



UTSAV ANNUAL TEAM MEETING 2022

21-23 March | Khajuraho, India

REGIONAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

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Credit goes to the lovely participants of the meeting



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OVERVIEW

The Regional Nutrition Program is a multi-country multisectoral project to reduce hunger and malnutrition. It focuses primarily on the underlying causes of malnutrition and then focuses on creating a supportive environment by addressing the basic causes of malnutrition to create Nutrition Smart Communities where the community understands malnutrition in its practical terms and has the knowledge and skills to better use their existing resources to nourish their families.

The project is being implemented in 260 model villages in 7 districts of Bangladesh, India and Nepal. From extreme dry regions of central India to inundated Chars & Haors of Bangladesh and the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal, this project weaves diversity and covers one of the most remote and socioeconomically challenged areas of the three countries. Celebrating this diversity and the starting of the fifth year, 'Utsav' – a three-day annual meet-up – was organised in Khajuraho this year to celebrate the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY.

The intent to build a collective understanding of the status of the project and the review of the diverse thematic initiatives of all partners took a beautiful shape during the three-day meet-up. The three-day meet-up and the series of planned activities helped the team members gain a lucid understanding of the project's status quo and its multidimensions and paved the way to make better and sustainable plans in unison. Amidst local culture and warm traditions, this meeting was hosted by partner organisation Darshna Mahila Kalyan Samiti.





Utsav



43 Participants
4 Countries | 8 Partners
1 Program



DELIBERATIONS

Annual Report and Fund Utilisation

After a warm and musical welcome by the host and a fun introduction round, the participants were all set to start. The meeting started with a quick sharing from Sweta Banerjee (Nutrition Specialist, WHH) on the overall status of activities of all the three countries till the end of 2021. This included result-wise updates on malnutrition, child screening, MDDW, MAD, scale-up villages, training organised, special achievements of partners, government collaborations, and more.

Following this, Meethu Zakir (Programme Finance Officer, WHH) shared an update on the partner-wise fund utilization, unspent budget, financial reporting and audit.



PARTNER	FUND UTILISED
MGSA	52%
DMKS	49%
VSS	59%
TRIF	50%
ANANDO	43%
FIVDB	41%
FORWARD	54%



Looking Ahead

Philippe Dresruesse, Program Advisor, WHH (India-Bangladesh), also shared his thoughts in the workshop. Appreciating the grand work of the entire Nutrition Smart CommUNITY team, he focused on the upcoming scaling-up of the program and its future. He shared ways in which this program would shift its strategies to suit the changing world – to move from implementation-based to reorganising systems to strengthen the project as a resource hub as well for better knowledge management, congruence, advocacy, and sustainability.



Thematic Exhibition

From traditional vegetables, fruits, local millets, wild produce to community prepared products, local recipes, ground stories, knowledge products and much more was creatively presented by all the partners in a thematic exhibition. It truly depicted the diversity in the project. Each partner exhibited local solutions and manners in which they take up the "good practices" in their areas. Three new IEC by the India team were also officially released. With live music, demos, and more, this exhibition was a great experience for knowledge exchange and mutual evaluation and learning.



Country-wise Update

Mamunur Rashid, Pratibha Srivastava and Deependra Chaudhari shared updates on the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, respectively. Sharing their country update and work strategies, each focused on unique perspectives taken to multidimensionally mainstream the project following the multisector approach. The updates are available [here](#).



The Role You Can Play - As a CHANGE LEADER
Catalysing Evidence based Actions for a Result

Micronutrient Malnutrition-Compounds the Pandemic Infection- Necessary for immunity and fighting infection- Deficiency can increase low cognitive ability, morbidity and mortality- production

