

Nutrition Subgroup Meeting Notes

May 16, 2019

Participants: Grace Funnell (AAH) [co-chair], Sascha Lamstein (USAID Advancing Nutrition) [co-chair], Adugna Kebede (World Vision), Andrew Cunningham (USAID Advancing Nutrition), Charlene Bayemi (JSI), Daniel Lopez de Romana (NI), Dyness Kasungami (MCSP), Elizabeth Hourani (MCSP), Emily Keane (Save the Children), Jean Capps (Consultant), Joseph Seriki (Save the Children Somalia), Justine Kavle (MCSP), Jutile Loiseau (USAID RING/Ghana), Kelsey Torres (USAID's Advancing Nutrition) Longin Gashubije (ANECCA), Michel Pacque (MCSP), Noreen (Consultant), Patti Welch (MCSP), Peggy Koniz-Booher (USAID Advancing Nutrition), Suzanne Slattery (MCSP/JSI)

Recording Link: <https://mcsprogram.adobeconnect.com/ptqf11ob5kd3/>

Agenda/Meeting Notes:

- Introduction of new members
- Updates on current activities related to three key themes:
 1. Integration of early detection and treatment of malnutrition into community and primary health platforms
 - Grace (AAH):
 - Looking at integrating treatment by community health volunteers within the iCCM platform. The early detection piece is around family MUAC – training mothers.
 - [State of Acute Malnutrition website](#) (managed by No Wasted Lives) is starting some Communities of Practice. The first is up on the website and focused on [Family MUAC](#).
 - AAH's work in Kenya:
 - CHVs treating SAM in the community – based on previous research done in West Africa. Team has worked well with the Kenya MOH and are working on a learning document in partnership with Save the Children. The team in Kenya will also be hosting a learning event – unsure if it will be external.
 - AAH wants to shift their focus this summer to creating a CoP on iCCM and CHV's treating at a regional level. The team in Nairobi will be looking at this and will report out on that progress.
 - *If any subgroup members are interested in being a part of this, please reach out to Grace.*
 - Joseph (Save the Children Somalia):

- Update on work on malnutrition in Somalia. Given the difficulty in access in Somalia, Save the Children is currently piloting an approach called iCCM+ in fragile settings. Majorly around providing community SAM by CHWs in the communities that OTP services are unable to reach. This is based on some findings from a survey conducted around accessibility to nutrition interventions.
- Adugna (World Vision):
 - World Vision uses a project model called Timed Targeted Counselling covering the first 1,000 days based on a home visit approach by community health volunteers and CHWs. It is implemented in over 35 countries where World Vision has presence, in collaboration with local MOH.
 - <https://www.wvi.org/laos/timed-targeted-counselling>
 - <https://www.wvi.org/health/timed-and-targeted-counseling-ttc>
- 2. Scaling up promotion of early and exclusive breastfeeding, including during illness, both at community and facility level
 - Sascha (USAID Advancing Nutrition):
 - Planning a webinar following on the work done at the *Improving Nutrition Services in the Care of the Ill and Vulnerable Newborn and Child Workshop* which took place in Ghana in November 2018. It will highlight a few countries speaking on the progress made to their country action plans.
 - Hoping to provide TA to at least one of the countries that was present at the workshop, regarding the action plan they developed.
 - Daniel (Nutrition International):
 - NI has IYCF programs that support exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and then ensuring children receive appropriate complimentary feeding.
 - Some of what NI does: Try to focus on establishing appropriate TWGs at the country level. Improve quality and training of CHW's to increase their capacity to provide effective counseling. Aim to support health system management to improve the way IYCF is reported.
 - Jean highlighted some of the sustainability issues with TWG's. While they are a good idea, they can end up being so donor dependent (meeting costs and organization of the TWG) that there are no plans for them to continue after projects end.

- NI is working in Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Philippines, and Tanzania
 - Justine (MCSP):
 - Integrated nutrition into health platform in 12 countries. Scaled up breastfeeding and IYCF in several countries. Integrated IYCF into several integrated interventions.
 - Most of this has been delineated in a [journal supplement](#) that was published in February 2019 in Maternal and Child Nutrition Journal. Discusses how to strengthen nutrition within the health system. Includes work in Malawi on BFHI, work in Kenya on BFCI, and integrating IYCF within iCCM and FP and newborn tracking for immunization.
 - Part of the [Global Breastfeeding Collective](#) and there was a partners meeting in Geneva at end of April. The collective is led by UNICEF and WHO, but it is a group of organization that is working to advocate for increased investment in breastfeeding.
 - Link to global breastfeeding collective and breastfeeding advocacy toolkit.
3. Strengthening ECD within nutrition interventions at the community level
- Andrew (USAID Advancing Nutrition and IRC):
 - Casie sent out an email to the subgroup to share ECD resources such as trainings, tools, research, or program learning. She is now working on a mapping exercise of what she has received so far. This is ongoing so if there are more resources to share, please send them to her.
 - Bernadette Delmens (WHO) and Franz Vagan (UNICEF) reached out to Casie and Andrew and had a call with them to learn more about their work to integrate nutrition and ECD.
 - WHO and UNICEF working with World Bank and others, building off of the Nurturing Care Framework. This is very high-level so they are finding ways to operationalize that guidance. Consultation next month and hope to have some written guidance a year after that.
 - UNICEF is conducting a review of instances of adaptation of their IYCF package that included ECD. By the end of this year, will pull together some recommendations about how ECD or certain ECD practices/messages can be incorporated into IYCF package.
 - Discussed what role the subgroup can play that is not duplicative of the ECD Action Network.

- CORE Group meeting update
 - Sascha discussed a session held in collaboration with MCSP at the recent CORE Group meeting. Focused on the different levels of a government system and the actions that can be taken to strengthen nutrition services within the health system.
 - Then broke into groups based on each government level to discuss more in depth the practical steps that need to be taken.
 - The presentations will be up on the CORE Group website for those that are interested. Also compiled resources at the various levels.
- AOB
 - Co-chairs welcome any members sharing a presentation or more information on something they are working on during meetings.
 - Longin offered to share his experience from Burundi which has a very high prevalence of chronic malnutrition (56% of under-five) without a real engagement from donors – compared to the importance of the problem.