Unlocking WFPs potential: Guidance for nutrition-sensitive programming March 2017

Developed for School Meals, General Food Assistance, Food For Assets, Smallholder Agricultural Market Support and Social Protection. It includes hypothesised programme impact pathways for each.

Specifies overarching requirements for a program to be considered nutrition-sensitive.

Describes opportunities for making programs more nutrition-sensitive with programme-specific suggestions.

Takes a step-wise approach and leaves room for innovation from the field.

Interim: Created as a living document that will incorporate lessons learned over time.

Programmes must comply with these 5 requirements

1. Incorporate a nutrition objective, outcomes and indicators.
   - Examples: Improve early-life intake for women at reproductive age in districts A, where FMN programmes are operating by 2020.

2. Be informed by a comprehensive gender and nutrition situation analysis & focus on key nutritionally vulnerable groups across the life cycle.
   - What is the nutrient gap? Is there an issue of availability and access to nutritious foods or demand, or both? What gender issues may be contributing to poor diets for particular populations?
   - Choose most applicable from the 7 key WFP opportunities. For example: 
     - Incorporate SBCC: Focusing on awareness, knowledge and availability of fish, vegetables, fruit, etc.

3. Include deliberate nutrition actions and/or provide appropriate delivery platforms to ensure the project will contribute to achieving the identified nutrition objective.
   - Are we chosen assets that strengthen livelihoods for women? Do communities know how to prepare nutritious meals?

4. Align with national nutrition plans where they exist.
   - Are there other partners providing services needed by the women we are working with? WASH or health?

7 Key Opportunities for nutrition-sensitive programming

1. Target nutritionally vulnerable groups – as primary or secondary target groups.
2. Add or link to nutritionally-relevant complementary activities – through integration or co-location.
3. Ensure adequate quantity and nutritional quality of the food, commodity voucher or cash transfer.
4. Make transfers conditional.
5. Contribute to community, household or school assets that are nutritionally-relevant and ensure adequate scale, quantity and quality of the asset.
6. Align with national nutrition action plans and strategies, and advocate for nutrition.
7. Apply a gender and protection lens.

What we still need to know – some evidence gaps that we can help to fill.

1. What is the impact on the health and nutrition of vulnerable populations of making WFP’s programmes more nutrition-sensitive using one or more of the seven identified opportunities? (for example on dietary intake, micronutrient status, morbidity, knowledge and empowerment, of women and children in the first 1000 days, pre-schoolers and adolescents).

2. Does making WFP’s programmes more nutrition-sensitive make them more cost-effective for achieving nutrition impacts among vulnerable populations?

3. What is the impact of using different programmes as platforms to reach adolescents, in particular with nutrition services?

4. Can impacts achieved through WFP’s nutrition-sensitive programs be sustained or transformed?

WFP in collaboration with IFPRI is seeking to answer these key questions amongst others through the use of rigorous, comprehensive impact evaluations.

How we get there

⇒ WFP and IFPRI are committed to providing evidence for the importance of nutrition-sensitive programmes that can be implemented at scale and contribute to ending global malnutrition.

⇒ We have developed an umbrella proposal for multi-year impact evaluations to identify what works, how and at what cost, to be translated into effective and cost-effective nutrition-sensitive programmes in WFP.

⇒ Outputs will be shared as global public goods to inform programme design and nutrition-sensitive policies.

⇒ Translating emerging evidence on the impact of nutrition-sensitive programmes to actions at scale with WFPs global reach and scope, has enormous potential to contribute to ending malnutrition in the world.

We are actively seeking funding for the evaluations and welcome any donor interest.

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