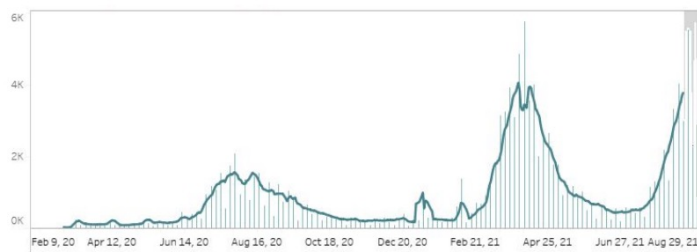
COVID-19 PHILIPPINE SITUATIONER #308 (MARCH 1, 2021)

## CONFIRMED CASES BY DATE OF ONSET OF ILLNESS (NATIONWIDE)



## CONFIRMED DEATHS BY DATE OF DEATH (NATIONWIDE)





**NCR**

## Beat COVID-19 Today

A COVID-19 Philippine Situationer

Issue 497 | September 6, 2021

Active Cases as of 5 September 2021  
(net of recoveries and deaths)

**157,438**  
-243

Total Cases as of 5 September 2021

**2,080,984**

+20,019

Recovered

**1,889,312**

+20,089

Died

**34,234**

+173

**COVID experience varies widely!**

## QUARANTINE CLASSIFICATIONS FOR AUGUST 2021

**ECQ** (UNTIL AUG 7)  
ILOILO CITY  
ILOILO PROVINCE  
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY  
GINGOOG CITY, MISAMIS ORIENTAL

**MECQ** (UNTIL AUG 15)  
BATAAN  
ILOCOS NORTE  
LAPU-LAPU CITY  
MANDAUE CITY

**GCO** (UNTIL AUG 31)  
WITH HEIGHTENED RESTRICTIONS (UNTIL AUG 15)

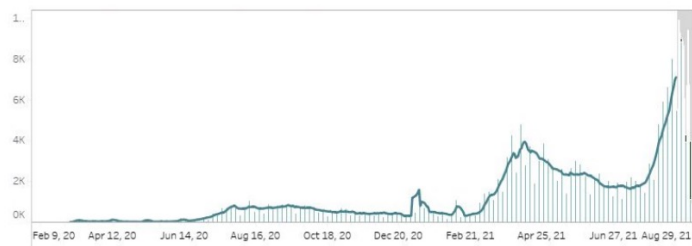
NCR  
LAGUNA  
CAVITE  
BULACAN  
RIZAL  
ILOCOS SUR  
CAGAYAN  
LUCENA CITY  
NAGA CITY  
ANTIQUE  
AKLAN  
BACOLOD CITY  
CARIZ  
NEGROS ORIENTAL  
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR  
MISAMIS ORIENTAL  
DAVAO CITY  
DAVAO DEL NORTE  
DAVAO OCCIDENTAL  
BUTUAN CITY

**GCO** (UNTIL AUG 31)

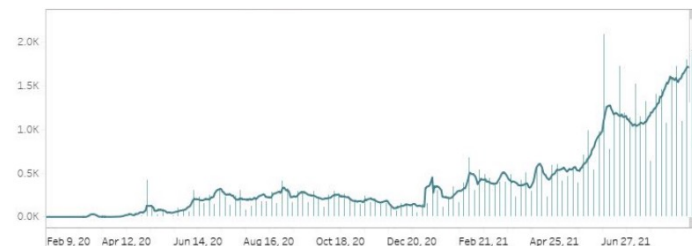
BAGUIO CITY  
APAYAO  
SANTIAGO CITY  
ISABELA  
NUEVA VIZCAYA  
QUIRINO  
QUEZON  
BATANGAS  
PUERTO PRINCESA  
QUIMBARAS  
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY  
ZAMBOANGA CITY  
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE  
DAVAO ORIENTAL  
DAVAO DEL SUR  
GENERAL SANTOS CITY  
SULTAN KUDARAT  
SARANGANI  
NORTH COTABATO  
SOUTH COTABATO  
AGUSAN DEL NORTE  
SURIGAO DEL NORTE  
AGUSAN DEL SUR  
DINAGAT ISLANDS  
SURIGAO DEL SUR  
COTABATO CITY

**MGCQ** (UNTIL AUG 31)  
REST OF THE PHILIPPINES

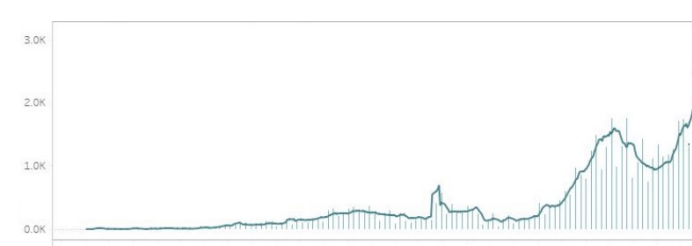
#workingPCOO #LagingHandsPH #COVID19PH #WeHealAsOne www.pcoo.gov.ph @pcoogov



**Rest of Luzon**



**Visayas**



**Mindanao**

# SURVEY ON NUTRITION SERVICE DELIVERY CONTINUITY, DISRUPTION AND ADAPTATION

## Objective

To understand the impact of COVID-19 on the provision ~~and utilization~~ *of* routine nutrition services through the health system

## Methodology

Method: Online survey

- Who: City & Municipal Nutrition point persons
- Duration: 28 December 2020 – 28 February 2021
- Target: 90% coverage
- Questionnaire: adapted UNICEF Q
- Unit of analysis: city/municipality

# Survey Components

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BNS capacity

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Nutrition Services Offered Pre- & During  
COVID Pandemic

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Nutrition Services Continuity &  
Adaptation

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Nutrition Information, Education, and  
Communication

