

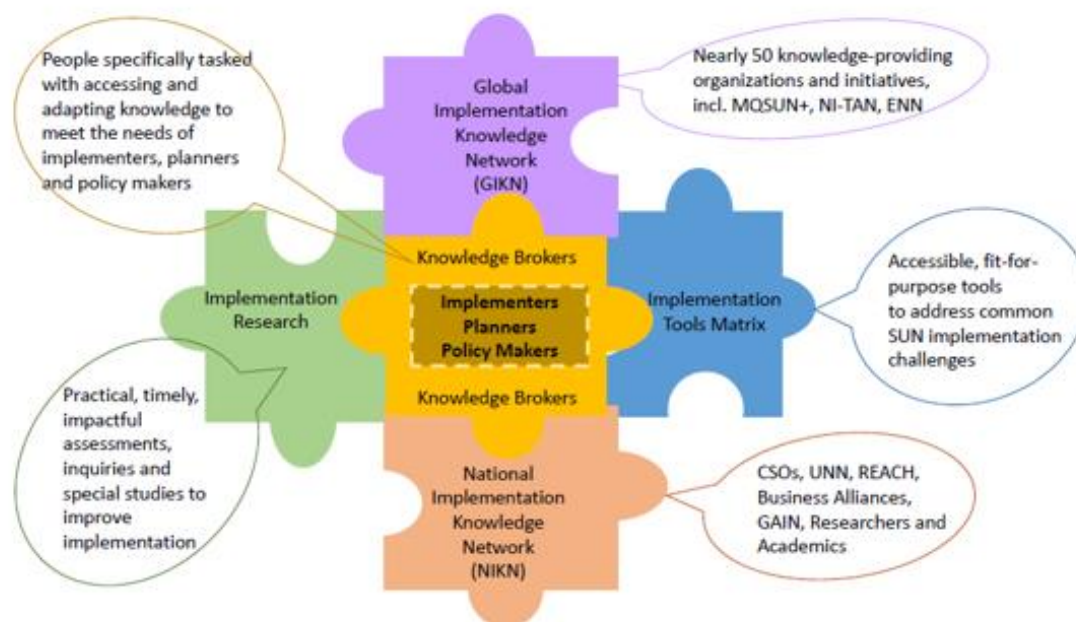
SISN Annual Report 2018

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

- The **Methods Working Group**, chaired by Dr Gretel Pelto was supported by volunteers from the Membership: Dr Stephanie Martin, Dr Sorrel Namaste, Dr Barbara Reed, Dr Roseanne Shuster. The Group's purpose is to contribute to advancing the theory, methods and conduct of implementation science (IS) in nutrition by strengthening the methods for implementation research (IR). Terms of Reference (ToR) can be viewed [here](#). 2018 saw the Group develop a survey to scope the experience, issues, and needs of the membership in IR. The survey was finalized and distributed on May 1st. Fifty responses were received and data analysis was conducted. A results report is coming in 2019.
- SISN 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. 2017 saw a mapping exercise of global implementation knowledge initiatives and organizations and scoped possibilities for strengthening access and utilization of implementation knowledge in SUN countries. In 2018, the initiative implemented a series of activities, supported by a generous donation from **Sight and Life**, whose overarching vision was to create a network of organizations at global and national levels willing and able to respond to the diverse needs and requests for implementation knowledge assistance from SUN countries and to help countries share knowledge, methods, and experience on implementation amongst one another. At a meeting of stakeholders in Geneva, five interlinked strategies were articulated and are illustrated in **Figure 1**. below:

Figure 1: Interlinked Strategies for Accessing and Using Implementation Knowledge



Updates have been shared in 2018 via a [brochure](#) and a [side event](#) at the FAO/IFPRI Global Event, Bangkok in November. 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.

- The SISN Board submitted *“Implementation Science in Nutrition: Concepts and Frameworks for an Emerging Field of Science and Practice”* (D. Pelletier, et.al.) for peer review. The paper was accepted and published online in *Current Developments in Nutrition* in October 2018 and in print in Volume 3, Issue 3, March 2019 nzy080. Available [here](#).
- SISN hosted three well-received **webinars**:
 - 10 May 2018: [Understanding Program Adaptation: A Scoping Study of Frameworks and Systematic Review of Adapted Evidence-based Interventions](#)
 - 19 September 2018: [How to Build Effective Cross-sector Partnerships](#)
 - 6 December 2018: [Learning About Needs of and Challenges Faced by Program Workers and Recipients: A Case Study of Observational Implementation Research](#)

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 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.
- The project was launched in June 2018 through an inception workshop in Uganda in which the country core teams from Kenya and Uganda worked to develop and strengthen their proposals to undertake the IS approach in their country. The workshop aimed to foster partnership among the national core team members and provide guidance on IS principles and approach. By the end of the year, each core team had carried out a bottleneck assessment workshop of their IFAS programs; it consisted of a comprehensive systemic and systematic tool used with participants working at various levels in the national system. The operationalization of the initiative was aided by the development of Terms of Reference and guidance notes on the different components of the initiative, considerations for conducting IR and using existing implementation knowledge.

