

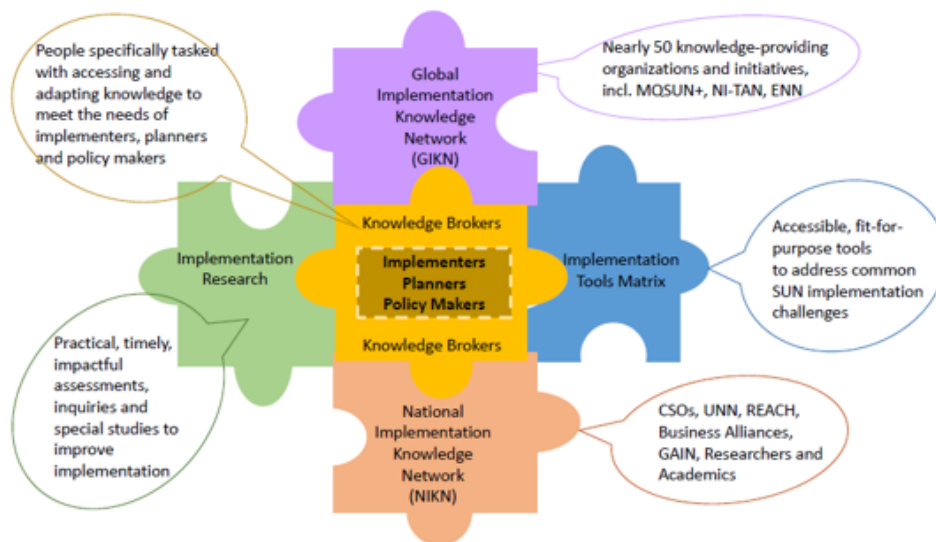
SISN Annual Report 2019

GOAL 1. Advance the theory, methods, conduct and capacity for implementation science (IS) in nutrition

Objective 1: Articulate and promote the distinctive theory & methods of IS for nutrition

- SISN has worked jointly with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the SUN Secretariat on the **“Knowledge for Implementation & Impact Initiative” (KI3)**. The overall aim of KI3 is to strengthen the availability, access and utilization of implementation knowledge to accelerate progress in scaling up implementation and impact on nutrition. At a meeting of stakeholders in Geneva 2016, five interlinked strategies were articulated and are illustrated below (Figure 1):

Figure 1: Interlinked Strategies for Accessing and Using Implementation Knowledge



2017 saw mapping and scoping activities and in **2018**, activities were undertaken to aid knowledge sharing and utilization at global and national levels to support SUN countries. In **2019**, work continued to develop the five interlinked strategies further:

IFPRI and the SUN secretariat led work on mapping and developing a [tools matrix](#).

SISN led work on **knowledge brokering**:

- To further explore knowledge brokering roles at the national level, interviews were carried out with UNN-REACH facilitators, National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) actors and with SUN focal points
 - An [article](#) was published in UNN/UNSCN Nutrition News on UNN-REACH facilitator as knowledge broker, based on the study carried out by SISN.
 - SISN collaborated with NIPN and the African Nutrition Leadership Programme to develop a 5-day Leadership Capacity Training tailored to the context of multisectoral nutrition for NIPN country staff.
 - This framework is being operationalized in the Implementation Science Initiative (ISI, below) and SISN will be publishing a paper describing the work of nutrition knowledge brokers in early 2020.
- SISN hosted several well-received **webinars** illustrating the SISN IS Frameworks:
 - 15 Feb 2019 [How Can Advocacy Enhance Implementation Science in Nutrition?](#)
 - 17 Apr 2019 [The Implementation Science Initiative: Identifying and Addressing Bottlenecks within Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation Programs in Kenya and Uganda](#)
 - 16 Sep 2019 [Implementation and Science: a Two-way Street with Lots of Turns](#)
 - 4 Dec 2019 [Improving Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Through Quality Improvement: A Type III Effectiveness-implementation Hybrid Study](#)

Objective 2: Facilitate setting research agendas at global, regional and national levels

- SISN partnered with the **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)** under a **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)** three-year grant to improve the implementation of Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (IFAS) programs for women in Kenya and Uganda. The SISN Implementation Science Initiative (ISI) seeks to apply an IS approach and create a galvanized coalition of policymakers, program actors, and researchers in each country in order to strengthen IFAS programs during implementation. The initiative will provide the opportunity to learn how to build the capacity for and practice of IS through a facilitated process of learning-by-doing. The SISN team is led by Dr David Pelletier with Dr Isabelle Michaud-Letourneau as Senior Technical Expert (providing ongoing technical assistance and knowledge brokering) and Marion Gayard as Research and Evaluation Specialist.
- In **2018** ISI National core teams were created and terms of reference developed. Bottleneck assessment workshops carried out on IFAS programs in Kenya and Uganda. Guidance notes were developed on the different components of the initiative.
- In **2019** an IR protocol was developed in ISI to carry out three studies in Kenya and Uganda. Preparatory work for the studies, using an effectiveness-implementation hybrid design in both countries, was undertaken and submission was made to the national ethics committee. Three open-access, free webinars, articulating different aspects of the process, were presented. 1) [ISI in Kenya and Uganda](#) (April 2019) 2) [IS in nutrition for the Consortium of Universities for Global Health](#) (June 2019), and 3) [Effectiveness-implementation hybrid designs](#) (December 2019).