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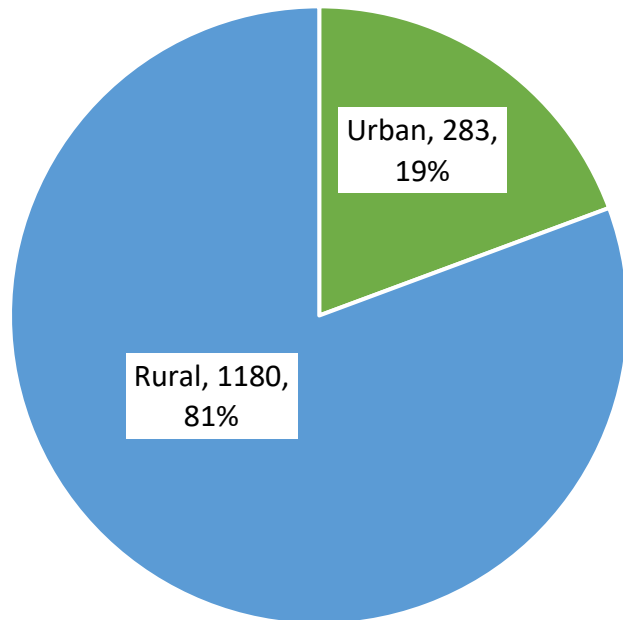
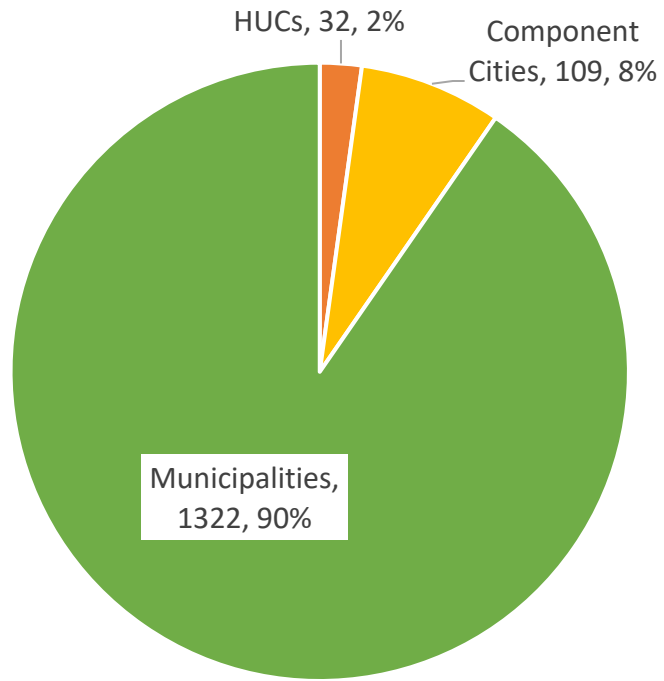
Food & Starter Packs

# Scope and Methods

- Nationwide scope, target respondents were nutrition point persons of cities/municipalities (1 response/LGU)
- 89.5% response rate
- Self-administered questionnaire
- Online and SMS as modalities for data gathering
- Adaptation of UNICEF survey to include questions on Barangay Nutrition Scholar capacities and training. Probing questions not used for this survey

# Data Analysis and Limitations

- Simple summaries and aggregations by province done by region
- Data correlated with COVID-19 caseloads from DOH Covid Tracker website up to end of February 2021
- LGUs classified as highly urbanized cities (HUCs), component cities, and municipalities
- Limitations:
  - data on quarantine classifications
  - self-administered questionnaire (best case scenario)
- $\gtrsim$  80% over-all regional response rate, except for 14% BARMM

