GROWTH THROUGH NUTRITION ACTIVITY
Multi-sector Coordination and Government Capacity

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 5: Strengthened Multi-Sector Coordination and Capacity to Implement Effective Nutrition and WASH Programs**

Growth through Nutrition supports the Ethiopian government’s increasing commitment to multi-sectoral responses to improve nutrition through government initiatives such as the recently launched Food and Nutrition Policy of Ethiopia, National Nutrition Program II (NNP), One WASH National Program (OWNP), Seqota Declaration, Productive Safety Net Program IV, and Agriculture Growth Program II.

Growth through Nutrition builds the capacity of individual sectors to ensure multi-sectoral coordination at all levels, and supports the development and implementation of nutrition specific and sensitive policies and programs.

The project strengthens the pre-service education of agriculture, health, nutrition, and WASH professionals at 19 universities and Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to ensure a competent workforce for nutrition.

Multi-sector coordination and capacity building are led by Save the Children, and pre-service education is led by Jhpiego.
PROGRESS ON THE GROUND (October 2016 - March 2019)

1. Strengthened multi-sector coordination at national, regional, and local levels
   • Technically and financially supported the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) to assess multi-sector coordination at the grassroots level.
   • Supported establishment and strengthening of 101 woreda multi-sector coordination bodies and mentored 10 woredas to become models after sensitizing members on nutrition and the NNP, encouraging leadership by woreda administrators, and incorporating nutrition activities into each sectors’ annual plan and budget.

2. Increased government capacity to implement NNP and OWNP
   • Issued sub-grants to Seqota Declaration woredas to enable them to directly implement innovative activities to improve nutrition.
   • Seconded three staff members to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture (FMoA) and FMoH, and participated, and participated in multiple task forces working on NNP strategic objectives. Based 53 project Zonal Coordinators in zonal health and agriculture offices to support joint planning and implementation.

3. Increased policies and strategies across sectors with nutrition objectives.
   • Played a key role in the development of the Food and Nutrition Policy from its initial phases to its final endorsement in December 2018 by providing technical and financial support. The project also initiated the Food and Nutrition Strategy development in collaboration with partners.
   • Conducted a Human Resource Capacity Needs Assessment for all NNP implementing sectors.
   • Contributed significantly to the development of a School Health and Nutrition package for school health interventions.
   • Supported the development of FMoA’s Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategy and training materials, and the launch of the Small Scale Horticultural Development and Marketing Strategy.

4. Strengthened nutrition technical expertise across sectors through pre-service education
   • Supported the development of three new WASH courses which were integrated into WASH curricula and rolled out nationally.
   • Supported the development of stand-alone Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture courses which were integrated into four curricula of Agriculture B.Sc. disciplines and rolled out to 31 universities.
   • Improved nutrition and WASH education quality through quality improvement workshops at 19 institutions and supported the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency and Federal TVET Agency in customizing quality standards for 13 disciplines.
   • Built both the technical and teaching skills of over 1,300 education faculty through various training.
   • Strengthened nutrition and WASH skill competency of students by providing teaching materials for labs and classrooms.