



**ENGINE: Empowering New Generations to  
Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities**  
*A project supported by the US Global Health and Feed the Future Initiatives*

Save the Children

**Year III: Annual Report**

September 27, 2013– September 28, 2014



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**Comment [sj1]:** Does Manoff Group's logo need to be included here?

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## Acronyms

ACoE	Academic Center of Excellence
AEWs	Agriculture Extension Workers
AGP	Agricultural Growth Program
ANC	Antenatal Care
AOR	Agreements Officer's Representative
ARM	Annual Review Meeting
ATVET	Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CC	Community Conversation
CCA	Community Change Agent
CHDs	Child Health Days
CMAM	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CoE	Center of Excellence
DAs	Development Agents
DZARC	Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Center
ECC	Enhanced Community Conversations
EHNRI	Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute
EMRDA	Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association
ENGINE	Empowering New Generations in Improved Nutrition and Economic Opportunities
EOC-DICAC	Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Development and Inter-Church AID Commission
EOS	Enhanced Outreach Strategy
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
ES	Economic Strengthening
ETS	Effective Teaching Skills
FANTA-III	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project
FBP	Food by Prescription
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FTC	Farmer Training Center
FtF	Feed the Future
FMoA	Federal Ministry of Agriculture
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GRAD	Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development
HC	Health Center
HDA	Health Development Army
HEP	Health Extension Plan
HEW	Health Extension Worker
HFs	Health Facilities
HH	Households
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HP	Health Post
HW	Health Worker
ISS	Integrated Supportive Supervision
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition
JHU-CCP	Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs
LES	Livelihood and Economic Strengthening
LMD	Livestock Marketing Development
LOL	Land O' Lakes, Inc.
MAIYCN	Maternal, Infant Adolescent and Young Child Nutrition
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MIYCF	Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding

MIAYCN	Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoWCYA	Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs
MSG	Mother Support Group
NACS	Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NNCB	National Nutrition Coordination Body
NNP	National Nutrition Program
NNTC	National Nutrition Technical Committee
NSA	Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture
OR	Operations Research
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Program
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PM	Performance Management
PNC	Post-natal Care
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
PSE	Pre-Service Education
Q&A	Question and Answer
QI	Quality Improvement
RHB	Regional Health Bureau
RNCB	Regional Nutrition Coordination Body
RNTC	Regional Nutrition Technical Committee
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SBM-R	Standards-Based Management and Recognition
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program
TU	Tufts University
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VHH	Vulnerable Households
VI	Valid International
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
ZC	Zonal Coordinators
ZHD	Zonal Health Department

## Executive Summary

### Background

#### Program areas

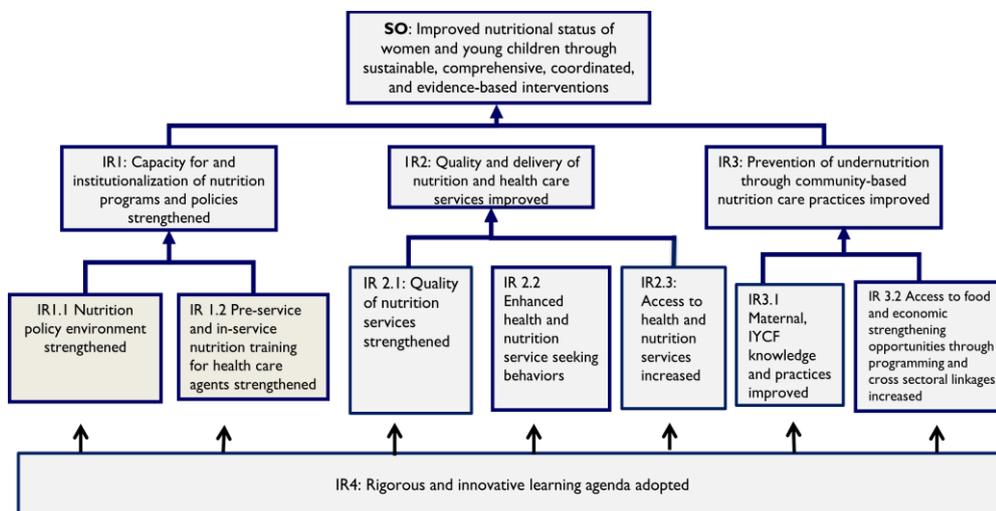
Save the Children leads the implementation of ENGINE, the USAID flagship multi-sector nutrition project, which aims to improve the nutritional status of Ethiopian women and children through sustainable, coordinated and evidence-based interventions, enabling them to lead healthier and more productive lives. The core initiative of this large-scale, five-year project (2011-2016) is to prevent undernutrition during the first 1,000 days, from the start of pregnancy until the child is 2 years old, by focusing on social and behavior change communication (SBCC), including linkages to livelihood and economic opportunities.

ENGINE is funded from Feed the Future (FtF) and Global Health Initiative (GHI) nutrition funds, with additional resources provided by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The project builds on the Government of Ethiopia’s (GoE) policies and renewed commitment to nutrition as well as the U.S. Government’s GHI and FtF initiatives, USAID Water and Development Strategy and USAID Forward Reform Agenda.

#### Results framework

The expected results for the project as shown below include: IR1: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies strengthened; IR2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved; IR3: Prevention of undernutrition through community-based nutrition care practices improved; and IR4: Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted.

**Results Framework for the ENGINE Project**



#### Program implementation strategy

As a technical assistance (TA) project, ENGINE facilitates a multi-sector implementation strategy that builds capacity for nutrition at the policy and implementation levels; strengthens pre-service and in-service nutrition education; supports large-scale SBCC for nutrition; and links nutrition, livelihood and food security interventions. ENGINE's robust learning agenda also supports and guides effective national nutrition policy and practices to reduce undernutrition.

Save the Children manages this integrated nutrition project through partnership with the following sub-grantees: Jhpiego, Tufts University (TU), Land O'Lakes (LOL), Jimma University and three local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and two international TA providers – Valid International (VI) and the Manoff Group. In Year III, JHU-CCP phased out its activities in the first and second quarters and the SBCC activities were transitioned to Manoff Group, Save the Children and three local NGOs. VI handed-over its field research activities to Save the Children and continued its technical support as international technical assistance (TA).

ENGINE continued its partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), Federal Ministry of Agriculture (FMoA) and their respective decentralized health and agriculture offices at the regional, district and *kebele* levels. Additionally, ENGINE works with universities, regional colleges and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) on operational research and pre-service integration of nutrition.

## **Key Achievements**

ENGINE made significant progress toward reaching its objectives in Year III covering the period from September 27, 2013 to September 28, 2014.

### **Geographic coverage and beneficiaries**

During the reporting period, ENGINE continued implementing its direct nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) interventions<sup>1</sup> in 83 Agriculture Growth Program (AGP) or “productive” *woredas*<sup>2</sup> and scaled up to include six new non-AGP or “food-insecure” *woredas* in Amhara and Oromia regions in partnership with Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) and GOAL. ENGINE interventions will benefit around 1.2 million under-5 children and 10,608 most vulnerable households.

### **Nutrition policy**

ENGINE played a key role in rolling out of the revised multi-sector National Nutrition Program (NNP) in the four regions and 88 *woredas*; established Regional and Nutrition Coordination Bodies (NNCB) and Regional Nutrition Technical committees (NNTC); and integrating nutrition the next phase of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and AGP 2. ENGINE provided technical support to finalize the blended training manual for health workers, revitalizing the National Food Fortification Steering Committee (NFFSC).

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<sup>1</sup> Direct nutrition interventions include promotion of vitamin A, iron and zinc, and MIYCN. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities include demonstrations at Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) and schools; homestead production of fruits and vegetables; provision of livestock; and promotion of dietary diversity.

<sup>2</sup> AGP aims to increase agricultural productivity and market access for key crop and livestock products in 83 *woredas* with increased participation of women and youth.

### Partnership

Working closely with USAID, ENGINE continued to coordinate FtF nutrition activities using the FtF nutrition technical working group (TWG) platform. In Year III, the FtF partnership was established at the regional level, particularly in the Amhara and Tigray regions, with a view to avoid duplication of project efforts, identify opportunities for collaboration, share technical expertise and assist other projects in overcoming challenges. For example, all FtF nutrition partners and IFHP conducted a joint field visit to one *woreda* where projects geographically overlap. ENGINE partnered with Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) to conduct its WASH observational study and with Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (CIAFS) to build the capacity of decision makers in agriculture on nutrition and food security. ENGINE also partnered with GRAD and GOAL to implement development oriented and resilience or emergency projects in six non-AGP *woredas*.

### Pre-service education

ENGINE improved the quality of pre-service nutrition education at 12 higher institutions<sup>3</sup> and expanded its activities to two new institutions and agricultural departments within the existing 12 institutions. During the reporting period the quality of nutrition education improved based on the three Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R) assessments. ENGINE also continued to support Hawassa University to establish a nutrition academic center of excellence (CoE). The vision of the CoE is to contribute to the reduction of undernutrition by creating a centralized learning laboratory that links nutrition research with policy, training, and the provision and utilization of high quality, innovative community-based nutrition services.

### Capacity building and beneficiaries reached

ENGINE trained 5,399 (53 percent female) health and agricultural workers in nutrition and health. The project also integrated nutrition into 149 *woreda* level review meetings and conducted supervision visits at 1637 health centers (HCs) and health posts (HPs) with government counterparts<sup>4</sup>. As a result of these capacity-building activities health workers and health extension workers counseled 241,603 on Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) and dietary diversity. Over the last two quarters, 1,090,252 and 760,595 children were supplemented with vitamin A and deworming tablets. In addition, ENGINE commenced quality improvement intervention in 10 health centers and 43 health posts.

To build the local capacity of households, schoolteachers and agriculture workers in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, ENGINE trained 29,146 (54 percent female) farmers and government workers. ENGINE organized agronomic and cooking demonstration events at farmer training centers (FTCs), schools and within the community, reaching 104,580 individuals, including 83,512 pregnant and lactating mothers. As a result of the nutrition sensitive capacity building effort, 5718 new vulnerable households benefiting directly from ENGINE homestead gardening and small livestock assistance and 309 savings groups were established.

### Social and behavior change communications

ENGINE conducted a rigorous analysis of the expansive dataset from the project's formative research study to better understand maternal dietary practices and behavioral influences in the four target regions – addressing a critical gap in the evidence base. Based on the in-depth analysis, the

<sup>3</sup> The 12 target institutions include four universities (Jimma, Hawassa, Gondar and Mekele), four regional health science colleges (Hawassa, Shashemene, Bahir Dar, Araya Kahu (Axum) and four agricultural TVET colleges (Dilla, Alage, Bure and Shire).

<sup>4</sup> More than one review meeting took place per *woreda*. Supervision visits were conducted at 453 out of 416 total HCs in the project area (some HCs were visited twice) and at 714 HPs out of 2016 HCs in the four regions.

project developed its SBCC strategy. The team also completed a research report and research brief on maternal diet and nutrition behavioral influences, which was shared with USAID and FtF partners. Furthermore, the SBCC team finalized the design of SBCC materials based on formative research findings and a creative concept testing. ENGINE launched its innovative mNutrition SMS messages and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) service for 240 Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs) and Health Extension Workers. ENGINE held a consultative workshop with Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) religious leaders and church scholars, which was the first of its kind for nutrition, to create awareness on childhood stunting and to identify religious guidance, including biblical references and doctrine on fasting practices, to promote maternal and child nutrition during the first 1000 days. Finally, ENGINE selected local NGOs to implement Enhanced Community Conversations (ECCs) to stimulate behavior change through peer groups, multi-media SBCC materials and interactive adult learning methods.

#### **Baseline survey, operations research and internal mid-term assessment**

ENGINE completed data analysis from its baseline impact evaluation and finalized the report, which was shared to key stakeholders at various forums. The acute malnutrition studies continue to be implemented smoothly in Jimma zone. The nutrition policy research and three secondary analyses on stunting and agricultural commercialization for smallholder farmers were completed and are in the process of publication. The birth cohort and agriculture nutrition operations research (OR) studies were launched in the second quarter with active participation from ENGINE-supported PhD students who enrolled in the newly formed Human Nutrition Department PhD program at Jimma University. In addition to PhD students, ENGINE financially and technically supported 24 students with their MSc thesis nutrition research studies at Hawassa, Jimma and Mekele Universities. Finally, ENGINE successfully completed the internal and external mid-term evaluation as planned. Both evaluations highlighted the performance of the project and concluded that ENGINE is generally on track with regard to the majority of its components. They also made recommendations where the project should improve or speed up its implementation.

## Reporting Period

This is the ENGINE project's **Year III Annual Report** covering the reporting period from **September 27, 2013 to September 28, 2014.**

## Publication/Reports

Did your organization support the production of publications, reports, guidelines or assessments during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable

Yes

If yes, please list below:

Title	Author	Date
Research brief on preliminary findings for maternal nutrition practices for FtF bi-weekly highlight	The Manoff Group with ENGINE advisors	October 2013
Maternal diet and nutrition behavioral influences at household and community levels: A report on formative research findings and recommendations for SBCC programming in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions (Draft)	The Manoff Group with ENGINE advisors	November 2013
ENGINE SBCC strategy (Draft)	The Manoff Group with ENGINE advisors	March 2014
Formative Research Report: Maternal diet and nutrition practices and their determinants: formative research findings and recommendations for SBCC programming in Amhara, SNNP and Tigray regions	The Manoff Group with ENGINE input	March 2014
WASH Training Guide: WASH qualitative research and behavior observation	The Manoff Group and ENGINE	March 2014
WASH Research Tools: WASH qualitative research objectives, protocol and instruments	The Manoff Group and ENGINE	March 2014
Technical Report: Assessment of quality of nutrition services in four regions	TechnopacK Business Solutions & ENGINE	March 2014
Project Strategy Document: Gender mainstreaming guidelines	ENGINE	March 2014
Secondary Analysis: Factors associated with stunting in Ethiopian children under-5	Tufts University with ENGINE input	March 2014
Secondary Analysis: Agricultural commercialization, production diversity and consumption diversity among smallholders in Ethiopia: Results from 2012 National Integrated Agriculture and Socio-economic Survey	Tufts University with ENGINE input	March 2014
ENGINE Impact Evaluation Study-Results of baseline survey	Save the Children with Valid International	April 2014
Rearing dairy cattle training manual and facilitators guide	ENGINE	April 2014
Formative research reports: Maternal diet and nutrition practices and their determinants: Formative research findings and recommendations for SBCC programming in Amhara, SNNP and Tigray regions Fathers' IYCF practices (Final draft) Mothers' IYCF practices in Amhara and Oromia	The Manoff Group with ENGINE input	April 2014 May 2014
Factors associated with stunting in Ethiopian children under five	Tufts University with ENGINE input	April 2014
An examination of the dynamics of nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia: Facilitators and constraints at national and subnational level	ENGINE	June 2014
Water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) in rural households, SBCC programming in Amhara, Oromia, NNP, and Tigray	ENGINE in collaboration with The Manoff Group	June 2014
Preliminary investigation to establish vegetable seed dealers in selected	Land O Lakes	July 2014

ENGINE operational <i>woreds</i> to become models		
Assessment of nutrition inclusion for people with disabilities Empowering new generations to improve nutrition and economic opportunities (ENGINE)	ENGINE	September 2014
ENGINE's internal mid-term evaluation	ENGINE	September, 2014

## Technical Assistance

Did your organization utilize short-term technical assistance (TA) during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable

Yes

Please list below:

If yes, please attach an electronic copy of the TA report as part of your submission (**Annex I**).

