

# WeConnect



Dear Reader,

We hope you all are staying safe and well! The spread and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented. In this difficult time, many of us are also involved in efforts to prevent or manage the pandemic and are working tirelessly to ensure that the essential services related to health and nutrition are delivered, especially to those who need it the most.

## About this Issue

We Collaborate for Nutrition (WeCan) brings you the seventh issue of WeConnect – a quarterly update on news, events and stories from the field. The current issue emphasizes on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with an expert perspective on how to maintain and resume the essential nutrition services as the country is responding to the pandemic. The issue gives a sneak peek on the key findings of IFA supply chain assessment in Jharkhand, an interesting narrative on C2IQ Partners Meet in Bhopal and Gandhinagar, story from the field on how Government's outreach programmes such as IFA Supplementation in schools and National Deworming Day are transforming lives among children and adolescents and a unique story of building a MIYCN resource centre in government medical college in Jharkhand.

*Wish you an enjoyable read!*

## EXPERT SPEAK



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Thomas Forissier is an expert in nutrition and system strengthening. He currently oversees the South Asian operations of the maternal, infant and young child nutrition program Alive & Thrive (A&T), including activities in India, Bangladesh and at the SAARC level.

## How to maintain essential nutrition services as India is responding to the COVID19 epidemic?

It didn't take months of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic for the threat of malnutrition to start sharing headlines with the deadly virus in India. The pictures of daily wage workers displaced by the fear of hunger started raising the alarm almost as soon as the lockdown came into effect. They were a stark reminder that India's focus on improving nutrition should not abate.

According to the World Food Program, the number of Indians with insufficient food intake increased from 243 million to 273 million between the end of March and the end of April (i) The situation of the 40 million migrant workers affected by the lockdown is especially dire(ii). Based on a large survey conducted by the Stranded Workers Action Network, 50% were in possession of food rations for less than a day, and therefore fully dependent on government support (iii) [READ MORE](#)

*i* <https://hungermap.wfp.org/>, 27/4/2020

*ii* Coronavirus: Lockdown in India has affected 40 million migrants, says World Bank, Business Today, 23/4/2020

*iii* Stranded Workers Action Network, 21 days and counting, 15/4/2020

## Key Findings of IFA Supply Chain Assessment in

### Jharkhand

In 2019, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) supported by Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi carried out a nation-wide diagnostic assessment of Iron Folic Acid (IFA) supply chain assessment. The Ministry awarded WeCan-IPE Global the task of carrying out the IFA supply chain assessment in two chosen districts of Jharkhand, namely Dumka and West Singhbhum. The assessment covered eight (8) Health Sub-Centres, eight (8) Anganwadi Centres, four (4) primary schools, four (4) secondary schools, four (4) Community Health Centres, and two (2) District Warehouses. The findings emphasized the existing status and gap in the supply chain based on indicators such as lead time between indent compilation and last-mile delivery of IFA, Anemia Mukta Bharat procurement gap, stock status and perception of supplier performance, amongst others.

[Click here for the factsheet](#)

## C2IQ THE PARTNERS FORUM

### Coverage, Continuity, Intensity and Quality Partners Meet in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat



C2IQ Partners Meet in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, January 2020



Smt. Manisha Chandra, Secretary, DWCD During  
C2IQ meeting in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, February 2020

In the first quarter of 2020, WeCan- IPE Global had led two state level all nutrition partners meet under the aegis of Coverage, Continuity, Intensity and Quality (C<sup>2</sup>IQ) in collaboration with the government bodies and implementing agencies. These meetings are the cascade of key action points envisaged during the first national level C<sup>2</sup>IQ meeting held in New Delhi in June 2019. After three successful state-level meets in Jharkhand, Lucknow and Jaipur, C<sup>2</sup>IQ was held in Madhya Pradesh(MP) and Gujarat in January and February 2020, respectively. [READ MORE](#)



C2IQ Partners Meet in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, February 2020

**WE COLLABORATE**

## Establishing the first MIYCN resource centre in a State medical college in Ranchi

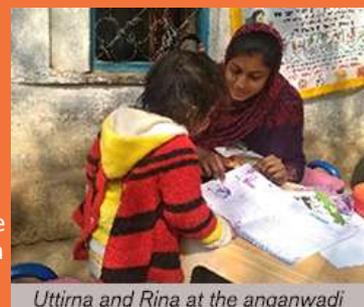
Nutrition is an important indicator of national development and growth. Evidences substantiate that the first 1000 days of life between a woman's pregnancy and her child's 2nd birthday offers a unique window of opportunity to build healthier and prosperous future. Academic institutions such as medical colleges can play significant role in developing future champions among doctors and nurses to deliver quality Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) services in public and private health facilities and community. [READ MORE](#)



## STORY FROM THE FIELD

### Two Public Health Programs that Address Anemia and Support POSHAN

The prevalence of anemia across all ages is more than 50% amongst the vulnerable groups in India. 58% children aged between of 6-59 months, 54% adolescent girls and 29% of adolescent boys aged between 15-19 suffer from anemia<sup>1</sup>. While iron deficiency anemia is the most common type of anemia, other main causes for anemia include nutritional deficiency, infections, and genetic illnesses. Also, prevalence of Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH) or intestinal worms can interfere with nutrient uptake; can lead to anemia, malnourishment, and impaired mental and physical development; and pose a serious threat to children's health, education, and productivity. [READ MORE](#)



*Uttirna and Rina at the anganwadi*

<sup>1</sup>. According to NFHS4 Data



**We Collaborate for Nutrition** is a national level platform to foster cross-learning within the nutrition community, to collaborate and to leverage each other's experiences. WeCan facilitates scaling up of proven interventions for optimal utilization of resources and time to improve nutrition outcomes in India. Our goal is aligned with the overarching mandate of POSHAN Abhiyaan, a multisectoral nutrition flagship program of the Government of India. The platform was conceptualized and established as a forum to enable cross-pollination of insights and sharing of learnings amongst different stakeholders, including governments, donors and development partners. To fulfil this mandate, we generate, collate, assimilate and disseminate knowledge from nutrition models. We work with a special focus on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition and its key thematic areas.

**If you would like us to capture innovation from your state, replicable nutrition intervention or the lessons learned, please contact us on [wecollaboratefornutrition@ipeglobal.com](mailto:wecollaboratefornutrition@ipeglobal.com)**

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