

# WFP shifts programme design for improved nutrition



Photo Credit: Samuel Scott IFPRI

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Main authors: Deanna OLNEY, IFPRI & Kathryn OGDEN, WFP  
Presenter: Kathryn OGDEN, World Food Programme



# BACKGROUND: What does a nutrition-sensitive approach look like for WFP?

## Development

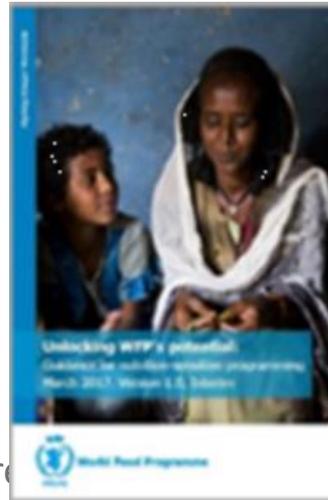
2016 operational research partnership with IFPRI to find answers:

the **‘why’** was evident following on from the Lancet report

the **‘what’** and the **‘how’** needed much more thought.

## Application

March 2017: Publication of Guidance on WFP’s approach to nutrition-sensitive programming.



## Impact

September 2019:

Original Research

### Leveraging an Implementation-Research Partnership to Improve Effectiveness of Nutrition-Sensitive Programs at the World Food Programme

Deanna K. Olney, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Quinn Marshall, MPA-DP<sup>2,3</sup>, Geraldine Honton, MPH<sup>2</sup>, Kathryn Ogden, MMedSci<sup>2</sup>, Mutinta Hambayi, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Sarah Piccini, MA<sup>2</sup>, Ara Go, MA<sup>1</sup>, Aulo Gelli, PhD<sup>1</sup>, and Lilia Bliznashka, MA<sup>1,4</sup>

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# PURPOSE: Identify opportunities across WFP programmes to inform their design/redesign for improved nutrition outcomes

## 5 Programme Theories of Change

General Food Assistance (GFA)

School Feeding (SF)

Smallholder Market Support (SAMS)

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

Social Protection (SP)

## 5 requirements

A nutrition objective, outcomes and indicators

Gender and nutrition situation analysis

Deliberate nutrition actions & delivery platforms

Tackle gender inequality & nutrition knowledge

Support partnerships and policy engagement

## 7 opportunities

Target nutritionally vulnerable groups

Add or link to nutritionally-relevant complementary activities

Adequate quantity and nutritional quality of the transfer

Make transfers conditional

Nutritionally-relevant assets

Align with national nutrition action plans

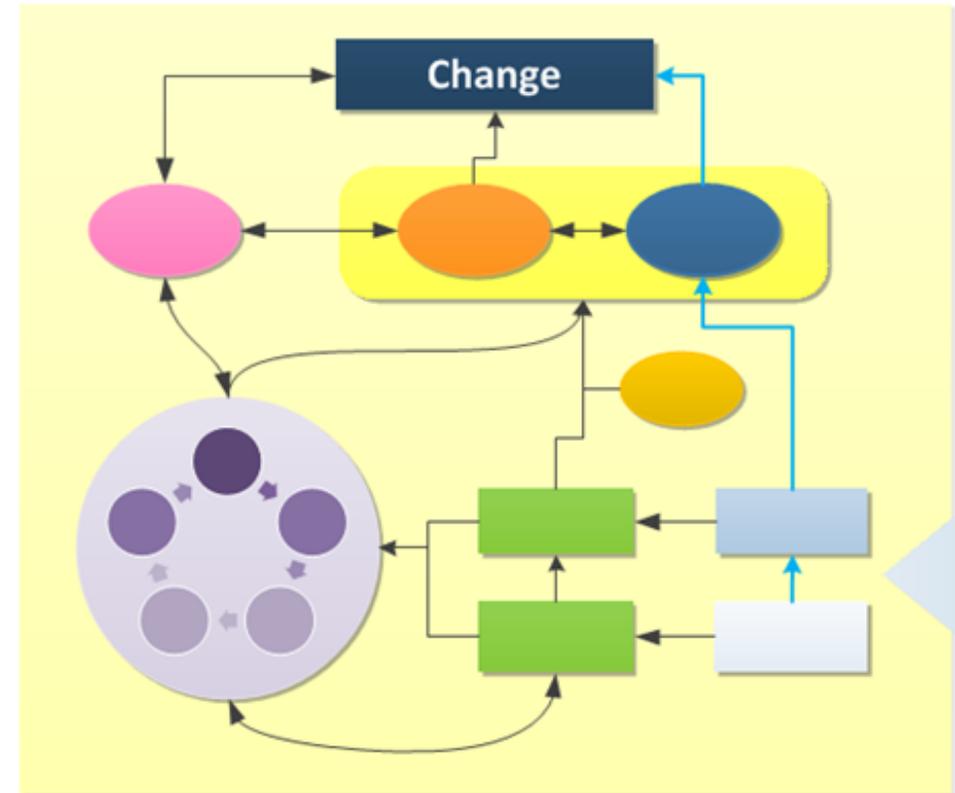
Apply a gender and protection lens

# METHODS: Operationalising the nutrition-sensitive approach

- How to best prioritize the opportunities?
- How to choose the best indicators to measure the impact on nutrition?
- How to move from a scattered, uncoordinated approach to one of convergence and partnerships?
- How to help programme colleagues feel comfortable about integrating nutrition into the programmes they manage?

