Improving Nutrition Services in the Care of the Ill and Vulnerable Newborn and Child Workshop

Session 5: Solutions and Actions
Identification of Common Actions at the District Level

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USAID Advancing Nutrition
We know evidence-based, cost-effective interventions that can improve nutrition outcomes.

It is estimated that the following 10 evidence-based, nutrition-specific interventions, if scaled to 90 percent coverage, could reduce stunting by 20 percent and severe wasting by 60 percent.

- Management of severe acute malnutrition
- Preventive zinc supplementation
- Promotion of breastfeeding
- Appropriate complementary feeding
- Management of moderate acute malnutrition
- Periconceptual folic acid supplementation or fortification
- Maternal balanced energy protein supplementation
- Maternal multiple micronutrient supplementation
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Maternal calcium supplementation

Source: Bhutta et al. 2013.
Frontline health workers play a critical role in providing these interventions.
Practical Exercise:
Assess nutrition actions

1. Select one cadre of health worker.
2. How does this cadre...
   • Help achieve the priorities of district nutrition committees?
   • Interact with other sectors, systems, or workers?
3. Complete the Assessment of Nutrition Actions in your team.
   • How many actions does this cadre usually conduct?
   • Is the cadre prepared to “perform”?
But they face many challenges

- Poor Remuneration
- Shortages of Qualified Staff
- Limited Training
- Difficult Work Environments
- Lack of Support
To provide equitable, high-quality services workers need...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clear Expectations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Competence</td>
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<td>Timely Feedback</td>
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<td>Incentives and Motivation</td>
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<td>Adequate Environment</td>
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That districts can provide, by...

- Developing, sharing, and discussing **detailed and meaningful job descriptions**.

- Implementing **training as a continuous process** of follow-up, refresher trainings, new trainings, and additional support.

- Instituting **systems for providing timely feedback and incentives** to service providers.
That districts can provide by…

Empowering clients and engaging government to **seek** services, demand **quality** services, provide **incentives**, and **motivate** providers.

Ensuring the availability of the necessary **infrastructure, resources, and supplies**.
Building Competence in the Kyrgyz Republic

─ The SPRING Project
Providing Timely Feedback through Supportive Supervision

─ The SPRING Project
Using Mobile Phones to Improve Data Flow for Better Nutrition Interventions

• Prevented malnutrition in children under 2 approach (PM2A) with a food-assisted approach.

• Used a mobile phone system for registration of food beneficiaries and monitoring of nutrition and health practices.
“We faced many problems. Inspections highlighted gaps working with children and pregnant women. Our negative performance was often discussed at regional and national review boards. It was clear that we were doing something wrong, but we did not know how to improve. After SPRING’s supportive supervision training, all staff of Jumgal FMC started implementing mentoring principals in our work. Now we can clearly identify where we achieved success and where we face challenges. And all this happens with no screaming or penalty, just with mentoring and support. Thank you very much.”

— Ainura Tentieva Deputy Head of Jumgal FMC, The Kyrgyz Republic
Increasing Demand

It is not enough to establish a strong foundation or even to support service providers; men, women, and children must also demand better nutrition-related services.
Working with Existing Community Structures to Build Demand for Vietnam’s Nutrition Clubs

— World Vision
Working from the Bottom-Up and the Top-Down

Engage at the community level

Work with gov’t systems

Support communities to understand nutrition

Analyze underlying causes, opportunities and challenges

Partner for scale up

Promote evidence-based interventions

Align with existing policies and strategies

Partner with national institutions

— World Vision
Using Data and Conversation

A great deal of information is gathered at the community level, but often it is too much and duplicative.

Increase demand and accountability by gathering community-based data and feeding it back to community committees for them to use in their own efforts to improve nutritional outcomes.

With the right **information**, communities can take **ownership** of their own improvement.
Community-based Data for Decision-making in Ethiopia

— The Last Ten Kilometers Project
Using Simple Tools and Stickers

Family Planning

Pregnant

Newborn

Latrine

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The Last Ten Kilometers Project

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother's Name:_________</th>
<th>Household Number:_________</th>
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<td>Village Name:_________</td>
<td>CHP Name:_________</td>
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**Pregnancy, Delivery and Child Follow Up**

Mark with “✓”

- Did the CHP use the PHC to counsel the mother?

- PNC

- ANC Follow up
  - (1st)
  - (2nd)
  - (3rd)
  - (4th)

- Did she breastfeed immediately after delivery?

- Did she breastfeed exclusively during the first 6 months?

- Has the baby started immunization?

- Delivery Date

- Has the baby started complementary feeding, such as porridge, after s/he turned 6 months old?

- Has the baby completed immunization?

  **Reminder:** The baby needs to be vaccinated at least four times and have a measles shot before her/his 1st birthday.

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<tr>
<th>Mother’s condition (Regarding delivery)</th>
<th>Healthy</th>
<th>Deceased</th>
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<th>Neonate’s condition (Birth to 1 Month)</th>
<th>Healthy</th>
<th>Deceased</th>
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**Monthly Growth Monitoring**

Mark with “✓”

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Getting support from a range of community actors...

Health Workers  Promoters  Volunteers  Nurses  Traditional Healers
Agriculture Extension Workers  Mayors  Village Chiefs  Teachers  Other Influential Voices
Practical Exercise:
Map Contact Points and Match to Workers

1. Sketch a typical community in your country
2. Circle or mark possible contact points with children under two and/or their caregivers.
3. Indicate at each contact point the type of worker that might be present with a colored dot or symbol:

- Nurse/doctor
- Traditional healer
- Community health worker
- Teacher
Creating an **Adequate Environment** at the **District Level**

Multi-sectoral nutrition committees need to...

- **manage** complex **inter-governmental processes** and **local governance systems**
- coordinate **across sectors**
- hold members **accountable**

For completing agreed-upon actions and ultimately improving nutrition outcomes.
Partnering and Collaborating across Sectors
Increasing Awareness of and Commitment to Nutrition among Local Government Leaders

— The Pamoja Tuwalee project
Strengthening Local Governance

The Participatory Approach to Governance Excellence (PAGE) tools have been used in Ghana to help local governments conduct self-assessments and plan activities while strengthening organizational management capabilities and improving service delivery to constituents in a transparent and accountable manner.

—The RING Project
Engaging Community Structures and Systems

- School
- Religious Community
- Women's Group
- Local Health Clinic
- Local Government
- Savings & Credit Group
- Community Committee

— The ASSIST Project
Practical Exercise: Plan District Action

1. Identify gaps, challenges, or areas of focus that pertain to or might be the responsibility of the district/region in the first column of the table provided.

2. For each gap, challenge, or area of focus, please:
   - Identify at least one activity for districts to help strengthen nutrition services in the care of the sick and vulnerable newborn and child.
   - List in the inputs required to conduct the proposed activity.
   - Define the outputs, outcomes (short-term and long-term), as well as impacts.
Thank you!

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