

WeConnect



Dear Reader,

Greetings from WeCan!

We hope you all are staying safe and well. We are happy to bring to you the 9th issue of our quarterly newsletter WeConnect– an update on the latest news, events, and stories from the nutrition space.

About this Issue

The current issue brings you the expert opinion on the impact of COVID–19 on food and nutrition security; a snapshot of C2IQ Forums supporting various governments at the state level to develop a COVID–19 response strategy; recent events during the World Breastfeeding Week 2020 and the POSHAN Maah; and success story from Gujarat. Lastly, do catch the photo story from Rayagada– tribal district in Odisha that used agri–nutrition model to fight malnutrition.

Wish you an enjoyable read!

EXPERT SPEAK



Dr. Susanne Milcher

Project director, Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience (FaNS), GIZ India

Susanne is a senior professional in development economics with more than 15 years of experience at the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Her professional expertise and research lie in the areas of: cross-sectoral governance processes for reducing poverty and inequality and, strengthening systems and processes for improving evidence-based policy-making.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an emergency situation around the world. In India, the food security and nutritional status of the most vulnerable population, especially migrants has deteriorated due to the COVID-19 outbreak and its imposed restrictions. The nationwide lockdown in India has disproportionately affected migrant families in urban areas due to the loss of their livelihoods. The GIZ (German Technical Development Cooperation) Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience (FaNS) project has collaborated with its partner Welthungerhilfe and local partners Darshana Mahila Kalyan Samiti and Mahatma Gandhi Sewa Ashram to implement a six months COVID-19 mitigation response to address the challenges of increased food and nutrition insecurity due to COVID-19 in the project districts Sheopur and Chhatarpur in the state of Madhya Pradesh. To start with, hygiene kits were distributed to 3,000 vulnerable migrant families. Awareness raising campaigns on the importance of dietary diversity, proper and frequent handwashing with soap, wearing mask and social distancing have been done through sessions at Anganwadi Centres, radio shows, newspaper articles, WhatsApp groups, community meetings under safety precautions, wall writings etc. To improve handwashing practices, 644 tippy taps were installed in households and at Anganwadi Centres in the two districts including training for usage and maintenance of the same. 80 handwashing stations at the community level were also set-up during this period. The project has also engaged women self-help groups for mask stitching, soap making and preparation of nutrimix for small children that benefit the communities and economically the involved women. Furthermore, homestead nutrition gardens among 8,000 migrant families including training and provision of seeds and saplings have been promoted. [Read More](#)

C2IQ

THE PARTNERS FORUM

ONLINE NUTRITION PARTNERS MEET

1ST COVERAGE, CONTINUITY, INTENSITY AND QUALITY MEETING (C²IQ)- ASSAM

Landscape analysis of nutrition services during COVID19 in Assam

DATE: 26 August 2020

TIME: 10:30 am-01:00 pm

ONLINE NUTRITION PARTNERS MEET

COVERAGE, CONTINUITY, INTENSITY AND QUALITY MEETING- RAJASTHAN

Analysis of Nutrition services in Rajasthan

DATE: 8th September 2020

TIME: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Supporting state governments during COVID-19 through C2IQ – Nutrition Partner’s Forum

As the COVID-19 crisis precipitated across India and lockdowns became a necessity to ensure public safety, WeCan used digital technology to leverage *C2IQ – Nutrition Partner’s Forum*, a space for nutrition partners to collaborate with each other, form meaningful partnerships and support the government in strengthening and implementing key nutrition interventions. In doing so, it brought together multiple partners across 7 states in the country to identify most affected nutrition services during the pandemic and develop a strategy to address these based on the field experiences of the partners. Recommendations from the meet was shared with the state governments and partners for timely response.

Adapting to the Challenge of COVID-19

In March 2020, India faced unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 outbreak, followed by the nation-wide lockdown forcing partners to seek for alternative ways to come together. The C²IQ convenings remained relevant in context to nutrition service delivery assessments and to understand partners response to COVID19 pandemic across different states. WeCan along with CFNS, Alive & Thrive and UNICEF, immediately adapted to online platforms to organize online C²IQ convenings. A series of C²IQ Meetings were rolled out Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Assam with clear mandate of supporting state governments to identify challenges in nutrition service delivery in the wake of COVID19. In each state at least 30 nutrition partners participated in the meet.

[ReadMore](#)

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Gujarat uses on-ground initiatives and media platforms to generate awareness on nutrition during the POSHAN Maah

Women and Child Development (WCD) Department of Gujarat celebrated the POSHAN Maah by undertaking various activities aimed at increasing awareness about nutrition in the state. Using different platforms including social media these activities added to the Department's efforts to improve the nutritional status of women and children.

A major activity initiated is the development of Nutri Gardens or Poshan Vatika. Instead of limiting the development of gardens at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), the department decided to develop these gardens at different locations, in convergence with various departments.

