



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

This presentation is part of the

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SPRING
Strengthening Partnerships, Results
and Innovations in Nutrition Globally

Concurrent Session 2.4 Summary
December 12, 2012

2.4A-M&E for integrated agriculture and nutrition

- Not surprising there were several questions and ‘aha’ moments around the M&E session which took an in-depth look at Malawi’s Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains project and how they will be measuring progress within the project and FTF context.
- INVC has combined three kinds of indicators. They took some of the 13 required FtF indicators within the zone of influence and adapted them to measure their beneficiaries only in their district. EXAMPLE- Stunting under 3 was chosen rather than stunting under 5, the reason is that this is a 3 year project, so we needed to see impact and looking at the cohorts of children, they found that the age group most likely to show the an impact was the under 3.
- Custom indicators that really reflect the intervention. There are risks in tracking only products, we need to track dietary diversity .. tracking both can get both sides of the picture.
- Many of the questions highlighted the desire among MANY to develop an M&E approach which is useful for project management, is flexible, and measures at multiple levels of implementation.
- Time was a common issue/challenge...BCC is a long term undertaking but a project may be 3 years, so how do you reconcile short-term versus long-term expected impact? Projects with short timelines are expected to deliver high level impacts such as stunting. Others found the FTF M&E setup too ‘ad hoc’ and not helpful for program management or impact evaluation?

2.4-B:Technology for maximizing agriculture and nutrition

- This group explored the application of new tools and approaches for measuring anemia status in Ghana with a non-invasive device, human mediated approach for improving agriculture practices in India, and, extension monitoring in Uganda’s community connector.
- All three presentations demonstrated how these technologies were being adapted and applied to meet the context specific needs of their particular setting and nutritional challenges. DIGITALGREEN presented their ICT enabled communication model for sustained social change at scale. Community members involved in initiation, production, and diffusion of videos on improved agricultural practices. Found greater increase in adoption of improved practices vs. traditional training and visit approach. Now taking approach to promote key nutrition, maternal and child health behaviors. This is all supported by a real-time M&E system.

- USAID/Ghana is testing a non-invasive anemia diagnostic device as a first step to addressing the high rates of anemia (no blood tests!). The results of the study will help determine how accurate the non-invasive Hb devices are, which in turn will guide decisions on how the devices can be most effectively used, for which populations and in which settings.
- Eric also demonstrated how CC is using community knowledge workers surveys, real-time dashboard, extension tool for followup of mothers and children. If you want to learn and adapt, you must have the right tools and technology to collect the right information for your program.
- Innovative solutions can drive programs but can also be used to monitor and evaluation programs.
- Innovative solutions are often 'value added' to on-going host country driven programs in both agriculture and health.
- Innovative solutions can be found around the globe and across sectors. Again, we need to be looking outside our sectors to explore new ways of message delivery, assessment, and evaluation.

2.4-C-Addressing micronutrient deficiencies through stronger public/private partnerships

- This group looked at how private sector food based initiatives complement other micronutrient deficiency control approaches; advantages and disadvantages of various approaches....variety of geographic examples.
- Biofortification (Mozambique)
- Micronutrient supplementation
- Dietary diversity promotion
- Regional fortification networks (east and west Africa)

2.4D Nutrition 101: Evidence behind the 1000 days approach

- Nutrition 101 and the 1000 days approach Explored basic concepts of nutrition, from definition of undernutrition, introduction to the evidence high impact interventions, and measurement.
- Then by applied these concepts and interventions to the pathways we've been exploring. How can integrated approaches address gaps in diet, especially for women and young children?