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Nutrition Global Learning and Evidence Exchange:

Strengthening Sustainable Nutrition Efforts at the Sub-National Level

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Presentation Outline

- ◉ Known needs and gaps related to sustainable nutrition efforts at the subnational level
- ◉ Recommended actions to strengthen sustainable nutrition efforts at the subnational level



USAID Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy

Intermediate Result 2 Increased country capacity and commitment to nutrition

- 2.1 Increased professional and institutional capacity
- 2.2. Increased political will and resources for nutrition programs
- 2.3. Increased stakeholder engagement around national nutrition goals
- 2.4 Improved systems to plan, manage and evaluate nutrition programs

o What does this look like at the subnational level?



What We Know: Needs and Gaps



Program/Policy Environment in South and Central Asia

Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Tajikistan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUN country• Multi-sectoral approach to addressing undernutrition• Additional support to coordinate and implement is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No active national nutrition policy• Support to increase cross-sector collaboration needed• Greater political commitment, and current nutrition data needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recent increased political commitment to nutrition• Multi-sectoral approach to addressing undernutrition• Additional support to coordinate and implement is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Nutrition Plan needs to be finalized• Support to improve health services and integrate preventive nutrition services, especially in rural areas is needed

Chaparro, Oot, and Sethuraman, 2014.



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Program/Policy Environment in Southeast Asia

Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam

- Strongest nutrition policy environment in the region
- SUN Movement—Indonesia and the Philippines
- All have current national nutrition plans, but need support in coordination and implementation

Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste

- SUN Movement—Burma and Laos
- All have national nutrition plans/strategies, however, continued support to implement is needed
- Burma: weak nutrition policy environment
- Burma, Cambodia, and Laos need to strengthen community-based services (including nutrition)
- Timor Leste needs increased investment and political commitment to nutrition

Chaparro, Oot, and Sethuraman, 2014.



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Implementation of Government Nutrition Strategies

IDS (2011-2012) assessment key findings and policy recommendations:

- ⌚ Executive branch of government involvement
- ⌚ Effective bodies to coordinate nutrition actions
- ⌚ Nutrition as an integral part of the national development agenda.
- ⌚ Single narrative about the severity of malnutrition.
- ⌚ Local government capacity to deliver nutrition services
- ⌚ Local ownership of nutrition programs and their outcomes
- ⌚ Accountability through civil society groups
- ⌚ Regular nutrition outcome data collection
- ⌚ Use of centralized funding mechanisms
- ⌚ Government earmarks and financial mechanisms for nutrition

Mejia Acosta and Fanzo 2012



Lessons from Health Facility Assessments

Areas for Inputs	Needs
Skills/expertise	Nutrition pre-service training In-service training
Job materials	Service delivery guidelines Counseling job aids Algorithms for decision-making
Equipment	Scales Height boards MUAC tapes BMI wheels
Commodities	RUTF/Antibiotics Storage space Inventory mgmt. systems



Lessons from Title II Food Aid Exit Strategy Research

- Three factors – motivation, capacity, and resources – are critical to achieving sustainability of service provision.
- The quality of inputs and infrastructure contributes to sustainability.
- A gradual transition of activities to independent operation is very important for sustainability.

Rogers and Coates, FANTA, forthcoming



Recommendations



Political Will and Planning

- Sub-national advocacy with policy makers, politicians, media, CSOs, private sector
- District level action plans
- Budgeting



Professional and Institutional Capacity Building

- Pre-service AND in-service nutrition training
- Job aid development
- QI/QA and operations research
- Training on mgmt, planning and operations
- Exit strategies or sustainability plans – from the beginning

Recommended resource: FAO Approaches to Capacity Development in Programming: Processes and Tools: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/capacity_building/FAO_CD_LM2.pdf



M&E and Data Collection

- ☞ Capacity to do M&E and nutrition indicator data collection
- ☞ QA/QI for data collection
- ☞ Space for learning

WHAT GETS MEASURED
GETS DONE



Thank you!

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