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

- At the American Society of Nutrition’s annual meeting, **Nutrition2018**, in Boston, June 9-12, Dr David Pelletier guided a poster tour of Implementation Science and Dr Gilles Bergeron hosted a scientific café on the [application of nutrition modeling tools in IR](#).
- At the **IFPRI-FAO Global Event: Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition** in Bangkok, November 28-30, SISN, IFPRI and the SUN Secretariat co-hosted a side event on the [Knowledge for Implementation and Impact Initiative \(KI3\)](#).
- Board Members, Dr Marie Ruel, Dr Gretel Pelto and Dr Klaus Kraemer, participated in a panel discussion during a session on implementation entitled *‘Bridging the Evidence’* at the **IAEA International Symposium on Understanding the Double Burden of Malnutrition for Effective Interventions** in Vienna, December 10-13.

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

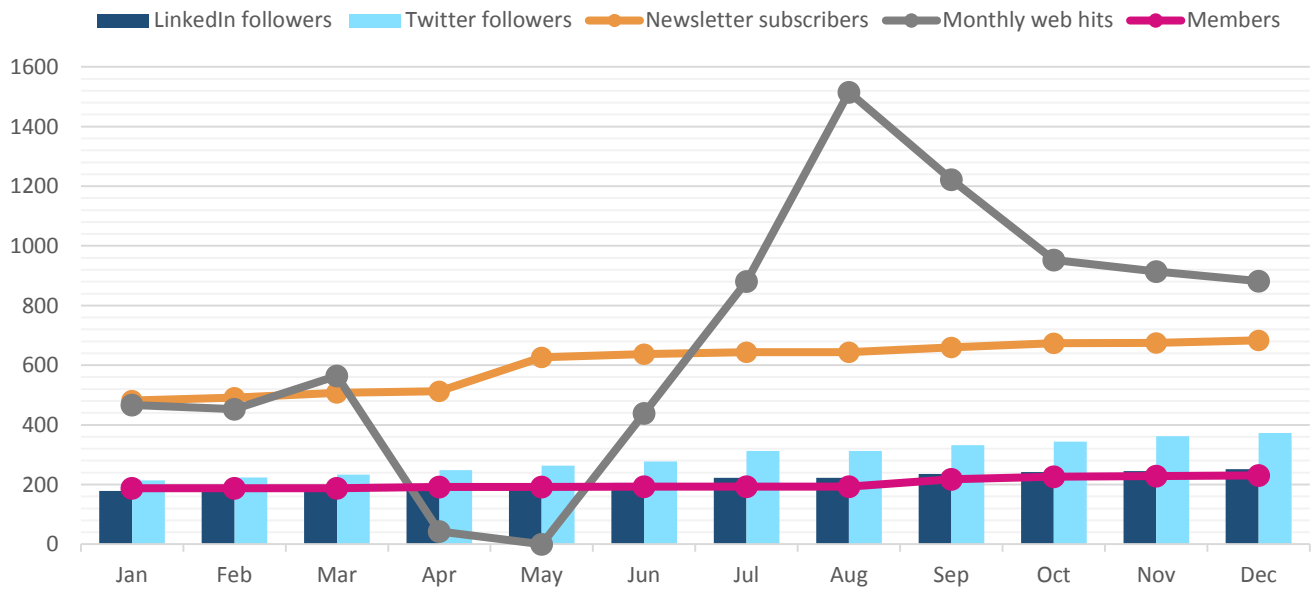
5. Disseminate knowledge products (briefs, FAQs, etc.), developed by SISN, members or other organizations

- SISN's communications activity was delivered by a two-person team of part-time consultants, Communications Consultant and Registered Nutritional Therapist, Caroline Skirrow, and Dietician and writer, Dr Naomi Cahill. The Communications Team was directed by the **Communications Working Group**, which included the above consultants, plus Dr David Pelletier, Dr Eva Monterrosa, Dr Luz Maria De-Regil, Dr Gilles Bergeron. The ToR can be found [here](#).
- 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. The three most popular posts can be viewed [here](#).
- SISN's **newsletter** was reformatted and distributed quarterly (April, July, September, and December) with news and events for the Society, and key resources and opportunities relevant to our audiences. Past copies are archived on the website [here](#).
- The webinar program was expanded, delivering three live **webinars** (see Goal 1 for details). The recordings can be accessed [here](#).
- We made considerable enhancements to our website (www.implementnutrition.org), including more resources, an events section and some back-end improvements to improve the user experience and to encourage higher site visits and use of our resources.



