Nutrition Programming during COVID-19

Developing Contexts

JENNIFER CRUM, MPH, MS, RD
Bangladesh Country Representative, FHI 360
Chief of Party, USAID’s Strengthening Multisectoral Nutrition Programming through Implementation Science Activity
Program changes during a pandemic: implementers

Implemeneter challenges

- Remote work
- Pausing activities vs. shifting to virtual delivery
- Digital communication with partners and participants
- Virtual trainings
- Funders shift program focus
Program changes during a pandemic: participants

Participant challenges

• Direct loss of goods and services when activities stop
• Unaccustomed to digital communication
• Limited social support
• Less empowered to practice recommended behaviors
What is the pandemic teaching us about future programming?

Business as usual will no longer achieve outcomes

We must ask ourselves:

• How do we decrease reliance on in-person program activities?
• How do we support participants to adapt to new program methods?
• What partners outside the public sector can contribute to development programs?
What is the pandemic teaching us about future programming?

Programs must be adaptable, which requires:

- Expanding technology access to implementers and participants
- Building capacity to effectively use virtual communication and training/mentoring methods
- A strong network of civil society, public and private sector actors more rapidly equipped to respond to programmatic needs
- Ability of existing programs to quickly pivot to emergency response support
How can we learn to overcome these challenges?

Collect operational data during COVID-19 implementation

Document adaptive program methods, challenges and successes

Post-pandemic: interview partners to understand what program methods they need to modify
  • Document gaps that prevent effective programming in pandemics
Knowledge gaps to fill beyond the pandemic

New implementation questions require consideration

- Are these alternative methods effective?
- What do they cost? How does this compare to typical implementation methods?
- How do we support adoption of effective methods to maintain programming in pandemic contexts?
Thank you!

### Disclosures

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<tr>
<th>AFFILIATION/FINANCIAL INTERESTS (prior 12 months)</th>
<th>ENTITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants/Research Support</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)</td>
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