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Nutrition Intervention Research and Training in West Africa

Update CAADP Workshop
Dakar, November 2011

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•**Cairo 1978:**

“Emphasized the special need for regional training institutions in Africa where few countries have advanced training capacities in nutrition”

•**Manila 1996:**

“...depend significantly on the quality and quantity of trained personnel.”



Regional Milestones

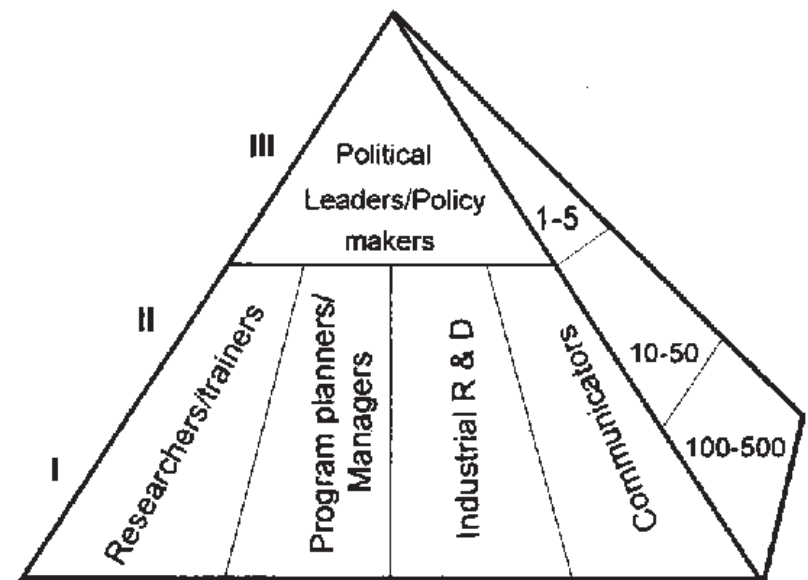
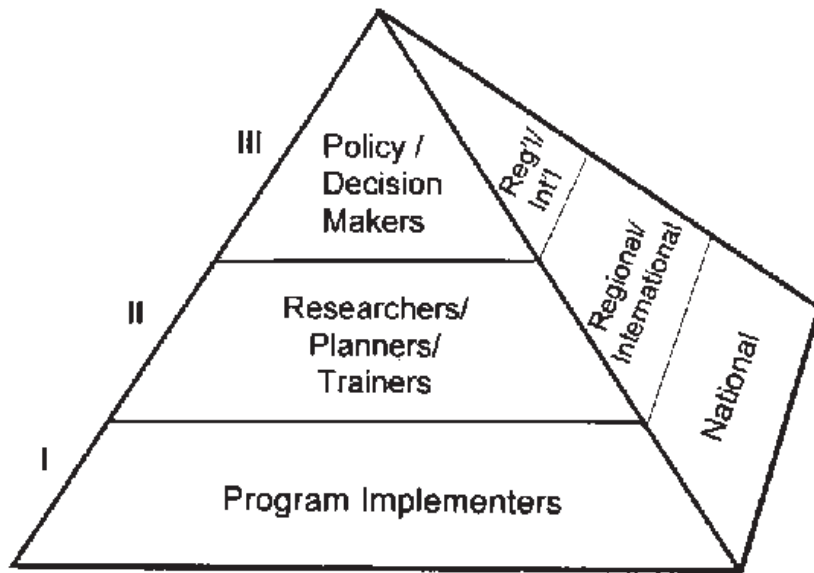
- **1995** – Nutrition Focal Points meeting for Francophone West African countries started under the auspices of OCCGE: recognizes need to increase Nutrition capacity
- **1999** – Nutrition Focal Points meeting expands to include all 15 countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- **2000** – West African Health Organization (WAHO) created through the merger of OCCGE and the West African Health Community (WAHC)
- **2001** – First WAHO strategic plan recognizes Nutrition as one of eight program priorities and includes activities for human resource capacity building in nutrition
- **2002** – Nutrition Focal Points transitioned to ECOWAS Nutrition Forum, with more broad-based participation and issuance of recommendations
- **2008** – Second WAHO strategic plan adopted, including focus on development of human resources for health and development of research capacity within sub-region
- **March, 2009** – Dakar Nutrition Research and Training Capacity Building workshop organized jointly by WAHO, HKI and UNICEF
- **July, 2009** – ECOWAS Assembly of Health Ministers adopts resolution for Action on Nutrition, including calling on WAHO to host Secretariat for regional Nutrition Research and Training Initiative and calling on Partners to support the initiative