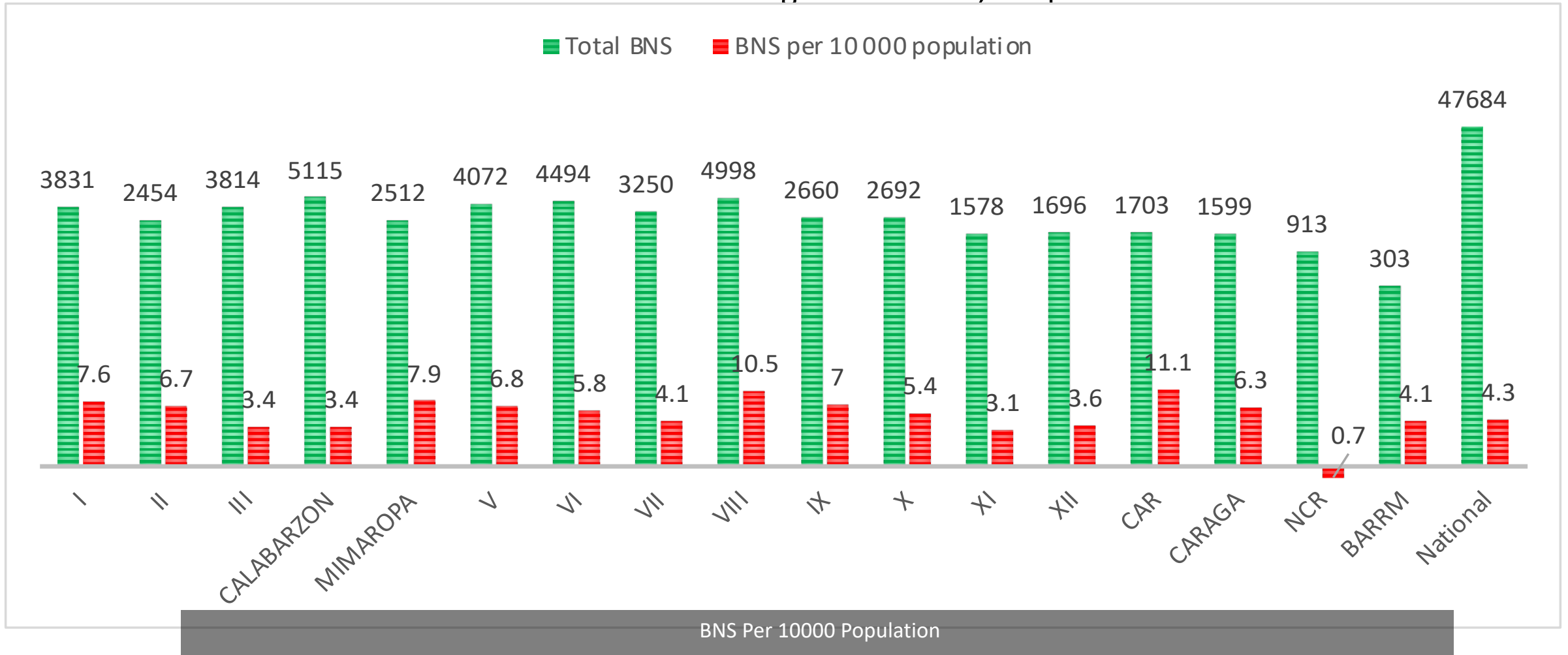


Region	Total Cities & Municipalities	Number Responded	Percentage of Response Rate
I	125	117	93.6
II	93	93	100.0
III	130	117	90.0
IV-A CALABARZON	142	135	95.1
IV-B MIMAROPA	73	73	100.0
V	114	109	95.6
VI	133	128	96.2
VII	132	128	96.9
VIII	143	143	100.0
IX	72	72	100.0
X	93	93	100.0
XI	49	45	91.8
XII	50	50	100.0
CAR	77	61	79.2
CARAGA	73	66	90.4
NCR	17	17	100.0
BARMM	118	16	13.6
<i>National Overall</i>	1634	1463	89.5



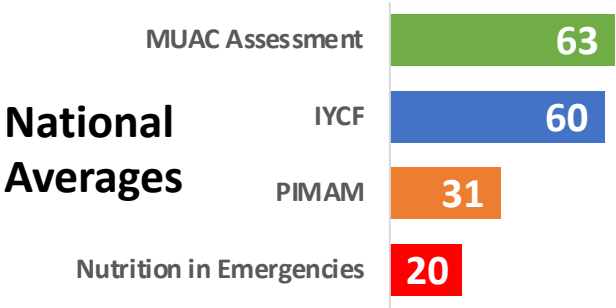
# BNS Capacity

- 47,684 Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS)
- CAR and Region VIII have highest BNS density per 10000 persons
- NCR has lowest density with less than 1 BNS per 10000 persons
- National average: 1 BNS to 2,319 persons



# BNS Capacity & Training

- Regions III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, V, VI, X, XI, XII, and NCR had more than half of BNS trained in 2 or more key services.
- 40% or fewer of BNS were trained in NiE
- 64% or fewer were trained in PIMAM.



\*BARMM among participating LGUs

Region	Trained in MUAC Assessment	Trained in IYCF	Trained in PIMAM	Trained in NiE
I	51.16	49.31	30.31	13.99
II	26.28	66.26	6.28	9.09
III	55.61	51.00	21.03	14.81
CALABARZON	74.08	67.27	37.48	36.07
MIMAROPA	70.86	54.98	46.86	28.46
V	73.94	52.97	41.85	27.19
VI	82.75	60.15	40.01	15.62
VII	55.23	46.40	25.60	19.57
VIII	49.88	34.83	23.05	15.97
IX	57.97	48.01	20.00	9.89
X	72.92	61.07	37.37	27.75
XI	84.60	65.65	64.64	13.18
XII	68.81	50.41	25.59	13.62
CARAGA	50.28	54.53	15.57	30.96
CAR	60.07	48.97	5.05	6.64
NCR	64.84	81.05	57.39	40.20
BARMM*	95.05	32.01	32.67	10.89

# 14 Key Nutrition Services Delivery

- Breastfeeding and IYCF education in group classes,
- Skilled one-on-one counseling on breastfeeding and IYCF,
- Treatment of SAM,
- Treatment of MAM,
- Micronutrient powder (MNP) supplementation
- Vitamin A supplementation for children,
- Iron/folic acid (IFA) and multivitamin supplementation (MMS) for antenatal care (ANC)
- Weight monitoring as part of ANC,
- Nutrition counseling for maternal diets in ANC
- Child growth monitoring
- Cooking demonstrations
- Dietary supplementation
- Distribution of seeds and seedlings
- Distribution of poultry, livestock and fisheries.

Other services such as livelihood training, food pack provisions, and backyard gardening also included as “others” by respondents

