



Save the Children

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

Year IV Semi Annual Progress Report

October 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

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Acronyms

ACoE	Academic Center of Excellence
AEWs	Agriculture Extension Workers
AGP	Agriculture Growth Program
ANC	Antenatal Care
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ATVET	Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training
BoFED	Finance and Economic Development Bureau
CCAs	Community Change Agents
CF	Combined feeding
CHDs	Child Health Days
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
CoE	Center of excellence
COP	Chief of Party
CQI	Continuous Quality Improvement
DAs	Development Agents
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
EBF	Exclusive breastfeeding
ECCs	Enhanced Community Conversations
EHNR	Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute
ENGINE	Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities
EOTC	Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
FCD	Food-cooking demonstrations
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMoA	Federal Ministry of Agriculture
FMoE	Federal Ministry of Education
FTC	Farmer training center
FtF	Feed the Future
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GRAD	Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development
HCs	Health Centers
HEWs	Health Extension Workers
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HP	Health Post
HWs	Health Workers
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
LES	Livelihood and economic strengthening
LNGOs	Local Non-Governmental Organizations
LOE	Level of effort
LOL	Land O' Lakes, Inc.

MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIYCN	Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MFI	Microfinance Institutions
MIYCN	Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MOI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVHHs	Most Vulnerable Households
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NNCB	National Nutrition Coordinating Body
NNP	National Nutrition Program
NNTC	National Nutrition Technical Committee
NSA	Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture
OR	Operational Research
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
PEPFAR	United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PI	Principal Investigator
PMP	Program Monitoring Plan
QI	Quality Improvement
RDQA	Routine Data Quality Assessment
RHB	Regional Health Bureau
RNCBs	Regional Nutrition Coordinating Bodies
RNTCs	Regional Nutrition Technical Committees
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
STTA	Short-term technical assistance
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region
SOW	Statement of Work
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
VESAs	Village Economic and Social Association
VI	Valid International
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
ZC	Zonal Coordinators

Executive summary

Project overview

Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities (ENGINE) is USAID's flagship integrated nutrition program, which aims to improve the nutritional status of Ethiopian women and children under-5. The primary objective of this five-year (2011-2016) program is to prevent under nutrition during the first 1,000 days, from conception until the child is 2 years old.

Save the Children leads the implementation of ENGINE through a strong multi-sectoral platform driven by evidence-based direct nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions that support existing government structures and synergistic partnerships with other USAID-funded projects. ENGINE has implemented its integrated nutrition package in 83 Agriculture Growth Program (AGP) (food secure) *woredas* and 17 non-AGP (food insecure) *woredas* and will initiate implementation in 16 additional *woredas* in Somali Region with a pastoralist approach in the next quarter.

Achievements and successes

ENGINE made significant progress toward reaching its objectives in Year IV covering the period from October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Nutrition multi-sector coordination and partnership

In the reporting period, ENGINE provided technical support and actively participated in nutrition working groups, particularly in preparation of the National Nutrition Program (NNP) 2016-2020. ENGINE contributed to working groups on agriculture, nutrition, multi-sector coordination, maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition (MIAYCN), gender and advocacy and social change. ENGINE also provided financial support for the first block write up workshop for drafting NNP revision. ENGINE also provided technical and financial support to the Annual Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Review Meeting and Capacity Building workshop, held in Addis Ababa in October. ENGINE, with other partners supported a capacity-building training workshop for members of the regional nutrition coordinating body and regional nutrition technical committees in Oromia and Tigray regions. ENGINE supported Amhara and Tigray regions in cascading the capacity building training to zonal and *woreda* level bodies in Quarters I and II. ENGINE, with regional health bureaus, also supported quarterly NNP regional multi-sector technical committee meetings in three regions. To further support the roll-out and implementation of NNP to *woreda* level, ENGINE supported 49 *woreda* multi-sector coordination meetings. The establishment and functioning of these bodies has led to concrete improvements in nutrition coordination as described in the body of the report. As Chair of the Feed the Future (FtF) nutrition technical working group (TWG), ENGINE organized quarterly TWG meetings in November 2014 and March 2015.