Objective 3: Participate in, organize and/or shape conferences

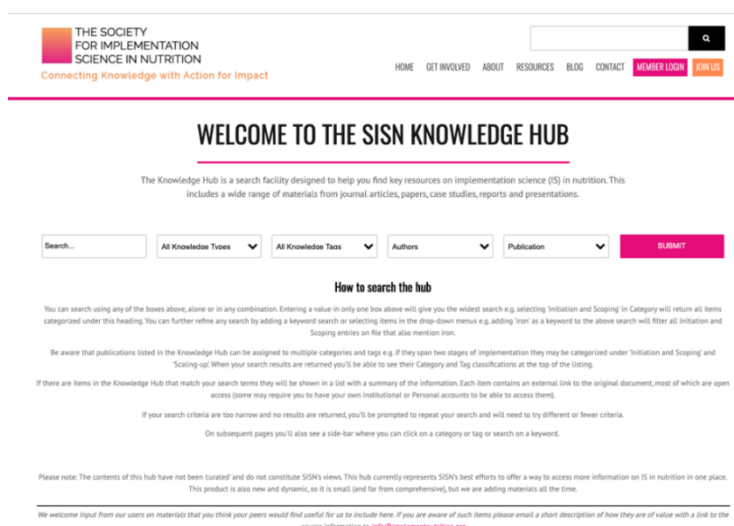
- At the American Society of Nutrition's annual meeting, Nutrition2019, Baltimore, MD, USA, June 8-11, SISN facilitated a [workshop on Implementation Science](#).
- At the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy Week in Hyderabad, India 24 - 28 June, SISN facilitated a [Learning Lab on Implementation Science in Nutrition](#)
- A manuscript based on the insights gained from these two workshops was drafted and will be published Advances in Nutrition in July 2020.

GOAL 3. Create and maintain an innovative and effective IS knowledge management system

Objectives:

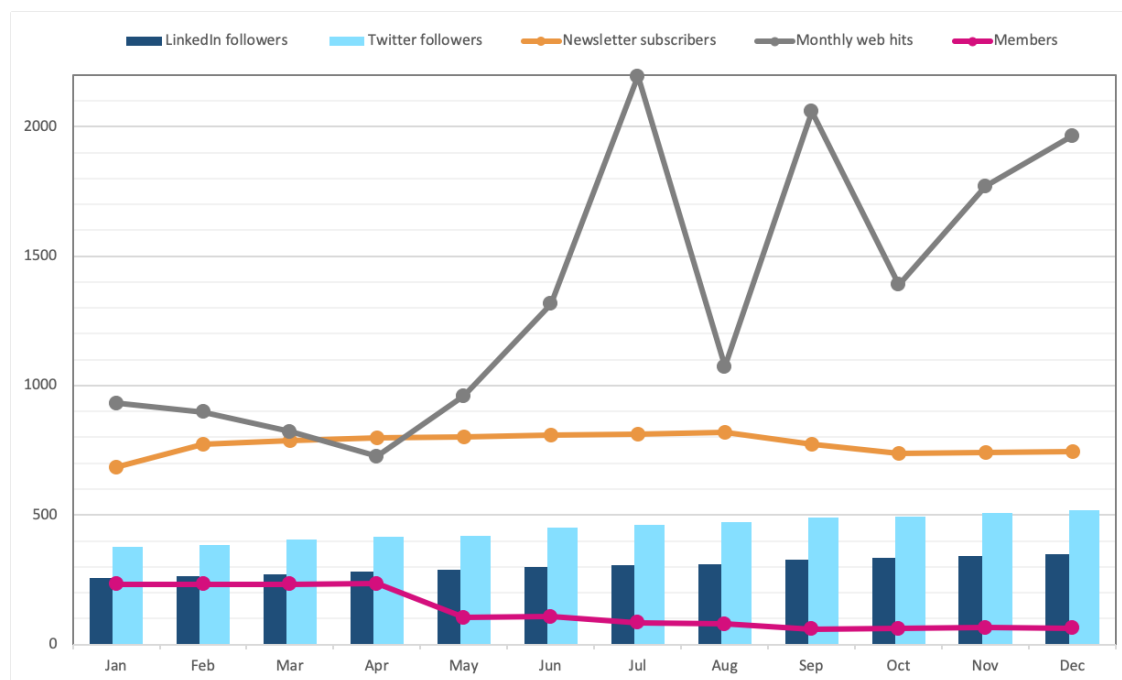
1. Maintain an up-to-date, accessible, relevant website
4. Deploy digital dissemination strategies and platforms
5. Disseminate knowledge products (briefs, FAQs, etc.), developed by SISN, members or other organizations

- SISN's communications activity was delivered by a two-person team of part-time consultants, Chief of Operations Caroline Skirrow and Dr Naomi Cahill. The Communications Team was directed by the **Communications Working Group**, which included the above consultants, plus Mduduzi Mbuya and Gilles Bergeron. The ToR can be found [here](#).
- We expanded our website with many additional pages and resources (www.implementnutrition.org) to connect members with the key information to learn more about IS in nutrition. We achieved 16,000 hits in 2019, with peaks around events in which we were actively engaged, such as ASN.
- We launched the SISN [Knowledge Hub](#), on our website. The Hub is an online searchable database of key resources that we are adding to in real-time with new information. It is designed to help our audiences find IS in nutrition resources quickly and easily.



