



NUTRITION

Is a

BIG

Issue

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We know **evidence-based, cost-effective interventions** can improve nutrition outcomes

- Management of severe acute malnutrition
- Preventive zinc supplementation
- Promotion of breastfeeding
- Appropriate complementary feeding
- Management of moderate acute malnutrition
- Periconceptual folic acid supplementation or fortification
- Maternal balanced energy protein supplementation
- Maternal multiple micronutrient supplementation
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Maternal calcium supplementation



And **nutrition-sensitive** interventions

Nutrition-sensitive interventions are less well defined and more context specific than nutrition-specific interventions

- Agriculture and food security including availability, economic access, and use of food
- Social safety nets
- Child protection
- Access to and use of health services, a safe and hygienic environment
- Classroom education
- Health and family planning services
- Early child development, including feeding and caregiving resources (maternal, household, and community levels)

The nutrition sensitivity of programs can be enhanced by improving targeting; using conditions; integrating strong nutrition goals and actions; and focusing on improving women's physical and mental health, nutrition, time allocation, and empowerment.

Source: Ruel et al. 2013.



5 WAYS TO IMPROVE NUTRITION THROUGH AGRICULTURE



Agriculture plays an important role in providing nutritious foods and sustainable livelihoods. SPRING's work has revealed several opportunities for agriculture to contribute to improved nutrition, especially for those most at risk. By addressing these opportunities in current and new agricultural activities, USAID and its implementing partners can more effectively contribute to better nutrition.

Here are five things we can do now.

1

Increase Availability of and Access to Diverse, Nutritious Foods

- Invest in nutritious food value chains
- Improve the availability of nutritious foods year-round through storage
- Make nutritious foods safe and affordable
- Promote good agricultural practices that protect the environment



2

Encourage Income Use for Better Diets, Health, and Hygiene

- Improve household budgeting skills to afford the cost of nutritious diets
- Stress the importance of investing in diverse foods, proper infant and child feeding, caregiving, and health



3

Recognize the Central Role of Women in Agriculture and Nutrition

- Empower women, promote gender equity, and an equitable division of labor
- Introduce time and labor-saving farming technologies
- Support time for self- and child-care, especially for pregnant and lactating mothers



4

Generate Demand for Diverse, Nutritious Foods

- Increase consumers' knowledge of nutrition
- Make nutritious foods convenient and appealing
- Overcome cultural barriers to consume nutritious foods



5

Establish Policies and Programs to Support a Broad View of Nutrition

- Advocate for explicit nutrition goals within national policies and development activities
- Establish and strengthen multi-sectoral partnerships
- Collaborate and share knowledge and resources



