

Dr Kenda Cunningham



Kenda Cunningham is a public health nutritionist, with a decade of experience spanning research and implementation related to maternal and child nutrition. She has primarily worked in Latin America and South Asia on multisectoral nutrition programs which integrate both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive (e.g. agriculture, governance, and water, sanitation and hygiene) approaches. She has published extensively in nutrition and food security journals and sits on the Editorial Board of the journal *Maternal and Child Nutrition*.

Kenda's work bridges the traditional program/research divide as she works on nutrition intervention design and implementation, as well as monitoring, evaluation, and research activities related to those interventions and ultimately, on establishing systems to facilitate regular use of scientific findings to guide programming. In her current role with Helen Keller International, she is the Sr. Technical Advisor for Integrated Nutrition and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research for Suaahara II, an integrated nutrition program spanning more than half of the communities of Nepal. She ensures technical rigor in programming across nutrition; health and family planning; water, sanitation and hygiene; agriculture, governance, gender and social inclusion, social and behaviour change; and public-private partnership interventions; manages a consortium of nearly 40 organizations and staff of more than 1,500 working across Nepal; and holds primary responsibility for design and execution of an innovative monitoring, evaluation and research system. Prior to joining HKI, Kenda worked for nearly 8 years at the International Food Policy Research Institute working on food security and nutrition, particularly evidence synthesis and impact and process evaluation studies. She holds a DrPH from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Epidemiology.