- Monthly **Blogs** were posted covering a variety of topics on the **SISN framework** and case studies to illustrate the impact of IS/IR in practice. Efforts were made to improve the quality and diversity of blogs and to stimulate greater engagement with the membership by inviting guest writers and submission of relevant case studies and materials. A specific focus was to widen our audience to implementers by simplifying terminology (i.e. using less academic jargon) and sharing content on the ‘how to’ aspects of implementation. The three most popular posts can be viewed [here](#).
- SISN’s **newsletter** reaches over 750 nutrition stakeholders each issue. In 2019 it was reformatted to provide information in a more streamlined way and distributed quarterly. The newsletter is our key vehicle to keep our audiences up-to-date with news and events for the Society, and key resources in global nutrition and IS and relevant opportunities, events and training. Past copies are archived on the website [here](#).
- Our open-access free webinar program was expanded, delivering several live **webinars** with participant Q&A opportunities (see Goal 1, page 1, for details). Recordings of all our webinars can be accessed [here](#).
- Our audiences on **LinkedIn** and **Twitter** grew consistently month-by-month as we increased our posting frequency on to expand our visibility and to promote engagement with our followers and members.
- We leveraged the Board’s attendance at ASN’s **Nutrition2019** to deliver member engagement activities in the form of a [workshop on Implementation Science](#).

Figure 2: SISN Key Engagement Channels 2019



GOAL 4. SISN’s members are inclusive of all stakeholder categories required for its mission

Objective 1: Deploy continuous recruitment, outreach and retention strategies

- Led by Dr Kenda Cunningham, the **Membership Working Group** includes the Communications Team and three volunteer members, Dr Eva Monterrosa, Dr Laura Hackl, and Dr Andrea Warren. The Group’s mandate is to attract and retain members and encourage member engagement. The ToR can be found [here](#).
- The membership survey developed in late 2018 was disseminated and analyzed in 2019. The Report can be found [here](#). The Membership Working Group is currently conducting a more in-depth analysis of the survey results and results will be used to inform the Society’s membership and communications strategies. Development of strategies and plans for member-only benefits are planned for delivery in 2020.

GOAL 5. Ensure that SISN is well-governed, well-managed, appropriately resourced, accountable and sustainable

- **Secretariat:**

- The Secretariat is led by Chief of Operations (COO), Caroline Skirrow and supported by Operations Assistant, Ariane Escritt.

- **Executive Committee**

- At the behest of the President, an Executive Committee was convened consisting of (President, Peggy Bentley; Vice-President, Gretel Pelto; Past President, David Pelletier; Treasurer, Megan Bourassa; COO, Caroline Skirrow (ex officio). The Executive Committee meets at least monthly and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and board policies, and ensuring the Board and Working Groups are delivering on their goals. The committee addresses pressing issues, prioritizes items for the full board attention and provides support and guidance to the Secretariat.

- **Financial Management:**

- The **Executive Committee** replaced the Finance Committee in providing oversight on the Society's finances. Day to day activity was conducted by the COO under guidance from the Treasurer. To save costs, and improve efficiency, transparency and grant reporting capabilities, the Society moved to a new accounting team (Altruic Advisors (CPA), MA, USA) and online accounting system. The **Finance Team (COO, Treasurer and CPA)** hold regular meetings to discuss the Society's financial matters.
- The necessary **2018 Tax Filing** was signed off by the Board and submitted to the IRS in May 2019. SISN is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.

- **Annual In-person Board Meeting:**

- SISN held their annual in-person board meeting at Nutrition2019, ASN, Baltimore, MD, USA. Board attendance was self-funded. Key topics discussed were the Society's strategy, communications, membership and funding.



- **Funding:**

- Vital and substantial funding for the Secretariat has been kindly donated from **Sight and Life** since 2016. In 2019 they supported the Secretariat with an unrestricted grant of US\$ 120,000.
- SISN received further installments (US\$ 156,601) of the three-year grant from **3ie** (US\$ 359,273). The funding supports technical assistance and travel for SISN's Implementation Science Initiative in Uganda and Kenya (see details in Goal 1 above).
- SISN was able to participate in the **Knowledge for Implementation and Impact Initiative (KI3)** also through a grant from **Sight and Life**.
- SISN secured a grant of US\$ 50,000 from the **Eleanor Crook Foundation** in support of its communications activities.
- SISN funds a portion of the Secretariat costs from membership dues.