Nutrition advocacy and social and behavior change communication

In Quarter II, ENGINE conducted a second workshop with the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) religious leaders and church scholars to analyze data generated during the previous workshop (Sept 2014). Utilizing the data analysis, content for a sermon guide was developed based on Ethiopian Orthodox teachings on thematic areas related to fasting and pregnancy, fasting during lactation, fasting and children under-5 and gender roles/family support during the first 1000 days. Church scholars and preachers are compiling the sermon guide to clarify church teachings. The guide will be presented to the overall assembly of church scholars and the Holy Synod council members, chaired by his Holiness Abune Matias I, Patriarch of the EOTC for endorsement. In Quarter II, ENGINE also shared its package of new innovative social and behavior change communication (SBCC) materials, including for ECCs, with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) nutrition case team leader and participated in advocacy and SBCC TWG meetings aimed at harmonizing and endorsing SBCC materials for the country.

Nutrition capacity building

ENGINE provides nutrition capacity building for Government of Ethiopia (GoE) staff in both pre-service and in-service settings.

Nutrition pre-service education

ENGINE continued supporting the eleven Phase I and six Phase II higher education institutions. Accomplishments include conducting: two joint program monitoring visits by Jhpiego and Save the Children; two benchmarking visits to best performing institutions; five refresher trainings on selected nutrition topics for agriculture technical vocational education and training (ATVET) instructors to improve their knowledge in nutrition; and six effective teaching skills trainings conducted for Phase II institutions. In consultation with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture (FMoA) and Federal Ministry of Education (FMoE) (TVET agency), ENGINE developed nutrition occupational standards and modules for ATVET agriculture disciplines. An education quality improvement process has been successfully introduced, nutrition content has been integrated to selected courses and nutrition technical update training has been provided for all Phase II institutions. ENGINE continued to support the Nutrition Academic Center of Excellence at Hawassa University, which will be formally launched in early April.

In-service capacity building

ENGINE trained 2966 (1245 female) health and agricultural workers in nutrition. The project provided training on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) for 1500 (743 female) health workers (HWs) from all four regions, including non-AGP *woredas*, to build their capacity to provide quality nutrition services. ENGINE trained 379 (66 female) development agents/agriculture extension workers (DAs/AEWs) in nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) to integrate nutrition into agriculture to advance their capacity and provide them with tools to promote NSA. As a result of ENGINE's capacity-building activities, HWs and health extension workers (HEWs) counseled 342,941 pregnant and lactating women on exclusive breastfeeding (EBF), complementary feeding (CF), and dietary diversity at health centers (HCs) and health posts (HPs). At the facility level, 93,902 children suffering from diarrhea were treated with zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS) and 236,732 pregnant women were supplemented with iron-folate.

Nutrition-sensitive livelihoods

ENGINE supported 4,087 new most vulnerable households (MVHHs) with nutrition-sensitive livelihoods interventions, including improved homestead vegetable production, and provision of productive livestock to 2204 of the households. ENGINE trained 5,071 MVHHs on homestead gardening and animal care with gender, nutrition and environmental issues integrated. ENGINE also established 207 new saving groups, of which 126 were linked to microfinance institutions (MFIs). ENGINE selected 4,496 households to receive livelihoods support in the current project year. ENGINE delivered incubators to support two private sector partners to improve the supply of preferred improved breed of chicken. ENGINE initiated efforts to increase diffusion and adoption of agronomic and cooking demonstrations to additional *kebeles* in Quarter I and completed an assessment to measure adoption of homestead vegetable production by farmers as a result of attending agronomic demonstration events in farmer training centers (FTCs) and schools. The assessment showed high acceptance (97% of respondents) and uptake of promoted interventions. ENGINE also completed an assessment of project supported savings groups and identified actions to improve linkages to MFIs and long-term sustainability of the groups.

Social and behavior change communication strategy

During this reporting period, ENGINE finalized and rolled out all materials for its innovative SBCC strategy. All enhanced community conversations (ECC) materials were printed and distributed to local non-government organizations (LNGOs) in Quarter II. ENGINE oriented *woreda* offices to the materials and the ECC approach; ECCs started in Quarter II, reaching 15,120 participants. A total of 772 community change agents (CCAs) were trained to allow for rapid implementation of ECCs upon delivery of the materials. ENGINE implemented and assessed mNutrition activities for 250 HEWs and AEWs in Quarter I. Preliminary findings are encouraging and indicate that the service is valuable to the HEWs and AEWs, and ENGINE enrolled additional frontline workers in Quarter II and will refine the service in Quarter III.

