



Field Exchange 51: Nutrition sensitive programmes – call for content

About Field Exchange

Field Exchange is an established tri-annual technical publication produced by the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN). It is written by and for programmers working in nutrition-related programming in emergencies and high burden contexts worldwide, and by those working in related fields, such as policy development and research. Previous editions are available at www.ennonline.net/fex

Issue 51 of Field Exchange will be devoted to nutrition sensitive programming and related policy and research (NSP). While Field Exchange has routinely included field articles on NSPs in the past, the aim of this special issue is to bring together a fuller body of work which allows lesson learning and identification of where there are knowledge gaps, both in what to do in NSP, and how to do it in the field.

Issue 51 will be published in December 2015. We are soliciting field articles, research, evaluations and news to feature in the edition. The **deadline for full article submission is 10th September**. A guest editorial panel (Jody Harris, IFPRI and Aaron Buchsbaum, consultant for the SecureNutrition platform) and key informants will support the regular editorial team.

How do we define nutrition sensitive programming?

In the 2013 Lancet series, NSPs are defined as interventions or programmes that address the **underlying determinants** of foetal and child nutrition and development, which include food security; adequate caregiving resources at the maternal, household and community levels; access to health services; and a safe and hygienic environment. Most importantly, these NSPs **must incorporate specific nutrition goals and actions**. Furthermore, NSPs can serve as **delivery platforms for nutrition-specific interventions**, potentially increasing their scale, coverage, and effectiveness.

Examples of potential NSP sectors include; agriculture and food security; social protection; water, hygiene, and sanitation; early child development; maternal mental health; women's empowerment. Interventions themselves may be **single sector** in nature, with explicitly stated nutrition objectives, or may be **multi-sector interventions** aiming to converge on affected populations. A key element of any such programming is that **nutrition objectives are clearly stated** and that there is some articulation of a **conceptual basis for assuming impact on nutrition**, e.g. formulation of causal pathways or theories of change.

Article requirements

We welcome submissions of, and ideas for, field articles, research, evaluations and news. **Field articles** are detailed accounts of programming experiences, challenges and lessons learned. **Research** may be original field research or summaries of relevant research. Relevant **evaluations** may be original or summary content. **News** pieces are short articles highlighting or summarising key meetings, training, and initiatives relevant to the theme.

All articles should fall within the definition of NSPs outlined above involving single or multi-sectoral programming. Our populations of concern are not limited to pregnant and lactating women and young children but include other population groups, e.g. older people. We are also interested in programming experiences where nutrition sensitive components have evolved (e.g. nutrition objectives have been added to a programme rather than planned from the outset).



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Suggested themes include but are not limited to:

1. Formulating nutrition objectives for different sectors
2. Creation, adaptation, and/or use of relevant frameworks and theory of change
3. Monitoring and evaluation, either for impact or for process/intermediate outcomes
4. Successes and challenges in working across sectors from an institutional perspective
5. Challenges and successes in field-level implementation
6. Intersection of programme learning or knowledge management and nutrition sensitive programming
7. Implementer reflections on pros/cons/concerns with NSP overall

None of these themes are mutually exclusive and field articles could cover a number of areas and other themes, if the author believes they represent important learning.

It is important that authors document the details of programme experience which have informed the learning. All articles should therefore describe the country context for the programme and a brief chronology of the programme itself.

We are interested to hear not only success stories but where programming did not achieve intended objectives; this is powerful learning.

Process of article development

1. Original articles

Submit a short (up to 400 words) abstract on your idea for an article. Include information on:

- a) The context (country, programmatic)
- b) Type of nutrition-sensitive programming - single or multi-sectoral, and which sectors.
- c) Which theme this article will speak to (listed above or additional theme)
- d) Highlight 3-4 key lessons learned

Based on your abstract, the ENN will invite you to write an article for the edition of around 2500 words. We may ask for more information or a call with you to explore the details. We will agree to a framework for the article and a date for submission for draft 1. We will accept abstracts close to the full article deadline of 10th September, assuming the article submission date can still be met.

The ENN editorial team can support the write-up process, e.g. providing feedback on early drafts. We will ask you to complete an author form and to provide author pictures (to accompany author biographies) and programming pictures with captions and credits.

2. Summaries and news

If you wish to feature a research or evaluation summary, share any original report with us. The ENN can prepare summaries for review by contributing author, or the author can prepare a summary and submit to the editorial team. For news items, send us links or relevant content and the editorial team will consider and prepare a news item.

Contacts

All submissions should be sent to Marie McGrath, Field Exchange Co-editor, marie@ennonline.net or UK: +44 (0)1865 249745. Informal enquires for more information or with potential ideas are welcome.