Frontline workers play a critical role in providing these interventions



Health Workers



Promoters



Volunteers



Nurses



Traditional Healers



Agriculture
Extension Workers



Mayors



Village Chiefs



Teachers



Other influential
voices

Frontline workers **have**

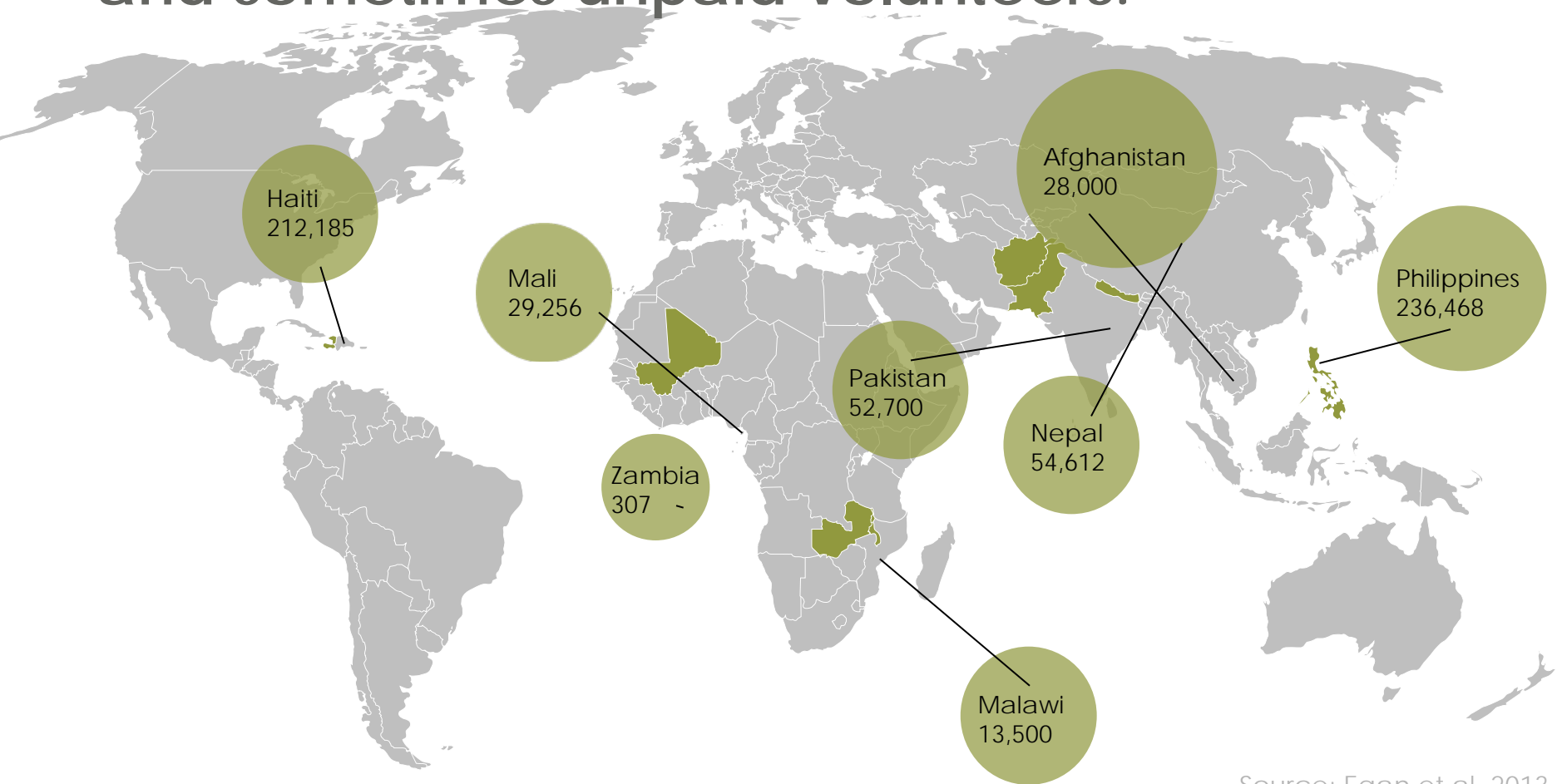
- Direct access to the community
- The ability to link with other nutrition-related community-based workers

They can **provide** community members

- A range of nutrition-specific and -sensitive services that directly and indirectly affect nutrition



