ESTIMATING COUNTRY-LEVEL NUTRITION INVESTMENTS
GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF A TWO-COUNTRY STUDY

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WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT NUTRITION INVESTMENT?
Because increased funding for nutrition means gains in healthy and productive life years, global estimates state that for every USD $1 spent on nutrition, countries can save USD $18 of that cost through improved health and economic benefits.⁷

“PATHWAYS TO BETTER NUTRITION” (PBN) STUDY

SPRING’S PBN STUDY TRACKED:

- Policy → Pathways to change → Prioritization → Funding

BY ASKING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Do people understand and use the policy?
- How can/does change occur in planning and funding?
- What change occurred in planning nutrition activities?
- What change occurred in funding nutrition activities?

BUDGET ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

- Collection: Key informant interviews, named sources added
- Validation: Follow-up interviews / allocation verification
- Analysis: Analysis of revised budget figures, analysis of themes affecting allocations

PHASES

- Collection
- Validation
- Analysis
- NNAP
- Budget document analysis

RESULTS

The results of the PBN study found that, in both countries, the national plan has played an important role in increasing knowledge, perceptions, and behaviors related to planning and financing for nutrition; only in Nepal did it increase investments for nutrition-related activities.

UGANDA

Although sector ministries and government planning agencies have begun to find ways to increase funding for nutrition, these efforts have not yet affected the budget — allocations for nutrition were flat (2 percent change after adjusting for inflation) between 2013–2014 and 2014–2015.

NÉPAL

Increased priority in the sector ministries and EDPs has resulted in yearly increases in nutrition-related funding of about 17 percent. Approximately one-fourth of this funding in 2015–2016 flowed from projects related to MSNP.

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS WORK

We need a more accurate global picture of nutrition funding. SPRING’s approach has produced some of the first comprehensive estimates of nutrition investments in Nepal and Uganda, and is among some of the first efforts anywhere to track nutrition funding. To further improve global and country estimates of nutrition funding, SPRING has —

- co-convened (with Results for Development, the SUN Secretariat, and MQSUN) a group of global technical experts to provide guidance to those responsible for analyzing nutrition financing
- promoted continued collection and analysis of nutrition funding data in Nepal and Uganda via capacity building trainings for ministries, data dissemination events, and one-on-one meetings
- developed a nutrition budgeting analysis tool and user’s guide (www.spring-nutrition.org/budget-tool) that provides background information, step-by-step guidance, and an Excel-based template for undertaking the budget analysis process. The tool can be used across multiple ministries or donors to provide a more comprehensive picture of national nutrition allocations, or can be used within a single organization.

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Footnotes:
3 USAID, Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING).