

Infant and Young Child Nutrition: Public Private Partnerships: Experience from the Field

Session Description

Optimal infant and young child feeding practices have a crucial role to play in child survival, growth and development at the most critical period of vulnerability and developmental potential in their lives. But even where a comprehensive approach is being taken to promote appropriate feeding practices, exclusive breastfeeding to 6 months of age remains under significant threat and essential, good quality, affordable complementary foods continue to be unavailable to the majority of those that need it most.

This symposium will highlight public private partnerships that aim to improve the nutritional status of children under two years of age through their support to infant feeding.

Purpose

This symposium will discuss efforts by international agencies, developing country governments, and NGO experiences working with the private sector to improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Good practice in the use of complementary feeding products, including fortified complementary foods, fortified food-based supplements (such as lipid-based nutrient supplements or fortified soy flour), and micronutrient powders, as well as social marketing to improve feeding practices associated with these products, will be addressed.

Outcomes – knowledge and action points

The symposium will examine various types of public private partnerships and programmes, through concrete examples throughout the world. By discussing current strategies and interventions, participants will be able to explore the benefits of existing comprehensive programmes and to discuss possible steps to improve infant and young child feeding practices through public private partnerships.

Session chair/moderator

Dr. Sandra Huffman, Coordinator, Ten Year Strategy Maternal, Infant and Young Child (MIYCN) Working Group

Session Topics and Speakers

Introduction: Mr. Marc Van Ameringen (Executive Director, GAIN)

Topic 1 *Partnerships between Government and the Private sector*

- a) Ying Yang Bao : Application of nutrient-dense food supplement for complementary feeding in earthquake affected areas, China
Prof. Chen Chunming (CDC China)
- b) Mi Papilla: Fortified complementary cereal used in a government program in Ecuador
Dr. Chessa Lutter (PAHO)

Topic 2 *Partnerships between International agencies, Academia and the Private sector*

- a) Improving the nutritional quality of WFP's food assistance: DSM-World Food Programme Partnership
Dr. Saskia de Pee (WFP)
- b) Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements: Collaboration on research with the private sector
Dr. Kathryn Dewey (UC Davis)

Topic 3 *Partnerships between NGOs and the Private sector*

- a) Production, Impact and Promotion of Micronutrient Fortified Complementary Foods in Vietnam
Dr. Jacques Berger (IRD, France)
- b) Using the commercial sector to sell micronutrient powders in Bangladesh
Ms. Perveen Rasheed (Social Marketing Bangladesh)

Topic 4 *Recent results from the field*

Effects of micronutrient-fortified locally-produced complementary/replacement foods on growth and severe morbidity of HIV-exposed and unexposed Zambian infants

Prof. Suzanne Filteau (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK)

Discussion

Wrap-up Dominic Schofield (Manager, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, GAIN)