Malnutrition in Pakistan: Humanitarian or Development Challenge?

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Context

Provincial Comparison of Stunting, Wasting and Severe Wasting

40% severe public health concern
15% emergency threshold
Each year, 352,000 children in Pakistan die before reaching their fifth birthday; 158,400 of these deaths are related to undernutrition.
Challenges

Factors

- Complex Emergency
- Natural disasters
- Chronic Poverty
- Food insecurity
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Deep rooted traditional attitudes and practices
  a) Feeding/caring practices
  b) Decision making
  c) Mothers knowledge/education
Challenges

Issues

• Security

• Humanitarian access

• Government: Policy/ownership/financing

• Donor: Humanitarian Programs duration/funding

• Lack of Capacity at all levels

• Humanitarian vs development linkages?  
  (sequencing/layering/integration)
Case Study

Sindh Province

• **+ Sequencing** (CMAM, SAM, Health Education, Government led PC-1 nutrition investment)

• **+ Layering**: Livelihood, drought mitigation and DRR

• **- Integration**: strong coordination
Key Takeaways

- Strong Policy, leadership/ownership
- Coordination
- Understand the context- humanitarian or development or both
- Strengthen multi-sectors linkages
- Build capacity at all levels
- Strengthen community support groups and enhance behavior change communication
- Find ways to overcome security, implementation and M&E challenges
Government Authorities

- Pakistan Vision 2025
  (Food Security and Under-Nutrition Priority Areas)
- Pakistan Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy (In process)
- Provincial Nutrition Guidance Notes/Integrated Nutrition Strategies
- PC-1 approval and implementation
- Infant Feeding Board
- Legislation on National Universal Salt Iodization
  (from 17% to 69% - NNS2011)
- National Guidelines for Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
- Nutrition Training Curriculum
- National Fortification Alliance
  (MI and WFP supporting commercial wheat flour fortification in AJK)
Development Partners

- Multi-donor Trust Fund (USAID, DFID, EU, ECHO, AusAID)
- Scaling-up Nutrition Framework
- United Nations System (CMAM program)
- Civil society and community participation (I/NGOs)