# Continuity of Service Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic

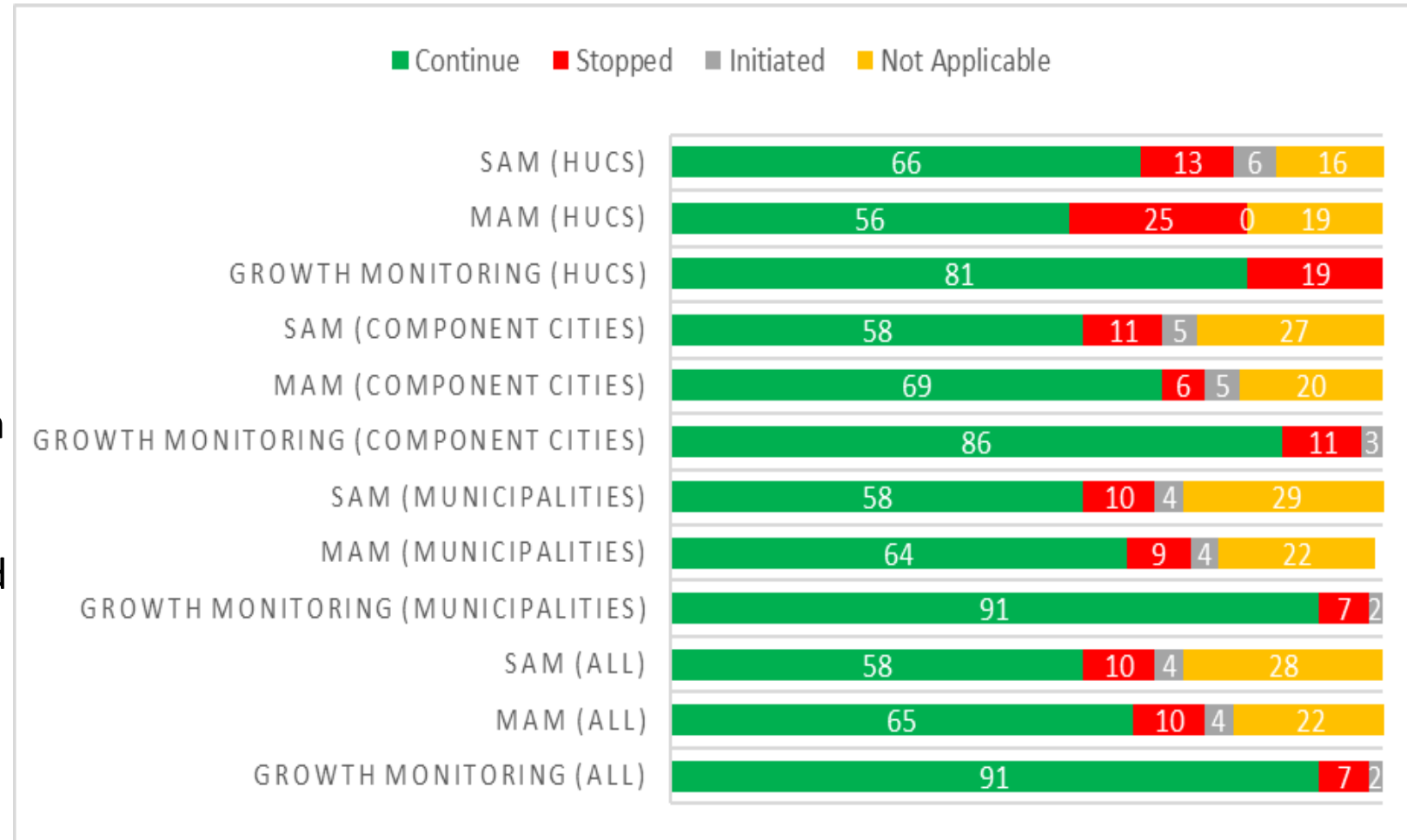
- Responses: continued, stopped, initiated, or not applicable
- Least disrupted: Vitamin A supplementation and growth monitoring for children, IFA/MMS supplementation and weight monitoring as part of ANC.
- Most disrupted services: cooking demonstrations and IYCF/breastfeeding education in groups



Continuity of Service Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic

# Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), Child Growth Monitoring

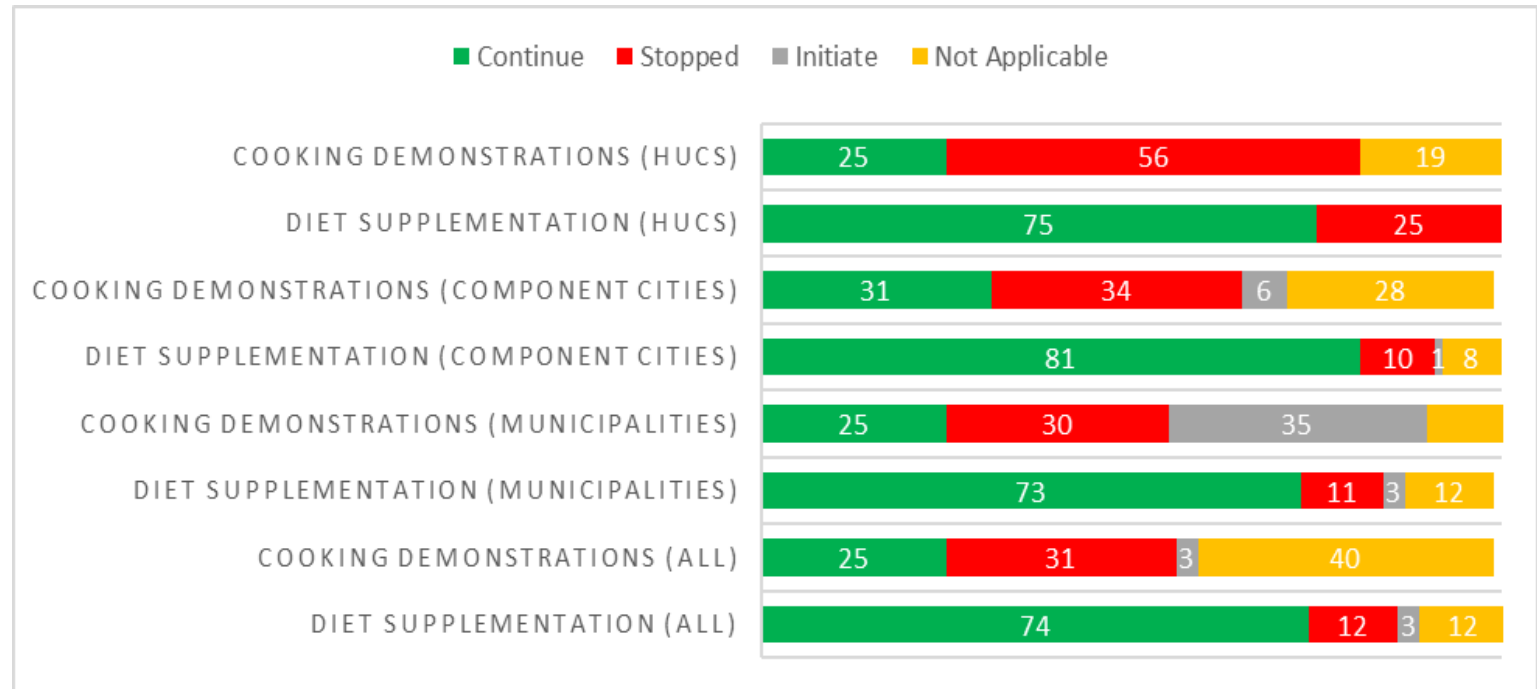
- 58% of LGUs nationwide continued with treatment of SAM; HUCs among LGUs significantly more able to provide ( $X^2 = 16.5$ , p value = 0.0113)
- 65% of LGUs were able to continue with treatment of MAM.
- Child growth monitoring continued in 91% of LGUs, stopped in 7%. Growth monitoring was continued in more municipalities compared to HUCs and component cities.