### TA Consultants

Name	Arrival	Departure	Organization	Type of TA provided
Lydia Clemmons	30 Sept 2013 26 Jan 2014	11 Oct 2013 07 Feb 2014	The Manoff Group	Supported transition of the SBCC portfolio from JHU-CCP to Save the Children and The Manoff Group.
Tina Galante	05 Nov 2013	14 Nov 2013	Tufts University	Worked with researchers at Jimma and Hawassa universities on secondary data analyses.
Meghan Loraditch	05 Nov 2013 07 Jan 2014 16 Mar 2014	13 Dec 2013 18 Jan 2014 22 Mar 2014	Tufts University	Coordinated birth cohort study and agriculture-nutrition panel.
Shibani Ghosh	6 Nov 2013 16 Mar 2014	17 Nov 2013 22 Mar 2014	Tufts University	Worked with local researchers to implement birth cohort study; shared findings of secondary analysis on stunting determinants.
Berhane Gebru	15 Nov 2013	22 Nov 2013	Tufts University	Conducted training on electric tablets for data collection.
Jennifer Coates	07 Jan 2014	18 Jan 2014	Tufts University	Presented findings of agriculture commercialization secondary data analysis and supported agriculture-nutrition panel survey.
Mara Russell	07 Feb 2014	23 Feb 2014	Land O' Lakes	Provided managerial oversight for livelihood effectiveness study.
Waddington Chinogwenya	10 Feb 2014	21 Feb 2014	Save the Children-US	Provided TA for livelihood study design, implementation and data analysis.
Mayling Simpson	22 Mar 2014	05 Apr 2014	The Manoff Group	Facilitated training workshop on WASH qualitative research for PCVs and ENGINE Zonal Coordinators.
Gail Naimoli	24 Mar 2014	04 Apr 2014	The Manoff Group	Developed and implemented "Start-up Workshop" for ENGINE and partnering NGOs on rollout of enhanced Community Conversations (ECCs).
Ian Moise	14 May 2014	24 May 2014	Save the Children-USA	Provided technical assistance to develop an implementation plan for WASH programing.
Meghan Loraditch	01 June 2014	14 June 2014	Tufts University, Boston, USA	Met with Ag-Nut team to discuss preparations for the second round Ag-Nut survey and to follow-up on progress of the Birth Cohort study.
Joy Del Rossa	03 May 2014	21 May 2014	Save the Children-USA	Supported the ENGINE project internal midterm assessment.
Mara Russell	10 May 2014	25 May 2014	Land O'Lakes	Addressed issues in the data set and complete the Livelihood Effectiveness Study report.
Brenda Burrell	01 June 2014	06 June 2014	The Manoff Group INC.	Trained key Save the Children ENGINE staff (Addis Ababa office) in the use of Freedom Fone v2S7. The software will be used to provide information to extension workers as part of ENGINE's mNutrition program.
Lydia Clemmons	06 May 2014	16 May 2014	The Manoff Group INC.	Supported ENGINE's local SBCC team and creative agency on the development of multi-media SBCC materials. Contributed to fast-tracking the planning for the mNutrition program for frontline workers.

Lydia Clemmons	07 September, 2014	19 September, 2014	The Manoff Group	Support development of multi-media SBCC materials; mNutrition service message development
Neha Shah	07 September, 2014	19 September, 2014	The Manoff Group	Implemented final touches to mNutrition service, <b>IVR</b> and SMS for HEWs and AEWs, registry of 240 frontline workers and launch procedures
Paluku Bahwere	01 July 2014	12 July	Valid	Supervised Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) studies Discussed study analysis plan and data use with the COPIs Provide technical support on data cleaning
Hanqi Luo	17 August 2014	22 August 2014	Valid	Trained Q-study COPIs Developed and field tested data collection tools
Yohannes Tesema	12 Sept 2014	28 Sept 2014	Tufts	Provide technical support and guidance to the Data Manager hired through Jimma University for data management and quality control of two longitudinal studies currently underway in Ethiopia: Agriculture-Nutrition Panel and Birth Cohort
Meghan Loraditch	15 August 2014	27 September 2014	Tufts	Participate in training and preparations for Ag Nutr Round 2 and continue to provide on-going support to the Birth Cohort study
Elizabeth Drummond	September 29 2014	October 2014	Save the Children-US	Provide key editing and writing tasks on Annual Report and other writing tasks

**Comment [sj2]:** Meaning of this acronym unclear, 'Institute for Volunteering Research' perhaps?

## Travel and Visits

Did your organization support international travel during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable

Yes

### All international travel to conferences, workshops, trainings, HQ or meetings

Name	Destination	Departure from Ethiopia	Arrival in Ethiopia	Host organization	Purpose of the travel
Belaynesh Yifru, Save the Children-ENGINE Endris Mekonnen, Jphiego-ENGINE	South Africa	3 Dec 2013	8 Dec 2013	North West University -Center of Excellence (CoE)	Exchange visit to learn from the university about the process of establishing a CoE and identifying areas of collaboration.
Habtamu Fekadu, COP ENGINE	Nepal	9 Mar 2014	15 Mar 2014	Save the Children-US	To participate in Save the Children's global program learning group workshop to learn and share best practices on nutrition and WASH and present ENGINE's multi-sector nutrition activities (Annex II).

Have any program **monitoring visits/supervisions** been made during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable

Yes

Please list below:

Description of monitoring Team	Start date	End date	Sites visited	Written recommendations provided
Health and Nutrition	01 Oct	01 Oct	Woliso <i>woreda</i> , (Oromia)	Observed Community Conversation (CC) sessions on nutrition and recommended enhanced CC group format based on findings (see IR 3.1).
	17 Feb	21 Feb	Sinana and Dodola <i>woredas</i> (Oromia) Malga <i>woreda</i> , (SNNPR)	Mentored <i>woreda</i> health offices and the facility staffs on how to improve nutrition services in their respective localities.
FtF Joint Monitoring Team	20 Nov	22 Nov	Amhara region Dera <i>woreda</i>	Identified potential areas for integrating and coordinating FtF nutrition activities and improving quality of the nutrition activities.
Gender cross-cutting teams –Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), Livelihood and Economic Strengthening (LES)	13 Nov	17 Nov	Oflla <i>woreda</i> , (Tigray)	Piloted gender supervision checklists to mainstream gender into project activities.
	14 Mar	14 Mar	Woliso <i>woreda</i> (Oromia)	Developed recommendations for women's savings groups.
LES	18 Nov	29 Nov	Oromia and Amhara: Ambo, Andassa, & Kombolcha farms Ambo, Toke Kutaye Womberima, South Achefer, Bahir Dar town, Zuria	Identified producers for improved chicken supply strategy. Recommended that the project identify FTCs that can produce forage and link with beneficiaries.
	03 Feb 17 Feb	04 Feb 22 Feb	Poultry farms, feed processors and most vulnerable households (MVHHs) in Oromia and SNNP regions	Monitored the supply and access of livestock inputs for target beneficiaries.
M&E	13 Nov	27 Nov	Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions	Assessed data quality and provided results and recommendations to regional project staff, health facilities, FTCs and school teams.
	03 Mar	07 Mar	Hawassa regional office (SNNPR)	Provided recommendations on recording, reporting and documentation for ENGINE's regional sub-office.
Health and Nutrition	07 April	11 April	Dejen Enemay, Debreelyas, (Amhara), Hidabu Abote, Girar jarso and Yayagulele, (Oromia)	Ensure proper recording of the counselled mothers and caregivers. Consider including cooking demonstration in the checklist during supervision and confirm if it is being implemented in the households (HHs).
	29 May	01 June	Tarmaber, Kewot, Antsokeya Gemza, Efratana Gidim, (Amhara)	In order to make the nutrition counselling sustainable and government owned, move for it to be recorded in the log book. Suggested orienting the remaining staff just after the training to overcome the trained staff turnover. Recommended using the Health Development Army (HDA) for mobilization of cooking

				demonstration to generate community ownership.
WASH Team	15 May	16 May	Woliso and its environs	Advised the management to plan for WASH training.
FtF Joint Monitoring Team				
Gender cross-cutting teams (M&E, LES)				
LES	28 April	08 May	Jabitena, Bure, Guangua, Dangla, Takusa, Metema, and Kuara	Climate consideration of the areas should be considered with respect to the distribution of vegetable seeds to MVHs and institutions should consider the climatic conditions of the areas.
	20 May	24 May	Woliso, Lemuna Bilbilu, Gorche, and Malga	Advised HHs on how to apply proper apple growing management practices for better crop stands and production. Recommended holding training on apple management for DAs and zonal coordinators, to be conducted end of July.
	25 June	04 July	Lemuna Bilbilu, Dodola, Malga, Woliso and Yem Sp.	Suggested seed supply strategy could be through the following options. i) cooperative unions ii) private vendors
	28 May	01 June	Tarma ber, Kewot, Ephrataganagidim, Antsokiagemza	The partnership with Tarmaber is a model which should be extrapolated to the other <i>woredas</i> .
M&E  WASH team	06 April	16 April	Gomma, Welisso and Tiro Afeta	Conducted on-site follow up of interviews and spot checks of documentations. Provided timely feed back to the enumerators.
	07 May	14 May	Gomma, Welisso and Tiro Afeta	Assessed how data is collected and provide solutions for observed challenges.
	28 May	31 May	Jimma and Tiro Afeta	Discussed with team on resolving the challenge of matching of ENGINE PhD students with PhD advisor. Recommendation to have Prof Carl as an official PhD for the unmatched PhD students
	01 June	04 June	Jimma Dedo	Provided technical support and to ensure quality data collection of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) study, and fixed data entry problems encountered
	21 July, 2014	25 July, 2014	Woliso and Tokke Kutaye (West Oromia)	Importance of engagement of Zonal MNCH coordinators on the willingness to pay assessment was emphasised.
	6 August, 2014	12 August, 2014	Melga (SNNPR) Yaya Gulale (East Oromia)	
LES team	24 June 2014	11 July 2014	Terma Ber, Qewote, Efrata Gidem, Ansokiya Gemze, Dejene, D/Elias, Gabitena, Wonberma,	Close follow-up and technical support to MVHs on chicken management, regular vaccination and homemade chicken feed with green supplement

			Gungua, Dangla, Ankasha, Dera, Alaffa (Amhara)	
	3 Sep. 2014	7 Sep. 2014	Ambo, Toke Kutaye, (W. Oromia) Bahir Dar, Zuria, Dangelala (Amhara)	Private chicken growers are advised on prior preparation to receive the parent stocks and incubator
LES and Communication Team	1 August 2014	2 August 2014	Enemore Ener (SNNP)	Success story on chicken rearing and homestead vegetable production documented
Nutrition, HIV and Quality Improvement team	3 Sep. 2014	5 Sep. 2014	Guduru (W.Oromia)	Technical advice on assessment of quality of service and documentation of the same at health centers and health posts
Nutrition, HIV and Quality Improvement & Gender team	16 Sep. 2014	17 Sep. 2014	Becho, Woliso (W. Oromia)	Technical advice on assessment of quality of service and documentation of the same at health centers and health posts Mentoring the HWs to use various opportunities to include men in nutrition counselling Follow up on if men supporting their wives through water fetching is happening/continuing
Nutrition, HIV and Quality Improvement team	29 Sep. 2014	3 Oct. 2014	Ankesha, Gagusa, Debub Achefer (Amhara)	Technical advice on assessment of quality of service and documentation at health centers and health posts
SBCC Team				
M&E Team	15 Sept 2014	9 Oct 2014	AFO, Adama field office, Hawassa Field office, Tigray field office and Bahir Dar field office	Quarterly data quality assessment Support regions in verification and documentation of reports
OR	29 June 2014	04 July 2014	Jimma University, Seka <i>woreda</i>	Supervised SAM data collection activities, conducted meeting with MAM and SAM study Co-PIs, Supported MAM data cleaning

## Project Management

### Staff recruitment

In Year III, ENGINE hired highly qualified and creative SBCC regional coordinators, material development, media development and graphic design experts, as well as a professional photographer, to facilitate the rapid implementation of SBCC activities. ENGINE recruited a senior nutrition and HIV quality improvement (QI) advisor, a communications advisor and a senior WASH advisor. ENGINE also recruited a new deputy Chief of Party (COP) who joined in mid-August. ENGINE also retained all key personnel positions held in Year III.

### Staff management

ENGINE conducted two quarterly review meetings with regional coordinators and technical advisors in Year III, to strengthen and accelerate field-level implementation and increase budget utilization. As a result, all five sub-offices submitted revised budgets and re-programmed activity plans to increase spending.

Save the Children organized an all-staff participatory review and planning workshop from August 24-28, 2014. Its focus was to create a shared project vision among the entire ENGINE team, review the Year III performance and develop the Year IV work plan. ENGINE national, regional and field staff, all sub-primaries and the USAID Agreements Officer's Representative (AOR) attended the workshop. The work plan was the outcome of the meeting. ENGINE also conducted a multi-sector review meeting on September 2, 2013 to solicit valuable input from government officials and technical experts with direct influence over nutrition programming in the various sectors. Participants discussed recommendations to improve project implementation, which were incorporated into the Year III work plan.

### Sub-grantee management

ENGINE continued its regular bi-weekly staff meetings with partners and advisors to discuss progress toward completing planned activities as outlined in the sub-grantee Year III work plans. ENGINE reviewed and provided feedback on all sub-grantee deliverables, coordinated TA visits, and monitored sub-grantee narrative and financial reports to ensure compliance with USAID rules and regulations.

To avoid high-risk tax liabilities, Save the Children terminated its sub-grant agreement with VI and expedited the seamless transition of VI operations research (OR) activities to Save the Children. ENGINE promptly transferred the Jimma University sub-agreement and research staff to Save the Children and the OR continued without major interruption. Save the Children entered an STTA agreement with VI to continue international TA for MAM and SAM OR and endline survey of ENGINE's impact evaluation.

Comment [sj3]: Unable to ascertain meaning

ENGINE continued its regular monthly meeting with ENGINE's Agreement Officer Representative and its regular bi-weekly staff meetings to discuss progress toward completing planned activities as outlined in the sub-grantee Year III work plans. ENGINE also met individually with sub-primaries to resolve any outstanding issues to achieve optimal project performance. In addition, ENGINE conducted a review meeting with all the sub-primaries to provide technical updates and discuss. ENGINE extended the sub-grant agreement for Tufts, Jhepigo and LOL and approved their Year III work plan and budget.

ENGINE finalized the sub-grant agreement with three local NGOs to implement its innovative Enhanced Community Conversation (ECC) in 20 *woredas* of the four regions. The NGOs are: 1) Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA) for Eastern Oromia; 2) Fayya Integrated Development Organization (FIDO); and 3) Ethiopia Twehado Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOTC-DICAC) for Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR.

#### **Technical assistance**

In Year III, ENGINE received TA from Save the Children-US, The Manoff Group, LOL, TU and VI in the areas of formative research, SBCC, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), nutrition, report writing, rapid market and economic assessments, feasibility of micro-insurance for livestock, monitoring livelihood activities and OR.

#### **Start-up activities in non-AGP *woredas***

The scale up of ENGINE interventions in 17 non-AGP *woredas* was delayed because of several factors: delayed approval by FMOH and regional health bureaus, especially SNNPR; GRAD raised a concern regarding the work load of this partnership on already busy GRAD community facilitators and VESAs and the need for additional budget, which was later approved by USAID; GRAD took time to convince its local partners about the partnership and budget issue; and the short-term nature of GOAL's mandate. ENGINE felt that the partnership needed to be piloted for at least one year to allow enough time for quality implementation and documentation of lessons-learned, this was agreed by USAID. By the end of the second quarter, ENGINE and GOAL reached a consensus to drop the *woredas* in Amhara and concentrate on *woredas* in Oromia (7) and SNNP (3) regions.

However, after continuous consultation with USAID, GRAD and GOAL, ENGINE was able to scale up to 10 non-AGP *woredas* in Oromia and Amhara. The ENGINE and GRAD partnership started upscaling to four *woredas* in Quarter IV: two *woredas* in Amhara (Libo Kemkem and Lay Gaint) and two *woredas* in Oromia (Arsi Negele and Adami Tulu). The partnership also initiated the preparatory phase to scale up to six *woredas* in eastern and western Oromia.

In the fourth quarter a joint inception and planning workshop was conducted at Debre Zeit with the participation of regional, zonal and *woreda* representatives from health and agriculture offices, GRAD implementing partners' representatives, as well as other relevant ENGINE and GRAD staff. A similar joint workshop was conducted in Harer town for the partnership with GOAL. In the same quarter program managers training was conducted for 30 participants that manage, supervise and monitor nutrition programs for *woreda* offices with responsibilities in health and agriculture. The participants were drawn from the four *woredas* GOAL operates in Eastern and Western Harerghe zones and two GRAD *woredas* in East Shewa and West Arsi zones from the *woreda* offices of Health and Agriculture, the GRAD implementing partner (Meki Catholic Relief Service) and GOAL staff.

