



BUILDING CAPACITY IN INTEGRATING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE BUILDING



Despite growing international commitment for nutrition, insufficient capacities for multi-sectoral nutrition programming limit opportunities to effectively address the causes of malnutrition. Humanitarian professionals in food security, agriculture, nutrition and other sectors still speak different languages. Tools and methodologies can be disseminated to create a common understanding of food security and nutrition, and establish a critical mass of technical expertise on integrated nutrition and food security programming on the ground.

To overcome these barriers, FAO has been implementing a capacity development project since July 2013. Using a very participatory approach, this project fosters:

- intersectoral dialogue by building problem and solution trees for malnutrition
- knowledge sharing on tools, methodologies and good practices for integrating nutrition and food security.

The project contributes to the global dialogue on nutrition and resilience, while supporting activities in crisis-prone countries in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger) and the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South-Sudan).

PARTNERS

We work closely with partner organisations (including IMC, World Vision, IFRC, ACF, ICRC, WFP and UNICEF, Global Nutrition and Food Security Clusters) through a Project Task Force. National Food security and Nutrition clusters and working groups are key partners for project implementation.

Agreeing on causes of malnutrition for joint action

These guidelines are designed to assist professionals involved in development, emergency, and resilience building programmes in designing integrated information systems and programmes, and in developing partnerships for sustainable improvements in nutrition. They present a workshop methodology that uses the problem / solution tree approach.

“We were impressed to see how the problem trees/solution trees are vital in identifying problems and solving humanitarian multisectoral problems and finding their respective interventions.”

Hamisi, ORDO



WHAT WE DO



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Regional training workshops

More than 120 participants working in nutrition and food security sectors from over 50 different organisations including key nutrition actors such as government, REACH and SUN participated in the regional training workshops for the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions. Structured according to the project cycle phases, workshop sessions alternated between presentations of practical tools, case studies and group work, with an emphasis on maximizing sharing of experiences across countries.

“The ICRC was willing to work on integrating nutrition in its economic security programmes. As clinical nutritionist, I hadn’t the method to do it. The capacity building workshop allowed us to concretize this willingness” *Valérie, ICRC*

A pool of regional and country trainers

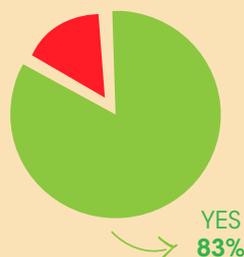
Approximately 40 professionals working in the two regions were trained in facilitating workshops on integrated food security and nutrition programming, including the use of the problem and solution tree methodology. They are now very active in their respective countries and organisations to implement recommendations drawn from the regional workshops.

“Integration and coordination within different sectors in the organization were weak points before but not anymore” *Joyce, CARE International*

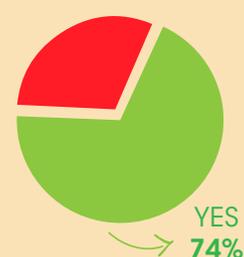
ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS

Feedback collected from the workshop participants in the Horn of Africa shows that the workshop has been instrumental in building partners’ capacities and bringing concrete changes in programme design and implementation.

Have you been able to use the knowledge from the regional training workshop in your day-to-day work?



Overall, have you observed any improvements in the integration of Nutrition and FS programming in your organisation?





Support to country initiatives

Working closely with country trainers and partner organisations, we support the implementation of the action plans developed by country teams during the workshops, and contribute to ongoing nutrition initiatives in the 8 target countries. Country-level capacity development activities supported by the project include: an inter-cluster workshop in Mali with the REACH partnership; a participatory sub-national planning exercise in Niger; increased coordination between the food security and nutrition clusters in South-Sudan; a joint advocacy workshop with the SUN Civil Society Alliance in Kenya; sub-national workshops in Somalia.

More information on country activities are available on our website

“After participating in the Training of trainers, I have supported the design of two projects on integration. I have been engaged in establishing a national working group on Food and Nutrition linkages and developing ToRs for the group “

NGO, Kenya

Jacob, ACF

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance (CSA) in Kenya included in its nutrition advocacy workshop a session on how food security and nutrition actors can align their efforts to achieve common nutrition goals. The session was facilitated by an ACF staff who had participated in the training of trainers. As a result of this initiative, the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Livestock Production have now a better understanding of their key role in addressing the causes of malnutrition and show a growing interest to collaborate with partner organisations such as FAO, ACF and other NGOs to implement integrated programmes in Kenyan counties.

Valérie, ICRC

ICRC facilitated a problem/solution trees exercise in Kaga Bandoro, Central African Republic, to support the country team and partner organisations in better understanding the causes of malnutrition. This collaborative work which involved health, nutrition and agriculture professionals working in the region resulted in building causal trees for each livelihoods groups (host communities, displaced people, agro-pastoralist, etc.). Since then, the health and economic security sectors have been working together in a joint effort to fight malnutrition. Four ambulatory nutrition centres and one in-patient have already put into practice this integrated approach, by treating malnourished children while supporting their family food security.

On-line modules on integrating nutrition and food security programming

Building on the workshop experience and existing resources, we are developing on-line modules (to be available in French, English and Spanish). The modules comprise interactive learning methods and cover a variety of contexts.



WHAT WE DO

CONSULT:

www.fao.org/in-action/food-security-capacity-building/project-components/nutrition

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Mapping of existing tools and training materials

We monitor the literature on existing methods, training materials and training initiatives. Our mapping is shared on the project website and updated on a monthly basis. More than 100 references are presented and a web link allows the user to access the tools or documents.

Collection of good practices

We are working with partners to identify and disseminate good practices where the nutritional impact of food security interventions is maximized, gender is mainstreamed, and accountability has been effectively applied. This exercise aims to promote the adoption of proven/innovative practices.

Web-based communication and knowledge sharing

The project website presents past and current events and all workshop materials, mapping of tools, good practices sheets and key project resources. We also issue a bimonthly newsletter shared with a large number of partners and colleagues. Please contact us if you want to receive the e-Newsletter.

ADVOCACY



Discussion paper and briefs on Resilience and Nutrition

The project team has produced a discussion paper, a brochure and brief to advocate for strengthening linkages between nutrition and resilience in food and agriculture.

The concept of 'resilience' and its practical application in food security and nutrition policy formulation and implementation has recently become influential in humanitarian and development communities. These discussion paper and brochure discuss the linkages between the two agendas and draw recommendations from a conceptual, strategic and operational point of view.

Participation in global events

We actively promote the integration of food security and nutrition programming and contribute to the debate on nutrition and resilience through our participation to global events and conferences (IFPRI 2020 Conference on Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition; Emergency Nutrition Network Technical Meeting on Nutrition; Global Nutrition Cluster and Global Food Security Cluster partner meetings).

The project is coordinated by:



Partners:



Supported by:



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection