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# **Evaluating Impact: Turning Promises into Evidence**

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## **Community Based Nutrition Program**

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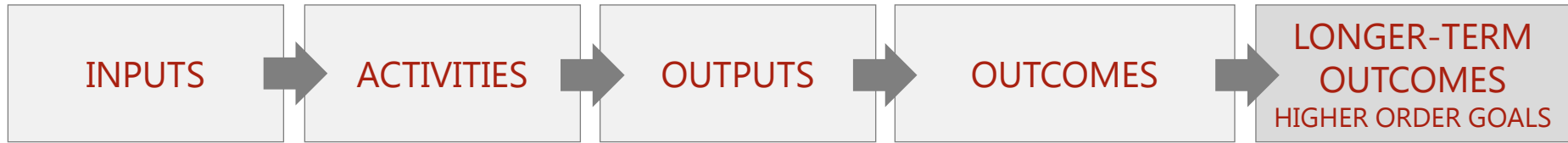
# 1. Background

- ❑ Ethiopia has a National Nutrition Program (NNP) which has the aim of improving the undernutrition status of the population
- ❑ Community-Based Nutrition (CBN), as a preventative approach, is designed to build upon the Health Extension Program to reduce undernutrition through preventative actions in 238 woredas in the four main regions of Ethiopia.
- ❑ Activities include – Growth monitoring and promotion of under 2 children, community conversations, referral linkages and micronutrient deficiency control.

# 1. Background

- ❑ Although the program is showing good initial reductions in underweight amongst participating under 2 children, the participation rate itself is only 30-40%
- ❑ We have designed a study which aims to identify ways of increasing the participation rate and improve the nutritional status of the community.

# 2. Results Chain



- Finance
- Pharmaceuticals
- HR for CBN (HEW, Supervisors)
- Guidelines and manuals

- Training for HEW and supervisors
- Supervision
- Screening of nutritional status (GMP)
- Community conversation
- Micronutrient deficiency control (Vitamin A and deworming)
- Referral linkages
- Monitoring (HMIS & NIS)

- # of HEWs and supervisors trained
- # of supervisions
- # of children screened
- # of community conversations
- # of children supplemented
- # of children referred
- % of reports received

- Community awareness of nutritional issues increased
- # of under 2 children underweight decreased
- Nutritional status of PLW improved

- Reduction in stunting
- Overall health of children and PLW improved
- Improvement in overall human development i.e. Cognitive ability and productivity

# 3. Primary Research Questions

What is the impact of participation in CBN on nutritional status?

Sub questions:

What is the impact on nutritional knowledge and awareness?

What is the impact on diet diversity?

What is the impact on micronutrient status?

What is the impact on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices?

What is the impact on underweight?

# 4. Outcome Indicators

- Percentage of under-2 children underweight
- Percentage of caretakers with improved nutritional knowledge
- Percentage of under-5 children and mothers eating 4 or more food groups
- Percentage of mothers starting BF within one hour of birth
- Percentage of mothers practising exclusive BF up to 6 months old
- Percentage of children introduced to CF at 6 months

# 5. Identification Strategy/ Method

Randomized Promotion

## **Three study arms:**

No promotion

Promotion type 1: Intensive information/outreach by Health Extension Workers

Promotion type 2: Material goods that will not impact on the outcomes except participation in the program (such as a wind up radio if they attend 10 out of 12 consecutive growth monitoring and promotion sessions and community conversations)

# 6. Sample and Data

- ❑ Two woredas (districts) in each of the 4 regions where CBN is active will be selected for the study (**Assumption – these eight woredas are representative of the 238 CBN woredas in the 4 main regions of Ethiopia**)
  
- ❑ If there is a therapeutic program in a woreda it will not be chosen as a study area
  
- ❑ Randomisation at the kebele level (sub-district - 25 per woreda). These will be split into 3 types:
  - Those that get no promotion
  - Those that get promotion type 1
  - Those that get promotion type 2



# 6. Sample and Data

## Data collection:

Routine data will be collected on the key variables listed below:

- Number of eligible children (all those age under 2)
- Participation of under 2 children in growth monitoring and promotion
- Underweight rate of under 2 children
- Number of community conversations
- Participation rate of caretakers in community conversations
- Number of under 2 children referred to therapeutic feeding programs

# 6. Sample and Data

## **Data collection:**

Baseline and endline data will be collected on the key variables listed below:

- Nutritional knowledge and awareness
- Diet diversity score
- Micronutrient status
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices
- Underweight, wasting and stunting
- Participation rate in the program

# 7. Time Frame / Work Plan

The study will last for 2 years (baseline to endline) to make sure there is enough time for the outcome we are looking for to change.

Summer 2012 - Baseline

Intervention for 2 years

Summer 2014 - Endline

# 8. Sources of Financing

- ❑ UNICEF and World Bank