Nutrition operations research

Implementation of both the birth cohort and agriculture-nutrition panel studies are progressing as planned. In Quarter II, final reports on the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) operations research study and the Qualitative Community Perceptions of Malnutrition study were completed. Findings were presented at National Nutrition Program Research Dissemination Conference organized by Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and financially and technically supported by ENGINE in Quarter I as well as at ENGINE MSc Thesis and OR Dissemination workshop in Quarter II. ENGINE disseminated a total of 11 operations research documents at the NNP research dissemination conference.

Assessment of critical outcome indicators

ENGINE completed the first assessment of critical outcome indicators in MVHHs, including dietary diversity and household food security. The survey addresses a recommendation from the mid-term evaluation and will be repeated two more times at intervals of 6-8 months to inform project implementation. The final report has been prepared.

Implementation in non-AGP woredas

In this reporting period, ENGINE began implementation in six non-AGP *woredas* in SNNPR, bringing the total number of non-AGP *woredas* reached in partnership with Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) and GOAL to the target of 17.

In partnership with GRAD, ENGINE provided program managers training for 26 health and agriculture managers, MIYCN training for 233 HWs, nutrition-sensitive agriculture training for 148 DAs and perma-garden training for 215 GRAD animators and community facilitators. ENGINE and GRAD also selected 483 households among Village Economic and Social Association (VESA) groups and trained 401 on homestead gardening and 73 on poultry; 204 VESA households received vegetable seeds in Quarter II. In partnership with GOAL, ENGINE provide program management training for 10 health and agriculture managers, MIYCN training for 255 HWs and *woreda* health staff and 95 DAs were trained on nutrition-sensitive agriculture. ENGINE also selected 875 households for livelihoods support in Quarters I and II and provided 802 households with training on livelihood interventions, including homestead gardening and goat husbandry and provided 271 households with goats in Quarter II.

Implementation in Somali Region

In the reporting period a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USAID, Somali Finance and Economic Development Bureau (BoFED) and SCI/ENGINE was signed and ENGINE Plus was formally launched in Jigjiga on February 23, 2015. ENGINE recruited and trained project staff critical for project start up in the region. ENGINE conducted consultative meetings with leaders in project *woredas* and *kebeles*, and completed the selection of target *kebeles* and households. ENGINE worked with USAID/PRIME project to clarify opportunities for synergy and collaboration, including around nutrition SBCC and modalities of livelihood support.

Reporting period

This is the ENGINE project's Year IV Semi-Annual Progress Report covering the reporting period from October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Publication/reports

Did your organization support the production of publications, reports, guidelines or assessments during the reporting period? (*Copies of final reports available upon request*)

No/Not Applicable

Yes If yes, please list below:

Title	Author	Date
ENGINE supported MSc thesis/abstracts from local universities	Save the Children	Oct. 2014
Outcomes of Moderate Acute Malnutrition and their determinants in under-five children: a prospective cohort study from a food-secure setting in rural Ethiopia	Valid International, Jimma University and Save the Children	Oct. 2014
Using the Q-methodology to understand local perceptions of the definition, causes, and solutions of malnutrition in Jimma zone, Ethiopia	Valid International, Jimma University and Save the Children	Dec 2014
Livelihood effectiveness study	LOL and Save the Children	March 2015
Findings of the assessment on the capacity of MVHHS targeted in Year I and II for self-support in vegetable seeds	LOL and Save the Children	March 2015
Findings of the assessment on the adoption rate of homestead vegetable production of farmers as the result of attending agronomic demonstration events in FTCs and Schools	LOL and Save the Children	March 2015
Assessment of savings groups for Ethiopia ENGINE Project	LOL and Save the Children	March 2015
Survey of most vulnerable households in 10 ENGINE Model Woredas	Save the Children	March 2015

Technical assistance

Did your organization utilize short-term 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.

Name	Arrival	Departure	Organization	Type of TA provided
Yohannes Tesema	Feb. 1 2015	Feb. 22, 2015	Tufts	Provided technical support and guidance to the data manager, training of study supervisors and data collectors for the two longitudinal studies currently underway
Meghan Loraditch	Feb. 3, 2015	March 7, 2015	Tufts	Addressed management issues with partners, data management needs and provided ongoing support and supervision to project field activities
Dr. Shibani Ghosh	Feb. 5, 2015	Feb. 14, 2015	Tufts	Discussed with senior management about ENGINE end line evaluation survey and presented the Birth Cohort study implementation to ENGINE project staff
Meghan Davis	Feb. 9, 2015	Feb. 14, 2015	Tufts	Assisted with training Jimma University study lead on expense reporting, particularly on how to report receipts and expenditures against budget line items, the need for supporting documentation of expenses, namely trip reports for per diem and travel expenses and on the procurement process
Dr. Jennifer Coates	Feb. 13, 2015	Feb 17, 2015	Tufts	Assisted in preparation and implementation of enumerator training of Round 3 Ag-Nut Panel data collection Assess systems and progress in place for data management and data quality assurance
Adriane Seibert	Feb 21, 2015	March 3, 2015	Save the Children	Supported ENGINE Plus launch and implementation planning and provided assistance in modification of materials including MIYCN manual for Somali Region
Dr. Paluku Bahwer	March 08, 2015	March 12, 2015	Valid International	Checked data quality and analysis of SAM study

