Building Bridges:
Tackling the Institutional and Policy Challenges to Integrated Food Security Planning

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What are the Challenges?

- Institutional: USAID as an example

  - USAID Definition of Food Security (1992 Policy Determination 19): When all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life.

  - Includes discussion of availability, access, and utilization

  - Cites constraints to utilization: nutrient losses associated with food preparation; inadequate knowledge and practice of health techniques, including those related to nutrition, child care and sanitation; and cultural practices that limit consumption of a nutritionally adequate diet by certain groups of family members
Challenges, continued

- However, PD 19 specifically associates food security programming to economic growth objectives, citing development and P.L. resources, but not Child Survival and Health resources.

- In reality, within USAID, to the extent food security, targeted nutrition, and/or integrated food security programs have been implemented, they have largely been implemented through emergency and non-emergency Title II, and IDA emergency interventions.

- Community based Title II and IDA programs have been able to demonstrate significant impact in targeted populations; however demonstrating sustainability, and bringing success to scale has proven to be difficult.

- Private Voluntary Organizations may face constraints in their ability to stimulate or promote the kind of policy dialogue and/or increased investment required at a national level to bring success to scale, and

- Policy dialogue is more often undertaken through a Mission’s development programming, however neither food security, nor nutrition, has truly received significant dedicated development or Child Survival resources.
Challenges, continued

- Hunger/malnutrition end up being perceived as “humanitarian” rather than “development” issues.

- Why?: Resource and program stovepipes (humanitarian and development resources are rarely integrated, and potential development impacts of humanitarian programming are not always leveraged in a Mission’s country development plan); resource earmarking, and narrowly defined health and agriculture initiatives. (Note: there are notable exceptions found in every region, with several in Latin America)

- The challenges that have faced USAID are mirrored in other development agencies, and government ministries.

- Significantly, the clear link between agriculture and nutrition that is institutionalized in our own Department of Agriculture (e.g. WIC) is not characteristic of Agriculture Ministries in developing countries.
Changes

- The 2008 High Food Price crisis prompted global debate and response

- In USAID and on the Hill, recognition that the dramatic decline in USG support for agricultural development had contributed to an imbalanced assistance portfolio.

- “Food Security” no longer translates as “Food Assistance”

- Consensus built at L’Aquila around the meet urgent needs while increasing development investment in agriculture and nutrition.

- Safety nets also recognized as an important tool.

- At the same time, several critical community-based nutrition interventions used in emergency humanitarian response begin to gain broader recognition.
Impact?

- Global dialogue helped open the door for integration or “bridge building”.

- Congress: Greater resource flexibility (eg IDA and DA supporting local and regional procurement and nutrition capacity building in West Africa)

- In the USG, it stimulated the formation of an interagency team tasked with developing a USG response to global hunger

- Getting to “Feed the Future”: Many Questions
  - Is Nutrition “in” or “out”?
  - Is Nutrition “food based” only?
  - What does its inclusion mean for the Global Health Initiative?
  - What does the term “agriculture” encompass?
  - What does “inclusive” agricultural growth mean?
  - What is the role of food assistance?
  - Comprehensive Framework for Action?
  - Roadmap to End Hunger?
Where We are Now


- CAADP is moving forward, plans recognize the need to create mechanisms for cross-sectoral and ministerial coordination

- L’Aquilla donors facilitating are promoting comprehensive food security planning in other regions

- The USG is combining resource streams and integrating programs to support the development and implementation of country-led plans to achieve MDG 1 in 20 countries.
New Challenges

- Managing across agencies and sectors: what is the best model?

- Identifying and bringing best practices to scale:
  - Multi-sectoral planning for sectoral implementation
  - Integrating humanitarian and development resources
  - Nutrition as part of value chains
  - Strengthening local capacity for sustainable change
  - Increasing resilience and reducing risk in vulnerable populations
  - Empowering women
  - Many other examples…. 

- Monitoring and Evaluation: Outputs, Outcomes and Impact
Questions?

Thank you!