## Partnership

In its role as chair of FtF nutrition technical working group (TWG), during Year III, ENGINE facilitated three TWG meetings. The Integrated Family Health Program (IFHP) and African Alliance for Improved Food Processing (AAIFP) joined the TWG for the first time. During these meetings, GRAD presented its baseline findings. Partners were briefed about ENGINE and other FtF partners' external mid-term evaluation by USAID, and AAIFP presented on its fortification work and also information on others working on wheat flour fortification. The working group finalized all preparatory work for the quarterly FtF meeting where nutrition will be the main theme and the progress over the period since the March meeting on nutrition will be examined.

ENGINE also organized a joint field visit to Amhara region to monitor the progress of nutrition activities of FtF projects (GRAD, Agribusiness and Market Development in Ethiopia (AMDe), Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) and ENGINE). In Quarter IV, Amhara FtF partners (ENGINE, AGP-LMD, AGP-AMDe, GRAD & IFHP) pro-actively conducted a joint field visit to Meshenti kebele where all projects overlap. It helped partners to gain greater understanding of what each project is doing and how they can work jointly in a complementary approach. They also shared their 2014/2015 work plan and mapped out their geographic overlap.

Under FMOH leadership, ENGINE, in partnership with UNICEF and FANTA-III, organized a two-day nutrition advocacy workshop for 58 highly influential parliamentarians and policymakers from eight standing committees. The focus was to discuss the magnitude of childhood stunting and its devastating impact on the health, education and economy of the country to prioritize nutrition on the national agenda.

ENGINE, in partnership with Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (CIAFS) provided two-day leadership for nutrition security training to 50 leaders (10 women) from different directorates of FMOA and the standing committee of agriculture in parliament. The goal of the training was to inspire, energize and mobilize innovative leaders, champions, change agents, and strategic thinkers in Ethiopia to achieving nutrition security.

Reflective of ENGINE's position as a leader in nutrition in Ethiopia, the NNCB requested that UNICEF, USAID and ENGINE support the multi-sector coordination of the NNP and its regional rollout at all levels. During Quarter III, ENGINE and UNICEF partnered to undertake capacity building training to National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) from nine sectors and supported the launch of NNP in SNNPR, Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray regions. ENGINE also partnered with FMOH, UNICEF, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European Union to mainstream nutrition into next phase of PSNP and AGP 2.

ENGINE partnered with the Peace Corps (PC) to conduct an observational WASH assessment in 12 *woredas* in four regions (Amhara, SNNPR, Oromia and Tigray) where Peace Corps volunteers (PCVs) live and work. The study was designed to understand current household WASH practices and to then identify doable actions to reduce diarrhoea among children under-2 and contribute to reduction of stunting. It created a concrete collaboration between ENGINE and the PC and improved the WASH knowledge and skills of PCVs and ENGINE's Zonal Coordinators (ZCs).

## **IR I: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies**

### **IR I.1: Strengthened policy environment**

#### **Planned activities**

- Support national and regional nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms
- Develop nutrition advocacy strategy with FMoH and other partners
- Address gaps in existing nutrition-related policies and guidelines
- Support national level food fortification, micronutrient survey
- Implement quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education
- Continue the process of establishing nutrition academic centre of excellence (CoE)
- Develop competency-based tools for nutrition teaching and assessment
- Strengthen nutrition curriculum at project-supported institutions
- Facilitate nutrition technical updates and effective teaching skills
- Conduct nutrition training for health and agriculture program managers

#### **Accomplishments**

##### **Strategy I.1.1: Strengthen existing nutrition multi-sector coordination**

###### **Support nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms**

During Year III, ENGINE has continued to support the implementation of the NNP, participating in three monthly National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) meetings, identifying priority activities for inclusion in the annual work plans of the National Nutrition Coordinating Body (NNCB) and NNTC, and finalizing the multi-sectoral NNP implementation guidelines. In Quarter IV, ENGINE helped to organize and facilitate the fourth NNCB meeting in September 2014 and the fourth NNTC meeting of the year. The NNCB reviewed its six months' work plan and approved the National Nutrition Fortification Plan. Summary of the key activities accomplished during Year III include:

- Supported the preparation of NNCB and NNTC annual work plan for 2007 EFY. These documents were submitted for approval to the NNCB meeting held September 25, 2014 and approved with minor comments
- Developed a comprehensive annual report for NNTC and NNCB
- Supported two NNCB meetings by presenting key action points from the previous NNCB meeting and taking minutes of the each meeting. Most NNP implementing sectors participated in the NNCB meeting. The second meeting was held during this quarter.
- ENGINE has provided technical support for the revision and finalization of the three terms of reference (TOR) for three steering committees to be managed under the NNTC, namely the National Nutrition Programme Management Steering Committee (NNPMS), National Food Fortification Steering Committee (NFFSC), and National Nutrition Monitoring, Evaluation and

Research Steering Committee (NNMERSC). All the three steering committees had consultative meetings to review and amend the draft TORs. Input and feedback from all the three steering committee were addressed and the revised TORs were shared with the NNTC members for review and later sent to the NNCB for approval.

With the aim of addressing the agenda for nutrition multi-sector coordination, the NNCB asked USAID, ENGINE and UNICEF to provide technical support for the NNTC and regional coordination and technical teams. Based on this request, ENGINE has worked with its partners to accomplished the following major activities, since December 2013 NNCB meeting:

- Prepared guidelines for launching NNP at the regional level and establishing Regional Nutrition Coordinating Bodies (RNCBs) and Regional Nutrition Technical Committees (RNTCs)
- ENGINE, working with FMoH and UNICEF, organized a three-day capacity building workshop in support of NNTC, with participation from the nine sectors (agriculture, education, health, trade, industry, MoFED, water & energy, FMHACA, and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) to promote a common understanding of nutrition among the sectors at the federal level
- Supported the launch and establishment of RNTCs and RNCBs at different level in four regions (Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNP)
- Translated and shared the TOR for the NNCB, NNTC and RNCB and RNTC into four official working languages (Oromifa, Tigrigna, Amharic and Somaligna)
- ENGINE, UNICEF and FAO collaborated to support FMoA to implement its mandated activities under NNP. FMoA has established a food and nutrition case team under the Advisory and Training directorate of the agricultural development sector of the ministry. ENGINE along with partners, explored the possibility of working with the case team. After a series of consultative meetings with the case team and the directorate, a draft annual action plan was developed by UNICEF, FAO, ENGINE and the case team to coordinate partners' efforts in supporting the case team and nutrition activities of the Disaster Management and Food Security Sector (DMFSS), and extension and livestock departments of FMoA. The endorsement of the annual action plan is currently under review by FMoA.
- In Quarter IV, ENGINE supported a two-day nutrition advocacy workshop from July 18-19, for 70 women, including groups of women who stand for the rights of women and children, from federal and regional Women, Youth and Child Affairs (MoWYCA), one of the key sector in the NNP. The objective of the workshop to create awareness about undernutrition and familiarize NNP for employees of MoWYCA to develop ownership and implement NNP activities assigned to their sectors, as they will be responsible for the roll out of NNP within their regional structures.
- Prepared a concept note and TOR to identify possible countries for a NNCB multi-sector coordination exchange visit (Uganda and Rwanda). The concept note was submitted to FMoH to be presented at the NNCB meeting for approval. This activity was adjusted to involve in-country capacity building for the coordination body and technical committee at regional and national levels.

#### **Support regional nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms**

Over this reporting period, ENGINE has dedicated strong technical and financial support for the successful rollout of the NNP, RNCB and RNTC structures in four regions; Amhara,

Oromia, Tigray and SNNP. ENGINE has supported the launch of NNP and establishment of the multi-sectoral regional nutrition coordination body (RNCB) and Nutrition Technical Committee (RNTC) in three of the four regions, as in Oromia region RNCB has not yet been established because of lack of clarity or guidance as to who should take the lead to coordinate RNCB.

The regional NNP launch in Oromia was attended by key stakeholders from health, agriculture, education, women, youth and child affairs, trade and industry, UNICEF, EEPHI, ENGINE and various NGOs. In Amhara and Tigray regions, there was full participation from all eight NNP sectors: including health, agriculture, women, youth and children's affairs, social and labor affairs, trade and industry, transport, water and energy, and civil society. In the SNNP, the regional launch was conducted in the presence of three regional vice-presidents and representatives from all sectors, zones and *woredas*.

During the reporting period, in addition to regional launches, ENGINE has supported NNP zones and *woredas* level kick-offs and the establishment of a multi-sectoral nutrition coordination body (MSNCB) and a multi-sectoral nutrition technical committee (MSNTC) in 80 *woredas* in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP, through the active leadership of zonal and *woreda* administrations. In Quarter IV, ENGINE supported rollout of NNP and establishment of *woreda* level MSNCB and MSNTC in 35 *woredas*. In the NNP kick-off, ENGINE and partners presented the role of ENGINE in nutrition multi-sector collaboration, the cost of hunger in Ethiopia, NNP strategic objectives and initiatives, and rationale for multi-sector collaboration and held discussions. ENGINE has planned to strengthen the functionality of these bodies and NNP implementation at all levels in Year IV.

#### **Develop nutrition advocacy strategy**

FMoH, in collaboration with nutrition partners, has been working on the national nutrition advocacy plan and PROFILES advocacy tool since the launch of the NNP early last year. During the first quarter, FMoH provided the "green light" to rollout the national nutrition advocacy plan and established two task forces, one for SBCC and one for advocacy. ENGINE and FANTA-3 were appointed to be the lead partners to support the implementation of the advocacy plan with parliamentarians prioritized as the first target audience.

Under FMoH leadership, ENGINE in partnership with UNICEF and FANTA-III, organized a two-day nutrition advocacy workshop in March 2014 for 58 highly influential parliamentarians and policymakers from eight standing committees. As stated in the semi-annual report, the parliamentarians prepared short, mid and long-term plans of action and recommended the same advocacy work for regional parliamentarians. ENGINE is working with the FMoH to monitor their implementation. However, there has not been any progress from the government because of other competing governmental priorities within the FMoH, as well as those facing parliamentarians. ENGINE will continue to follow up with parliamentarians for the implementation of the action points in Year IV.

As part of its advocacy mandate, ENGINE held a 2-day consultative workshop with Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) religious leaders and church scholars, from September 2-3, 2014. The workshop, which was the first of its kind for nutrition, created awareness on childhood stunting and consulted with the Orthodox Church's senior leadership to identify religious guidance, including biblical references and doctrine on fasting practices, to promote maternal and child

nutrition during the first 1000 days. Forty-four religious leaders representing ten dioceses from across the country and five senior church scholars attended the workshop.



ENGINE presented the seriousness of Ethiopia's under-nutrition problem to this highly influential group and used the workshop as a platform for consensus building among church scholars to formulate religious guidelines around fasting practices, related to pregnant/lactating mothers and children under the age of two. Participants developed implementation plans and determined the delivery modality for sermons and religious guidance on each of these four themes, in churches, schools and communities in the 10 dioceses across the country. By the end of the workshop, EOTC church scholars developed ten declaration statements, which will be compiled and presented to the overall assembly of church scholars and the Holy Synod council members (over 60 members), chaired by his Holiness Abune Matias I, Patriarch of the EOTC, in mid-October.

ENGINE will develop a sermon guide on maternal and child nutrition, husband and community support in collaboration with EOTC, which will be endorsed and launched by the Holy Synod. As one of ENGINE's local NGO partner, EOTC will implement these guidelines to communities in 12 ENGINE *woredas*.

### **Strategy 1.1.2 Support development and revision of nutrition policies, guidelines and standards**

#### **Address gaps in existing nutrition-related policies and guidelines**

##### **Development of blended integrated nutrition module for health workers**

In this reporting period, ENGINE provided technical support to the FMoH in designing and developing a comprehensive blended integrated nutrition module for health workers. ENGINE supported the overall coordination of the revisions, and ENGINE was the technical lead for the MAIYCN, nutrition multi-sector coordination and food-based approach sections of the module. The written modules were submitted to the FMoH for comment and approval. In Quarter IV, the e-learning CD module and Power Point presentations were prepared. All the materials have been submitted to FMoH for approval.

### **National nutrition guidelines**

ENGINE, in close partnership with FMOH and other partners, developed multi-sector nutrition implementation guidelines. The final guidelines, discussed and finalized in a workshop were submitted to the FMOH for review and approval. In Quarter IV, the draft guideline was presented to the NNCB.

### **Support national efforts on micronutrient control and prevention**

In Year III, ENGINE continued to support FMOH and Ministry of Industry (Mol) national level activities that will facilitate the prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies in Ethiopia.

### **National micronutrient guidelines revision**

ENGINE with FMOH and partners, provided technical support to revise the National Micronutrient Intervention guidelines, which were initially developed more than a decade ago. The guideline revisions were finalized during a technical workshop in March 2014 and submitted to FMOH for approval, which is still pending.

### **National food fortification plan of action**

During its first meeting in December 2014, the NNCB decided to have a National Food Fortification Steering Committee (NFFSC) chaired by Mol. During this reporting period, ENGINE actively engaged in supporting NFFSC to coordinate and facilitate the national food fortification program to address micronutrient malnutrition in the country. With the leadership of MOI and FMOH, ENGINE working with partners such as AAIFP, the Micronutrient Initiative (MI), GAIN and UNICEF, prepared TORs for NFFSC and its technical committee. In Quarter IV, ENGINE supported the drafting of the National Food Fortification implementation Plan of Action, which was approved by Mol and NFFSC. This will facilitate mandatory fortification of oil and flour with vitamin A and iron.

### **Support national micronutrient survey**

In Year II, ENGINE committed funds to support a micronutrient survey. During the first and second quarters, EPHI executed an assessment of iodized salt consumption at the national level. However, a survey for vitamin A, iron and zinc has not been carried out because the procurement of reagents and equipment by UNICEF took longer than expected. In the reporting period, ENGINE provided technical assistance in developing the survey tools and the survey is planned to be conducted from November 2014 to January 2015.

### **Micronutrient forum**

ENGINE actively participated in facilitating and supporting committee meetings for the Micronutrient Forum – a global conference held in Ethiopia, June 2014. ENGINE provided financial support for local conference participants and presenters from regional health bureaus, universities, research institute, and other partners. As part of its knowledge management and sharing agenda, ENGINE made an oral presentation of its nutrition policy research, entitled “Evaluation of the dynamics of national nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia”, as well as three poster presentations on nutrition MSc papers supported by the project. ENGINE also displayed its nutrition-related resources at the conference booth to facilitate program learning and highlight the achievements of the project to conference participants; an estimated 200 participants visited the booth.

### **Central nutrition database**

During the reporting period, ENGINE has been supporting FMoH in establishing a central nutrition database. The key indicators to be included in the database and checklist were identified. FMoH is expected to come up with a proposal that describes the reporting mechanism from regional to federal level, which is still pending.

#### **Support other national nutrition initiatives**

ENGINE assisted FMoH and FMoA by participating at different PSNP formulation meetings and reviewing the 'Next Generation PSNP/Rural Productive Safety Net (RPSN)' design document to ensure it is nutrition-sensitive and places emphasis on pregnant and lactating women. The next generation PSNP has now included nutrition with a clear objective and indicators. In Quarter IV, ENGINE has been engaged in the process of integrating nutrition into Agriculture Growth Program Two (AGP-2) (2016-2020), which is currently in the design phase. ENGINE is a member of a task force that has been established to prepare the nutrition component of AGP-2. It also shared its nutrition sensitive interventions in AGP *woredas* with consultants who have been hired by the European Union to develop the nutrition design document. ENGINE will continue this activity in Year IV.

ENGINE facilitated and supported a World Breastfeeding Week celebration at the federal level and in all four main regions. It was held in August 2014, with the prime objective of developing increased awareness about the importance of breast-feeding in Ethiopia.