## Theory of Change

Shows the big picture with all possible pathways – messy and complex



# RESULTS: Case Study WFP Sri Lanka - A step-wise process

GUIDANCE		Country Specific Action
Step 1: Understanding	Sources/requirement	COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIONS
1.1 Nutrition situation	FNG; SLP/CBPP/CFSVA/formative research	FNG completed in 2018, and CoP will be trained to government counterpart in 2019 so that regular updates will be carried out.
1.2 Causes and drivers of malnutrition		SLP has been conducted in 5 districts, and nutrition is a part of the exercise with nutrition focal point sites with all the SLP exercises.
1.3 understanding enabling environment		CFSVA will be conducted in 2019, and nutrition analysis/module will be included.
		Formative research is being planned in partnership with Penn State university and this will be directed to KOICA locations; and another formative research will be conducted as a part of the national advocacy campaign will also include KOICA locations.
		CBPP is beginning March, and nutrition focal point will participate and contribute to all the exercises.
		As a result of the FNG, and other information available at district level, nutrition profile for each KOICA location will be developed to guide district level proposal development and design.
		In 2018 gender team from PBB visited Sri Lanka to develop WOCAN - women empowerment in food security indicators which will also be used for the baseline and monitoring of the project. Sri Lanka was chosen as a pilot country to test the cooperate indicators.

Step 3: Action	B	C
Opportunity 1: Target nutritionally vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmes can select a nutritionally vulnerable group as the primary target group.</li> <li>If programmes are already targeting a nutritionally vulnerable group as the primary target group, they can add an additional nutritionally vulnerable group.</li> <li>Programmes that are not targeted to nutritionally vulnerable groups (i.e. standard targeting criteria are not based on nutrition) can add a nutritionally relevant complementary activity; for</li> </ul>	For the project, the nutritionally vulnerable group including women of reproductive age and adolescents particularly girls will be prioritized; additional when possible HHs with CU5 and PLW will be considered; for SBCC nutrition education component - women of reproductive age and PLW in the community, beyond KOICA beneficiaries will be targeted.
Opportunity 2: Add or link to nutritional activities (through integration or co-location)	<p>Additional interventions are often needed to address the nutritional needs of specific vulnerable groups as well as to address multiple causes of malnutrition. These activities can include nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-sensitive interventions and can vary by programme area. Two approaches to delivering these interventions to beneficiaries include:</p> <p>Integration - which means to add additional interventions to existing programmes that are delivered or supported by WFP.</p> <p>Co-location - which means to link WFP beneficiaries to other nutrition, health, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) or education-related programmes delivered by partners. "Linking" can involve raising beneficiaries' awareness of the programme services offered by partners or putting in place formal referral mechanisms, with the objective of increasing uptake of these other programme services. Either way, joint planning with partners is a must. In some cases, co-location may also occur between WFP's own in-house programmes (e.g. referring to nutritionally vulnerable pregnant and lactating women).</p>	Through the Danish funded project will be co-located with KOICA funded projects (duration is one year), mapping, developing training guidelines and tool for mothers support group on SBH, GBV and gender and nutrition review and

Multiple uses for tool - donors, sharing with government, keeping on track. Brings management and programme activity managers around the table.



# RESULTS: Case Study WFP Sri Lanka - PIP approach highlights

Clear secondary objective  
Cross-cutting nutrition indicators

Deliberate nutrition actions:  
co-location of activities + formative  
research for Social Behaviour Change  
Communication (SBCC)

Emphasised direct or overlapping  
actions, coalition and partnership  
building

Targeting link with nutritionally  
vulnerable groups prioritised

Nutritionally relevant  
complementary activities

Nutritionally relevant assets

Alignment with national  
nutrition plans

**Shift in the resilience programme made  
in less than 3 years.**

e, 20 November 2019



# RESULTS UPTAKE: Impact evaluation in Sri Lanka with IFPRI

(i) “Resilience with BCC”  
compared to control

(ii) BCC strategy compared to  
control

(iii) “Resilience with BCC”  
compared to BCC alone

Baseline March 2020.

Endline 2021/2022.

Data collection MoH.

**HOUSEHOLD:** production, expenditure,  
consumption of nutrient-rich foods

**MEN and WOMEN:**

- **KNOWLEDGE:** health and nutrition knowledge
- **HEALTH and NUTRITION:** diet, anaemia, blood pressure, anthropometry
- **WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT and GENDER EQUITY:**

**Results to support evidence of what works in nutrition-sensitive programming, how and at what cost**

# STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

## STRENGTHS

- Guidance laid the foundations.
- Robust series of steps.
- Grounded in good analysis.
- A deep dive with IFPRI was an enabler.
- Continued commitment from management.

## CHALLENGES & LIMITATIONS

- Nutrition-sensitive approach was new.
- Time required for joint discussion and planning + additional workload had not been recognized.
- Limited convergence and co-location.
- Different donor requirements and timeframes impacted the sequencing of interventions and activities.
- Budget limitations.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Nutrition-sensitive PIP approach changes the way we are doing business in nutrition.
- A realistic stepwise process is essential.
- The PIP can influence partners and governments in addressing their burden of malnutrition.
- Learning and research will add to the evidence base for integrated programming to improve nutrition outcomes.

Nutrition-sensitive is a  
PROCESS not a product

# THANKS and CONTACTS



Kate Ogden

[Kathryn.ogden@wfp.org](mailto:Kathryn.ogden@wfp.org)

Nutrition Division, WFP



Deanna Olney

[D.Olney@cgiar.org](mailto:D.Olney@cgiar.org)

Poverty, Health and Nutrition  
Division, IFPRI

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**AVAILABLE**  
**ON THE R4NUT WEBSITE**