GROWTH THROUGH NUTRITION ACTIVITY
Quality Improvement of Nutrition Services

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Feed the Future Ethiopia Growth through Nutrition Activity is a five-year multi-sectoral nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) project which aims to improve the nutritional status of women and young children in four regions of Ethiopia. The project focuses on the first 1,000 days, from pregnancy through a child’s second birthday, recognized as the critical window of opportunity for a child’s growth and development. Save the Children manages the implementation of the project through a consortium of six international and five local partners.

Growth through Nutrition delivers results through five intermediate result (IR) areas including agriculture and livelihoods, social and behavioral change communications, health and nutrition, WASH construction and marketing, and multi-sector coordination and pre-service education. The project also implements cross-cutting activities, including gender and women’s empowerment, a rigorous learning agenda, convergence and overlay of multi-sector activities, and a crisis modifier to respond to emergency situations in the project’s implementation areas.

IR 3: Increased Utilization of Quality Nutrition Services

Growth through Nutrition strives to improve access to, and utilization of, high quality, evidence-based nutrition-specific interventions and health services for mothers and children by aligning its activities with relevant strategic objectives of the National Nutrition Program II.

The project provides technical and financial support to initiatives geared towards the Federal Ministry of Health’s (FMoH’s) Comprehensive and Integrated Nutrition Service delivery approach from national to Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) level, particularly in areas of Quality Improvement (QI), nutrition commodities, and data use. Under this IR, the project focuses on capacity building at facility and community levels, strengthening monitoring systems for the supply and distribution of nutrition commodities, and improving nutrition data management, monitoring, and use by health service providers, PHCUs, and woreda health offices.

Save the Children leads the implementation of activities to improve utilization of quality nutrition services and works closely with government and other relevant nutrition implementing partners to maximize nutrition outcomes.
PROGRESS ON THE GROUND (October 2016 - March 2019)

1. Improved delivery of quality nutrition services for pregnant and lactating women and children
   • Reached over 2.2 million children under five with vitamin A and approximately 380,000 pregnant women with antenatal care.
   • Actively supports the health sector in aligning nutrition services with QI initiatives at national level by participating in various national quality improvement technical events and working groups.
   • Established 101 model QI PHCUs by organizing QI trainings for more than 1,700 nutrition service providers, assisting establishment of QI teams, and providing frequent coaching.
   • Provided in-service nutrition training using FMoH’s Blended and Integrated Nutrition Learning Materials for nearly 1400 Health Workers.
   • Conducted Infant and Young Child Feeding and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture trainings for more than 7,200 Health Extension Workers and Development Agents, and cascaded training to more than 7,000 Health and Agriculture Development Army leaders.
   • Built the capacity of frontline workers, provided job aids, and conducted monitoring of nutrition and gender-sensitive activities in Productive Safety Net Program implementation areas.
   • Financially and technically supported FMoH and regions in organizing nutrition related celebrations and advocacy events such as World Breastfeeding Week.

2. Ensure sustained supply of commodities for delivering quality nutrition services
   • Supported FMoH in quantifying and forecasting nutrition commodity needs at national and regional levels and provided technical support in supplies management at woreda and health facility levels.
   • Conducted regular assessments on availability of nutrition commodities to support regional health bureaus in addressing gaps.

3. Increased use of information for decision making and program management
   • Provided technical support in the revision and application of FMoH’s Health Management Information System (HMIS).
   • Provided orientation on nutrition data from HMIS for PHCU data managers and oriented Health Workers and Health Extension Workers through coaching and mentoring at 2,800 health facilities health facilities.