## **IR 1.2: Strengthened pre-service and in-service nutrition training for healthcare agents**

#### **Planned activities:**

- Conduct standard-based management and recognition (SBM-R) II workshops
- Integrate nutrition into the curricula for health and agriculture institutions
- Facilitate nutrition technical update training for selected institutions
- Organize nutrition forums for health and agriculture graduates
- Provide effective teaching skills training to agriculture TVET instructors
- Establish academic center of excellence (CoE) for nutrition education
- Conduct nutrition training for program managers

#### **Accomplishments**

### **Strategy 1.2.1: Implement performance and quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education**

ENGINE continues to work to strengthen the quality of pre-service education (PSE) institutions in order to achieve the desired and agreed upon standards in nutrition education using the standard-based management and recognition (SBM-R) methodology to monitor the quality of nutrition

education in five areas – classroom instruction, clinical practice, student assessment, infrastructure and management.

Over the reporting period, all 12 Phase I ENGINE-supported institutions<sup>5</sup> conducted second and third round internal monitoring assessments to measure progress from baseline, first and second assessments. In Quarter IV, ENGINE PSE team conducted a SBM-R review meeting and module III workshop, where the progress of the review was discussed. A total of 75 participants (including 15 females) composed of deans/vice-deans, SBM-R focal persons and instructors, attended the workshops. Progress varied among the 12 institutions, particularly in the area of nutrition content delivery. Table 2 and figure 1 summarize some of the SBM-R achievements documented over the reporting period.

**Table 2: Summary of Qualitative Improvements in 12 Target Institutions**

**Classroom:** Shire Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) institution began 5 minutes of nutrition information and instruction for each class.

**Practical:** Health science institutions introduced teaching nutrition skills and assessment. This included specific nutrition education and counselling instruction, proper use of growth monitoring charts, and preparation of therapeutic and complementary foods.

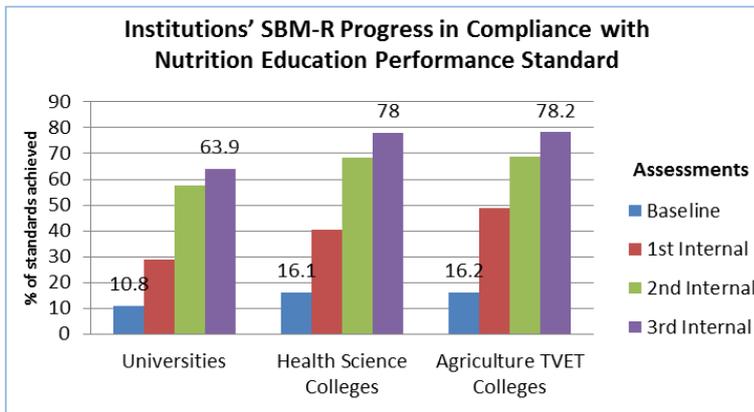
**Assessment:** Alage, Wolaita Sodo and Bure (three out of four) ATVET colleges reported establishing an education quality assurance office in their institutions.

**Resource:** Some institutions have started leveraging resources internally and externally such as a new building for a nutrition skills lab, anthropometric equipment, reference and audio-visual materials to strengthen nutrition teaching and assessment using SBM-R tools.

**Management:** SBM-R has become a fixed agenda item on the academic commission meetings at some of the institutions, and also in a 1 to 5 networking of teachers.

**Figure 1. Summary of SBM-R progress**

<sup>5</sup> The 12 target institutions include four universities (Jimma, Hawassa, Gondar and Mekelle), four regional health science colleges (Hawassa, Shashemene, Bahir Dar, Araya Kahsu (Axum) and four agricultural TVET colleges (Dilla, Alage, Bure and Shire).



*\*Baseline and first internal assessments were done in previous project years*

Following the discussion on nutrition education quality improvement implementation progress and challenges, the institutions reviewed their action plans and identified institution specific needs which contributed to ENGINE's PSE midterm review and Year IV activity plan. The institutions have become responsive to ideas of institutionalization and scaling up of the process, by making modifications and changes either on the activities or timeline. It has been underscored that close follow up and supervision will ensure sustainability of the positive changes and institutionalization of the quality improvement process.

In Quarter IV of Year III, ENGINE PSE expanded to phase II<sup>6</sup> institutions with the aim of integrating the concept of nutrition sensitive agriculture into the agriculture curriculum and strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration. The PSE support was initiated at five out of six institutions by introducing a quality improvement process to agricultural education following a rapid situational assessment. A total of 92 (4 female) participants attended the four rounds of workshops aimed at strengthening the agriculture education quality improvement process through which nutrition sensitive agriculture was also promoted. The participants supported the initiative and emphasized the importance of integrating the standards-based model, which adds value to the existing quality assurance system at each institution. To keep the process moving forward the participants decided to follow up with the colleges' management and identify ways for better integration of quality improvement processes to ensure sustainability.

### **Strategy I.2.2: Strengthen nutrition curriculum at project supported institutions**

#### **Strengthen nutrition curriculum for ATVET and health science colleges and universities**

ENGINE continued the strengthening of nutrition curricula at supported institutions as a contribution to enhance implementation of the revised NNP. ENGINE faced challenges in incorporating the predefined nutrition competencies into the curriculums of plant and animal science graduates. ENGINE tried to communicate with the federal level agriculture bureau and TVET agency to organize a consultative meeting to alleviate the problem. However, due to absence of a response

<sup>6</sup> Phase II institutions encompasses expansion to colleges of agriculture in four existing ENGINE supported phase I Universities (Gondar, Hawassa, Jimma and Mekelle) and new universities (department of nutrition at Bahirdar university and Debre Markos University)

at the federal level, ENGINE decided to hold two regional level consultative meetings, one of which was successful conducted in Amhara region.

In addition, ENGINE conducted a review workshop to evaluate the progress of implementation of nutrition-integrated syllabi and to create an opportunity for institutions to share their successes, challenges and lessons learnt. ENGINE continued to support universities' and health science colleges' efforts to integrate the revised nutrition syllabi into the core curricula. Eight out of twelve phase-I institutions have integrated the revised syllabi in to their respective core curricula over the reporting period.

#### **Facilitate nutrition technical update training for health and agriculture graduates**

In Year III, ENGINE conducted a nutrition forum on '*Gender and Nutrition*' for 12 project supported institutions with a total of 2,599 (937 female) graduating students and college staff. The forum presented issues related to the national and regional malnutrition burden; the contribution of nutrition to maternal and child health; and the role of graduates in addressing the problem of malnutrition in line with the NNP direction. Due to effective advocacy work done by Alage and Wolaita Sodo instructors, the number of participants surpassed the annual target of 1365. The forum was effective in disseminating nutrition related information to a large audience with little financial outlay.



**Fig 3: Nutrition forum participants at Wolaita Sodo ATVET College**

#### **Facilitate nutrition technical update training**

Over the reporting period, ENGINE provided 12 nutrition technical update training sessions, which included WASH components, to 292 (36 female) health and agriculture instructors, enabling them to integrate nutrition-sensitive content into their curriculum. The training also included demonstrations and practice of proper hand washing techniques, as well as a theoretical session on WASH. Sixty-eight Out of the 292 participants, 68 attended an advanced nutrition technical update training, which involved sessions on nutrition operations research, nutrition software and practical nutrition skills in the skills labs and at sites visits. Each university developed one comprehensive nutrition operational research proposal for possible funding opportunities following the training. As a result of the focused training for agriculture instructors, all plant and animal science instructors' understanding of nutrition was improved. These advancements, which were visible in a 15 percent improvement between pre and post-training test results, will be sustained by providing

continuing support and refresher trainings during Year IV. The advanced training for nutrition instructors encouraged the participants to reorganize their skills lab and teach skills in both the lab and at practical sites.



**Figure 4: Demonstration on enriching staple foods with missing nutrients in the skills lab**

ENGINE also provided training for 24 (11 female) clinical preceptors working at health facilities on nutrition, WASH, and teaching and assessment skills to effectively coach students during their clinical studies. Currently, all the 4 ENGINE-supported ATVET institutions have begun delivering nutrition-sensitive content in their courses following the training. Moreover, two ATVET institutions integrated nutrition information into their informal training courses for agriculture development agents (DAs) and model farmers. So far both Alage and Shire institutions provided nutrition information via informal trainings to a total of 419 DAs and 496 farmers at their institutions.

### **Strategy 1.2.3 Build staff capacity and create an enabling environment for competency-based nutrition education**

#### **Conduct effective teaching skills and nutrition skills lab management training**

ENGINE conducted two Effective Teaching Skills training sessions for a total of 46 (6 Female) university, health & agriculture TVET college instructors designed to help instructors teach the nutrition core competencies effectively and uniformly. The six-day training empowers the trainees to implement ENGINE initiatives at their respective institutions. ENGINE also provided skills lab management training for 21 (7 female) instructors and technical assistants to equip them with capacity to design and organize nutrition skills labs, manage lab resources and facilitate practical teaching-learning and assessment tasks. This allowed the trainees to developed specific action plans for their institutions to enhance and improve their nutrition skills labs, lab corners and education.

#### **Develop competency-based tools for nutrition teaching and assessment**

ENGINE conducted two workshops to develop competency-based nutrition teaching and assessment tools for health science and agriculture TVET institutions. Checklists, learning guides and other tools were developed to strengthen skills teaching at project-supported health science institutions. In addition, focused nutrition teaching and learning materials were developed to support the delivery of integrated nutrition contents for health and agriculture cadres. PowerPoint slides

based on predefined nutrition core competencies for agriculture cadres were developed to strengthen the content delivery at ATVET colleges. Institutions started using these tools for teaching and assessing their students in classroom, skills labs and at practical sites.

#### **Distribute nutrition teaching materials to institutions**

ENGINE PSE initiated activities designed to establish new nutrition skills labs or create nutrition corners in the existing skills labs at all project supported health science institutions. ENGINE distributed nutrition teaching materials including reference books, skills lab materials and audio-visual aids to all 12 supported institutions to strengthen this initiative and the overall teaching process. In addition, ENGINE printed nutrition core competency documents and nutrition program planning and supervision training packages and distributed them to pre-service institutions and nutrition stakeholders. International procurement is in progress; and books and lab equipment will be distributed to institutions in the first quarter of Year IV.

#### **Conducted content integration in to remaining courses of undergraduate nutritionists**

ENGINE has conducted a content integration workshop for an additional five courses. The workshop assessed what has been done to date to strengthen undergraduate nutrition content in the curriculum of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees in nutrition, and how to integrated missing competencies into selected courses. The courses were reviewed and revised for nutrition competencies as well as their teaching and assessment methodologies. There now total 12 revised courses for undergraduate nutritionists.

#### **Continue process to establish academic center of excellence for nutrition**

As part of the process to establish an academic CoE for nutrition education, ENGINE continued working closely with Hawassa University. ENGINE conducted a benchmarking visit to North-West University, South Africa, to understand the organizational structure, human resource development and management needs, basic facilities requirements and funding mechanisms. The visit was instrumental in establishing links for future partnerships and strengthening South-to-South collaboration between the two institutions. In addition, ENGINE supported Hawassa University to identify skills lab materials to strengthen nutrition teaching and research, develop and activity plan for the remaining period of the project and prioritize activities to advance the establishment of the CoE.

The capacity of instructors to execute the planned activities of an ACoE, especially planning and conducting operational research was limited. ENGINE provided three capacity building training sessions for ACoE instructors on nutrition operational research, dietetics and nutrient analysis techniques (proximate analysis, vitamins and minerals analysis and other biochemical analysis techniques at EPHI). The numbers of instructors attending the three training sessions were as follows: 24 (7 female), 20 (5 female), 8 (1 female). The training helped instructors to identify operational research studies for which methodologies were developed. Currently, instructors are working on developing full proposals for possible funding.

The main challenge to the process has been the procurement of the laboratory and other supplies for the ACoE. ENGINE should have procured through Jhepigo, but the procurement was delayed. Save the Children has been pushing Jhepigo to speed up the procurement. In Quarter IV, all the procurement process was finalized and the materials will be distributed to ACoE in Quarter II of Year IV.

### **Conduct nutrition training for program managers**

In Quarter I, ENGINE delivered the first round of a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) course on “Nutrition Program Planning and Supervision” for 17 (5 female) regional/zonal/woreda health and agriculture officers and ENGINE coordinators from the four regions. As a result, a pool of trainers has been created to cascade basic training on nutrition programming and supervision for regional, zonal and woreda health and agriculture officers (see Strategy 2.1.2).

## **IR 2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved**

### **Planned activities:**

- Develop and implement a quality improvement (QI) model to improve quality of nutritional services
- Promote coaching/mentoring and supportive supervision for health service providers
- Build capacity of frontline health and agriculture workers to provide high quality services
- Improve tools for frontline health and agriculture workers
- Implement LNNGO-led enhanced community conversations (ECCs)
- Strengthen referral systems and link nutrition with other programs
- Support target woredas in Child Health Day (CHD) implementation

### **Accomplishments**

#### **IR 2.1: Quality of nutrition services strengthened**

##### **Strategy 2.1.1: Facilitate integration of quality improvement processes with Government of Ethiopia (GoE) coordination entities, health facilities and communities**

#### **Develop and implement quality improvement model to improve quality of nutrition services**

To improve the quality of nutrition services, ENGINE developed a performance monitoring and quality improvement TOR, QI assessment tool and action plan for performance management (PM) and QI teams. The QI model developed uses Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) methods. The QI tool was pre-tested in two health centers, two health posts and 10 households, then the tool was finalized based on these findings and experiences. ENGINE also developed facilitator and participant manuals for quality of nutrition services improvement for health workers. The project then selected 10 health centers and 43 health posts from the 10 pilot woredas and applied the QI model. In Quarter IV, ENGINE established QI teams in all 10 pilot HCs and distributed the QI tool to 53 HCs and HPs. Monitoring and documentation of the effectiveness of QI minimum nutrition service standards was not done because the roll out of QI took longer than expected, as it required increased ownership of the process by the management and staff of the facilities.

In Year IV, ENGINE will continue to support the integration and strengthening of nutrition services in health facilities. ENGINE plans to expand quality services in 135 health centers in four regions, and scale up the QI model to 40 health centers and their satellite health posts, conducting experience sharing visits in selected model health facilities and documenting best practices.

**Promote coaching/mentoring and supportive supervision for health service providers**

ENGINE teams provided coaching and mentorship training to 921 health workers (161 female) from the four regions in sessions integrated<sup>7</sup> with *woreda* review meetings, achieving 91percent (921/1018) of the yearly target. At the facility level, ENGINE zonal coordinators (ZCs) mentored 3312 (1894 female) health workers at HCS and HPs: HWs (2045/1731) and HEWs (1491/1422) to improve provision of Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) services, exceeding the yearly target by only 6 percent (3312/3135).

**Comment [sj4]:** This seems unclear. Please check these figures, are they supposed to total the first figure?

Over the past year, ENGINE ZCs, in collaboration with *woreda* and zonal health offices, conducted initial supervision visits to 97 percent of targeted HCs and 55 percent of all HPs. They completed 461 follow-up visits to HCs and 792 HPs during Quarters II to IV (table 2.1). The supportive supervision visits are aimed at improving the delivery of nutrition and health services provided by health workers and health extension workers, as well as addressing some of the challenges faced by frontline health workers. The team used checklists to assess and provide on-site feedback and developed action plans based on the findings.

**Table 2.1: Total number of health facilities reached through joint supportive supervision by regions**

Health facilities (HFs) reached	Total Reached (Q=Quarter)				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
First visit HCs	159	200	43	42	444
Follow up HCs	0	94	132	235	461
First visit HPs	134	437	167	455	1193
Follow up HPs	0	53	192	547	792
HC and HP (first visit)	293	637	210	497	1637
HC and HP (follow-up visit)	0	147	324	782	1253
Total HFs	293	784	534	1279	2890

ENGINE's supportive supervision and mentoring improved nutrition services at health facilities with regard to the availability of micronutrients, especially zinc and iron-folate supplements and quality of nutrition counseling (table 2.2). It also improved participation in food cooking demonstrations (FCD) and attendance at counseling services, which improved targeted groups' uptake of MIYCN and WASH knowledge and practices. Facilities also integrated nutrition into their regular activities and begun reporting to their respective *woreda* offices on a monthly basis, as advocated for by ENGINE and the NNP. All regional teams added household visits to their health facility supervision trips to observe the benefits of the cooking demonstrations and MIYCN training. As the household visits involved health extension workers, the supervision team used these interactions as opportunities to mentor the health extension workers and provide on-the-spot feedback for optimal MIYCN and WASH practices. The team also provided feedback to the primary health care unit heads and

<sup>7</sup> Coaching and mentoring topics is also integrated in to MIYCN training. This number does not include the number of participants trained through MIYCN integration to avoid double counting.

respective officials on use of key household practices and health extension workers' service delivery performance.