- We increased our posting frequency on **LinkedIn** and **Twitter** to expand our visibility and to promote engagement with our followers and members.
- We leveraged the Board's attendance at ASN's **Nutrition2018** to deliver member engagement activities in the form of hosted **Poster Tours** and **Discussion 'Cafe's** on niche topics in IR/IS.

Figure 2: SISN Key Engagement Channels 2018 (Note: April/May numbers are due to lack of data whilst transitioning the website)



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 Monterrosa the **Membership Working Group** includes the Communications Team and three volunteer members, Dr Renee Wurth, 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 Group developed a membership survey in late 2018, for distribution in 2019. Analysis of 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 2019/2020.
- 2018 saw simplification and automation of the membership application process via the website and the addition of a secure member payment system. Collection of member dues was commenced.

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

• Annual In-person Board Meeting:

- SISN held their annual in-person board meeting at Nutrition2018, ASN, Boston, USA. Board attendance was self-funded.



- **Elections:**

- Elections were conducted in accordance with SISN bylaws. Nominations were proposed by the Board and members. Member voting was conducted via an online platform. Due to the changing needs of the Society new posts were created and some adjusted.
- For continuity of project delivery, the bylaws were amended to allow Board Members to serve a second term should they wish. We thank Dr David Pelletier (President), Dr Gilles Bergeron (Continuing Education & Capacity Building Councilor), Dr Gretel Pelto (Councilor-at-Large), for their willingness to do so.
- For those Board members whose terms ended on December 31, 2018, we thank them for their instrumental input in the inception of SISN in late 2015 and their service in creating the foundations of the Society in its first three years of operation. They are as follows: Dr Mandana Arabi (Vice-President), Dr Eva Monterrosa (Secretary/Treasurer), Dr Luz Maria de Regil (Chief Information Officer), Dr Marie Ruel (Research Agenda Support Councilor), Dr Karin Lapping (Recruitment, Engagement & Outreach Councilor), Dr Klaus Kraemer (Fundraising Councilor), Dr Alison Tumilowicz (Conference & Policy Discussions Councilor).
- The 2019-2020 Board of continuing Board Members and those newly elected in October 2018 is as follows. Full biographies and Scope of Works can be found on our website [here](#).

Board Position	Name
President	Margaret Bentley
Vice-President	Gretel Pelto
Past-President	David Pelletier
Treasurer	Megan Bourassa
Chief Information Officer	Mduduzi Mbuya
Councilor - Methods	Edward Frongillo
Councilor - Continuing Education & Capacity Building	Gilles Bergeron
Councilor - Conference & Policy Discussions	Lynnette Neufeld
Councilor - Development	Jalal Chowdhury
Councilor - Recruitment, Engagement & Outreach	Kenda Cunningham
Councilor - at-Large	Andrea Warren

- **Secretariat:**

- The **Secretariat** was led by Dr Monterrosa until December 2018. Prior to her departure from the Board, Caroline Skirrow, was appointed Chief of Operations to replace her. From January-September 2018, the Secretariat activities were supported by Operations Co-ordinator, Marija Silinskiene. Following her departure this role was filled by Operations Assistant, Ariane Escritt.

- **Financial management:**

- The **Finance Committee** held quarterly meetings to discuss the Society's financial matters, provide oversight to the bookkeeper and Operations Manager and to set long-term financial goals. Typical task areas included budgeting and financial planning, financial reporting, and the creation and monitoring of internal controls and policies. The Committee was chaired by Dr Monterrosa (Treasurer), assisted by Dr Mark Fyars (Member Volunteer). The ToR can be found [here](#).

- The necessary **2017 Tax Filing** was submitted to the IRS in May 2018. SISN is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.
- **Funding:**
 - Since 2016, vital and substantial funding for the Secretariat has been kindly donated from the **Sight and Life**. From 2014 to the end of 2018, Sight and Life also generously donated the in-kind contributions of Dr Monterrosa, to facilitate the Founding and running of SISN.
 - SISN was able to participate in the **Knowledge for Implementation and Impact Initiative (KI3)** also through a grant from **Sight and Life**.

Breakdown of SAL funding	Amount
Programmatic Expenses	US\$47,500
Communications Expenses	US\$74,500
Operational Expenses	US\$90,527
Total	US\$212,525

- SISN received, US\$ 155,370 (first two payments) of the three-year grant from **3ie** (\$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 secured a grant for \$103,000 from the **New York Academy of Sciences**.
- SISN funds a portion of the Secretariat costs from membership dues.

