



USAID/Food By Prescription

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Update

Endeavor to address misuse of RUTF/RUSF

Coordination meetings have been conducted in various towns of USAID /Food By prescription operational areas to help control RUTF/ RUSF misuse manifested in stealing, selling and sharing of the life saving product which are evident in the country.

The meetings were conducted in three regions in Mekele, Alamata, Shire, Humera ,Debre Tabor, Wereta, Libo Kemkem , Bahir Dar, Ambo, Jimma and Shahemene towns as well as in four sub cities of Addis Ababa Administration. Relevant government institutions took part in the meetings including health, trade industry and health offices as well as police and justice bodies.

The coordination meetings were instrumental in raising awareness of relevant stakeholders about the purpose of RUTF/RUSF and how far the misuse is depriving people suffering from acute malnutrition endangering their lives . It has also paramount importance in transferring ownership controlling of misuse to relevant government institutions at



Transferring of ownership of the control of misuse of the product to government is critical –Amahra Region



Some shop owners say “unaware of selling RUTF/RUSF is illegal” –Shashemene

various levels.

Activities are ongoing to design media strategies to bridge gap in awareness on RUTF/RUSF by shop owners, beneficiaries as well as the general public. Media intervention is one of the recommendations that came out from the coordination meetings.

Reorganized documentation system

Reorganizing documentation practices of USAID/ Food By Prescription program activities at regional and country office level into standardized system has been finalized.

Gaps were observed in documenting planning and accomplishments of program activities. It will be easier now with recently in place reorganized system of documentation to trace and locate the desired documents in hard copies. The system helps to ensure accountability, transparency, efficiency and make easier auditing of performances.

It will also address problem of handover and smooth operation of the program activities in the event of staff turnover.

Healthy feeding during pregnancy

Some 50 pregnant women have been sensitized about healthy feeding during pregnancy for the wellbeing of their health and the child right from conception .

The sensitization was part of strengthening the activities of Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission of HIV and maternal health in connection with the marking of 50th anniversary of the establishment of St. Peter's TB Specialized Hospital.

It was emphasized on the event that extra calories and other components of nutrients are required per day to fuel baby's growth and keep mothers healthy during pregnancy and after.

The expectants need to regularly make follow up in health institutions throughout their pregnancy for proper delivery as well as prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS during delivery and breast feeding, it was noted.



Pregnant women need to have proper nutrition for themselves and life that starts in the womb .

Assessment and evaluation of facilities for phased handover in progress

USAID/Food By Prescription is evaluating facilities to handover to government in a phased approach. The program is supporting health facilities by integrating Nutritional Assessment, Counseling and Support (NACS) to comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment to ART and the nutritional and health status of PLHIV and OVC .

It is now in its fourth year since it started implementing NACS program and presently covering 413 health facilities in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Oromia, Tigray, SNNPR and Amahra.

After consensus has been reached with regional health bureaus on rationale of phased handover, assessments have been conducted by expertise from family health and HIV departments of the bureaus, hospital representatives and USAID/FBP focal persons. The Zonal and Woreda level health offices have also been informed about the process.

Accordingly, the assessment was carried out in Dire Dawa on 8 facilities, in SNNPR on 28 facilities, in West Oromia on 5 facilities and in East Oromia on 19 facilities .The assessment on Tigray and Addis Ababa regions is ongoing. The result will be communicated after evaluation and rating by handover task force formed at the country office level .

Nutrition Tale

"Three students are leaving their last classes of the day. "The law student is thinking, 'I'm tired and thirsty. I must have coffee.'"The engineering student is thinking, 'I'm tired and thirsty. I must have beer.'"The nutrition student is thinking, 'I'm tired and thirsty. I must have diabetes.'

Scaling up Back to Work Initiative

USAID/ Food by Prescription piloted the Back-to-Work initiative in several regions in Ethiopia, and implemented intensively in Tigray region through partnership with local NGO, Mums for Mums. The initiative is to develop alternative ES opportunities for beneficiaries and aims to facilitate referrals to work opportunities in the private sector and to engage the private sector in developing alternative ways of creating livelihoods.