**Table 2.2: Summary of joint supportive supervision findings**

Improvements	Existing gaps	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved availability of micronutrients, especially iron-folate and zinc</li> <li>- Supplementation of vitamin A for all eligible children at HP level integrated with routine health service provision</li> <li>- Health facilities integrated nutrition report into their regular plan and started reporting to their respective <i>woreda</i> offices on monthly basis (SNNPR)</li> <li>- Nutritional counselling conducted at under-5 clinic, ANC and PNC units; all children checked for their nutrition status during visits</li> <li>- MIYCN counselling service provision including planning and reporting has improved, teaching aids available at all entry points</li> <li>- Nutrition education and cooking demonstrations integrated with pregnant mother's conference<sup>8</sup>; FCD conducted at sub-kebele level</li> <li>- Improved cooking demonstration event organization in most of the <i>kebeles</i> (Amhara)</li> <li>- Improvement in awareness and knowledge of households on recommended maternal and child feeding and WASH practices observed</li> <li>- Improved quality of MIYCN service delivery: all pregnant mothers visited were supplied iron-folate during antenatal visits; service delivered by trained HWs</li> <li>MIYCN care service integrated with other services and improvement observed in institutional/skilled delivery services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are still gaps in the skills of the trained HWs in following all MIYCN counselling; problems in appropriate message selection during counselling</li> <li>- Screening for nutrition was not given attention during service delivery</li> <li>- Turnover of MIYCN-trained HWs, services provided by untrained staff</li> <li>- Supply shortage in some HFs; gaps in zinc, de-worming tablets</li> <li>- Poor data quality</li> <li>- Shortage of iodized salt on market (Amhara)</li> <li>- Lack of community discussions on nutrition in some regions (e.g. Amhara), limited quality of nutrition sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New zinc and iron- folate supply is distributed</li> <li>- Some facilities started using health system financing to cope up with iron-folate shortage</li> <li>- ENGINE provided on-site mentoring how to use the counselling materials</li> <li>- HWs and HEWs workers mentored (with demonstrations) about selection and appropriate use of counselling cards, recording and documentation,</li> <li>- Discussed with the HEWs the need to provide vitamin A and deworming routinely</li> <li>- Provided registration books for documentation to some of the facilities based on identified gaps</li> <li>- On-the-spot technical support was offered to HEWs regarding data management including recording and documentation</li> <li>- Mentoring and MIYCN gap-filling training is underway to address staff turnover</li> <li>- Facility level food cooking demonstrations, women's conferences and nutrition community conversation (through existing government structures and contracted LNGOs)</li> </ul>

**Strategy 2.1.2: Build the capacity of health facility staff and frontline workers to provide high quality services**

**Conduct assessment of MIYCN training (post training follow-up)**

Over the past three months, ENGINE conducted MIYCN post training follow-up for 344 health workers (98 female) in the four regions to ensure the trained health workers implemented the action plans developed during the ENGINE-supported MIYCN training and to monitor MIYCN integration into health facility systems.

<sup>8</sup> The Pregnant Mother Conference is one of the strategic initiatives taken by the government to deliver messages related to maternal and child health to prevent delivery-related complications and ultimately reduce maternal and newborn deaths.

During the reporting period, ENGINE conducted MIYCN post training follow-up for 1801 health workers trained in the last three years in the four regions to ensure the trained HWs implemented the action plans developed during the ENGINE-supported MIYCN training, and also to monitor MIYCN integration into health facility systems. The regional teams observed improvements in integrating nutrition into HC annual plans, improved nutritional counselling at antenatal, postnatal and under-5 clinics, appropriate counseling set-up practices, and improved provider-client interactions. In Amhara, they found nutrition corners had been established at eight health centers that were being used for practical demonstrations. The trained health workers used SBCC materials<sup>9</sup> appropriately and recorded key nutrition indicators for reporting. However, the follow-up team also found a high turnover of trained staff at under-5 and ANC units and non-trained staff providing MIYCN counseling in some facilities.

ENGINE zonal coordinators mentored health workers on the gaps and provided feedback to primary health care unit heads; and action plans were then developed on how to address these identified gaps. The implementation of the action plan will be monitored during follow-up visits in Year IV.

#### Provide training to program managers and health and agriculture workers

In the past implementation year, ENGINE trained 5,513 health and agriculture staff (3,060 female) of a targeted 6,000. The overall performance was 92 percent (5,513/6,000) of the annual target. The training covered the following health and nutrition topics: MIYCN, nutrition planning and management for program managers; nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS); IRT, MSG, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) (table 2.3).

**Table 2.3: Total number of people trained in child health and nutrition by region**

Region	QI			QII			QIII			QIV			Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Amhara	30	16	46	152	79	231	124	132	256	158	267	425	464	494	958
Oromia	161	148	309	474	457	931	294	205	499	285	273	558	1214	1083	2297
SNNPR	39	19	58	240	317	557	96	311	407	52	361	413	427	1008	1435
Tigray	81	7	88	49	24	73	18	20	38	68	337	405	216	388	604
National (TOT)	8	37	45	26	5	31	73	40	113	25	5	30	132	87	219
Total	319	227	546	941	882	1823	605	708	1313	588	1243	1831	2453	3060	5513

**Brief summaries of the training, by training component, are presented below:**

#### Provide training for health and agriculture program managers on nutrition program management

<sup>9</sup> Alive & Thrive materials adapted and re-printed by ENGINE

ENGINE provided TOT for nutrition program planning and supervision, including sessions on WASH and gender, using ENGINE's integrated training package for 17 (5 female) health and agriculture managers from Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP regions. Following the TOT, ENGINE teams in all four regions cascaded the training to 212 (29 female) participants from AGP *woredas* and 30 (5 female) health and agriculture program managers from seven non-AGP *woredas* and other partner organizations such as GOAL and GRAD (see IR 1.2). The overall performance was 74 percent (242/325). Amhara was unable to provide the training in some of its *woredas* as the government had other competing priorities.

#### **Provide gap-filling standard MIYCN and on job training for health workers and health extension workers**

In Quarter IV, ENGINE provided MIYCN standard or basic and on-the-job training for 372 health workers and health extension workers. It also provided TOT on MIYCN for 28 health workers (3 female) and included participants from all four regions. During Year III, ENGINE provided training on MIYCN for 2083 health workers and health extension workers (1409 female) with participants from the four ENGINE intervention regions. The training reached more staff than targeted due to high staff turnover. The objective of the training was to build capacity of health workers to provide quality nutrition services. The training was provided by ENGINE zonal coordinators and health workers, who received TOT on MIYCN through ENGINE support in the previous quarters. More than half—53 percent (1254/2083), of the trainees were reached through on-the-job training.

#### **Support integrated refresher training**

In Year III, ENGINE removed the HDA training from its regional work plan based on directions from government and USAID. The project provided demand-based integrated refresher training (ITR) in collaboration with government counterparts for 482 health extension workers in Oromia, Amhara and Tigray regions. In place of HDA training, ENGINE, in collaboration with government counterparts, is using effective strategies such as womens' conferences and facility level FCDs to reach a large number of pregnant and lactating women in target *woredas*.

#### **Support training to health workers in community-based management of acute malnutrition**

During Year III, training in the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) for acute malnutrition was provided to 220 health workers (109 female) in Amhara, East Oromia and SNNPR, based on government requests and needs. In Quarter IV, ENGINE trained 38 health workers based on the request of regional health bureaus (RHBs). The objective of the training was to build the capacity of health workers to take basic anthropometric measurements for screening of acute malnutrition at the community level, and to interpret the values and provide malnutrition prevention and therapeutic treatment to the community at a grass roots level. ENGINE collaborated with the government health sector and UNICEF to conduct the training.

#### **Provide development agents/agriculture extension workers with gap-filling training on nutrition-sensitive agriculture**

ENGINE trained 364 development agents (DAs) and agriculture extension workers (AEWs), of which 68 were female, on nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) to support integrated nutrition and agriculture activities and build frontline workers capacity to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices. The training achieved 88 percent (364/415) of the Year III target.

#### **Provide nutrition assessment, counseling and support training for health workers and case managers**

During the reporting period, nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS) training was provided for 217 health workers (90 female) in all four regions, reaching 65 percent (217/336) of the annual target. The objective of this training was to reinforce health care provider and case manager knowledge of critical nutrition practices for people living with HIV (PLHIV) to improve the quality of nutrition care. In the Amhara region, trained case managers provided nutrition counseling for 5,519 HIV positive clients. The training target was not met, as many health workers were unable to attend the trainings due to competing priorities.

#### **Train mothers support group in maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition**

In the past year, ENGINE provided MIYCN training to 532 mothers support group (MSG) members across all four regions, reaching 55 percent (532/963) of the annual target. The ultimate goal of the training is to equip mother-to-mother support group facilitators with maternal, infant and young child feeding (MICYF) counselling skills for PLHIV, with an emphasis on best practices in the context of HIV. The current training package covers both infant and young child feeding practices and mother-to-mother support group activities. During follow-up visits, the trained MSG members facilitated 356 sessions, attended by 821 members in Amhara and SNNP regions. The *woreda* held a graduation ceremony, which was attended by 37 (29 female) participants in Amhara, to recognize the mothers support groups and health workers involved.

#### **Provide training for health care workers on quality of nutrition services improvement**

ENGINE provided TOT on quality of nutrition services improvement for 19 ENGINE regional maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) coordinators (2 female). The objective of the training was to ensure coordinators had a comprehensive understanding of the concept of quality improvement and would be able to cascade training and information to the regions. The training was conducted in order to enable the health workers to measure, analyze and improve the quality of nutrition services at health centers, health posts and within the community. ENGINE regional teams provided quality of nutrition services improvement training for 165 health workers and health extension workers (81 female), including *woreda* heads in all four regions and reached 92 percent (165/180) of the target for this reporting period.

#### **Monitor and report maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition counseling for mothers by trained health workers**

ENGINE regional teams provided capacity building through coaching and mentoring activities and formal trainings. During joint supportive supervision, the team assessed health workers and health extension workers routine nutrition service performance in their respective catchment areas. As a result of ENGINE's capacity-building activities in the four regions, health workers and health extension workers counseled 241,603 on exclusive breastfeeding (EBF), complementary feeding (CF) and dietary diversity at HCs and HPs. Overall, the achievement was 106 percent (241,603/227687) for trained health workers at the HC level.

*(Note: there may have been double counting of mothers in postnatal and under-5 clinics. ENGINE revised the annual and Quarter IV targets, taking in to consideration the increasing number of mothers counseled by the trained health workers and double counting of mothers when making return visits).*

**Table 2.4: Total number of pregnant, lactating mothers and children who received direct nutrition service**

Health post nutrition	Amhara Region	Oromia Region	SNNP Region	Tigray Region	Total
# of children with diarrhoea provided with zinc	13,828	5,955	1,258	3,629	24,670
# of women provide with iron folate	35,487	22,219	30,041	11,307	99,054
# of postnatal women counselled on EBF and CF	85,275	46,476	34,294	16,589	182,634
<b>Health centre nutrition</b>					
# of pregnant women counselled	76,061	59,668	39,673	37,960	213,362
# of ANC women supplemented with iron folate	61,263	31,270	28,686	35,399	156,618
# of lactating women counselled	30,184	46,561	21,196	15,973	113,914
# of lactating women supplemented with iron–folate	14,762	11,783	10,394	11,707	48,646
# of babies (0-59 months ) assessed for malnutrition	135,163	78,445	75,670	98,396	387,674
Children with diarrhoea treated with oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc	23532	10867	2379	7142	43920
<b>HCs and HPs summary</b>					
Pregnant and lactating mother counselling on nutrition	191,520	152,705	95,163	70,522	509,910
Mothers received iron supplementation	111,512	65,272	69,121	58,413	304,318
Children with diarrhoea treated with oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc	37,360	16,822	3,637	10,771	68,590

#### **Use pregnant mother conferences to educate mothers on key nutrition messages**

In collaboration with government HFs, ENGINE used pregnant mother conferences to address nutrition practices during pregnancy and lactation, and demonstrated preparation of complementary foods from locally available foods. In the past year, ENGINE regional teams in all four regions supported 775 pregnant mothers’ conferences as a platform to promote key MIYCN behaviors. These conferences were attended by 27,623 pregnant women and 2324 male partners. The overall performance is 130 percent (724/550) because ENGINE use this forum organized by the *woreda* health bureaus and HPs to reach more households especially pregnant women and men. The number of conferences is determined by the *woredas* rather than ENGINE’s plan.

#### **Conduct food-cooking demonstrations to promote dietary diversity**

ENGINE is using FCDs at the community level to address low dietary diversity for mothers and children. During the reporting period, ENGINE supported 1962 FCD events at HPs, FTCs and schools, reaching 84 percent of the yearly target (1962/2329). Some of the FCD sessions are also integrated with women’s conferences. A total of 104,580 individuals, including 83,512 pregnant and lactating mothers attended the demonstration events (table 2.5). ENGINE promoted the importance of using iodized salt at 1962 FCDs, 262 women’s conferences and review meetings. ENGINE conducted household visits to aid mentorship and supportive supervision visits to monitor the outcome of FCDs.



Figure 4. Cooking and hand washing demonstration event, Wenchi Woreda, West Oromia

Table 2.5: Total participants of FCD events by regions

Region	Quarter I			Quarter II			Quarter III			Quarter IV			Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Amhara	1,186	5,308	6,494	1,919	7,395	9,314	814	5983	6797	344	1,340	1,684	4,263	20,026	24,289
Oromia	1,063	1,386	2,449	3,274	8,974	12,248	3350	11150	14500	3327	8256	11,583	11,014	29,766	40,780
SNNPR	1,406	8,358	9,764	1,158	5,041	6,199	1358	7181	8539	352	4771	5,123	4,274	25,351	29,625
Tigray	79	34	113	131	2,940	3,071	642	2539	3181	665	2856	3,521	1,517	8,369	9,886
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>15,086</b>	<b>18,820</b>	<b>6,482</b>	<b>24,350</b>	<b>30,832</b>	<b>6164</b>	<b>26853</b>	<b>33017</b>	<b>4,688</b>	<b>17,223</b>	<b>21,911</b>	<b>21,068</b>	<b>83,512</b>	<b>104,580</b>

#### Improve tools used by frontline health and agriculture workers to harmonize nutrition messaging

ENGINE's regional Amhara, Oromia and SNNP teams distributed counseling cards and briefcases to 1,722 HCs and HPs, reaching 80 percent (1,722/2148) of the HFs planned for the reporting period. The joint supportive supervisor team monitored and confirmed that health workers and health extension workers are using the materials for routine nutrition counseling. Tigray completed the distribution of job aids the last quarter of Year II.

## IR.2.2 Health and nutrition services seeking behaviors increased

### Strategy 2.2.1: Develop the social and behavior change communication strategy as it relates to health-seeking behaviors (discussed in IR 3.1 in detail)

#### Launch innovative mNutrition service to improve tools for health and agriculture workers

During this reporting period, ENGINE procured the required equipment and modems to run the new mNutrition service for health extension workers and DAs. The ENGINE team created the preliminary menu options, nutrition information for SMS, and drafted nutrition audio messages in English and Amharic about the 1000 days period. ENGINE conducted a rapid assessment and tested the messages in four regions to determine the accessibility and quality of the mNutrition service for frontline workers and to find ways to streamline the process. The Manoff Group provided technical assistance to ENGINE to launch the mNutrition service in-house. In Quarter IV, ENGINE started its innovative mNutrition service for 240 registered frontline workers (120 AEWs and 120 health extension workers) on September 2, 2014.

Text messages are being sent weekly to AEWs and health extension workers inviting them to call in and access the mNutrition Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. The key SMS and IVR messages were the importance of the four stages of the first 1000 days, illustrated using the sunflower concept: SEED (pregnancy to birth), SPROUT (birth to 6 months), BUD (6-12 months) and FLOWER (12-14 months). Two weeks after launching mNutrition, over 240 people had called in and accessed the service. After 10 SMS messages on 1000 days, breastfeeding, dietary diversity, earn and buy, gender and WASH, ENGINE will then assess the impact of the services by interviewing frontline workers and using the SMS software monitoring data. ENGINE will scale up the service to more frontline workers in Year IV if it is seen to be of value.