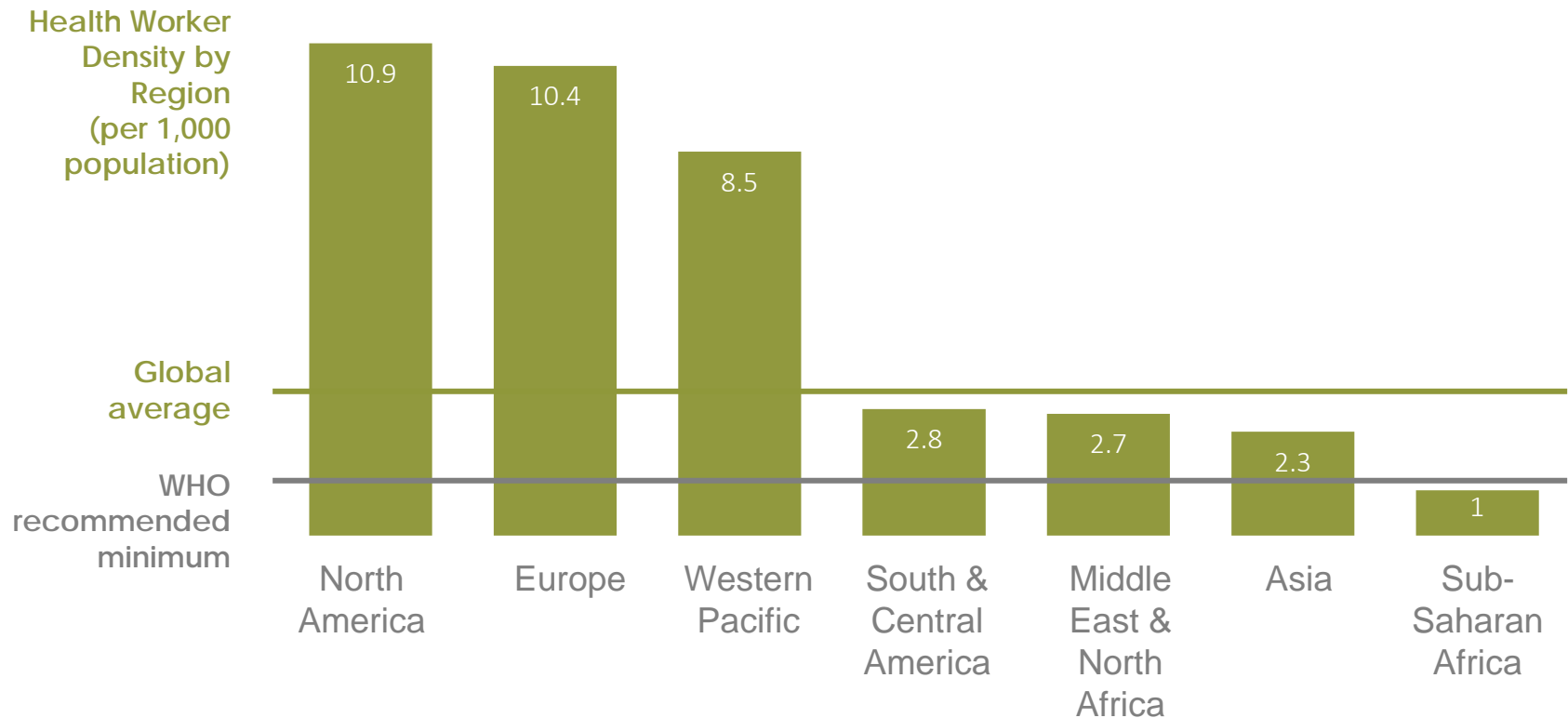
Globally, CHWs are some of the **most numerous** frontline workers out there. They include paid and sometimes unpaid volunteers.



Source: Egan et al. 2013.



There is a global **shortage** of health workers, which has severe implications for **morbidity** and **mortality** rates.



