Nutrition Programming during COVID-19

Developing Contexts

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Program changes during a pandemic: implementers

Implementer 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

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Business as usual will no longer achieve outcomes
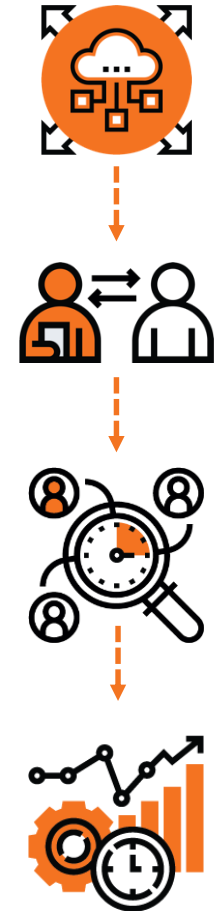
We must ask ourselves:

- 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

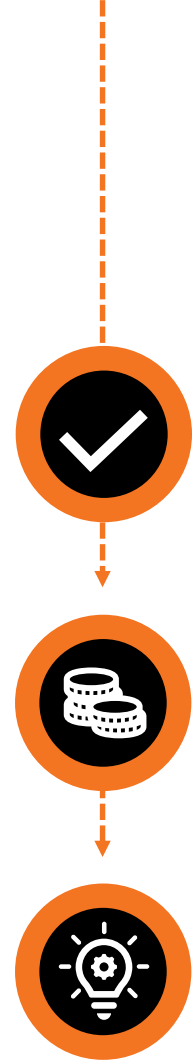**Document adaptive program methods, challenges and successes**

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

AFFILIATION/FINANCIAL INTERESTS (prior 12 months)	ENTITIES
Grants/Research Support	U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Scientific Advisory Board/Consultant/Board of Directors	N/A
Speakers Bureau	N/A
Stock Shareholder	N/A
Employee	FHI 360
Other	N/A

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