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
Dr. Habtamu Fekadu	Washington, D.C.	Nov 29, 2014	Dec 7, 2014	Save the Children	To attend Save the Children US Global Nutrition Technical Team Retreat and to attend and present ENGINE's research and documentation activities at <i>What is Growth Good For</i> Technical Symposium

Field monitoring and supervision visits

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
Finance and award manager	19 Oct. 2014	24 Oct. 2014	Jimma University, CPHMS project Save the Children finance office	Review of sub-agreement and financial performance
ENGINE COP, Health and Nutrition team and Jhpiego PSE team	4 Nov. 2014	6 Nov. 2014	Alage ATVET, Shashemene Health Science College, Hawassa University	Use the Pre-service Education (PSE) institution logo for presentations and abide with USAID's branding. For agriculture skill lab prepare board with the benefit of the selected crop on each plot Distribute ENGINE counseling tools to each of the Health Science college skill lab.
ENGINE COP and DCOP (with Jhpiego PSE team on Jan 26)	26 Jan. 2015	28 Jan 2015	Jimma University and Tufts University, Goma <i>woreda</i>	Inter-institutions learning exchange visit for Jimma University would help to improve the organization and utilization of skills lab. University management needs to ensure lab is available to and used by students to improve quality of education. Sub-grantees need to review and abide by USAID/ENGINE branding guidelines. Important oral comments and recommendations given.
Monitoring and evaluation team	17 Feb 2015 27 March 2015	23 Feb 2015 12 April 2015	Tigray, SNNP and Oromia	ENGINE central M&E team provided data quality monitoring and provided feedback to regional teams to strengthen routine data collection and reporting
Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team	23 Feb 2015	25 Feb 2015	Woliso	Monitoring of Tufts University and Jimma University. Provided guidance on branding, election neutrality and data quality assurance.
ENGINE COP, Operations & Compliance Manager and Finance and award manager	20 March 2015	22 March 2015	Bahirdar and South Achefer <i>woreda</i>	Reviewed and monitored award and finance management and program implementation Recommendations on utilization and documentation of all program forms provided as well as action points for support of Regional Nutrition Coordinating Bodies (RNCB) and Regional Nutrition Technical Committees (RNTC) and cascading of NNP to <i>woreda</i> and <i>kebele</i> level.
Finance and award manager and Operations and Compliance Manager	30 March 2015	3 April 2015	Hawassa Field offices	To review and monitor program implementation and awards and finance. Strong performance observed. Recommendations provided on budget tracking of AGP and non-AGP <i>woredas</i> and timely report submission.

Note: the monitoring trips included here highlight financial and management monitoring of sub-primes and regional offices. ENGINE thematic teams conduct frequent programmatic monitoring and technical assistance trips to regions.

Accomplishments and successes during the reporting period

Project management

ENGINE Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) reviewed the project management and performance with the Deputy Country Director and Country Director four times during the reporting period. The main issues discussed were budget utilization, procurement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), SBCC and printing materials, and scale up of ENGINE to Somali region and non-AGP *woredas*. ENGINE senior management conducted six management meetings with sub-primes, senior advisors and regional teams to monitor the project performance as per the project work plan. In this reporting period, ENGINE management had four regular meetings with ENGINE Agreements Officer's Representative (AOR). The main issues were GRAD and ENGINE partnership, FtF nutrition working group activities and partnership with PRIME in Somali Region.

In Quarter II, ENGINE launched the expansion to Somali Region (ENGINE Plus). The implementation in Somali Region is under the leadership of ENGINE COP and DCOP and is managed under Save the Children International Jigjiga Hub. The ENGINE Plus senior project manager in Jigjiga manages the day-to-day activities and is responsible to ensure the quality of overall project operations. As the project operation *woredas* are widely dispersed, ENGINE Plus uses four existing Save the Children International project offices (Jigjiga, Diredawa, Moyale and Dollo Addo) for day-to-day project implementation.