Service Continuity of Treatment of SAM, MAM, and Child Growth Monitoring

# Cooking Demonstrations and Diet Supplementation

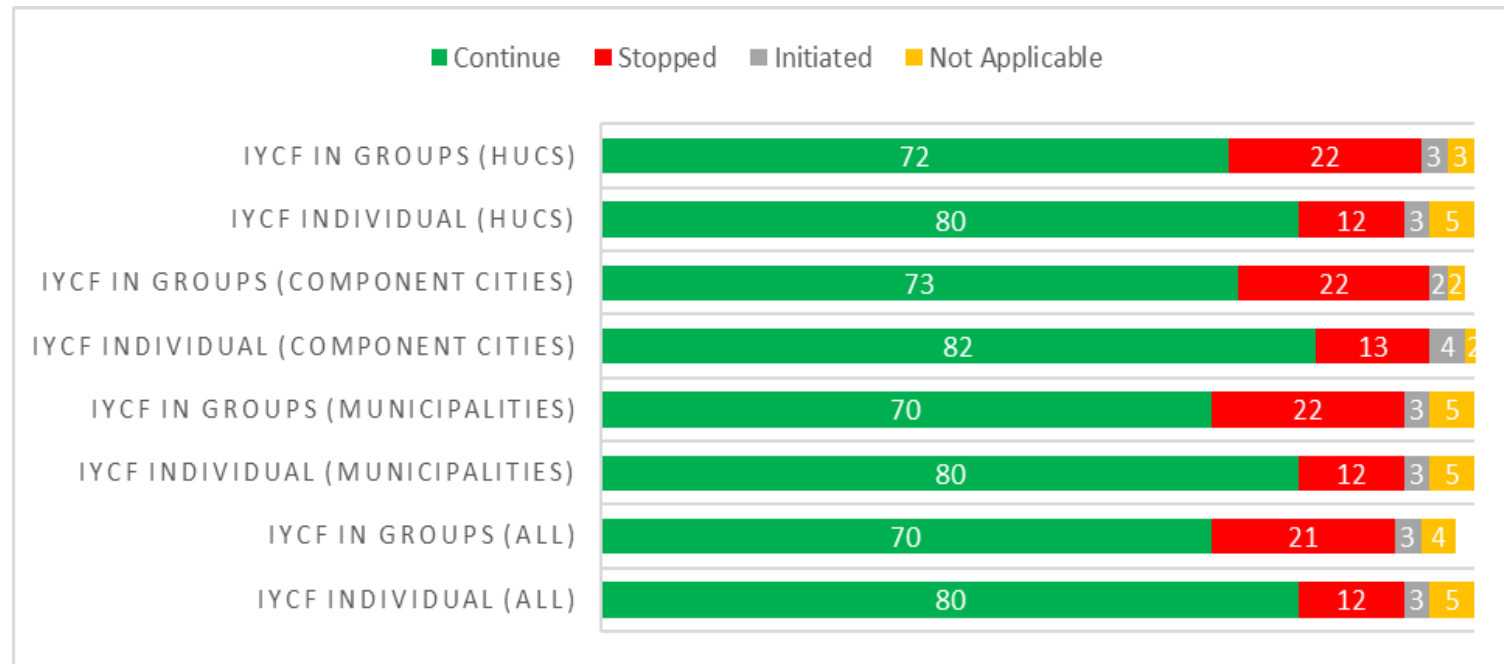
- Cooking demonstrations were the most disrupted service: 25% continued versus 31% stopping this service
- More than half of HUCs stopped this service. Highest continuity was among component cities. ( $X^2 = 20.3355$ ,  $p$  value = 0.0024)
- 74% of LGUs surveyed continued providing diet supplementation, with 12% stopping this service.
- Continuation of diet supplementation was highest among component cities while stoppages were more prevalent among HUCs.



Figure; Service Continuity of Cooking Demonstrations and Diet Supplementation

# Breastfeeding and IYCF education (group classes and one on one counselling)

- 70% of LGUs continued providing breastfeeding and IYCF education in group sessions, while 21% stopped this service.
- Significantly less municipalities were able to continue group IYCF ( $\chi^2$  statistic = 13.562, p value = 0.034)
- 80% of LGUs nationwide, continued individual counselling for breastfeeding and IYCF.
- More component cities than HUCs and municipalities continued individual counselling.



Service Continuity of Breastfeeding/IYCF Individual Counselling and Group Classes

# Encouraging Breastfeeding for Mothers Who Have Stopped Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (LGUs =358)

- Municipalities had a higher proportion of mothers who were given the first advice encouraging to breastfeed.
- Over 90% of all LGUs across stratifications advised mothers regarding wearing masks and practicing proper hand hygiene
- 60% in all groups gave advice on expressing breastmilk.
- Municipalities had a higher percentage of LGUs wherein mothers were advised to use formula feeding during the pandemic.