**Strategy 2.2.2: Mobilize communities to seek health/nutrition services**

During the reporting period, ENGINE finalized the sub-grant agreement with three local NGOs to implement its innovative ECC approach: 1) Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA) for Eastern Oromia, 2) Fayya Integrated Development Organization (FIDO), and 3) Ethiopia Twehado Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOTC-DICAC) for Amhara, Tigray, and SNNPR. ENGINE conducted a start-up workshop for these local NGOs to establish clear understanding of project expectations and how to expertly implement the ECC.

In Quarter IV, all three local NGOs finalized their agreements with the regional governments and recruited community change agents (CCAs). ENGINE developed the “*CCA Training Manual on ECCs*” for higher-level local NGO staff to fully understand the new approaches to implement the 1000 day nutrition program, which include ECCs and working with religious leaders. ENGINE conducted a TOT to train local NGO staff and CCA supervisors on the ECCs and arranged translation of the training manuals into three local languages. Local NGOs will use these comprehensive training and reference manuals to cascade trainings to CCAs, using interactive SBCC material and job aids.

The training of CCAs could not be conducted as planned. The community level implementation of ECC has been delayed and reprogrammed to Year IV for the following reasons: development and finalization the multi-media materials and manuals took longer because the creative company couldn’t deliver the materials on time; translation of the materials into three locally acceptable languages took longer than expected; the bid for printing all materials couldn’t be completed in a timely manner and it had to be re-bid. The selection process took longer because the printing companies were unable to provide all the required documentation; and the supplier who was selected to supply audio-player equipment couldn’t deliver as per the agreement.

ENGINE continued to support community conversations on nutrition and WASH conducted by health extension workers at the health post and community level. During the reporting period, ENGINE supported 465 community conversations at the community level.

## **IR 2.3: Access to health and nutrition services increased**

### **Strategy 2.3.1: Strengthen the referral system and access to essential supplies with maternal and child health services**

During the reporting period, a significant number of mothers and children accessed nutrition services (see strategy 2.1.2) in addition to the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), nutrition and HIV and Child Health Day (CHD) services.

#### **Support referral linkages of severe acute malnutrition cases**

During this reporting period, ENGINE facilitated the referral of 1225 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) children to HCs and hospitals in all four regions. More than two-thirds of the referrals and follow-ups were reported from Tigray and West Oromia.

#### **Link nutrition with other programs, especially WASH**

During the reporting period, ENGINE regional teams integrated promotion of WASH behaviors into on-going community level nutrition interventions including FCD events, community discussions, training and review meetings. All cooking demonstration participants learned about the importance of WASH at 1825 FCD events. The FCD platform was used to model and promote improved hygiene best practices in the areas of handwashing and sanitation. More than 85,000 community members benefited from WASH interventions.

#### **Support implementation of *woreda* Child Health Days**

CHDs are a community-based health implementation modality organized every quarter to screen for malnutrition in children under-5, as well as in pregnant and lactating women, and to provide group educational sessions for women and children. CHDs also provide vitamin A and de-worming every six months. During Year III, the project supported 83 target *woredas* with vitamin A and de-worming supplementation for children through 113 CHDs. A total of 1,090,252 and 760,595 children were supplemented with Vitamin A and deworming tablets during the last six months. The coverage was 92 percent (1,090,252/1,441,597) for vitamin A and 97 percent (760,595/716,276) for de-worming. ENGINE provided support by transporting nutrition commodities to sites, supporting CHD monitoring visits and review meetings and conducting post-CHD quality checks. ENGINE also facilitated referral of SAM cases to HCs and hospitals. ENGINE will continue supporting the routine vitamin A and de-worming efforts at the health center and health post levels in the four project regions.

### **IR 3: Prevention of undernutrition through community-based nutrition care practices improved**

ENGINE will implement its SBCC activities combining individual counseling with multiple communication channels to promote optimal nutrition and WASH behaviors. The SBCC strategy includes the counseling services provided by the government health extension service (health workers, health extension workers and DAs), at the individual and community level (See under IR 2.1, strategy 2.1.2), and will be guided by the findings of the formative research.

#### **Planned activities:**

- Analyse formative research data on maternal nutrition practices and barriers
- Package and disseminate formative research summaries into multi-format nutrition SBCC packages
- Redesign the 1000 Days radio magazine show
- Identify additional beneficiaries for LES support and continue support of existing households
- Establish and strengthen savings groups for most vulnerable households
- Support schools and FTCs in agronomic and cooking demonstrations
- Establish improved chicken multiplication interventions
- Monitor environmental compliance

#### **Accomplishments**

##### **IR 3.1 Maternal, infant and young child feeding knowledge and practices improved**

In Year III, ENGINE revised its SBCC work plan to reflect the current implementation status of its new and innovative SBCC because the preparatory activities including finalizing the formative research and materials, procuring the media equipment, and contracting out to local NGOs took longer than anticipated.

##### **Strategy 3.1.1: Develop the social and behavior change communication strategy through powerful formative research**

###### **Package and disseminate formative research summaries into multi-format nutrition SBCC packages**

In Year III, ENGINE, with TA from the Manoff Group, finalized a formative research report on maternal diet and nutrition behavioral influences and presented the findings to USAID and FtF partners. The SBCC team also prepared two draft Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCF) formative research reports, which were developed to supplement the formative research findings generated by the Alive & Thrive (A&T) study on mothers' IYCF practices in Tigray and SNNP. The reports focus on mothers' IYCF practices in Amhara and Oromia and fathers' IYCF practices in all four regions (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP).

The SBCC team analyzed data from ENGINE's formative research using the Household Agriculture-Nutrition Doable Actions (HANDS) framework to identify ideal practices, current behaviors, barriers and motivators for each of the five action areas: (1) Raise and grow; (2) Earn and buy; (3) Prepare, preserve and store; (4) Rest, share and eat; and (5) Discuss and decide together. The agriculture-nutrition formative research report was finalized in Quarter IV.

#### **Conduct and compile cultural resource inventories for nutrition SBCC strategy and materials**

In Year III, ENGINE produced a three-minute video on cultural resources and developed a cultural resources inventory template. The inventory findings were used to design the 'Gulichá' dietary diversity concept for ENGINE.

#### **Analyze formative research to develop SBCC strategy**

ENGINE finalized the revision of its SBCC strategy during Year III, using the findings from the formative research activities. At present the SBCC strategy, which has been shared with USAID, is being used to guide and design the SBCC materials.

### **Strategy 3.1.2: Promote optimal nutrition practices through dynamic communication channels**

#### **Support the rapid development of SBCC job aids for frontline workers**

ENGINE conducted concept testing of different areas of its SBCC activities in Year III. ENGINE also finalized the analysis of the large amount of data generated by the concept testing that focused on dietary diversity, 1000 days, gender, and maternal nutrition components. Based on the findings of the concept testing, ENGINE dedicated its efforts to the development and in-house design of innovative nutrition SBCC materials for ECC, which focus on the first 1000 days for MIYCN.

#### **Redesign the 1,000 Days radio magazine show**

During the third quarter, ENGINE's SBCC team explored ways to redesign the existing radio magazine program. The team is currently in the process of refining the ideas and developing a design document using innovative and interactive radio formats and other processes to deliver a 1000 Days radio magazine show. The design document will be finalized and aired in Year IV.

#### **Hire creative agency to support rapid development of SBCC job aids**

ENGINE hired a creative agency to support the rapid development of SBCC job aids for frontline workers. These aids included materials to facilitate dialogue and skill-building during the ECCs and take-home materials for pregnant women and their husbands, as well as for the parents of infants and young children. ENGINE's SBCC team worked with the creative agency to fast-track the development of nutrition messages and materials for target audiences, beginning with creative concept testing. ENGINE undertook rapid concept testing activities to understand gender dynamics and intra-couple communication practices within households as they related to nutrition practices. The rapid concept testing included several options for creative concepts to help facilitate understanding of the first 1000 Days and diet diversity. Concepts identified through the formative research as priorities for further testing, such as "snacking" vs. "eat an extra meal" for pregnant and lactating women and their families were tested, alongside the *Sunflower*, *Gulichá* and *Queen Been* concepts.

The main findings from the concept testing were used to design interactive SBCC materials and the findings were documented. Songs in Amharic, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna languages were written and composed and are in the final stages of production. Virtual facilitated scripts, which will be utilized in ECCs were also written in Amharic and translated into Tigrigna and Afan Oromo and are currently in the final stages of revision.

ENGINE's SBCC team, with technical support from the Manoff group was able to finalize the in-house design of innovative nutrition SBCC materials. Some of the materials produced include: positive role model testimony cards, interactive skills-building menu planning, earn-and-buy games, 1000 Day puzzle, couples role plays, an iron folic acid reminder calendar, and stickers. ENGINE will work closely with selected printing companies for the mass production of print and promotional SBCC materials, which will be used to roll out ECCs in Year IV. Please see the challenge in IR 2.2.

### **IR 3.2: Increased access to food and economic strengthening opportunities through programming and cross-sector linkage**

#### **Strategy 3.2.1: Apply economic strengthening activities in target geographical areas to address specific household vulnerabilities**

##### **Match economic opportunities with household interest and capabilities**

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided TA in the areas of livestock management, vegetable and fruit production to 7144 households in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions. As a result, the feeding, housing and the health conditions of the animals provided have improved. Fruit seedling management during the dry season also showed improvement due to mulching efforts to retain water. In addition, with the leadership of the *kebeles* and *wordeas* offices, ENGINE completed identification of 4,660 new most vulnerable households (MVHs) for LES support, representing 94 percent of the Year III target.

Both the internal and external mid-term evaluations showed that ENGINE's livelihood support, especially in the areas of homestead and poultry, increased household consumption of diversified food along with increasing income and expenditure on food.

##### **Strengthen most vulnerable households saving groups and initiate saving**

The LES team drafted savings group formation guidelines to facilitate linkages to micro financial service providers. Of the 480 savings groups established in Year II (171) and Year III, a total of 320 saving groups were strengthened in collaboration with formal microfinance institutions and the *woreda* cooperative promotion office, which represents 161 percent of the annual target. The annual target was surpassed by 61 percent due to strengthening of 149 saving groups established in Year III. Out of the 320 strengthened saving groups, 176 were formally linked to microfinance institutions (MFIs) or savings and credit associations, constituting 148 percent of the annual target. The groups opened saving accounts with MFIs and started savings accounts in their names and now have accesses to loans as required. The MFIs also offered support in business planning and financial management, benefiting the saving group members.

##### **Establish most vulnerable households s savings groups in Year I, II and III woredas**

In Year III, ENGINE established a total of 309 savings groups in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions, reaching 75 percent of the annual target. This accomplishment is encouraging as it is dependent on the interest of the targeted households and is implemented with the support of the *woreda* office of cooperative promotion.

#### **Initiate regular group meetings to promote optimal vegetable and livestock productivity, gender, MIYCN and WASH behaviors**

In order to promote vegetable and livestock productivity, gender, MIYCN and WASH practices, the targeted groups conducted a series of group meetings. A total of 3,231 group meetings (representing 99 percent of the annual target) were conducted in the regions of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP.

#### **Train most vulnerable households in livelihood and economic strengthening inputs**

During the reporting period, a total of 5171 MVHs were trained in vegetable and fruit production, irrigation, water and livestock management (feed preparation, forage production and animal health), reaching 94 percent of the annual target. Particular emphasis was placed on introducing improved practices for horticulture and livestock management to MVHs, as well as nutrition and gender themes that focused on dietary diversification and the role of women in household decision-making. The training will help the participants to utilize the project support (vegetable seed and productive livestock) effectively and efficiently. The trainers were from the *Woreda* Office of Agriculture, Cooperative Promotion, Women and Youth Affairs Offices to ensure participation, ownership, follow up and sustainability as part of ENGINE's exit strategy.

#### **Marketing strategy for vegetables**

ENGINE hasn't implemented its planned marketing activities because it was found out that most of the households consumed the vegetables. There is also enough local market for the excess after ENGINE reduced the recommended plot size and amount and type of vegetable crops provided to households. ENGINE did a rapid assessment of marketing problems in 30 households, which showed marketing was not as such a major problem though some of the respondent indicated that the price of vegetable crops that they are receiving is below their expectations in the local markets.

### **Strategy 3.2.2: Facilitate community-based learning on agriculture techniques for increased production of diverse foods**

#### **Review performance of farmer training centers and schools**

In order to ascertain which schools and FTCs were able to conduct agronomic and cooking practice demonstrations sustainably, as well as to determine additional project support (vegetable and fruit planting materials) in the subsequent years, ENGINE conducted an assessment in Quarter I and prepared a report with recommended actions. The report was communicated to the respective field offices to take appropriate measures based on the recommendations. Most of the schools and FTCs with no access to water and lacking ownership were replaced with other schools and FTCs.

#### **Support schools in gardening, agronomic and cooking demonstrations**

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided a variety of vegetable seeds for 165 schools in the regions of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP to support school gardens and demonstrations. The number of schools that received the seeds accounted for 99 percent of the annual target. In addition to material support, the ENGINE team and *woreda* agriculture office experts provided on site TA to

the schools. The technical support focused on vegetable production, management of fruit seedlings and demonstration of agronomic and cooking practices. To support the school gardens, ENGINE also provided nutrition and school gardening training for 129 newly assigned focal teachers who replaced the previously trained teachers; this amounts to 77 percent of the annual target. While this appears low, it was found that fewer teachers needed to be replaced. In addition to the seed inputs, ENGINE supported schools to organize agronomic and cooking practice demonstration events in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions to promote dietary diversification and MIYCN to the wider communities. As shown in tables 3.1 and 3.2 below, a total of 10,564 individuals attended agronomic practice demonstrations at 119 events, and 12,840 individuals attended the 95 cooking demonstrations. The overall performance was 85 and 103 per cent for individuals who participated in agronomic and cooking demonstrations respectively.

**Table 3.1: Number of individuals participating in agronomic practice demonstration events in schools**

Region	Year III target	Semi-annual	Quarter III	Quarter IV	Total	Annual % accomplishment
	# of individuals	Individuals participated				
Tigray	1206	1721	432	77	2230	185%
Amhara	3315	612	2212	97	2921	88%
Oromia	5124	2021	512	878	3411	67%
SNNP	2863	1348	150	504	2002	70%
Total	12,508	5702	3306	1556	10564	85%

**Table 3.2: Number of individuals participating in cooking demonstration events in schools**

Region	Year III target	Semi-annual	Quarter III	Quarter IV	Total	Annual % accomplishment
	# of individuals	Individuals participated				
Tigray	1206	102	734	238	1074	89%
Amhara	3315	89	2,212	1230	3531	107%
Oromia	5124	1325	2703	1943	5971	117%
SNNP	2863	1067	921	276	2264	80%
Total	12,508	2583	6570	3687	12840	103%

#### **Support farmers training centers in agronomic and cooking demonstration**

ENGINE supported a total of 114 FTCs with vegetable seeds and fruit seedlings during the reporting period (table 3.3), exceeding the target by 2 percent. In addition to the provision of plant material, the ENGINE team together with *woreda* agriculture office experts provided on-site TA to these FTCs. Technical support focused on vegetable production and fruit seedling management.

**Table 3.3: Number of farmers training centers supported by regions**

Region	Year III target	Number of FTCs supported				Annual % accomplishment
		Semi-annual	Quarter III	Quarter IV	Total	
Tigray	9	12			12	133%
Amhara	25	14	16		30	122%
Oromia	38	16	28		44	116%
SNNP	21	28			28	132%
Total	93	70	44	0	114	127%

ENGINE also organized agronomic practice and cooking demonstration events at FTCs in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP regions. As indicated in tables 3.4 and 3.5, a total of 13,177 individuals attended agronomic practice demonstration events and 7,091 individuals attended cooking demonstration events. The accomplishment of the agronomic demonstrations is positive, with the number of individuals participating represented 128 percent of the annual targets respectively. The overachievement was mainly due to the fact that Quarter IV was rainy season, during which FTCs have access to water to demonstrate homestead gardening.