Source: JLI 2004 and WHO Global Health Workforce Statistics



But they face many challenges



Poor
Remuneration



Shortages
of Qualified
Staff



Limited
Training

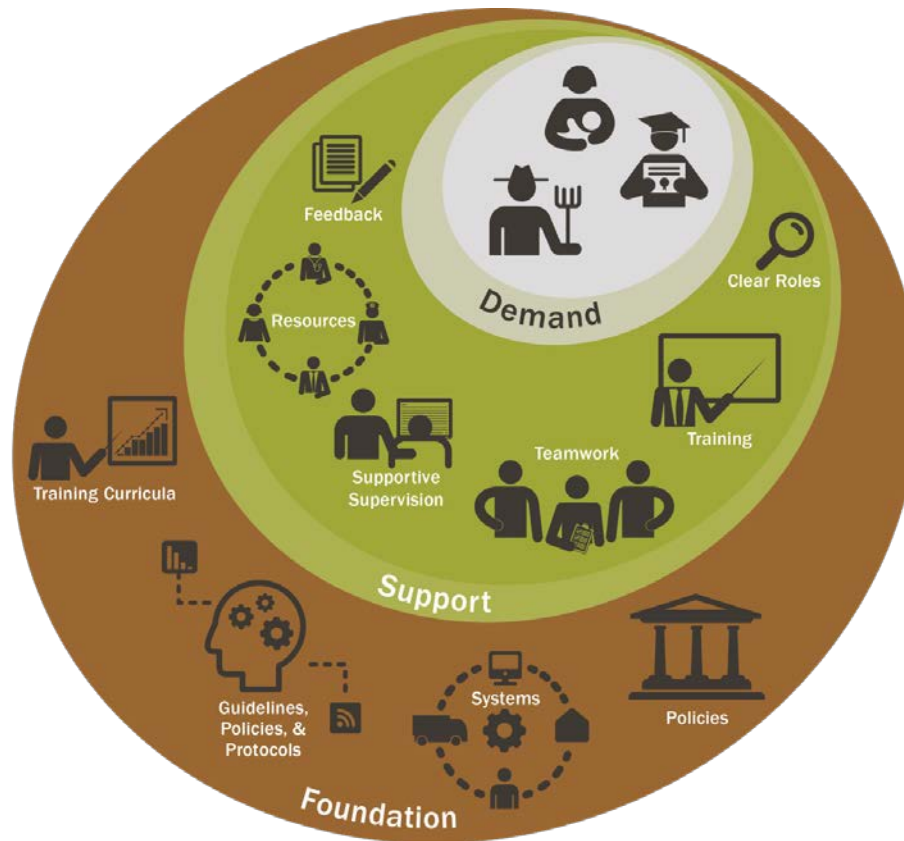


Difficult
Work
Environments



Lack of
Support





Bringing about **meaningful change** in service providers' behaviors—and, by extension, the nutrition services they provide—requires a **systematic and sustainable** change process



How to **build** a foundation

Essential underpinnings of successful efforts to reduce malnutrition include:



Multi-sectoral national nutrition policies and plans



Processes and procedures for information collection and use, supervision, monitoring, and human resource management