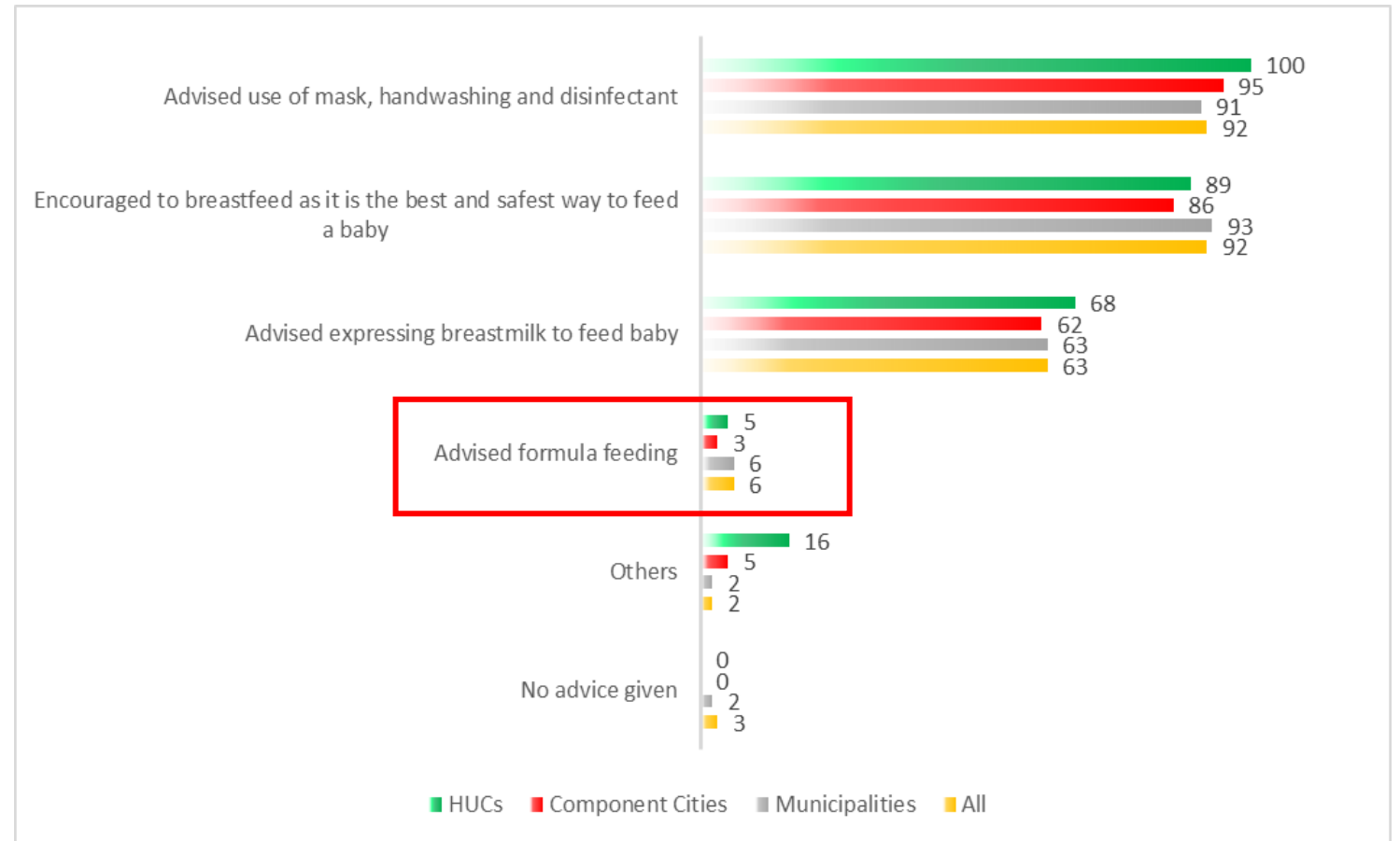


Figure: Specific Advice Given to Mothers Regarding Breastfeeding by LGU Type



# Communications Strategies & Messaging During the Pandemic

- House to house visits followed by SMS preferred across all LGU types
- Social media and online platforms preferred modality in HUCs ( $X^2 = 27.123$ , p value = 0.000018)
- Radio usage highest in component cities and municipalities