National Workshop was organized on February 20 and 21, 2013 to share good practices of Back to Work Initiative among partners and to scale up the initiative in different regions as well as create strong referral/Linkage system for FBP clients to other ES support especially to WFP.

“Through creating job opportunities and access to employment the initiative aims to have a sustainable impact by getting people into ongoing employment.”, says Dr. Gideon Cohen, USAID/Food by Prescription Chief of Party on the opening of the BWI National experience sharing workshop .

The workshop recommended that continuous effort will be necessary in contacting and convincing private sectors as it may be time taking. It also emphasized the setting up of advisory committee in all regions, involving of small scale and microfinance institutions. Signing of MOU with implementing partners and private sectors as well as putting in place monitoring and evaluation system in each region are also among the recommendations of the meeting.



Life skill training is essential component preparing beneficiaries for BWI - Axum .

Since the national workshop was conducted, subsequent meetings were held in Awassa and Adama to commence the Back to Work Initiatives in SNNP and East Oromia. Similar workshops to be conducted in remaining regions to ensure the sustainable livelihood of lasting positive impact for needy people.

In a similar development, evaluation of project proposals submitted by potential implementing partners of Back to Work is at the final stage. Seven implementing partners will be taking part in the Back to Work Initiative in six regions during the remaining two quarters of the budget year.



Part of BWI meeting in Hawassa in attendance by various relevant representatives of private organizations and government bodies from SNNP.

***Ma'edachin* radio program extended for another six months**

USAID/Food By Prescription renewed agreement with Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) to run radio program known as *Ma'edachin* for another 26 weeks beginning March 19, 2013. The radio program is believed to raise awareness on healthy nutrition.

The program is on air for 10 minutes through FBC's national station (Medium Wave) every Tuesday afternoon from 5:00 pm. It will be also rebroadcasted in eight regional FM Stations (Mekelle, Bahirdar, Dessie, Jimma, Nekempt, Awassa, Walita Soddo and Addis Ababa) every Wednesday evening from 9:00 pm.

The program has been on air for the last six months and there is encouraging feedback from the audience that it is informative on issues of healthy nutrition and will have an important input to bring about behavioral change.

Collaboration of WFP and USAID/FBP to reach about 25,000 needy people

Collaboration with partners is critical in the effort to improve livelihoods of needy people. WFP is implementing urban HIV/AIDS project in 23 major towns in Ethiopia providing ES and Social Safety Net in the form of food, voucher and cash assistance.

USAID/Food by Prescription is providing NACS services in same towns. Thus, it is necessary to coordinate efforts in a complimentary and resource efficient manner facilitating access for eligible clients to receive the appropriate and recommended type of nutrition and food security assistance.

Save the Children and World Food Program signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which provides for coordinating and enhancing the implementation of food, nutrition and food security assistance activities in support of the Government of Ethiopia's Strategic Plan and Management II "Intensifying Multi sectoral HIV and AIDS Response In Ethiopia" 2010-2015.

In the area of NACS, clients qualifying for USAID/FBP support will be directly prescribed with therapeutic and supplementary specialized foods and will receive therapeutic foods from dispensaries or commodity outlets within health facilities.

In operational areas where WFP Ethiopia's Urban HIV/AIDS program provides household food assistance, clients will concurrently be referred using standard referral formats to town level coordination committees for household food security and economic assessments and those who qualify will be referred for household food assistance. Ned Olney, Country Director of Save the Children and Jutta Neitzel representative of WFP signed the agreement that is expected to benefit about 25,000 needy people for one year.

Existing town level WFP supported referral systems of economic strengthening will be complimented by USAID/FBP. When resources permit, both will also work together to build the capacity of selected local governmental and non-governmental organizations or will work to establish similar systems jointly where existing systems are absent the two programs.

There will be exchange of target lists to avoid duplication of targeting. Where possible, there will be coordination in studies and best practice documentations. The agreement also enables to plan and conduct joint trainings on ES .

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