

Improved Nurse Confidence & Neonatal Outcomes Following Newborn Nursing Care Training - Tanzania

Learners reported increased confidence in their level of knowledge of key topics relating to newborn care and learning objectives after the training

Background: In the context of high mortality in the Nduta newborn unit (NBU) in Tanzania, a multi-modal neonatal nursing training programme was undertaken. We aimed to study the outcomes of that training.

Methods: 30 nurses and midwives working in Nduta hospital refugee camp undertook a training programme on newborn care nursing (70 hours) given separately in French and English between May 2022 and February 2023.

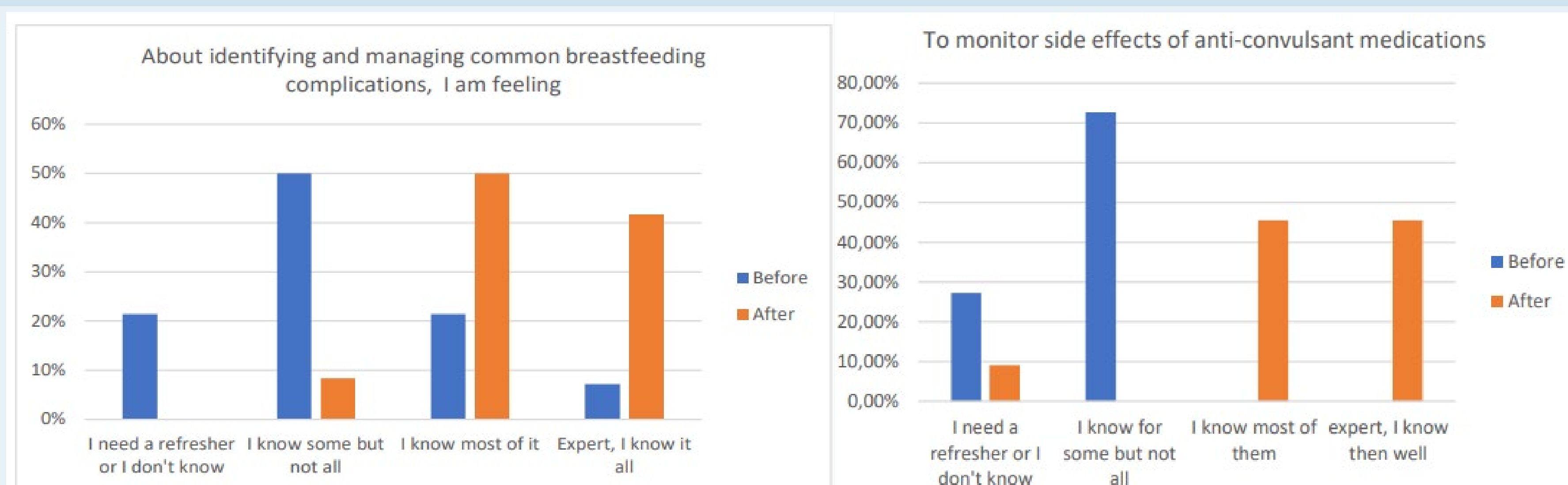
Training was composed of:



Evaluation of the training was completed using:

1. Learner self-assessment of their competencies corresponding to each learning objectives before each module and 2 months after completion of training