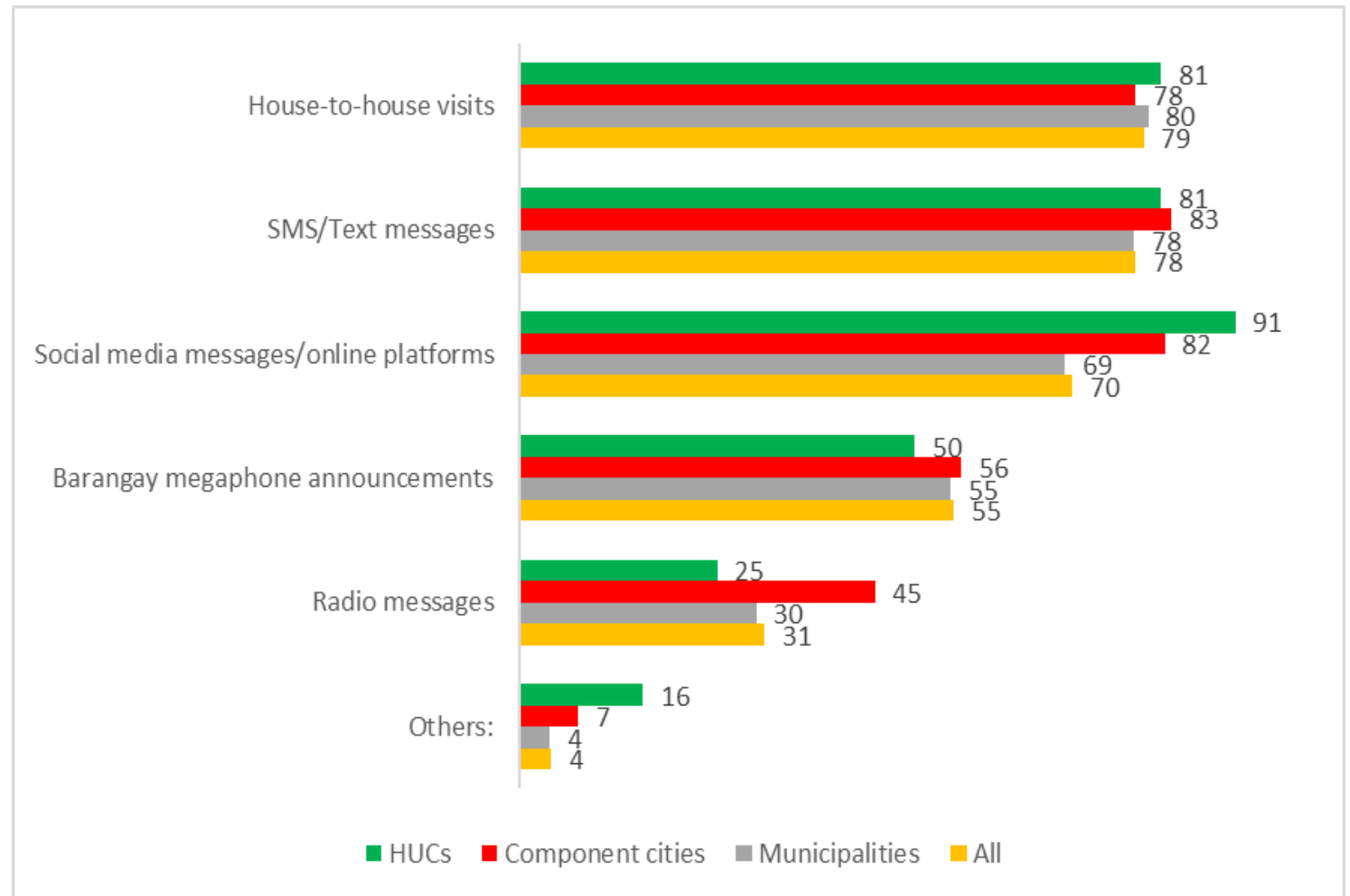


Figure: Communication Modalities for IYCF by LGU Type

# Innovations for Service Delivery in the Pandemic

- Use of PPEs highest among component cities.
- Targeted home visits also used by this group of LGUs
  - Newborns: ( $X^2 = 8.725$ , p value = 0.0127)
  - PIMAM: ( $X^2 = 14.92$ , p value = 0.00057)
- Social media and teleconsults most utilized by HUCs
  - Social media: ( $X^2 = 22.705$ , p value = 0.0000117)

	HUCs	Component Cities	Municipalities	All
Telephone counseling for pregnant women and on infant and young child feeding	53	46	46	46
Use of social media platform (Messenger, Viber)	63	43	29	31
Home visits to pregnant women	38	56	47	48
Home visits to newborns	34	61	52	52
Home visits to SAM/MAM children	63	72	55	57
Distribution of IFA supplies for pregnant women for a longer period than usual	75	83	78	80
Distribution of RUTF supplies for children with SAM for a longer period than usual	41	55	55	54
MUAC screening of children by mothers and community workers	44	66	64	64
Simplified SAM treatment – (e.g. MUAC screening only, standard RUTF dosage for all children, expanded admission criteria)	53	63	59	59
All services with full PPE, disinfection of equipment and the clinic, physical distancing, handwashing with soap etc.	81	87	86	86
Others	16	6	5	5

# Food Pack Diversity



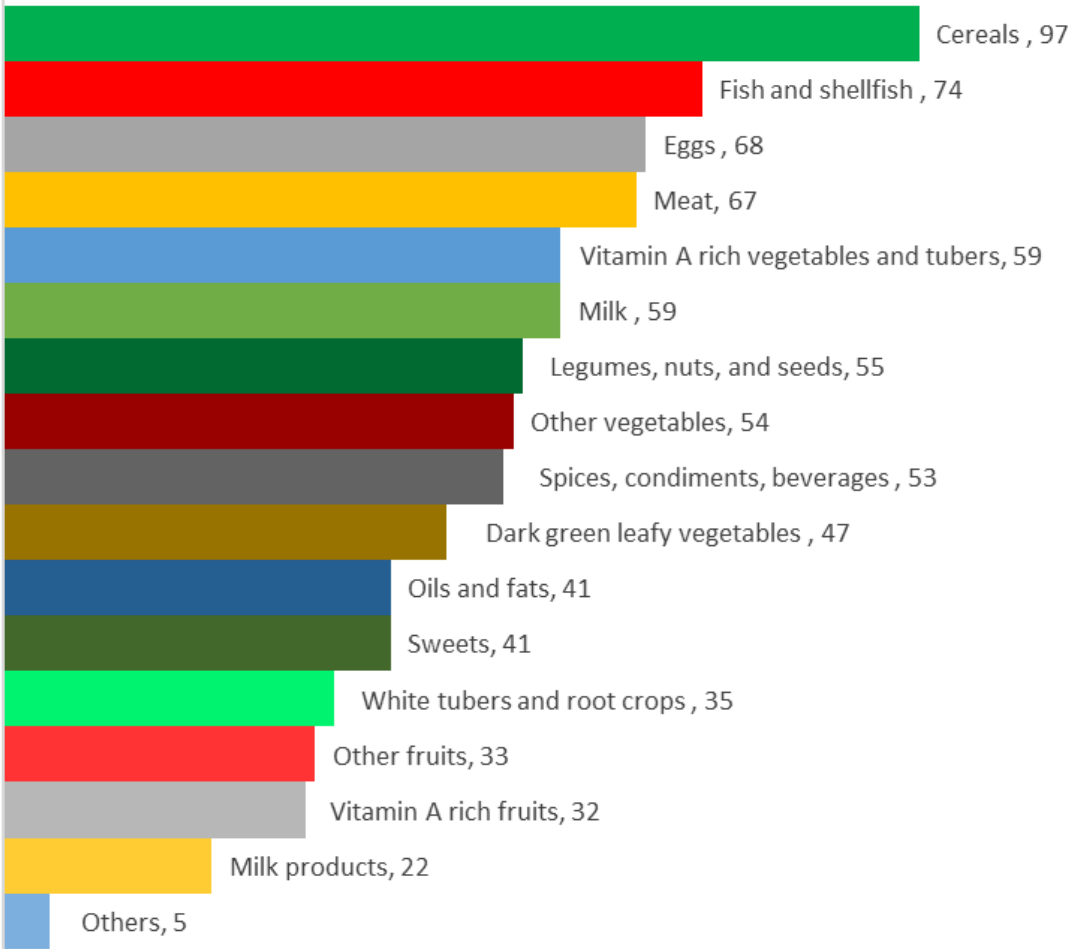
Sample from HUC

Average Diversity scores:  
National = 7.9  
HUCs = 9  
CompCities = 7.9  
Municipalities = 7.8