**Table 3.4: Number of individuals participating in agronomic practice demonstration events in farmers' training centers**

Region	Year III target	Semi-annual	Quarter III	Quarter IV	Total	Annual % accomplishment
	# of individuals					
Tigray	993	1080	861	86	2,027	204.1%
Amhara	2,731	1879	505	1,030	3,414	125%
Oromia	4,220	425	1,482	4,895	6,802	161.2%
SNNP	2,358	365	205	364	934	39.6%
Total	10302	3749	3,053	6,375	13,177	127.9%

**Table 3.5: Number of individuals participating in cooking demonstration events in farmers training centers**

Region	Year III target	Semi-annual	Quarter III	Quarter IV	Total	Annual % accomplishment
	# of individuals					
Tigray	993	800	372	648	1,020	103%
Amhara	2,731	2200	377	641	2,753	101%
Oromia	4,220	1200	374	81	1,250	30%
SNNP	2,358	2800	620	364	2,068	88%
Total	10302	7000	1,743	1,734	7,091	69%

**Support most vulnerable households in homestead production**

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided 11,257 MVHHs (selected in Years I, II and III) with various vegetable seeds including cabbage, carrot, Swiss chard, Irish potato, sweet potato (orange and white flesh), pumpkin, green beans and kale in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions (table 3.6). The overachievement is due to the fact those MVHHs in Amhara and SNNPR who have access to irrigation were supported twice. It was observed most MVHHs were able to diversify their diets and sell excess vegetable products after consumption from these inputs. Some MVHHs have benefited from the income by purchasing foods, heifers and chicken to address their livelihood and nutritional needs. Model MVHHs homestead gardens were used to demonstrate agronomic practices to communities. In Year III, 6225 farmers attended the demonstrations in all regions.

**Table 3.6: Number of most vulnerable households provided with vegetable seeds by regions**

Region	Year III target	Number of MVHHs reached				Annual % accomplishment to date
		Semi-annual	Quarter III	Quarter IV	Total	
Tigray	999		994		994	99.5%
Amhara	2,526	1284	1,451	1129	3,864	152.3%
Oromia	3,794	2357	1,617	79	4,053	106.8%
SNNP	1,895	2012	334		2,346	123.8%
Total	9,214	5653	4,396	1208	11,257	122.2%

**Designing a sustainable seed strategy for homestead vegetable**

In Quarter I, ENGINE drafted a sustainable vegetable seed supply strategy, which provides possible mechanisms to acquire vegetable seeds for MVHHs and other communities for sustainable production in ENGINE project areas. Based on the sustainable seed supply strategy developed, ENGINE conducted a preliminary assessment in seven out of the ten selected model *woredas* to identify potential seed dealers to be supported by ENGINE for sustainable vegetable seed supply in the *woredas*. The assessment showed that linking cooperatives and private vendors with suppliers

would be the best approach to provide seeds in the project areas for the following reasons: they have a presence at the district level; they already exist as suppliers for crop seeds; and they are trusted by the community. ENGINE will implement the approach in 10 *woredas* in Year IV.

ENGINE, in partnership with Holeta Agricultural Research Centre, trained field staff and *woreda* agriculture experts from *woredas* where apple seedlings were distributed, in apple management practices.

#### Support most vulnerable households with productive livestock

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided 5,429 MVHHs with productive livestock (heifers, sheep, goats and chicken) based on their interest and capacity (table 3.7). This marks 95 percent of the annual target. The MVHs were trained in improved livestock management practice, backyard forage development, feed preservation techniques and animal healthcare. ENGINE facilitated the vaccination and deworming of all purchased animals against serious livestock diseases.

In Year III, ENGINE increased the number of dairy heifer distributions to target households that have access to better-feed reserves and possess the management capacity to raise cows. ENGINE also shifted to provision of locally adapted improved chickens to more MVHs. ENGINE, in partnership with public owned Kombolcha Poultry Resource Development Enterprise in Amhara, distributed 3,366 improved chicken breed (known as Koekoek) for 198 MVHHs in 13 *Woredas*. Households were trained in homemade chicken feed preparation and were linked with nearby public veterinary services for vaccination and treatment services.

**Table 3.7: Number of most vulnerable households provided with productive livestock by regions**

Region	Year III target	Number of MVHHs provided with productive livestock					Annual % accomplishment to date
		Quarter I	Quarter II	Quarter III	Quarter IV	Year III total	
Tigray	505	125	278	93	177	673	133%
Amhara	1,389	122	482	611	31	1,246	89%
Oromia	2,638	63	283	1,216	1,009	2,571	97%
SNNP	1,200	115	131	355	353	939	78%
Total	5,732	410	1,174	2,275	1,570	5,429	94%

Household assets and income increased as a result of sheep and goat rearing activities. In one case in West Oromia, ENGINE assessed sheep and goat reproductive performance, which showed 75.7 percent, 88 percent and 59 percent respectively for reproductive performance on flocks raised 13 months since provision. The households generated 45,560 Birr from the sale of 100 newborn sheep and goats. Observed from regular field visits showed that MVHs had purchased dairy cows from the sale of small livestock. In SNNPR, MVHHs who manage their chickens well and use homemade feed have been collecting 8-9 eggs per day from 14-15 hens. An ENGINE internal study on the distributed chickens indicated that eggs were used for household consumption, hatched to replace the old stock and also to generate income from sale of surplus eggs. Households that had received heifers had consumed more milk and milk products and were able to generate income from selling surplus milk.

In Quarter three of the reporting year, an unusually prolonged dry season resulted in an increase in livestock deaths in the Wabe Burkitu Kebele of the West Arsi Zone. ENGINE responded in collaboration with *woreda* animal health workers by providing strategic treatment against parasitic infestations and microbial diseases associated with drought, and provided supplementary feed to sheep and goats in 41 households.

In Year III, in order to address a locally adaptable improved chicken market supply inadequacy, ENGINE facilitated public-private partnerships between public research centers and small-scale private chicken producers to improve the chicken supply chain. In this effort, ENGINE partnered with Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Center (DZARC) to access parent stock of the desired chicken breed and link with private growers. Two-month-old chickens will be supplied to MVHS supported by ENGINE. During Quarter IV, ENGINE in collaboration with the center, provided training for nine selected private chicken growers, government livestock experts and ENGINE staff. The center has raised 420 parent stock and delivered to the selected private chicken multiplication units; 210 parents stock each for Amhara and Oromia regions.

The supplier couldn't deliver two mini-hatchery combined machines as planned, but it is expected to be able to make the delivery in October 2014. Using this new and sustainable approach, ENGINE will start distributing chicken to 300 MVHHs in Quarter I of Year IV.

#### **Secure additional funding for cost share**

Various Save the Children private donors visited ENGINE activities during the reporting period. They expressed appreciation for ENGINE's work to empower women and most vulnerable households. Two private donors pledged to scale up this work to more beneficiaries and support the existing next livestock ladder to ensure their household food security. Athene/Gaming for Good provided 201,178 USD and Mr. Gordon donated 150,000 USD as a cost share towards the project. The funds will support 1565 MVHHs who had received sheep or goats in Years I and II to purchase heifers using a matching fund approach. Using this approach, 65 percent of the purchased heifer's market value will be paid by the selected HHs, while the remaining 35 percent is matched from the funding.

#### **Support post-harvest technology workshops and/or demonstrations**

During Year III, the LES team developed training materials on pre and post-harvest handling and storage of fresh vegetables and fruits, which have been incorporated into the vegetable and fruit production guideline training package.

#### **Support agricultural research on nutrition**

In Quarter II, ENGINE in an effort to support federal and regional agricultural research institutes involved in nutrition-sensitive areas of research, invited the institutes to submit both technical and financial proposals to conduct nutrition sensitive agricultural research or to promote nutrition sensitive agricultural research outcomes to the communities. This activity, as well as budgeting was reprogrammed because none of the institution applied.

#### **Livelihood effectiveness study**

In order to ascertain the extent to which ENGINE intervention packages contribute to consumption and expenditures of products produced by the household, and to assess the effectiveness of the various livelihoods packages delivered to beneficiaries, ENGINE partner LOL conducted a livelihood effectiveness study. The draft report produced by LOL was not acceptable to ENGINE in terms of the overall content of the report as well as the data quality and analysis. A revised report was produced in Quarter IV, which will be reviewed and finalized early in Year IV.

**Introduce social micro-insurance mechanisms for livestock among targeted MVHs**

Saving groups were provided with an orientation on the benefit of contributing money for livestock health insurance as part of an introduction to micro-insurance mechanisms. During the reporting period, all 30 planned saving groups have started contributing money in addition to their regular savings. The contributed money has been used for immediate cash needed to pay for sick animals treated in credit. The credit system involves a repayment plan, and the long-term goal of this approach is to be able to finance the replacement of animals in instances of death.

**Environmental compliance**

**Animal feed and feeding:** ENGINE has continued purchasing animals from the local market to avoid extra livestock stocking rates and additional pressure on the existing pasture. In addition, 5171 MVHs received training and TA on forage development.

**Animal Health:** In order to protect distributed animals from livestock diseases and maximize productivity, animals received vaccination against Anthrax, Black leg, Pastureulosis, PPR, and Pox, depending on the type of animal and area prevalence. All chickens distributed by ENGINE were vaccinated based on the recommendation of National Veterinary Institute (NVI) chicken vaccination calendar against NCD, Gumboro, Fowl typhoid and Mareks.

**Table 3.8: Environmental mitigation and monitoring**

Activity description	Mitigation measures	Monitoring Indicator(s)	Output	Comment
			# of people trained	
Provide selected vulnerable households and women's groups with livestock and seedlings for production of fruits and vegetables	Provide training of feed preparation, forage production, livestock management and veterinary services	# of people trained on feed and livestock management	5171	5171 households received training on forage production and feed reserve
	Provide required vaccinations for livestock	# of animals vaccinated	33,490	During the reporting period, 33,490 animals have been vaccinated. All animals received a thorough animal health examination by a government veterinary officer.

## **IR 4: Rigorous and innovative learning agendas adopted**

### **Planned activities:**

- Implement Operational Research (OR)
- Build capacity of MSc students in nutrition
- Establish PhD program in nutrition
- Implement project M&E system and database
- Conduct data quality assessments at health facilities
- Assist in evidence-based health sector planning

### **Accomplishments**

## **IR 4.1 Design and delivery of a research strategy**

### **Strategy 4.1.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy**

#### **Birth cohort study**

This study aims to establish the effectiveness of direct and indirect interventions targeting maternal and child nutrition and health outcomes. During Year III, Tufts and Jimma University finalized the birth cohort study proposal and initiated data collection during the second quarter. The study team recruited 3,303 pregnant women (90.7 percent achievement from the plan) out of whom 1,509 have given birth. A total of 1,419 mother-infant pairs are currently being followed, while a total of 98 participants have been excluded from the study so far, eight of them left prior to giving birth. Recruitment of pregnant women in to the study, data collection through interviews and measurements are currently progressing smoothly, with approximately 48 interviews and measurements taking place each day.

During the reporting period, the research team conducted seven supportive supervision visits to provide technical and administrative support to data collectors and supervisors. The team provided on-the-spot feedback to resolve data quality issues based on data manager reports and distributed study supplies.

#### **Agriculture-nutrition survey panel**

This study examines the role of ENGINE in affecting nutrition, food security, and livelihoods outcomes through its integrated programming.

ENGINE, in partnership with Tufts and Jimma University, developed the study proposal and launched the first round (post-harvest) of quantitative data collection with a team of six supervisors and 26 data collectors in ten *woredas* across SNNP and Oromia regions, and finalized in Quarter II. In March 2014, the team collected qualitative data by conducting 32 focus group discussions and 30 key informant interviews in five *woredas*. Preliminary analysis of the qualitative data was done and fed into the ENGINE internal mid-term review report. The cleaning and analysis of the first round (post-

harvest survey) quantitative and qualitative data are currently ongoing, and are anticipated to be completed in the first quarter of Year IV.

ENGINE conducted a 12-day training for 37 trainees (6 supervisors, 26 enumerators and 5 reserves) on study protocol, sampling method, study tools, ODK and electronics data collection instrument (tablets) for the second round (pre-harvest) survey. The second round or pre-harvest data collection started data collection in late Quarter IV and it is expected that it will be completed on November 9 in SNNPR and November 19 in Oromia.

#### **Nutrition policy research**

The aim of this research was to elicit insights from among key policymakers and stakeholders on the process of implementing interventions along a chain leading from central (government) to the frontline (*woreda*) level in Ethiopia. It also examined how a range of policies and programs get translated from the design phase (on paper) to the implementation phase (in practice). During the reporting period, the nutrition policy research was finalized and a manuscript from the same piece research with a title “An examination of the dynamics of nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia: Facilitators and Constraints at National and Sub-national level” and submitted for publication in the Food Policy Journal. The findings of the research were orally presented at the Global Micronutrient Forum on July 4 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

#### **Secondary data analysis research**

During this reporting period, ENGINE with partners, Tufts, Jimma and Hawassa University researchers, completed data analyses and write up of two research reports and seven abstracts using four secondary datasets that include: 1) HIES - Household Income and Expenditure Survey (2000, 2004 & 2011), 2) WMS - Welfare Monitoring Survey (2000, 2004 & 2011), 3), DHS - (2000, 2004 & 2011), and 4) LSMS - Living Standard Measurement Survey (2013).

- The following three abstracts have been submitted to Experimental Biology for publication:
- Factors associated with stunting in Ethiopian children under 5: A comparison of DHS 2000, 2005 and 2011.
- Risk factors associated with stunting in Ethiopian children under-5 vary by wealth quintile
- Dairy consumption is associated with a lower risk of stunting in Ethiopian children 6-24 months of age.
  
- An additional four manuscripts have been finalized and are ready to be disseminated.
- Trends and variability of wasting and underweight in under-five children in Ethiopia using 2000, 2005 and 2011 DHS data (Jimma University)
- Predictors of household dietary diversity/nutrient adequacy in Ethiopia: A secondary analysis of the National Household Income Consumption and Expenditure (HICE) and WMS data (Jimma University)
- The role of post-harvest handling practices in achieving sufficient food security and nutritional status in Ethiopia (Hawassa University)

- Does livestock ownership predict dietary diversity score of under-two year children in rural Ethiopia? (Hawassa University)

#### **Research capacity building**

ENGINE continued to support research capacity building of local universities and research institutes. During the reporting period, seven PhD students (two from EHNRI (now EPHI), two from Hawassa, three from Jimma) have been registered for a joint PhD Human Nutrition program at Jimma University, Ethiopia and Ghent University, Belgium.

In Year III, ENGINE also supported 21 graduating MSc students from Gondar, Jimma and Hawassa universities to conduct investigative research on food security, micronutrient, determinants of undernutrition, and related areas for their theses. To date, ENGINE has supported 56 students from five government universities. In this reporting period, ENGINE prepared/extracted summaries of 22 completed theses findings to print and disseminate in a workshop to be held in Year IV. ENGINE, through Tufts University, also supported four MSc students in the Applied Nutrition and Food Science and Post-Harvest Technology Program (Hawassa University) in their MSc research projects.

#### **Moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition operational research studies**

Both the MAM and SAM OR studies have continued in Year III under the SCI-JU agreement. During Year III, the role of Valid International was adjusted from a sub-prime partner to international STTA support to support these studies. ENGINE and Jimma University have finalized the MAM study during this reporting period while the SAM study is still ongoing. ENGINE conducted eight rounds of supportive supervision trips to study sites to ensure quality data collection.

#### **Moderate acute malnutrition**

The MAM OR is designed to provide evidence on whether there is a need for a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) in food-secure settings of rural Ethiopia. The study began in August 2013 in the Dedo and Mana *woredas* of Jimma zone, where 927 moderately acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months were enrolled to be followed for seven months. ENGINE finalized collection of data on 923 children at baseline, weekly, monthly and endline and is currently finalizing the write up. Further data cleaning during the analysis prompted the exclusion of 39 children who were ineligible, either due to being out of the age range or being given the classification of nutritional status at the time of enrolment. As a result, final data was computed for 884 children. Out of 884 children who participated in the study, 3.7 percent (33/884) defaulted and 0.9 percent (8/884) died during follow-up, giving 95.4 percent of successful follow-up until the end of the study. The study team will finalize the write up and results will be disseminated during the first quarter of Year IV.