Types of nutrition-related training needs

- Undergraduate (bachelor) level – public nutrition program managers, laboratory/field technicians
- Clinical – Nutrition components of medical, nursing, social worker training
- Masters level (MSc, MPH) – District, national planners; laboratory managers; trainers
- Doctoral level – Scientists, academicians, policy makers



Required number of nutritionists in West Africa



Meeting of UNU/IUNS in Manila provided estimates of national needs for nutrition professionals per 5 million population

Estimated number of new nutritionists required annually* in West Africa, by level of training

Countries	Population (millions)	BSc	MSc	PhD
Anglophone	180	360 – 1,800	36 – 180	18 – 90
Francophone	114	298 – 1,140	23 – 114	11 – 112
All W Afr	296	592 – 2,960	59 - 296	30 - 148

* Assumes median of 10 years of active professional life

Research: 1998-2008 Review of Literature

- 412 articles identified
- Focused on infant and young child feeding practices; micronutrient deficiencies; overweight and obesity.
- Primary author of 46% located in an institution outside of West Africa.
- 41% were cross-sectional studies.
- “Our findings indicate that few peer-reviewed research studies are being published on key public health nutrition topics of priority to West Africa considering the magnitude of nutrition problems.”
- Critical need for public health nutrition research **driven by program delivery priorities** in West Africa

Consensus statement of Dakar workshop participants, March 26-28, 2009

Workshop led by WAHO, UNICEF and HKI included regional and international academicians, public health program managers, and representatives of technical assistance and donor agencies

Concluded that there is need for a broad-based regional nutrition research and training initiative to include:

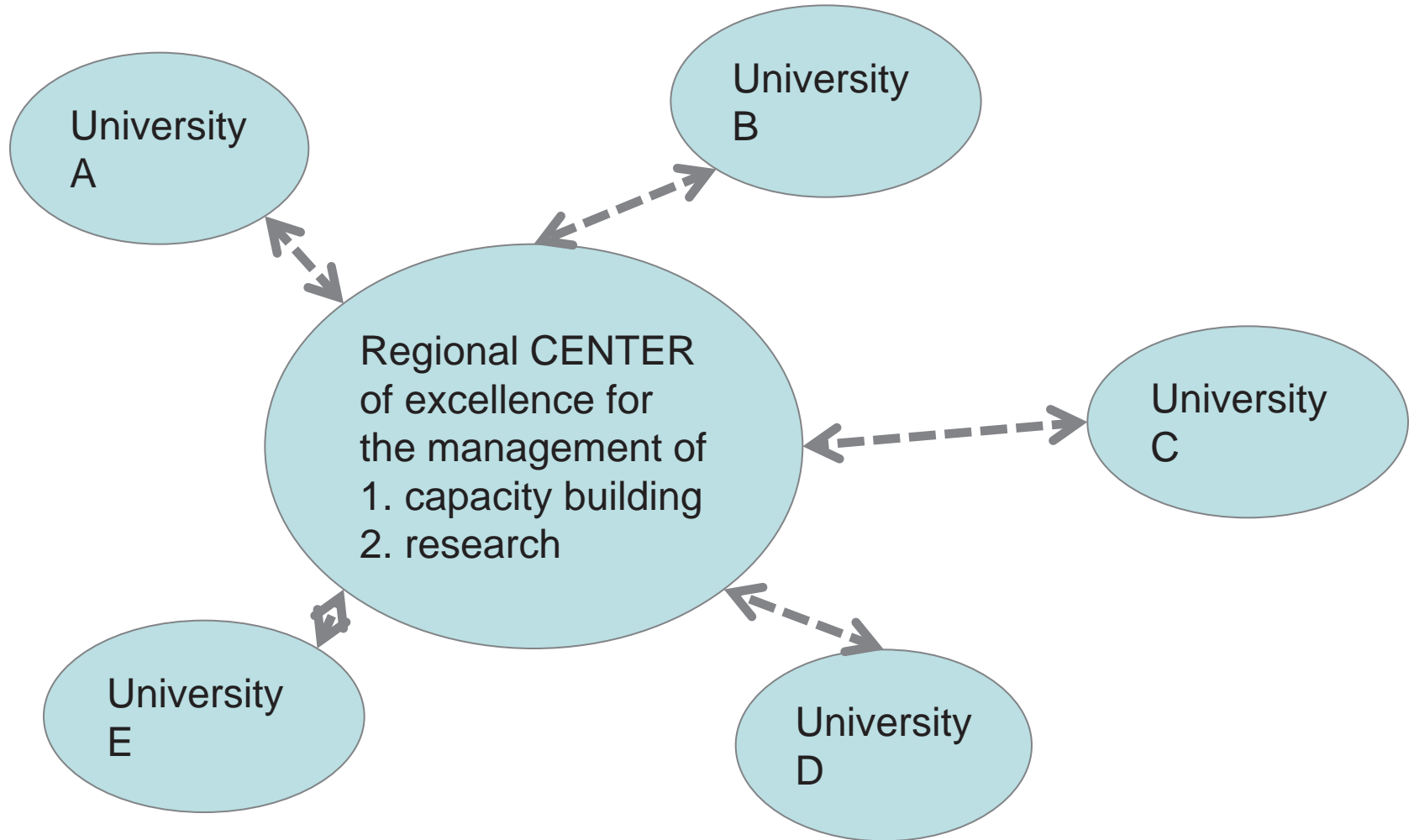
- Advocacy
- Community-focused, public health nutrition research
- Relevant pre-service and in-service training at all levels