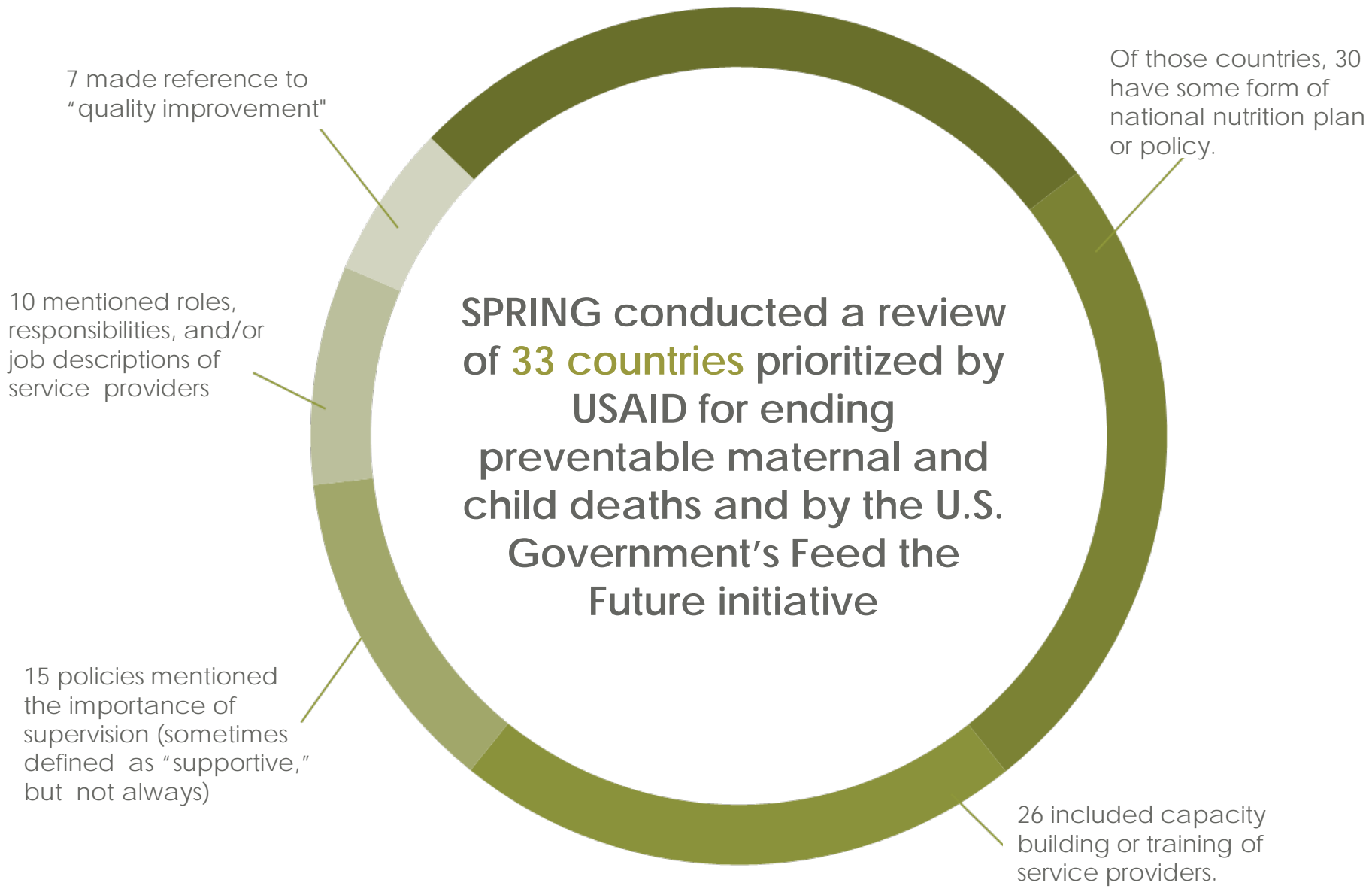


Training curricula and materials for a range of actors



National indicators, guidelines, and protocols





How to **build** a foundation

Situation analyses conducted by Alive & Thrive in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Vietnam showed that full implementation of policy mandates for the support and promotion of universal access to breastfeeding and complementary feeding was lagging.



Enacting the policies required extensive



Advocacy



Evidence



Dialogue



Partnership Formation



Capacity Building

across varied programs and institutions



Once this was in place, scaling up the main components of service delivery required leadership, financing, logistics and supplies, and partnerships.

Source: Sanghvi et al. 2013



Policies, systems, protocols, guidelines, and curricula are of little use if they are not **communicated** properly to service providers and if service providers are not **supported** in carrying out the tasks expected of them.



Factors affecting performance



Knowledge and skills

Clear expectations

Timely feedback

Incentives and motivation

Adequate environment



Providing support



Implement training as a continuous process of follow-up, refresher trainings, new trainings, and additional support.



Ensure the availability of adequate infrastructure, resource, and supplies.



Develop, share, and discuss detailed and meaningful job descriptions. [Research shows that health workers who have been given written job descriptions provide higher-quality care than those who have not.]



Develop “a process of guiding, monitoring, and coaching workers to promote compliance with standards of practice and assure the delivery of quality care service.” (Crigler et al. 2013)



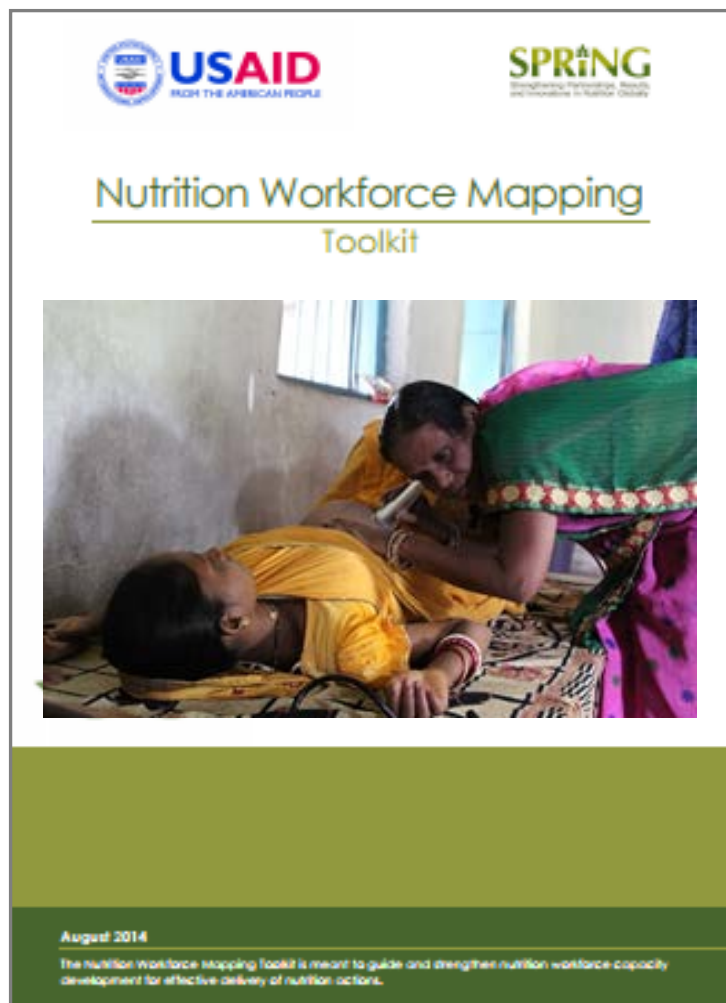
Institute systems for providing feedback and incentives to service providers. [Research for five countries found that motivation was the most powerful ‘predictor’ of performance.]



