Building capacity across multiple systems to enhance nutrition outcomes:

The ENGINE Project’s approach to capacity building in Ethiopia.

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Strategic Objective
Improved nutritional status of women and young children through sustainable, comprehensive, coordinated, and evidence-based interventions

IR 1
IR1: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies

1R2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved

IR3: Prevention of undernutrition through community-based nutrition care practices improved

IR4: Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted
Principles of Capacity Building (CB) for ENGINE

• **Value pre-existing capacities**
  – ENGINE identified pre-existing skills, structures, and partnerships in Ethiopia and respect these but intervened on the gaps
  – ENGINE CB is integrated into existing and decentralized health, agriculture, schools and higher institution structures to ensure acceptability and sustainability

• **Be responsive to context**
  – ENGINE contextualized its CB strategy to the Ethiopian health, nutrition and agriculture context

• **Multi-sectoral and multi-platform**

• **Multiple level and approach**
  • ENGINE CB work at different levels and applies a combination of strategies
### ENGINE CB strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CB component</th>
<th>Sector/institution</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Policy/governance</td>
<td>Ministry of health/ multi-sectoral</td>
<td>Federal/national</td>
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</table>
| Pre-service and Research | - 12 health and agriculture institutions  
|                        | - Two universities and EHNRI (operational research and PhD) | National and Regional  |
| Skill and knowledge    | Health, agriculture and schools                        | District and community  |

**Multi-sectoral capacity built to implement quality nutrition specific and sensitive interventions**
Targets of the CB

Targets

Policy makers (support policy environment)

Health workers

Program managers of health, agriculture and district administrators

School teachers in primary and secondary schools

Community level health and agriculture extension workers (HEWs, AEWs)

EHNRI and academic institutions (national and regional)
Capacity Building Activities

• Preparatory assessments:
  – Human resource need assessment for nutrition
  – Capacity and need assessment of national universities and regional colleges
  – Nutrition competency for health, nutrition and agriculture
Policy and governance

• Supported Ethiopia’s multi-sectoral National Nutrition Program (NNP)
• Revitalized the multi-sectoral National Nutrition coordination body (NNCB)
• Technically assisted agriculture and value-chain Feed the Future (FtF) projects to integrate nutrition into their existing portfolio

“The National Nutrition Program needs the coordinated effort of different sectors such as health, agriculture, water, and education, and working with development partners,” Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

▲ Members of NNCB

▼ First lady, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of health launching the NNP
Policy and governance

• Support Food fortification:
  - As part of multi-partner support, ENGINE supported national food fortification standard guide development
  - Facilitated multi-sector food fortification capacity training for policy makers and experts

• Established FtF multi-sector nutrition technical working group
Pre-service

• **Integration of nutrition into courses of 12 health and agriculture colleges** (4 national health universities, 4 regional agriculture colleges, and 4 regional health colleges)
  
  • Produced nutrition core competency for nutrition, health and agriculture professionals
  • Integrate nutrition into curricula for health and agriculture institutions
    – 58 different course/module syllabi revised and standardized.
  • Effective teaching skills trainings for 205 faculties
  • Established continuous nutrition education quality improvement process using the Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R)-73 trained
  • Organize nutrition forum for 574 health and agriculture graduates

• Establish one academic center of excellence for nutrition research and education
Operational Research

- Support two universities (Hawassa and Jimma) with nutrition programs and Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI)
  - Conduct operational research (One Principal Investigator (PI) from Tufts University and Co-PI from the local universities):
    - Birth cohort study and nutrition-agriculture cohort study
    - Nutrition policy research: “Assessing multi-sector coordination for nutrition policy effectiveness”
  - Support seven PhD students from the three institutions
- Support 100 MSc thesis work on nutrition from six universities
Skill development for nutrition

- **Objective:** building capacity at implementation level - districts, facilities and community

- **CB activities:**
  - Maternal Infant and Young Nutrition (MYICN) training to health workers and HEWs - **10,077 trained**
  - Nutrition sensitive agriculture and dietary diversification training to development agents or agriculture extension workers - **1,987 trained**
  - Homestead gardening and dietary diversification training to school teachers - **837 trained**
  - Nutrition program importance, planning and management and multi-sectoral response for nutrition training to program managers of health, agriculture and administrators at district and zone level
  - Provide post-training follow up, mentoring and SBCC materials
  - Support sectoral and multi-sectoral review meetings
Take away messages

• Capacity building plan should be based on preliminary assessments and contextualized to the existing systems of the sectors.

• Ensure capacity building for nutrition to use multiple approach, target multiple sectors and implemented at different levels.

• Capacity building for non-health sectors should be tailored to the nutrition competencies that are expected from the sectors. Avoid health biased approach.

• Pre-service capacity building need to integrate competency, quality, and operational research.
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THANK YOU