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**Topic:** Community health and nutrition programs

**Title:** Scale up of Home Fortification Program with Micronutrients Powders (MNP): Lessons from Rwanda

**Presentation Type:** Workshop

Rwanda is the first country in East Africa to scale up home fortification with MNP and as such has important insight into what it takes to achieve this. Formative research focusing on feasibility and acceptability was undertaken in 2011. The Ongera Intungamubiri brand was developed and followed by a 12-month modeling program in two districts. Rwanda began their phased approach to scaling up MNP in late 2014. The importance of these initial phases and how the findings from these components contributed to the development of the program will be highlighted.

However, the main focus of the workshop will be on the phased scale up approach applied by the MOH and UNICEF Rwanda as well as the development of various components of the program, which include:

Trainings (cascade approach)

Communications: development of BCC messaging and materials

Supply chain management and distribution

Monitoring and evaluation system

The phased approach to scaling up allowed for responsive monitoring and evaluation as to how well the various program components were being implemented and received by program implementers and beneficiaries alike.

The contributors, each of whom have participated in the process for developing the initial strategy for each component and then modified the approach based on feedback through ongoing consultations, will provide an overview/roadmap as to the timeline, the factors taken into consideration for each component (which will be transferable to all other countries), the challenges faced and the solutions employed. Together, the

moderator and contributors hope to describe the evolution of the program lessons learned from its various components.

Finally, aspects related to program coordination including broader issues such as advocacy, development of partnerships, and sustainability will be discussed.

Each of the contributors will have first-hand experience in their respective field and will have participated in the development of the Ongeru program and its various components. Contributors will be able to share their personal experiences with participants regarding their involvement in the scaling-up process, what aspects they found particularly challenging and how they worked to overcome these.

Each contributor will present a specific problem they experienced during the scale up process as a case study. Participants will be divided into smaller groups and using a “think-pair-share” format will discuss and brainstorm solutions to the problem they are presented with. The contributor will have groups present their case work and then share with the audience how the issue was in fact resolved.

Participation will be encouraged throughout the workshop. There will also be time allotted for a question-answer at the end of the session.

Upon conclusion of the session, participants will have a roadmap that outlines the entire process of developing and scaling up a home fortification program with MNP. Detailed discussion of program components and broader issues related to planning and coordination as well case studies will provide participants with an overview of the inputs needed, special considerations and realistic timelines for scaling up a national program of home fortification program with MNP.