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Topic: Capacity development for public health nutrition

Title: Using Real Time Learning to assist Nutrition Stakeholders in Kenya integrate Nutrition into Health Services for Sustainability and Scalability

Presentation Type: Workshop

Introduction

The purpose of the Real Time Learning Project for Nutrition (RTLTP-N) in Kenya is to use real time data with Nutrition stakeholders to assist them plan for action and to improve policy practice at county and at national level. UNICEF commissioned the Centre for Humanitarian Change, with DFID funding, to use Real Time Learning methodology to further integrate nutrition into health systems.

Methods

Two learning models are used in the RTLTP-N methodology, which focus heavily on experiential learning. The RTLTP-N methodology adheres to 4 principles – iterative learning, collaborative process, innovation and transformational leadership - which ensure that capacity development opportunities highlight a learning approach as opposed to the more standard accountability approach. Learning cycles (LC) are initiated through Learning Events (LE) in counties. Documents are reviewed to support identification of a learning theme and participants are then supported through an ongoing process focused on four key stages of concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization and active experimentation, with a reference group guiding implementation.

Results

Participants find the process empowering and see the potential for real change it could bring to the sector, although some find the theory of RTL intimidating prior to witnessing it in action. Nutrition stakeholders are using RTL to address complex health systems issues such as how to make outreach affordable and supportive of regular service and how to coordinate stakeholders to achieve consistent services.

Conclusion

Using learning methodologies for stakeholders to plan how to realize nutrition/health integration is innovative, effective and sustainable.