Explore approaches, such as quality improvement and performance improvement, that engage and empower teams, focus on clients, analyze processes, and use data.



SPRING Nutrition Workforce Mapping



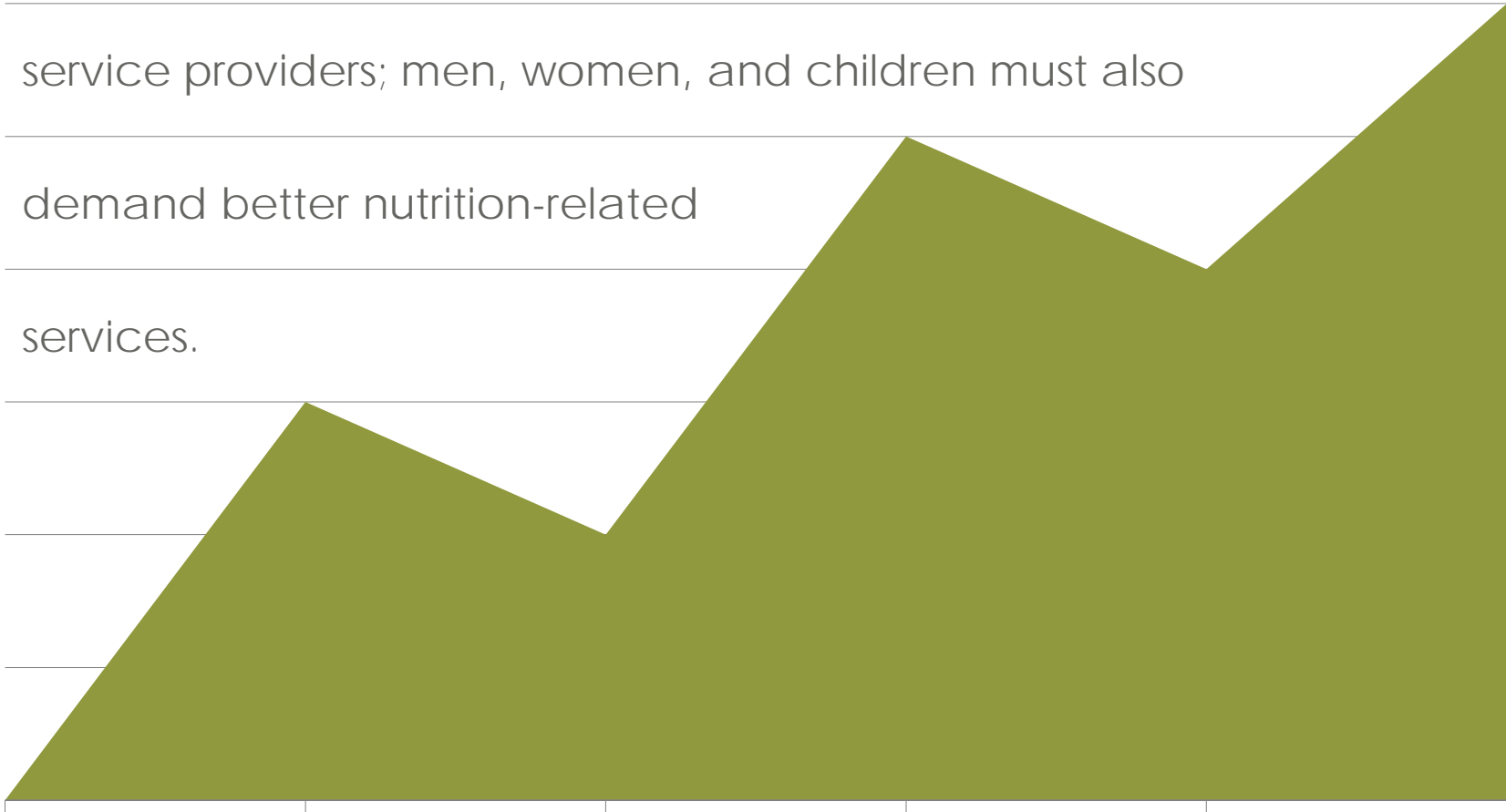
Tools	Description	Key informant/ respondent (s)
National- level interview guide	Module 1: Assess national nutrition workforce size, composition, availability, and gaps	National HR focal person for health or secondary data
	Module 2: Assess required qualification(s) of providers tasked with nutrition actions	National nutrition focal person/secondary data
	Module 3: Assess which nutrition actions each provider type is tasked with (expected to perform)	National nutrition or health focal persons
District-level interview guide	Module 1: Assess workforce size (approved and filled positions)	District HR focal person for health secondary data
	Module 2: Assess number of providers have been trained and provided with a job description	District training/capacity-building focal person
	Module 3: Assess which nutrition actions each provider type is tasked with (expected to perform)	District health officer/nutrition focal person
Facility- level interview guide	Module 1: Assess workforce size (approved and filled positions)	Head of health facility/facility HR focal person for health or secondary data
	Module 2: Assess number of providers have been trained and provided with a job description	Head of health facility/facility training focal person or secondary data
	Module 3: Assess which nutrition actions each provider type is tasked with (expected to perform), usually performs, and is typically trained to perform	Head of health facility/health center/health post
Individual provider interview guide	Module 1: Assess which nutrition actions each provider is tasked with (expected to perform), usually performs, and is trained to perform	Individual provider (s)
	Module 2: Assess provision of job description	



