

# IUNS 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nutrition Parallel Symposium

Past and Current Experiences in Leveraging  
Multiple Program and Partner Platforms to  
Scale-Up Nutrition Interventions

**Attendee Guide**  
Granada, Spain  
September 18, 2013



The Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) Project is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-11-00031. SPRING is managed by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

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## Parallel Symposium on Past and Current Experiences in Leveraging Multiple Program and Partner Platforms to Scale-Up Nutrition Interventions

Picasso Room

September 18, 2013

### AGENDA

The USAID-funded Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) Project presents a two-hour panel session highlighting lessons learned in implementing USAID-funded high impact nutrition interventions at scale. This session provides the opportunity to learn from past efforts to design and implement large scale integrated nutrition projects as well as to learn from current efforts. Focus is given to using multiple platforms and partners and engaging key sectors outside of health, critical to improving nutrition outcomes.

11:30 – 11:35	Welcome and Opening Remarks	<i>Agnes Guyon</i> , SPRING
11:35 – 12:50	Panel Presentations	Facilitated by <i>Rebecca Egan</i> , USAID
11:35 – 11:50	Learning from Past Successes in Scaling-Up Integrated Nutrition Programs to Inform Future Efforts: Design and Delivery Considerations	<i>Christian Winger</i> , SPRING
11:50 – 12:10	Using Lessons Learned from Earlier Nutrition Efforts in Nepal to Design a Multi-Platform National Scale Integrated Nutrition Project	<i>Pooja Pandey Rana</i> , Suaahara Program, Nepal
12:10 – 12:30	Scaling-Up Nutrition Using Synergy Between Health and Agriculture Platforms in Bangladesh	<i>Dr. Yasir Arafat</i> , SPRING, Bangladesh
12:30 – 12:50	Building Capacity Across Multiple Systems to Enhance Nutrition Outcomes: The ENGINE Project's Approach to Capacity Building in Ethiopia	<i>Dr. Habtamu Fekadu</i> , ENGINE Project, Ethiopia
12:50 – 13:30	Discussion	
12:50 – 13:20	Q&A	<i>Rebecca Egan</i> , USAID
13:20 – 13:30	Concluding Remarks	<i>Rebecca Egan</i> , USAID

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## Parallel Symposium

### Past and Current Experiences in Leveraging Multiple Program and Partner Platforms to Scale-Up Nutrition Interventions

#### *Speaker Biographies* (Listed alphabetically by last name)

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**Dr. Yasir Arafat, Divisional Manager**  
**Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING), Bangladesh**

Dr. Yasir is a medical doctor with a Master of Public Health degree. He has five years of field experience in the implementation of public health and nutrition projects including program design, implementation and management. Previously, Dr. Yasir served as a Program Manager for a community-based essential health care program in Sierra Leone. Prior to joining SPRING, he worked with Save the Children overseeing technical assistance to a United Nations-implemented integrated food security and nutrition project. He has training and technical knowledge of infant and young child feeding, micronutrients, women's nutrition, community-based management of acute malnutrition, and social and behavior change communication.

**Rebecca Egan, Nutrition Technical Advisor**  
**USAID Bureau for Global Health**

Ms. Rebecca Egan is a nutrition technical advisor for USAID in the Bureau for Global Health. She provides broad expertise in food security and nutrition programming as well as monitoring and evaluation of USAID programs to support the achievement of objectives put forth under the US Government's Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiatives. Rebecca also leads the technical assistance for two of USAID's nutrition projects: the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project. Prior to coming to USAID, Rebecca worked for the William J. Clinton Health Access Initiative as a Nutrition Program Manager supporting nutrition programs in over 15 countries. Rebecca holds an MS from the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

**Dr. Habtamu Fekadu, Project Director  
Empowering New Generations in Improved Nutrition and Economic Opportunities (ENGINE),  
Ethiopia**

Dr. Fekadu is a licensed pediatrician and nutritionist with more than 10 years of experience in child health and nutrition. He is currently managing an integrated nutrition project called ENGINE, funded by USAID. Prior to this, Dr. Fekadu has worked on another USAID-funded project on nutrition and HIV project, as well as government, academia, UNICEF, and Save the Children. He led the development of the first National Nutrition Plan of Action for Ethiopia.