9000 Anganwadi workers were oriented with the support from Krushi Vigyan Kendra to develop the Nutri Gardens at AWCs. Seeds of various locally grown and easily cultivable vegetables and fruits were distributed to the Anganwadi workers. Around 7800 Poshan Vatikas were developed at the AWCs through these efforts. WCD Department, Gujarat coordinated with the other departments like GLPC (Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company) and developed 12654 Poshan Vatikas in different villages with the help of self-help groups. Currently, another 200 model community Nutri Gardens are under development with the support of GLPC and MGNREGA in the state. [Read More](#)



EVENTS



Celebrating the World Breastfeeding Week



International Symposium organized by
Department of Foods and Nutrition and its Alumni
Faculty of Family and Community Sciences
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
(Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)



On
Global Virtual Symposium :- Investing in Maternal
Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN)
for Sustainable Development :- What works, Where are the gaps?
What needs more effort or change?

A Global Virtual Symposium on Investing in Maternal & Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) for Sustainable Development was organised by the Department of Foods & Nutrition and its Alumni, Faculty of Family & Community Sciences, The Maharaja

Shivaji Rao University (MSU) of Baroda in association with We Collaborate for Nutrition (WeCan) on 1st and 4th of August, 2020. The symposium held during the World Breastfeeding Week focused on breastfeeding as a preventive measure for countering undernutrition and the ways to improve maternal nutrition. [Read More](#)



WeCan collaborates with development partners to organize webinar under AMB Series

An online webinar on 'Solid Body, Smart Mind Demand Generation for Anemia Mukht Bharat' was jointly organized under the aegis of Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Webinar Series

by UNICEF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, New Concept Centre for Development Communication, Tarang SBCC Hub and We Collaborate for Nutrition (WeCan) on 5th August 2020. The webinar focused on Demand generation for AMB. The introductory remarks were delivered by Dr Sila Deb, Additional Commissioner, Child Health and Nutrition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and Siddharth Shrestha, Chief, C4D, UNICEF. [Read More](#)



Maternal Support and New-Born Care in COVID Times

Breastfeeding is one of the best ways to meet the nutritional requirements of newborn. While most mothers want to breastfeed their babies, many a times they face challenges. Measures such as social distancing and fear of infecting

babies on part of mothers and families, have increased challenges and concerns about breastfeeding. PATH in association with WeCan organised a timely talk show for mothers and families to debunk the myths surrounding breastfeeding. An eclectic mix of resource persons interacted with mothers and families, answering their queries and concerns. Dr Neena Bhatia launched an online repository of information on breastfeeding for lactating mothers and caregivers on the occasion. Click here to know more about the page. [Read More](#)



Panel Discussion on improving quality of nutrition services & ensuring last mile convergence

On occasion of the POSHAN Maah, WeCan in collaboration with Coalition for Food & Nutrition Security organized an inter-state panel discussion, for deliberations of experiences from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The panellists included Smt. Manisha Chandra, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, WCD, Government of Gujarat, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Saxena, IFS, Director General - Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission, WCD, Government of Jharkhand and Smt. Swati Meena Nayak, IAS, Director - WCD, Government of Madhya Pradesh. The discussions were moderated by Dr. Satish Agnihotri ([IAS (Retd.)], CTARA, IIT Bombay). Shir Binu Anand, National Team Lead, WeCan and Dr Sujeet Ranjan, Executive Director, CFNS also took part in the deliberations. [Read More](#)



WeCan in D4N Conference

Coinciding with the POSHAN Maah, a group of 19 co-hosts organized the third India-focused implementation research conference titled, "*Delivering for Nutrition in India: Insights from Implementation Research*" from 14-18 September 2020. WeCan participated in the conference and jointly presented findings from its ongoing work in Jharkhand through poster presentations.

On first day of the conference, WeCan along with Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) gave a presentation on findings from a cross sectional study on knowledge and practices of nursing staffs related to Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) with focus on antenatal, postnatal and Paediatric OPD and immunization services at RIMS, Ranchi Jharkhand. The presentation was facilitated by Dr Manisha Kujur from the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, RIMS Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.

On 16th September 2020, WeCan along with National Health Mission, Jharkhand, made a presentation on Nutrition Performance Review Tool (NPRT)—an IT enabled review tool used in reviewing the nutrition indicators at state and as well as district level to strengthen the review mechanism. The presentation was made by Sraban Kumar Badanayak, from WeCan. The presentation mainly focused on the approach of program implementation, key findings from the implementation of NPRT and its significance.

Living Farms combined a community led approach with nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and natural resources – to address the underlying causes behind high prevalence of undernutrition in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts of Odisha. The NGO used participatory learning and action approach to create awareness and build capacity of the community, while encouraging them to cultivate and use naturally occurring nutrient rich food in their daily diet. The program evolved to include 2,000 villages, leading to improved nutritional status for more than 1,00,000 households under the Food and Agroecological Approaches to Reduce Malnutrition (FAARM) project in 2016.

For more info, click here:

<https://www.wecollaborate4nutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/countringunder.pdf>





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 innovative nutrition practices, replicable and scalable interventions and learnings from proven nutrition models implemented by your organization or in your state, contact us on our email

id: wecollaboratefornutrition@ipeglobal.com

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