Vitamin A deficiency- Impairs immune response, susceptibility to infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India-18% among pre-school children, 22% among school-age children and 16% among adolescents. Odisha- India-20% among pre-school children, 18% among school-age children and 15% among adolescents.
Vitamin D deficiency- Modulates the immune system, requires for bone health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India-14% of pre-school children, 18% of school-age children and 24% of adolescents. Odisha- 8.7 % of pre-school children, 12.4% of school-age children and 18% of adolescents
Zinc deficiency- Impaired immunity leading to infection, dermatitis and diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India-One-fifth of pre-school children (19%), 17% of school-age children and 32% of adolescents. Odisha-One-fifth of pre-school children (19%), 16% of school-age children and 42.4% of adolescents
Folate deficiency(Vitamin B12 and B9)- Contributes to regulation of immune system. Can cause iron deficiency anaemia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India-Nearly one-quarter (23%) of pre-school children, 28% of school-age children and 37% of adolescents had Odisha-Nearly one-quarter (24%) of pre-school children, 48% of school-age children and 59% of adolescents had
Children with Pre-diabetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India-10.3% of school-age children and 10.4 % of adolescent Odisha-19.2% of school-age children and 19% of adolescent

Source- Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey 2016-18

Power Talk

To dig deeper into the scope of scaling-up of Nutrition Smart CommUNITY with the Government, a fruitful virtual power talk session was organised for all the partners with Mr Basanta Kar, the Nutrition Man of India. Addressing the power of nutrition, he shared his experience with replication, mainstreaming and a successful approach to strengthening nutrition systems through INHP. He shared key recommendations, key drivers of success, various push and pull factors with key stakeholders, the possible role of the project as a catalyst of evidence-based actions for a larger impact and much more in the session.

Tour of the Temples

On the second day, the group visited the ancient western temple group of Khajuraho. A local guide, Mr Shiyasharan Shukla, walked the group through the stunning nagara-styled architecture and intricate sculptures that grace the temples. Soaking in the rich historical charm, the guided tour helped the group engross in the ages-old stories, the glimpses of the everyday medieval life and the rise and fall of various kingdoms in history.





Field Visit

To generate an understanding of and insight into the fields of Nutrition Smart CommUNITY in India, a field visit to three different villages (Patan, Ontapurwa, and Majota) was organised on the second day. All the participants were divided into three groups and observed the status and impact of the five "best practices", the project's methodology, its convergence with the government, community engagement and more. An organised feedback session was also held to share the key highlights, suggestions for change and co-learning aspects by all the teams.



The Food Systems Talent Academy

Furthering the ways for scaling Nutrition Smart CommUNITY, Sweta Banerjee talked about a Food Systems Talent Academy of master trainers with BhoomiKa to enhance global advocacy of the “good practices” across different organisations. This involved institution building, SFNS multisector approach, nutrition-sensitive community planning, LANN+ PLA, SIFS, and behaviour and practice change. Initial steps on the capacity building of master trainers were taken last year. More trainings are planned for the coming year.



M.E.A.L

Exploring new avenues, a stimulating part of the review meeting was the MEAL session with Shivalika Gupta (MEAL Coordinator, WHH) and Christopher Korb (Junior Expert MEAL and Data Management, WHH). The sessions focused on reviewing and refining existing monitoring plans, the in-progress centralised Dashboard for data management, and initiated defining of common M&E indicators, a unified log frame for all the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY projects, and an intervention-based sustainability self-assessment for all the partners which will be discussed further.

The Art of Storytelling

Isha Banerjee (Communication Officer, WHH) led a stimulating and comprehensive session on the art of storytelling for all the partners. Encouraging the participants to explore beyond the tip of the iceberg, she focused on the multidimensional need, importance and benefit of storytelling for the project. Expressing problems, shaping meanings, incorporating human emotions, unfolding change/data; the project’s influential role, and more were discussed through demo videos during the session to help partners craft stories that carry deeper underlying messages.



THE WAY FORWARD

Revelling local traditions and celebrating the multidimensions of the Nutrition Smart CommUNITY was a productive engagement for all the team members. The workshop helped in understanding one another and encouraged cross-learning.

The collective understanding built during the workshop focused on the sustainability and unity of the project activities. Partners were encouraged to focus on their long-term impact in the field areas and engagement with the community. For this, each partner will submit a sustainability self-assessment. The partners will also present revised annual plans considering the sustainability factor of the project in their respective fields. One of the most crucial in-progress activities is the knowledge management platform which will also enable standardised data management for the countries in the coming year. With energetic efforts, inspiring visions, and synergy, the multi-country celebration of Nutrition Smart CommUNITY was a great success for all the country partners to gather and learn from one another.





Any more details?

[ARCHIVE](#)

Click here to find the meeting agenda, photos, presentations and more from the review meet-up





REGIONAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

