

Delivering for Nutrition in India Learnings from Implementation Research

November 9–10, 2016

Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

Why are we holding this event?

In India, several nutrition interventions targeted to the period between adolescence and first 1000 days are predominantly delivered through two large-scale national programs - the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the National Health Mission. Increasingly, additional delivery platforms like self-help group (SHG) and information and communications technology (ICT) programs across the country are also being explored as opportunities to support appropriate nutrition behaviours. Although supportive policies and program platforms exist for the delivery of nutrition interventions through multiple platforms, the data and evidence from across India points to lingering gaps in the coverage, scale and quality of these interventions. Recent data also highlights the tremendous variability across states in the implementation and utilization of these interventions. As India looks forward to the new global goals for nutrition, the time is opportune to assess how best to close coverage gaps, strengthen implementation quality and increase demand for nutrition interventions.

Why implementation and policy research?

Implementation research aims to understand and examine solutions to close gaps both on the supply-side and governance of interventions and on demand for interventions. Implementation research in nutrition covers areas such as formative research to inform program design, impact and process evaluation, operations research to identify and test solutions to implementation and utilization bottlenecks, qualitative research, political economy analyses, policy analyses, costing and financing studies, and more!

What outcomes are we expecting from this event?

Connecting with the current state of the evidence: This conference will offer opportunities to learn about recent research and evidence on factors that affect the coverage and quality of services and interventions for maternal and child nutrition in India. Research areas that will be featured include those related to supporting and motivating frontline worker performance, strengthening intervention components like supplements and behaviour change communication, testing new solutions to old problems (e.g., ICT for nutrition, cash transfers, etc.), using new platforms for behaviour change (e.g. self-help group programs), financing for nutrition, data for decision-making and more.

Cross-platform and cross-state dialogue: Covering multiple delivery platforms – the ICDS, National Health Mission, self-help group platforms, media and information technology, and more – this convening is intended to serve as a cross-state learning platform to inform and support dialogue around current and planned strategies to deliver nutrition interventions at scale.

Identifying future implementation research needs: In a changing social and economic context where multiple platforms exist to deliver diverse nutrition interventions, the convening will offer the opportunity to identify and prioritize areas where evidence-building is most needed as India's nutrition community looks ahead to the new global goals for nutrition.