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Collaboration among diverse stakeholders is essential to solving complex problems such as malnutrition. But building and sustaining such collaboration is hard. Stakeholders in improving nutrition – which may include governments and intergovernmental agencies, research institutions, businesses, schools, NGOs and community groups, and families themselves – typically have different interests and perspectives, and may not even trust each other.

This interactive session will present an approach to building capacity for multistakeholder collaboration that helped improve child nutrition in Maharashtra, India and is underway to improve nutrition in Namibia.

The Maharashtra initiative brought together UNICEF, Indian and international businesses, government agencies, and NGOs and community groups to develop, test and scale innovations for child nutrition in rural and urban settings, contributing to measured reductions in stunting. The Namibia initiative is part of the country's participation in the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and involved ten national ministries, UN and bilateral agencies, and businesses and NGOs.

The approach to building capacity for collaboration starts with convening a representative set of stakeholders and then uses:

- 1) development of personal ownership of stakeholders' roles in an issue and the ability to inspire trust among others, which we call bridging leadership
- 2) collective learning by stakeholders to develop trust and alignment
- 3) systems thinking so that stakeholders can get to root causes and develop sustainable solutions.

Participants will learn and practice techniques and tools used for these three elements, gaining deeper ability to support collaboration both within their own institutions and with others.