**Pooja Pandey Rana, Deputy Chief of Party  
Suaahara, Nepal**

Pooja Pandey Rana is the Deputy Chief of Party for the USAID-funded Integrated Nutrition – Suaahara Program, currently being implemented in 20 districts in Nepal. Her main interests focus on addressing multisectoral dimensions of malnutrition in South Asia especially in Nepal. Pooja has a Master of Public Health degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She has been working in Nepal since 1999 in the field of public health and nutrition.

**Christian Winger, MALD, Project Director  
Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING)**

Mr. Winger has over 20 years of experience in managing private and public organizations and implementing projects in nutrition, maternal/child health, HIV and AIDS prevention, and reproductive health. He has served as both project director and chief of party for a variety of programs implementing social behavior change communications. He has significant experience working in infant young child nutrition, HIV and AIDS and nutrition, zinc treatment for diarrhea, iodized salt, and point-of-use water disinfection. Mr. Winger offers solid experience in creating innovative partnerships between private sector, public sector, and civil society, building upon existing resources for low-cost and sustainable interventions.

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*Presentation Descriptions*  
(Listed in chronological order)

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#### Learning From Past Successes in Scaling-Up Integrated Nutrition Programs to Inform Future Efforts: Design and Delivery Considerations

**Presenter:**

Christian Winger

**Description:**

There have only been a handful of success stories in achieving large-scale coverage, impact and sustained reductions in undernutrition through integrated nutrition programs. Notable successes in changing key infant feeding practices have been achieved under the LINKAGES Project in Bolivia, Ghana and Madagascar and under the Essential System for Health in Ethiopia (ESHE) Project. Additional successes in integrated nutrition programming are emerging under current USAID-funded projects, both globally and at the country level, in Nepal, Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

Many more success stories exist on scaling-up single intervention programs, such as vitamin A supplementation and breastfeeding, and with interventions delivered through the social services sector. The Strengthening Partnerships Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) USAID-funded project will present a retrospective and current review of USAID investments in nutrition, including infant and young child feeding (e.g. Wellstart, LINKAGES, IYCN projects), micronutrients (OMNI, MOST, A2Z projects), nutrition and HIV (PEPFAR) and the Food for Peace program. SPRING will present how USAID has leveraged multiple platforms for scale-up and outline promising directions for the future. More recently, USAID has prioritized leveraging agriculture programs to improve nutrition through its Feed the Future initiative. SPRING, with the support of USAID, conducted a series of Agriculture-Nutrition Global Learning and Evidence Exchange (AgN- GLEE) workshops that identified and shared practical emerging best practices in linking agriculture and nutrition. Key elements of success identified through the AgN-GLEE will be highlighted. With a view toward on-going efforts in nutrition scale-up, including USAID's Feed the Future and Global Health Initiatives and within the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, SPRING will outline key steps to be considered for current and future nutrition scale-up projects, including to document achievements, measures of success that go beyond coverage and impact to include dimensions of quality, capacity building and sustainability.

## Using Lessons Learned From Earlier Nutrition Efforts in Nepal to Design a Multi-Platform National Scale Integrated Nutrition Project

**Presenter:**

Pooja Pandey Rana

**Description:**

Nepal is committed to addressing chronic malnutrition through the development of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan for Accelerating Reduction of Maternal and Child Undernutrition. The USAID-funded *Suaahara* project is designed to support this initiative by addressing undernutrition in women and children under two years in 20 targeted districts (250,000 households).

In partnership with Government of Nepal, particularly health, agriculture, water and local development sectors, *Suaahara* focuses on improving health and nutrition behaviors through promotion of *Essential Nutrition Actions* (ENA), especially *Infant and Young Child Feeding* (IYCF), as well as addressing availability and access to food, hygiene, quality health care, child spacing and socio-cultural factors. *Suaahara* also aims to strengthen nutrition policies and programs.