Sample from Municipality

Food  
Group



Proportion of Food Groups Distributed in the LGUs

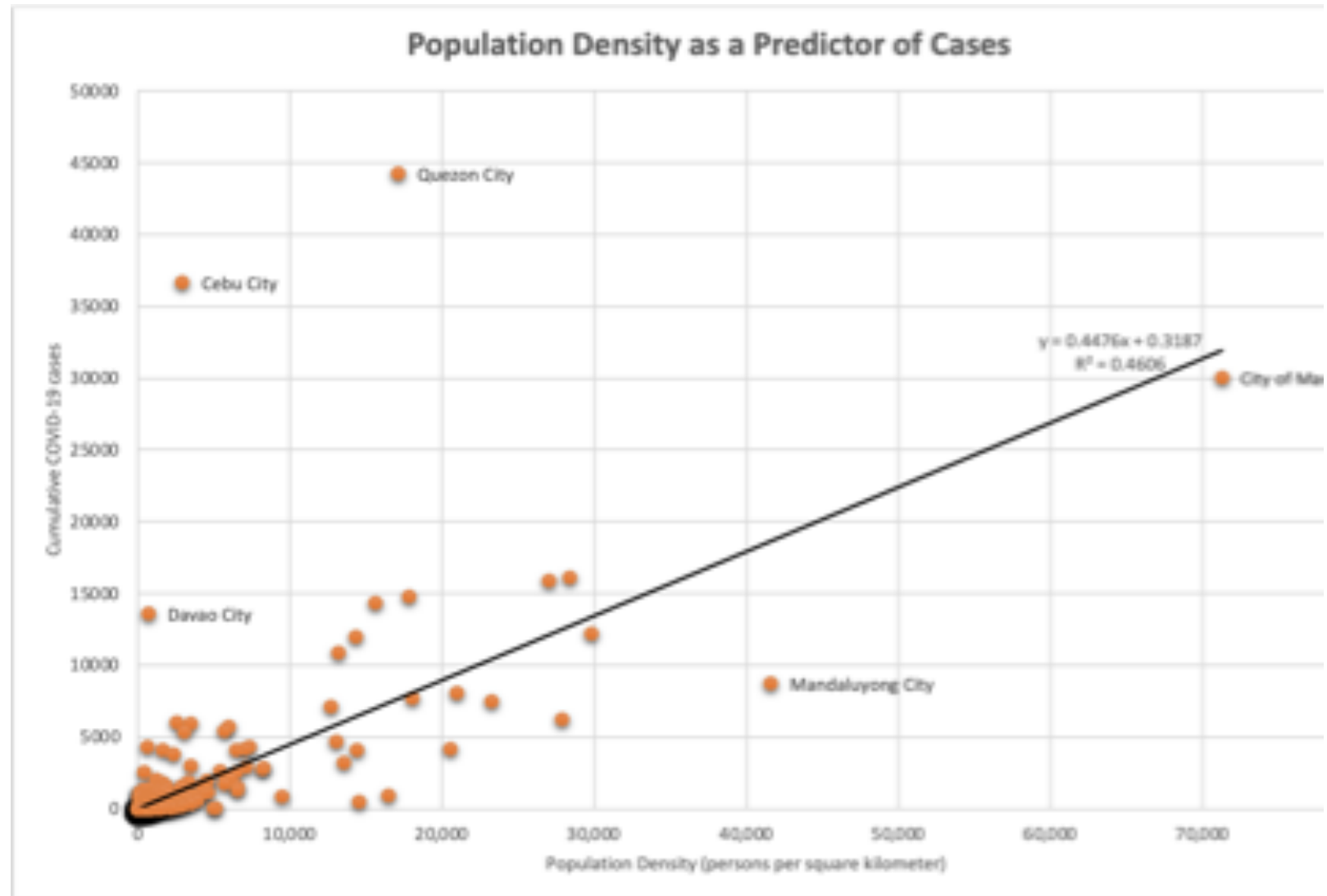
# Starter Kits for Backyard Gardening and Agriculture

- Pechay, eggplant & okra seeds and seedlings were the top kit contents given out by all LGUs.
- Each LGU group gave out at least 5 types of seeds or seedlings, but diversity was higher among municipalities.
- More municipalities and component cities gave out fertilizers and manuals compared to their HUC counterparts.
- HUCs however were more able to give support in the form of training and tools for gardening.

Starter Kit Component	HUCs	Component Cities	Municipalities	All
<i>Pinakbet Vegetables</i>	80.8	93.3	89.2	89.0
<i>Pechay</i>	96.1	91.1	89.6	90.0
<i>Tomatoes</i>	80.8	85.6	82.4	83.0
<i>Eggplant</i>	92.3	92.2	94.3	94.0
<i>Okra</i>	88.5	94.4	93.8	94.0
<i>Mustard</i>	53.9	42.2	41.1	42.0
<i>Ampalaya</i>	73.1	78.9	87.3	86.0
<i>Fertilizers</i>	53.9	64.4	67.5	67.0
<i>Potting Bags</i>	53.9	47.8	42.6	43.0
<i>Starter Manuals</i>	50.0	55.6	51.4	52.0
<i>Others</i>	11.5	8.9	5.6	6.0

# COVID Caseload and Continuity of Service Delivery: Is There a Connection?

- Population density is a strong predictor of COVID caseloads
- HUCs like the Cities of Quezon, Cebu and Davao, have remarkably higher caseloads than can be explained by population density.
- HUCs despite high caseloads had higher continuity of service delivery, over-all



# Recommendations

## Increase

- Increase the number of BNSs & prioritize PIMAM & NiE training

## Diversify

- Diversify food packs & include complementary feeding options for Hhds w <2 year olds

## Strengthen

- Strengthen IYCF messaging

## Improve

- Improve access to virtual communications (online, SMS) especially municipalities

## Enable

- Enable the use of routine information systems for pandemic & other emergency response