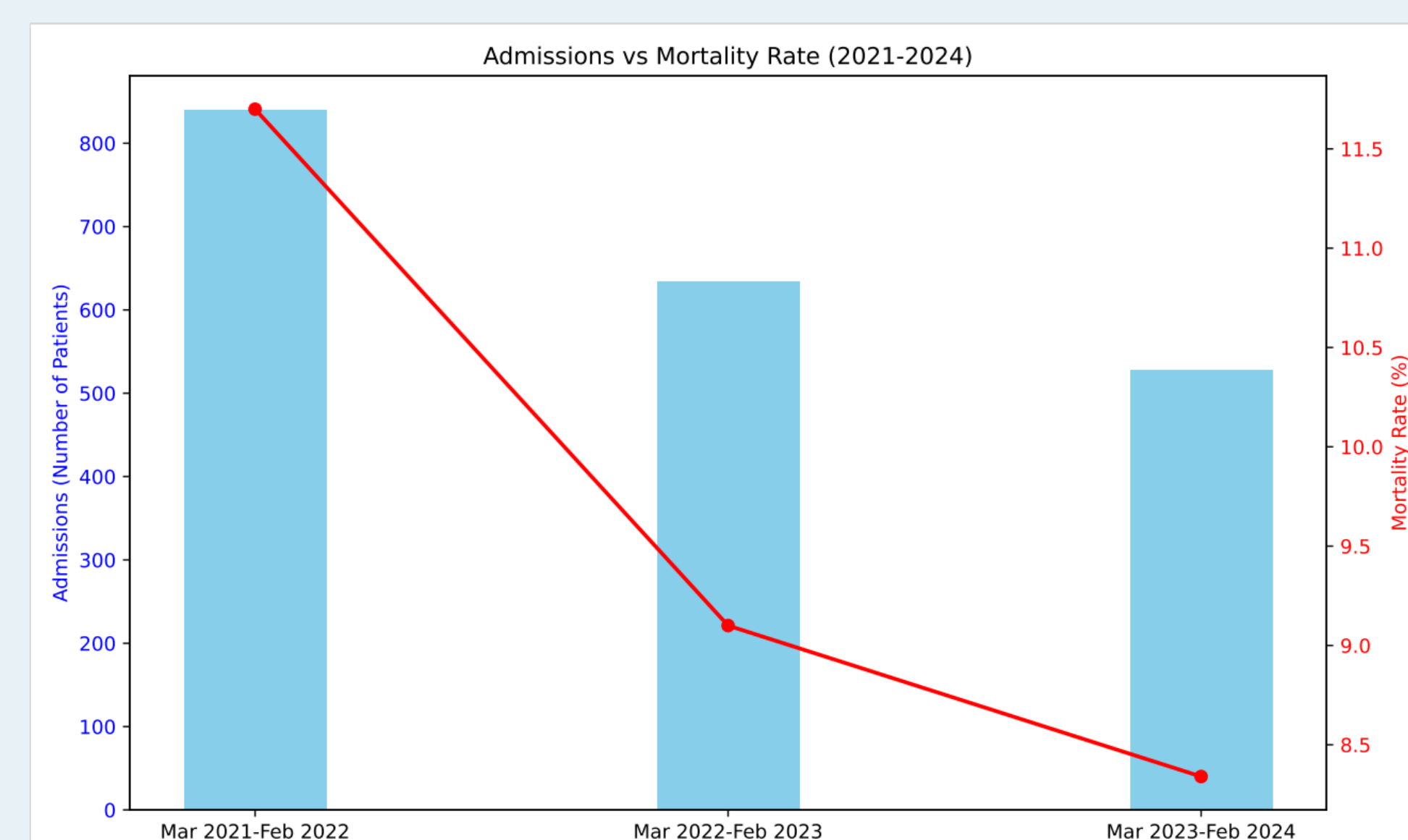
2. Analysis of data from the project routine data collection



For example, when asked about the learning objectives pre training and 2 months after training in relation to breastfeeding complications and side effects of anti-convulsant medications.

Learners reported increased confidence in their level of knowledge of key topics relating to newborn care after the training.

Reduction in average monthly NBU neonatal mortality rate in the 12 months after the training (8.3% between March 2023 and Feb 2024), compared to the 12 months before the training (11.7% between March 2021 and Feb 2022).



CONCLUSION: Neonatal nursing training has been shown to improve neonatal outcomes. While we cannot infer causality for the reduction in admissions and the mortality rate in the NBU after the training, staff perceived confidence in key neonatal topics improved. Given device and internet access, this multi-modal nurse training can easily be replicated across MSF contexts to promote continuity of nurse training and ultimately improve neonatal outcomes.

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