#### **Severe acute malnutrition**

The objective of the SAM OR is to determine the long-term health outcomes of children age 6-59 months who have been successfully treated for SAM in a community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) program compared with a control group of children under-5 in the same community. The study team began recruiting eligible children in September 2013 in three *woredas* (Dedo, Seka Chekorsa and Tiro Afata) of Jimma zone. By 30 September, 2014, 436 children (218 cases and 218 controls) were enrolled in the study. This constitutes 92 percent of the intended sample size. The enrolment will continue until the desired sample size is (237 cases and 237 controls) reached.

In Year III, twenty-two children (11 cases and 11 controls) have completed their one-year follow up period. The remaining study participants will be under follow-up until they attain the one year follow-up period. Due to the timeline of the project, some children will not have a full year for follow-up before the study is finalized. The baseline, monthly, mid-term and endline data are entered in a pre-designed database as they arrive from field and the data entry is currently up to date.

## **IR 4.2: Develop and manage an innovative documentation and dissemination strategy**

### **Baseline survey**

During this reporting period, the ENGINE team finalized the analysis and write up of the baseline survey and the results have been disseminated at various forums and with USAID. The results were shared with ENGINE regional offices in an easy to digest format for dissemination among regional, zonal and *woreda* level stakeholders.

### **Mid-term evaluation**

During Year III, ENGINE successfully completed the external and internal mid-term evaluation as planned, with the exception of the livelihood effectiveness study, which the ENGINE team feels has data quality issues. The report is undergoing review and will be finalized in Year IV. ENGINE also provided all the necessary information, support and feedback to USAID's external mid-term evaluation. Both the internal and external evaluations concluded that ENGINE is on track to achieve most of its goals and made recommendations regarding where the project needs improvement. Main areas for improvement or adjustment were found to be: SBCC, WASH, and knowledge management and sharing. ENGINE plans to address most of these recommendations during Year IV and V, and these recommendations have been addressed in the work plan for Year IV.

### **ENGINE planning and review meetings**

ENGINE conducted a Year III performance review and Year IV planning workshop in Hawassa from 25-28 August 2014. ENGINE Year IV performance report, ENGINE baseline survey and midterm evaluation results presentations, and Year IV planning / group work were the major undertakings of the workshop. A total of 128 participants attended the workshop. ENGINE also conducted a national multi-sectoral review workshop with the objective of reviewing Year III project performance with multi-sectoral bodies; sharing the experiences of implementing nutrition sensitive agriculture at the community level; and identifying and facilitating opportunities to enhance collaboration to improve nutrition results in ENGINE implementation regions. Thirty-two participants of diversified background, including delegates from ministries, agricultural and health research institutes, regional health bureaus, *woreda* health and agriculture offices and ENGINE staff members attended the workshop. The output of both review meetings were used to inform the Year IV work plan.

ENGINE, in collaboration with *woreda*, zonal desk, and regional health and agricultural bureaus, supported and facilitated 146 out of 166 *woreda* and zonal level performance review meetings planned for the fiscal year. These meetings were integrated with regular *woreda* level meetings. ENGINE presented project overviews, project performance, and initiated discussion among the participants of the meetings. The ultimate goal of these meetings was to generate lessons learned

and identify gaps in the project implementation to improve overall project performance. Some of the topics discussed included: reviewing the performance and quality of health, nutrition and LES activities; joint supportive supervision findings and the way forward; multi-sectoral coordination; and availability of nutrition commodities (micronutrient supplies). The *woredas* also crafted action plans in response to gaps identified during the meeting.

#### **Data quality issues during the reporting period**

In the fiscal year, ENGINE continued providing the regular onsite mentoring and supportive supervision on recording, reporting, data utilization and data quality at service delivery points (school, FTCs, health centers and health posts) as well as higher reporting levels based on the existing government systems through its regional M&E officers and zonal coordinators. Moreover, the central M&E team also conducted two data quality assessments in Quarters I & IV in all supported regions that addressed regional aggregation and service delivery points (school, FTCs, health centers and health posts) in the four target regions. The objective of the assessment was to verify the quality of reported data; assess the reporting and recording system; and implement corrective action based on the findings.

The result of the routine data quality assessment (RDQA) showed that data accuracy was at acceptable level for most of the indicators reviewed. It also highlighted that recording and reporting practices for ENGINE health and nutrition indicators are integrated into the *woreda* health management information system at some of the ENGINE *woredas*. The assessment also highlighted the importance of standardization of recording and reporting tools across ENGINE supported sites and *woredas*. ENGINE provided prompt feedback to the regions and revised its standard operating procedure (SOP) for data quality to cover all data quality dimensions, reporting and recording guidelines and ENGINE database. Given the priority of other competing activities, the central M&E team provided remote technical support and monitoring via telephone and e-mail for Quarter II and III for which regular data quality assessment was not done.

## **Cross-cutting activities: Gender**

### **Gender**

#### **Planned activities for Year III:**

- Develop and share ENGINE Gender Strategy document
- Integrate gender into ENGINE training manuals
- Build capacity of ENGINE staff and partners on gender and nutrition
- Support ENGINE regional team in implementing gender-related activities

ENGINE accomplished the following gender-related major activities during the reporting period:

#### **Finalized gender strategy**

The ENGINE gender strategy was finalized at the beginning of Year III. This document is designed to guide the implementation of gender integration into all ENGINE activities.

### **Integrating gender in ENGINE training (health workers, program managers, agriculture workers)**

Gender awareness training has been added as a component of capacity building training being provided by ENGINE at regional, zonal and *woreda* levels.

### **Adapting gender mainstreaming guidelines for ENGINE**

The gender mainstreaming guidelines have been adapted with the objective of providing direction for ENGINE staff on integrating gender issues into ENGINE project components. In its contents the document highlights the objective and rationale of gender mainstreaming and its meaning, main concepts of gender and how they are related to nutrition and the specific guidelines to integrate gender in each project.

### **Organized familiarization workshop to disseminate the findings of the gender analysis and gender mainstreaming strategy of ENGINE**

During Year III, one national workshop was organized to share the gender assessment findings (gender analysis) and ENGINE gender strategy. A total of 13 participants from government and NGOs (mainly gender focal persons) participated in the workshop. Valuable input for a strategy document was obtained from the forum.

### **Conducting gender awareness/sensitization training for ENGINE regional staff**

In Year III, ENGINE organized gender awareness training for regional staff to promote gender sensitivity and enable gender mainstreaming into project activities. A total of 74 (seven female) ENGINE staff from the four regions (six from Tigray, 16 from East Oromia, 16 from West Oromia, 18 from SNNPR, and 18 from Amhara) participated in the training. The major topics addressed in the training were: the concept of gender and sex; definition of gender roles, gender based division of labor and its relation to nutrition; the importance of gender analysis; male engagement; how to mainstream gender in ENGINE; and orientation on the gender mainstreaming supportive supervision checklist.

### **Supportive supervision**

Six rounds of supportive supervision visits have been conducted to provide technical support to the regional teams. Women groups, health centers, FTCs and schools in four ENGINE target regions

## **II. Integration of WASH into nutrition**

### **Planned activities for Year III:**

- Develop WASH SBCC strategy and detailed plan for WASH integration
- Conduct assessments to inform WASH program and WASH related SBCC designing
- Review existing ENGINE working documents and integrate WASH strategic activities in to them
- Build capacity of ENGINE staff and partners to implement nutrition-related WASH activities

- Provide support to the regional teams to successfully implement the WASH program

## Major accomplishments

### WASH stakeholders mapping

ENGINE conducted WASH stakeholder mapping assessment in Quarter II of Year III. The purpose of the assessment was to identify the main actors, projects and locations of WASH activities in Ethiopia. The study identified major WASH stakeholders in Addis Ababa and conducted a series of interviews to successfully map the WASH landscape. The report is included in the annex.

### Conducted WASH observational assessment

ENGINE in collaboration with the Manoff group and 12 PCVs conducted a WASH observational assessment in 12 ENGINE WASH *woredas*. The purpose of the assessment was to provide qualitative information about current household water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices, as well as to support the design of a social and behavior change (SBC) program that helps to reduce the risk for environmental enteropathy among children, thereby enhancing their ability to maintain essential nutrients. The assessment findings revealed that children less than two years of age face serious WASH challenges as almost all households have poor access to improved water supply, clean and safe child environments, and poor sanitation and hygiene practices. The study documented the many ways that young rural children can and do come into contact with human and animal faeces. It also highlighted some of the key implications for SBCC programming in support of improved WASH and nutritional outcomes for young children in ENGINE project areas. The result of the assessment was used to design ENGINE's WASH component.

### Conduct workshop to prepare WASH detailed implementation plan

ENGINE conducted a workshop to develop a WASH detailed implementation plan (DIP) for the period between June and September 2014. The DIP was prepared in line with draft WASH implementation strategy and proposed WASH focused interventions.

### Conduct rapid assessment on willingness to pay for WASH hardware (household water filters, floor mats and construction of separate rooms for livestock)

ENGINE conducted a willingness to pay assessment with the aim of examining household willingness to pay for WASH products (improved floor mats, household water filters from the United States and India, (Sawyer<sup>10</sup> and Tulip<sup>11</sup>)) and willingness to contribute to construct a separate room for livestock. The findings revealed that the proportion of households that are willing to pay for household water filters—Sawyer and Tulip, were 34, 33, and 42 percent respectively, while about 36 percent showed willingness to pay for a separate room for livestock. ENGINE is in discussion with regional team and *woreda* officials how to implement collection of households' contribution for these WASH interventions.

**Comment [sj5]:** This is unclear, what do these three percentages represent, willingness to pay for the two water filters?

### Promoting clean compounds

The objective of this activity was to create awareness and mobilize households to keep their environment and households clean, as well as creating a clean and healthy environment for children.

<sup>10</sup> Sawyer is a household water filter imported from USA that costs about 986 ETB and assumed to serve for more than 10 years.

<sup>11</sup> Tulip is a household water filter imported from India, that costs about 368 ETB and assumed to serve for 1-2 years

It also aims to prevent exposure of children to human and animal faeces. Accordingly, a total of 369 (out of 581 plan) households (63.5 percent) were reached with appropriate messages and mobilized to clean their environments.

#### **Conduct school WASH inventory**

ENGINE conducted inventories of WASH in schools with the objective of providing information to establish or revitalize school WASH and nutrition clubs. These clubs are designed to pass child-focused WASH and nutrition information from children to siblings and families. The inventory was conducted in Tigray, East Oromia and SNNPR, while they could not be conducted in West Oromia and Amhara due to competing priorities. The inventory was conducted in 35 schools (44 percent of the plan) in Tigray and SNNPR, reports have yet to be finalized from East Oromia.

#### **Review of existing project training and counseling tools for inclusion of WASH**

The team reviewed the existing ENGINE training and counseling tools and proposed strategic points for the inclusion of WASH, including proper household water treatment and safe storage, proper management of human excreta in general and child faeces management in particular, proper handling of children's food and the need for handwashing at critical times.

#### **Supportive supervision to WASH implementation sites**

The ENGINE WASH team made supportive visits to West Oromia, East Oromia and SNNPR and provided technical support on how to manage willingness to pay assessment interventions and also provided training to field staff.

**Major Challenges in the reporting period: September 27, 2013 to September 28, 2014**

In 2013/2014, ENGINE was faced with the following challenges, but came up with solutions to each of the challenges as listed below:

Challenges	Actions
<p>As it has been reported in the previous quarters, ENGINE has been facing a challenge in accessing households directly, especially for nutrition counseling and community conversation, as partners are not allowed to work directly with the government's community agents known as HDA members.</p>	<p>ENGINE has been using the following action points to address challenges faced in accessing households:</p> <p>Provide frequent TA visits to the health posts and participate in review meetings. This needs more zonal, and in some places, <i>woredas</i> level staff and vehicles because the number of health posts covers more than 1500 <i>kebeles</i>.</p> <p>The above request was submitted to USAID as part of the 18 month planned activities and expenditure plan. The project has planned to hire zonal coordinators.</p> <p>ENGINE will pilot and scale-up community conversation, with a focus on dietary diversification through local NGOs who have an existing community structure and are trusted by the government to access households and HDAs. Finalized agreement with three local NGOs</p> <p>ENGINE also used the 'one to five' health center to health post structure to build the capacity of health workers supporting health extension workers to improve the nutrition counseling service. This is carried out using the existing community structure developed by the government and referred to as the "one to five" approach. It pairs five health extension workers with one lead health worker and five HDAs with one lead HDA. The health extension workers are responsible for selecting, mentoring and supervising the HDAs. The HEWs partner with HDAs and the households and communities in promoting optimal behaviors.</p>
<p>The geographical scale up and implementation of 17 non-AGP <i>woredas</i> was delayed because of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Delayed approval by FMoH and regional health bureaus, especially SNNPR.</li> <li>2) GRAD raised a concern regarding the workload of this partnership on the already busy GRAD community facilitators and VESAs and the need for additional budget, which was later approved by USAID.</li> <li>3) GRAD took time to convince its local partners about the partnership and budget issue</li> <li>4) The short-term nature of GOAL's mandate. ENGINE felt that the partnership needed to be piloted for at least one year to allow enough time for quality implementation and documentation of lessons-learned, this was agreed with USAID.</li> </ol>	<p>The process has taken longer than expected. However:- ENGINE suggested a list of GRAD and GOAL <i>woredas</i> that was accepted by USAID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USAID facilitated the partnership and allocated budget for GRAD</li> <li>- ENGINE is working with GRAD and GOAL and USAID resolved most of the issues.</li> <li>- GRAD sent letters to partners to use existing budget until the new budget is allocated.</li> </ul>

**Major constraints/challenges and actions to overcome them**

Geographical and seasonal challenges to conduct integrated supportive supervision (ISS) at new facilities	During seasonal challenges, trainings and meetings are more focused on accessible HF targeted for ISS and coaching
Competing priorities on the Government side and engagement of DAs in routine activities, limiting the focus on ENGINE activity and implementation as planned	Prepare joint planning and negotiation with the government
Delayed ECC component of ENGINE's because the creative company couldn't deliver the multi-media materials on time  Procurement of printing companies took longer because there were no enough applicants and most submitted incomplete documents	ENGINE supported the company technically to speed up the process and sent warning letter to submit the deliverables  Printing companies are identified and their agreement is being finalized
Limited manpower to supervise all activities as required	Following the discussion with ENGINE management, it is agreed to recruit four additional livelihood zonal coordinators
High turnover of instructors who were trained for ETS and SBM-R and members of SBM-R team.	The team followed up the institutions to fill the gap by assigning new SBM-R team members and providing orientation for new staff and the management
Most skills lab materials requested by project supported institutions were not availability on the local market	ENGINE re-advertised the bid and as a last option requested quotations from renowned medical equipment suppliers in the city. However, most nutrition skills teaching materials were still not available on the local market. The remaining materials are planned to be procured in Year III from the international market.
The Agriculture TVET curriculum has a very limited possibility for integrating defined nutrition core competencies.	ENGINE tried to integrate the competencies into selected courses that can absorb the competencies relatively better than others. For future sustainability, further discussion with TVET agencies officials and agriculture bureau will be important in Year III.

## Financial Analysis

To date the project's expenditure is 28,052,495.86 USD. This includes direct labor, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, other direct costs and sub-agreements. This financial report doesn't include sub-primes expenditure for September. Note that this financial report is a preliminary report.

Life of Project budget (a)	Obligated to date (b)	Expenditure (Accrual and actual disbursement) to date (c)	Remaining balance (d) = (b) – (c)	Remarks
55,791,422.00	41,906,607.00	28,052,495.86	13,854,111.14	

## Annexes

### Annex I: TA Trip Reports



QIV ENGINE.zip

### Annex II: Work Plan and Performance Matrix



ENGINE Workplan  
Matrix, PMP and FTf

### Annex III. Success stories



Beseatu



Shewawork Neji

Mofida\_Success Stori\_Success Story Final.

### Annex IV: Amhara FtF field reports



Minutes of Regional  
FTF Partners being hc