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
ASSEMBLY OF HEALTH MINISTERS – 2009
YAMOISSOUKRO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE
RESOLUTION ON ACTION FOR NUTRITION**

Capacity Building – The West African Health Organization, UNICEF and Helen Keller International convened a workshop of experts from regional and international academic departments of nutrition science, representatives of public health programs and donor agencies in Dakar in March, 2009 to review the current situation with regard to regional nutrition training and research capacity. The group concluded that a major initiative will be required to strengthen, expand, and coordinate existing academic programs in human nutrition and related applied, program-linked research activities.

The Assembly of Health Ministers calls on the West African Health Organization to host the Coordinating Center for the West Africa Public Health Nutrition Research and Training Initiative and calls on Partner Organizations to support the West African Health Organization in implementing the action steps identified in the workshop Consensus Statement.

Regional nutrition research and training center interaction, collaboration and support



Capacity Building - Other Milestones

- Task group led by HKI finalized proposal for first 2 years (December 2009)
- Proposal submitted to over 20 donor agencies by HKI and UNICEF (European Union)
- UNICEF committed \$200,000 and HKI committed \$100,000 of own resources
- Publication of workshop report and background papers as special supplement of *Global Public Health*
- Terms of reference of Coordinator and Training Coordinator finalized by WAHO, UNICEF and HKI

Capacity building - Way forward

- Set up Secretariat (staffing, organizational agreements)
- Continue resource mobilization:
 - *“We fully support, but it is not in our work plan”*
- Inaugural Steering Committee meeting
- Draft detailed work plan including:
 - Curriculum review, harmonization and mainstreaming:
 - Pre-service (physicians, nurses, social workers, etc)
 - Specialized degrees (bachelors, masters, doctoral)
 - Research priority setting using WHO methodology (CHINRI)
 - Coordinate with EU-funded SUN RAY project
“Sustainable Nutrition Research for Africa in the Years to come”
 - Center(s) of Excellence

Nutrition News for Africa

Nutrition News for Africa

April 2011

Repositioning children's right to adequate nutrition in the Sahel: Results of a Situational Analysis

Introduction

Children's nutrition has improved in the Sahel, but the Sahara Desert, and young children in these countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. international agencies formed in the Sahel." As a first step in the analysis of current policies and in six countries of this sub-region, the objectives of this analysis were to assess nutritional status, and health and nutrition activities, so as to develop plans for a situational analysis and the results summarized in this month's edition.

Methods

The coordinators of the implementation of IYCN activities in the Sahel obtained from government documents obtained from government assistance agencies, as well as other research papers, technical information contained in these documents regarding each of the following practices: prevention of microorganism transmission of HIV, maternal practices. The analyses were conducted IYCN-related activities.

