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Topic: Capacity development for public health nutrition

Title: Monitoring of public health nutrition capacity development

Presentation Type: Workshop

Considering that monitoring is such a little explored area of public health nutrition capacity development, one of the topics of the WPHNA conference, the technical merit of this proposal is considerable. The Landscape Analysis of readiness to accelerate action in nutrition carried out a decade ago revealed considerable lack of capacity to act in nutrition, especially in low and middle income countries. National nutrition policies often existed but still needed translating into programmatic actions, and human resource capacity for public health nutrition action was largely lacking. The Comprehensive Implementation Plan on maternal infant and young child nutrition, approved by the World Health Assembly in 2012 includes in Action 4 the provision of sufficient human and financial resources for the implementation of nutrition interventions. Capacity development should be an integral part of national plans to extend and scale up nutrition interventions. Member States are called upon to identify and map capacity needs, and include capacity-development in plans to expand nutrition actions. A global monitoring framework has been developed which proposes a set of indicators for use at global and country level. Among the indicators are the number of staff with nutrition skills at each level of service delivery. A framework is still needed which fully captures the inputs, outputs and outcomes of a nutrition capacity development system. All of the panellists and chair/moderator have extensive experience in assessing public health nutrition capacity development in both high and low income countries and should be able to make positive contributions to the development of such a framework. The outcome of the session is envisaged as being a framework and a narrative explaining how nutrition capacity should be developed and how these efforts can and should be monitored at district, regional and national levels. The chair/moderator will lead the development of this outcome document and all panellists, as well as the principal contributors from the floor, will be consulted before finalization. The abstract will provide the one-page product for the conference organizers and the full length article will be submitted for publication in "World Nutrition" for example.