Applying USAID’s Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy: Coordination and collaboration across three countries

Carolyn Hart, SPRING
Why Coordination/Collaboration?

- Reduce costs
- Avoid duplication
- Achieve better results
- Create synergies
- Leverage resources
- Clarify roles
- Prevent redundancies
- Prevent inefficiencies
- Build on others' knowledge
- Increase impact
- Generate knowledge
- Learn from others
- Capitalize on combined strengths
- Less work, more results
- See your place in a larger system
Background on SPRING’s Work

Review of three Mission approaches to coordinating their nutrition, health, and agriculture investments

- What are the motivations behind multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration?
- What are the largest barriers and how have they been addressed?
- How can we measure effectiveness of coordination and collaboration plans?
SPRING’s Process

• Performed document review
• Conducted key informant interviews with 52 activities and Mission staff across multiple offices
• Provided Mission TA
• Document key findings in a larger technical brief
Definitions

COORDINATION
Exchanging information and altering activities for mutual benefit and to achieve a common purpose.

COLLABORATION
Exchanging information, altering activities, sharing resources, and enhancing one another’s capacity for mutual benefit and to achieve a common purpose.
Mission-level Coordination & Collaboration across 3 Continents

- **Guatemala**
  - WHIP est. 2011
  - Co-locating ~19 activities in 5 departments
  - All USAID sectors - health, nutrition, agriculture, gender, governance, environment, education

- **Rwanda**
  - CHAIN est. 2015
  - 15 activities across Rwanda
  - Nutrition and community health

- **Bangladesh**
  - Ag-Nut Linkages Group est. 2014
  - 13 activities
  - Agriculture, nutrition, and food security
The “Coordination and Collaboration Life Cycle”

- Design
- Monitor
- Implement
- Learning & Adapting

Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Global Learning and Evidence Exchange
Washington, DC
Key Components along the Cycle: DESIGN

- Identify the **issue** and the role of **coordination and collaboration** in addressing it
- Review **existing** mechanisms and previous work
- Identify a **leader** or **platform**
- Outline the short- and long-term **outcome(s)**
- Create **implementation & monitoring** plans
- **Engage** stakeholders in the process
- Summarize **expectations** for all involved
- Determine participation **requirements**
- **Match** coordination/collaboration requirements with individual contracts
Key Components along the Cycle: IMPLEMENT

- Disseminate strategy to generate a shared understanding
- Identify participants’ opportunities and challenges
- Provide additional incentives to encourage collaboration
- Execute strategy
- Distinguish if and how coordination and collaboration varies between levels
- Ensure everyone has the capacity, time, and financial resources necessary
Key Components along the Cycle: MONITOR

- Measure results beyond program impact
- Allow participants to provide feedback
- Follow up on specific events

- Identify challenges and successes
- Disseminate findings
- Ensure contributions are recognized

- Revise program, as needed
Key Components: LEARNING & ADAPTING

PEOPLE
• Ownership of learning agenda
• Comfortable working on a trial-and-error basis

MECHANISMS
• Flexible structures to change overtime
• Venue for participants to share
Agriculture-Nutrition Resources at spring-nutrition.org

The SPRING website houses over 900 nutrition resources from SPRING and elsewhere. Quickly search for technical briefs, guidance, tools, videos, and more.

CONNECT WITH SPRING
- www.spring-nutrition.org
- info@spring-nutrition.org
- TheSPRINGProject
- SPRINGProject2
- SPRINGProject2

- Find monthly resource reviews
- Check out our events page to register for upcoming SPRING webinars and view presentations and recordings from previous events
Thank you!