Results

National nutrition policies in most countries were generally well implemented. Following the IYCN practices, such as the recommendation of complementary foods and the use of zinc consistently.

Nutrition News for Africa

Avril 2011

Repositionnement du droit des enfants à une alimentation adéquate au Sahel : Résultats d'une analyse situationnelle

Introduction

La nutrition des enfants s'est améliorée dans les pays situés dans la région située au sud du Sahara. Les taux de mortalité des jeunes enfants ont diminué, mais les représentants de plusieurs organismes internationaux ont pu «repositionner le droit des enfants à une nutrition adéquate» dans les pays participants ont commandité une analyse de la situation des programmes relatifs à la nutrition du nourrisson et de la région du Sahel que sont le Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritanie et le Sénégal. L'objectif de l'étude était de compiler et d'interpréter les informations relatives à l'état nutritionnel et à la santé des enfants de moins de cinq ans, afin d'élaborer des plans pour accélérer le processus de l'analyse de la situation et les recommandations qui en découlent. Les résultats sont résumés dans le présent numéro du NNA (1-6).

Méthodes

Les coordonnateurs de l'analyse situationnelle ont interviewé des responsables de la mise en œuvre des activités de nutrition du nourrisson. Ils ont examiné plus de 600 documents pertinents obtenus de sources gouvernementales et d'organismes d'assistance technique identifiés par des recherches bibliographiques. Les documents examinés comprenaient la politique et des déclarations de politique, des enquêtes et autres documents de recherche, les programmes de nutrition, les rapports d'évaluation. Les informations contenues dans ces documents ont été comparées avec les recommandations internationales concernant chacun des aspects suivants (7) : allaitement maternel optimal et la prévention des carences en micronutriments (vitamine A, zinc, fer, iode), la transmission mère-enfant du VIH, la prise en charge de l'état nutritionnel et les pratiques d'hygiène. Les analyses ont été réalisées au niveau de différentes organisations menant des activités de nutrition et les informations peuvent être incomplètes dans ce qui suit.

Nutrition News for Africa

Abril de 2011

Reposicionando os direitos da criança relativamente à nutrição adequada na região do Sahel: Resultados de uma Análise Situacional

Introdução

A nutrição infantil tem vindo a melhorar nos países localizados no limite sul do deserto do Sara e as taxas de mortalidade de crianças de tenra idade diminuíram, mas as taxas de progresso não são suficientes para que esses países alcancem os Objectivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio. Por isso mesmo, várias agências internacionais formaram uma aliança nos finais de 2007 para "Reposicionar os direitos das crianças relativamente à nutrição adequada no Sahel." Como primeiro passo nesta iniciativa, as agências participantes encomendaram uma análise de situação das políticas actuais e actividades programáticas relacionadas com a nutrição de bebés e crianças de tenra idade (IYCN), em seis países desta sub-região: Burkina Faso, Chade, Mali, Mauritània, Níger e Senegal. Os objectivos desta análise foram os de compilar e interpretar informação disponível sobre práticas alimentares, níveis nutricionais e estado de saúde de crianças menores de dois anos de idade, e rever actividades programáticas relacionadas, de modo a criar planos de aceleração do progresso nestes países. Os resultados da análise situacional e das recomendações resultantes foram agora publicados numa série de artigos resumidos na edição deste mês do NNA (1-6).

Métodos

Os coordenadores da análise situacional entrevistaram 143 informadores chave envolvidos na implementação de actividades de nutrição de bebés e crianças de tenra idade (IYCN) nos países acima mencionados, e reviram mais de 600 documentos importantes obtidos através de instituições governamentais, organizações não-governamentais e agências de assistência técnica, assim como artigos de publicações científicas identificadas através de pesquisas bibliográficas formais. Entre os documentos que foram examinados encontravam-se políticas e declarações de estratégia dos governos, resultados de pesquisas e outros artigos de investigação, currículo de formação, e relatórios de monitoria e avaliação de programas. A informação contida nestes documentos foi comparada com as actuais recomendações internacionais relativas a cada um dos seguintes tópicos (IYCN) (7): boas práticas de amamentação e práticas de alimentação complementar, prevenção da deficiência de micronutrientes (vitamina A, zinco, ferro, iodo), prevenção da transmissão do HIV de mãe para filho, cuidados de saúde para crianças com

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