

Mainstreaming Nutrition

Catalyzing the global integration of nutrition into health sector policies and programs

The Mainstreaming Nutrition initiative

The Mainstreaming Nutrition initiative is a World Bank funded project to catalyze the integration of priority nutrition actions into health sector policies and programs worldwide. The initiative is led by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), in partnership with the Program in International Nutrition at Cornell University, and other institutions.



In the first year of the initiative, we are reviewing the evidence for integrating nutrition interventions within various maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) policies and programs. This will lead to the development of a framework, tools and strategies to facilitate the mainstreaming process in different countries and different policy and program contexts.

Other project activities in Year 1 include a global review of nutrition interventions led by ICDDR,B and Aga Khan University, which will contribute to the forthcoming Lancet series on nutrition. A series of reviews on critical issues confronted by nutrition programs has also been commissioned. The reviews will address such questions as: what are the barriers to accessing health and nutrition services, current issues in growth monitoring and promotion, challenges to scaling up exclusive breast feeding promotion programs, and targeting of supplementary feeding.

If you would like to partner with this initiative, or learn more, please see our contact information on page 2.

Catalyzing mainstreaming strategies

The project framework for mainstreaming nutrition interventions into Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) policies and programs will catalyze the integration process by assessing those factors that can determine the success of integrating nutrition interventions into MNCH policies and programs. The critical structural factors include:

1. The policy context and political commitment to nutrition;
2. Institutional arrangements, human resources and financial commitment for integrating nutrition interventions into MNCH services;
3. Coverage and quality of implementation of current MNCH services; and
4. Community and household constraints and barriers to health service utilization

The initiative will develop tools and approaches to assess these contextual and structural facilitators of the mainstreaming process. In partnership with in-country collaborators, the initiative will facilitate the development of country-specific strategic plans for integrating nutrition into MNCH policies and programs. Through the systematic documentation of these processes, it will generate widely applicable insights on nutrition policy and program development and implementation processes while remaining action-oriented.

Current Partners

- ◆ ICDDR,B (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh)
- ◆ Program in International Nutrition, Cornell University
- ◆ Aga Khan University, Pakistan
- ◆ The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)
- ◆ Save the Children, USA
- ◆ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ◆ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Funded by the World Bank

Resources available on our web site:

Why invest in nutrition?

- ◆ *Repositioning Nutrition as Central to Development: A Strategy for Large-Scale Action* (2005) World Bank.
- ◆ *Nutrition: A Foundation for Development*. United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN).

Examples of mainstreaming nutrition:

- ◆ *Integrated Management of Childhood Illness* from World Health Organization.
- ◆ *Essential Nutrition Actions* from BASICS.

The web site will also host project outputs as they are created.



How you can help

In the first stage of this initiative, we are reviewing past efforts to integrate nutrition interventions into MNCH policies and programs. Some systematic efforts to do this have included IMCI, C-IMCI, and the Essential Nutrition Actions approach. We are interested in learning about experiences with these efforts, and also about any other efforts to integrate nutrition into MNCH policies and programs.

To ensure that we learn about those efforts that are not published in the academic literature or that are not easily available on the Web, **we request you or your organization to send us relevant documents that address any of the following aspects of integrating nutrition interventions into health policies and programs:**

(1) Descriptions of integrated approaches that address any of the following issues:

- ◆ What nutrition interventions were integrated? Into what types of health sector programs/systems?
- ◆ How nutrition was brought on the political agenda?
- ◆ What types of institutional arrangements were needed for integrating nutrition with health sector policies and programs?
- ◆ What aspects of the health system needed to be strengthened for the integration to work as intended?
- ◆ What were the most salient barriers to integration?
- ◆ What capacity strengths (or other factors) facilitated the integration process?

(2) Evaluations of integrated interventions that address any of the following outcomes:

- ◆ Health/Nutrition Impact
- ◆ Cost effectiveness
- ◆ Cost savings
- ◆ Institutional demands
- ◆ Feasibility of implementation
- ◆ Coverage

Contact Us

Website: www.mainstreamingnutrition.org

Email: MainstreamingNutrition@cornell.edu sgrau@icddr.org

Mailing address:

Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative
c/o Purnima Menon, Ph.D.
Division of Nutritional Sciences
Savage Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative
c/o Stacy Grau, M.A.
ICDDR,B
GPO Box 128
Dhaka 1000 Bangladesh

Phone: +1 (607) 254 6449

+880 2 886 05(23 32) Ext 2327