Managing complex NGO Interventions for Impact

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Hard to swallow… As the world’s economy has grown the prevalence of undernutrition has fallen only half as fast as poverty.

*At 2005 purchasing-power parity

Sources: World Bank; FAO

Economist, Nov 29, 2014
Small holder and family farms

- 2.5 billion people in poor countries living directly from the food and agriculture sector
- 1.5 billion people live in smallholder households
- Many of those households are extremely poor
- Women comprise an ~43% of agricultural labor force of developing countries

“Enduring farms: climate change, smallholders and traditional farming communities”, FAO
Child Undernutrition

Inadequate Diet

Disease

Insufficient Household Food Security

Inadequate Care

Insufficient Health Services & Unhealthy Environment

Inadequate Education

Inadequate Resources & Control

Inadequate Social, Economic & Political Context

Multifaceted

Complex

Multileveled

No single cause

healthy

ent
Integrated nutrition-sensitive agriculture

- Home Gardening
- Small Animal Raising
- Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA)
- Essential Hygiene Actions (EHA)
- Gender Equity
Train on ENA/EHA & gender equity

Establish Model Farms or Farmer Field Schools

Build capacity of local NGOs for sustained impact

Train & provide inputs (horticulture & small animal production)

Organize Mothers Groups
Impact

• Response depends on severity of problem—Impact on anemia but not linear growth

• Production diversity consistently associated with dietary diversity, but strength of association depends on market access and other contextual factors (e.g. control over household decision making)

• Magnitude of impacts varies by context, location, intensity of program participation, underlying conditions

• Very little evidence about how different elements of the EHFP model influence outcomes and much less about the mechanics of implementation and outcomes
Implementation Challenges

• Agriculture as a platform for a multi-sectoral project
  – Coordination across sectors
  – Multiple interventions
  – Sequencing interventions

• Access to quality inputs
  – Seeds, vaccines, feed
  – Extension support

• Households & communities vary
  - Capacity, time, land & water access, interest, risk-tolerance, market access
Research Gaps

- Are integrated nutrition programs getting too complicated? too loaded?
- What are the key contextual factors that should influence adaptation of their components?
- What are the long-term impacts of nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and how sustainable are these impacts?
- Scale-up? Costs? Efficient targeting?
- How should market conditions design of programs?
- Are there unintended consequences?
THANK YOU.

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it.”
-Helen Keller