Increasing demand



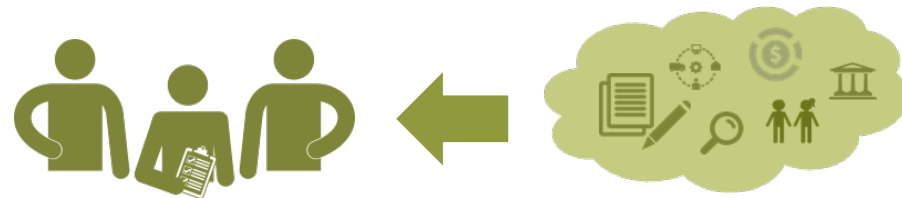
It is not enough to establish a strong foundation or even to support service providers; men, women, and children must also demand better nutrition-related services.



Increasing demand through data and conversation



A great deal of information is gathered at the community level, but often it is too much and duplicative



Increase demand and accountability by gathering community-based data and feeding it back to community committees for them to use in their own efforts to improve nutritional outcomes

With the right **information**, communities can take **ownership** of their own improvement.



Increasing demand by encouraging community structures



- Strengthen and empower existing **government structures and community systems**
- Promote the **Citizen Voice and Action** approach (World Vision)
- Use the **Partnership Defined Quality** approach (Save the Children)
- Use **score cards** that are developed, discussed, and improved together
- Establish community-based quality improvement committees



Recommendations

To sustain and scale up quality nutrition services, countries will ...

1. Determine country needs and priorities at the foundation, support-level, and demand.



2. Integrate nutrition at the foundation, into existing policies and/or create multi-sectoral policies along with corresponding systems, curricula, and protocols.



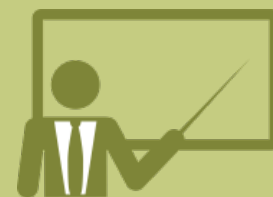
3. Review existing approaches and tools for supporting frontline workers and integrate nutrition into the most robust, scalable, and sustainable.



4. Engage communities and build demand for nutrition outcomes, nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific behaviors.



5. Share and learn from successful and unsuccessful experiences.



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Thank you!

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