Staff recruitment

During this reporting period, a senior monitoring and evaluation (M&E) advisor, senior operation research manager and three regional staffs resigned. ENGINE recruited new staff for all the positions and replaced the senior operations research manager with an M&E advisor to support non-AGP and ENGINE Plus activities. ENGINE also recruited two zonal coordinators for the GRAD and ENGINE partnership and six zonal coordinators for the GOAL and ENGINE partnership.

In addition, ENGINE recruited a senior program manager to lead ENGINE's implementation in Somali region, as well as 36 additional project staff, including one fodder/livestock production expert; two project coordinators based at Moyale and Jigjiga; an M&E coordinator; seven livestock/fodder production officers; eight nutrition officers; and 16 community facilitators based in target *woredas*. Recruitment of a nutrition technical advisor seconded to the regional health bureau (RHB) is in its final phase and will be filled early in Quarter III. ENGINE also recruited a pastoralist focused nutrition advisor based in Addis Ababa who will provide technical support for the ENGINE plus team in Somali Region.

Sub-grantee management

ENGINE continued its regular staff meetings to discuss progress toward completing planned activities as outlined in the sub-grantee Year IV work plans and met individually with sub-primes to quickly resolve any outstanding issues to achieve optimal project performance. For example, ENGINE COP and pre-service advisor had a high-level meeting with Jhepigo to address low budget utilization and equipping the Academic Center of Excellence (ACoE) in Hawassa, and met with Tufts University to discuss the status of operations research implementation and PhD program. Additionally, Save the Children, in consultation with USAID, made every effort to support Land O' Lakes, Inc. (LOL) to register in Ethiopia to continue its work with ENGINE. This has not yet been achieved, but is anticipated in May. Since the

liability for Save the Children is high, Save the Children gave a warning letter to LOL to register by January 30, 2015, which was subsequently extended based on significant progress. LOL headquarters has processed all the required documentation with the Foreign Ministry to register as a non-governmental organization (NGO), and the case is currently with the Charities and Society Agency.

During the reporting period, ENGINE conducted field monitoring of sub-primes' implementation and compliance. ENGINE COP, Sr. Nutrition Advisor and Jhpiego Deputy Country Director conducted joint field visits to Hawassa University, Alagae TVET College and Shashemene Health Science College. The visits with Jhpiego helped to resolve some of the management issues that delayed establishment of the ACoE and improved branding and marking. ENGINE COP and DCOP visited Jimma University and Tufts University OR team at Jimma University. ENGINE M&E and research advisor conducted field monitoring of Tufts and Jimma University in Quarter II. The Sr. nutrition and livelihood advisor provided routine monitoring of LOL activities. ENGINE Sr. SBCC manager conducted monitoring of one LNGO at the initiation of ECCs in Quarter II, and will monitor the other LNGOs in Quarter III. In Quarter II, ENGINE held a quarterly review meeting with sub-primes to review achievements and challenges encountered in Quarter I.

Technical assistance

In Quarter I, Save the Children continued to receive international technical assistance (TA) from VI on ENGINE's operational research on acute malnutrition with Jimma University. STTA was provided by VI in Quarter II to support Jimma University and to participate in ENGINE OR dissemination meeting. A team from Tufts also provided short-term technical assistance (STTA) in Quarter II to support the birth cohort and agriculture/nutrition panel studies, as well as to review implementation of the PhD program at Jimma University. A Save the Children nutrition advisor provided STTA in Quarter II to support the launch of ENGINE Plus and adaptation of materials, including MIYCN training manual. In Quarter II LOL also provided STTA to support assessment of ENGINE savings groups. ENGINE developed a statement of work (SOW) during Quarter II for additional TA from The Manoff Group in the next phase of innovative SBCC activities, which was submitted to USAID for approval.

ENGINE, GRAD and GOAL partnerships in 17 non-AGP woredas

Joint implementation with GRAD was initially slowed as ENGINE met resistance from GRAD implementing partners to start the implementation because they were not well oriented by GRAD and needed new budget and sub-agreement modifications from GRAD. The issues were largely resolved with USAID intervention in Quarter I. ENGINE finalized MOUs with both GRAD and GOAL, which were signed in Quarter II. All non-AGP woredas are now operational though some challenges remain in joint implementation with GRAD due to lack of GRAD budget.

