

An Experience from Rural Villages of Sonaraithadi Block, Jharkhand under Fight Hunger First Initiative

Sweta Bannerjee and Babita Sinha

Background

The intervention focus is in 50 villages where 62% of children are stunted, 60% are underweight and 35% are wasted. Only 25 out of 50 villages have AWC and regular health camps. Only 7.5% received 100 days' employment. Available food grains can provide 54kg/HH/month vs requirement 90kg/HH/month. 48.8% have ration cards.

Approaches

- 1) Institution building and community empowerment
- 2) Established demonstrable pilots in FNS, Mother and Child Nutrition & Primary Education
- 3) Advocacy and Networking at block, district and State level
- 4) National Level Networking, Advocacy

Nutrition Focused Interventions



Impact

The major visible impacts achieved in less than 3 years include:

- 1500 women actively participating in project activities and has strengthened Government services especially in ICDS and MDM in schools
- More than 70% of children in the project area are completing their primary education
- 30% enhancement in food productivity on average
- Improved food security for 2 additional months on average
- Fallow cultivation in 86 ha of land equating to a 34% increase compared to the baseline
- An increase in diet diversity from 2 food groups to 4 food groups
- An improvement in nutritional status for 35% of underweight children



Challenges

Lack of understanding on NFSA & conceptual frame work of malnutrition among all stakeholders.

Malnutrition is not perceived as indicator for food insecurity/hunger rather an issue only for Department of WCD.

Lack of awareness about the functioning of different departments and pro-activeness of both the community and departments.

Key messages

Malnutrition is the indicator of a systemic failure of multiple components and needs to be addressed through a multisectoral approach.

Community mobilization and institution building is the key to change.

All issues need to be addressed simultaneously by a single window approach with good understanding of the overall issue of Food & Nutrition Security