Learning from a range of interventions in Nepal, *Suaahara's* strategy drew from *Saving Newborn Lives* a SCI initiative; USAID-HKI's *Action Against Malnutrition through Agriculture* (AAMA) and the DFID-funded *Support to Safe Motherhood Program* where JHU/CCP strengthened localized approaches to reach marginalized populations.

*Suaahara* implements behavior change at all levels to create demand for improved ENA+ policies and practices, strengthens nutrition counseling in national programs and works closely with district-level actors and community structures to build linkages across sectors.

In districts that are severely food insecure, *Suaahara* is implementing an enhanced homestead food production model for households with pregnant women and children under two. Families receive support from village model farms, a model adapted from AAMA project that has successfully mainstreamed the ENA framework into agriculture production and created strong links with community health workers. *Suaahara* also promotes hygiene and sanitation behaviors through inter-personal communication in schools, events, and mass media and is expanding UNICEF's successful Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to improve access to and use of latrines.

## Scaling-Up Nutrition Using Synergy Between Health and Agriculture Platforms Bangladesh

**Presenter:**

Dr. Yasir Arafat

**Description:**

The USAID-funded SPRING Project is a five-year integrated nutrition program, which aligns with the Government of the People's Republic in Bangladesh's Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program as well as the US Government's Global Health and Feed the Future Initiatives. Using the 1000-day approach, the goal of SPRING/Bangladesh is to improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of two in Barisal and Khulna divisions.

In an effort to scale-up nutrition, SPRING has synergized Bangladesh's existing health and agriculture platforms by building on the experience of implementing partners and carrying out several qualitative research activities. First, SPRING undertook a "Pathways to Change" exercise to identify the determinants of undernutrition among rural populations in Bangladesh. Second, SPRING reviewed the existing knowledge base including UNICEF's conceptual framework on malnutrition, Helen Keller International (HKI) and John Snow, Inc.'s (JSI) experiences with implementing essential nutrition actions (ENA), and the LINKAGES Project's experience using multiple contacts in Madagascar. Third, current health, agriculture and nutrition interventions in SPRING targeted sub-districts were mapped. Fourth, SPRING adapted existing materials including the JSI/HKI/CORE ENA trilogy, Alive & Thrive's infant and young child feeding and advocacy materials, WASH+ "tippy taps" model to improve hygiene practices, and the farmer field school methodology used by the Regional Fisheries and Livestock Development Component.

This approach has allowed SPRING to identify existing resources and determine strategic partnerships. Within one year of implementation, SPRING formalized 11 partnerships across the agriculture and health sectors with government directorates and non-governmental projects funded by diverse donors including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DANIDA and USAID. SPRING's investment in a broad strategic review of existing knowledge, practices and partnerships has allowed for improvements in project efficiency, reach, sustainability and comprehensiveness.

## Fortified Foods for Women's Nutrition

**Presenter:**

Dr. Habtamu Fekadu

**Description:**

The USAID-funded ENGINE project is a five year integrated nutrition program, which builds upon the Government of Ethiopia's existing initiatives and renewed commitment to nutrition as well as the US Government's Global Health and Feed the Future Initiatives. ENGINE supports the revision and implementation of the new National Nutrition Program and works on a number of inter-related fronts to build capacity at different levels. This includes strengthening multi-sectoral coordination, building capacity at the policy and implementation levels, strengthening pre-service education and training, supporting large-scale behavior change communication for nutrition, linking nutrition, livelihoods and food security interventions, and integrating health and nutrition with private-public partnerships. For example, ENGINE has increased the capacity of agriculture-focused projects to integrate nutrition into their existing portfolio using an agriculture-to-nutrition pathway as an innovative approach to reveal the untapped potential of such projects to implement nutrition-sensitive interventions at multiple levels. To operationalize coordination efforts, ENGINE launched a multi-sector nutrition technical working group as a forum to engage agriculture and nutrition partners in using this pathway as a practical framework to synergize and build on existing efforts to enhance nutritional outcomes in a shared zone of influence. Through this multi-partner and multi-platform approach, it is estimated that over the period from 2011 to 2016 the ENGINE project will reach about 2.7 million households with improved support to high impact nutrition interventions.