ENGINE start-up in Somali region

During the reporting period an MOU between USAID, SCI/ENGINE and the Somali Regional BOFED (on behalf of Regional Health Bureau and Regional Livestock, Crop and Rural Development Bureau) was signed. The MOU serves as the expression of partnership and clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of each organization during the project implementation period.

Following the MOU signing, Save the Children conducted an official ENGINE Plus launch workshop on February 23, 2015 in Jigjiga. Key guests from partners including USAID ENGINE AOR and PRIME AOR, officials from Regional President's Office, Regional Health Bureau, Regional Agriculture Bureau, and Regional BoFED attended. The launch was an official endorsement for the startup of the ENGINE Plus project implementation in Somali region. After the project launch, ENGINE country office team and Save the Children Jigjiga hub conducted a one and a half day detailed project planning and induction meeting for project staff. In March 2015, the ENGINE Plus project staff conducted project orientation in 15 of 16 target *woredas* for key *woreda* sector office representatives. Participants included representation from *woreda* administrations, health offices, agriculture offices, women and children affairs and key community leaders. Target *kebeles* and households were then selected in consultation with *woreda* officials using pre-defined selection criteria. One of the 16 selected *woredas* (Kersadula) was subsequently found to be outside of PRIME's implementation area, difficult to reach operationally (7 days round trip travel) and not conducive for fodder production. After consultation with the Regional government, it was agreed that a new *woreda*, more accessible and appropriate for project implementation, would be selected following the May 2015 election.

Partnership and multi-sector coordination

ENGINE continued to participate actively in key nutrition working groups, particularly NNP 2016-2020 review working groups on agriculture and nutrition, multi-sectoral coordination, MIYCN, gender, and advocacy and social behavior change. ENGINE has been working with FMOH to map and harmonize SBCC materials.

ENGINE, as the chair of FtF nutrition TWG, facilitated two TWG quarterly meeting in the reporting period. A joint field visit to GRAD *woredas* was conducted in January and discussed in the quarter two FtF TWG meeting. ENGINE conducted a review of cooking demonstrations, standard operation procedures for the demonstrations and produced region specific recipes for complementary feeding for two age groups that will be shared with FtF partners to strengthen and standardize cooking demonstrations across partners.

GRAD, GOAL and ENGINE: ENGINE team met with national and regional level GRAD and GOAL teams five times to address some of the bottlenecks that slowed the implementation of the partnership in non-AGP *woredas*.

UNICEF: ENGINE partnered with UNICEF to conduct capacity-building workshops for regional nutrition coordinating bodies (RNCB) and regional nutrition technical committees (RNTC) members and zonal team in Oromia and Tigray, and partially in Amhara. ENGINE also participated in a European Union (EU)-funded nutrition and UNICEF led steering committee established to guide EU nutrition investments in Ethiopia and to influence preparation of NNP 2016-2020. ENGINE provided technical input to the report produced by EU consultants.

PRIME and ENGINE: ENGINE worked closely with USAID/PRIME to ensure coordination and synergy between the projects in Somali Region. Staff from PRIME attended the project launch and participated in the subsequent planning meeting. Additional meetings held both in the region as well as between ENGINE and PRIME COPs and AORs established a collaborative working relationship, clarified project approaches and identified opportunities for joint action including on SBCC material development and

harmonization in the region. ENGINE committed to utilizing PRIME supported private enterprises for fodder and animal health services when possible. PRIME committed to sharing key program documents, including its baseline survey. Both projects agreed to hold monthly coordination meetings in the region and periodic management meetings in Addis Ababa as needed.

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
- Address gaps in existing nutrition-related policies and guidelines
- Support national level food fortification and micronutrient survey
- Implement education quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education
- Strengthen Nutrition Curriculum at project supported institutions
- Build staff capacity and create an enabling environment for competency-based nutrition education
- Strengthen nutrition in-service training and provide supportive supervision

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

Activity (i) Support the nutrition multi-sectoral coordination mechanism

Support national, regional and *woreda* nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms

Over the reporting period, ENGINE provided technical and financial support to the Annual Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Review Meeting and Capacity-building workshop held from October 20-22, 2014 in Addis Ababa. This included leading the programmatic working group and preparing the annual multi-sectoral nutrition summary report, which was later shared with the nutrition case team at the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) for input and feedback. An additional NNCB meeting was called in March 2015, but due to unavailability of key stakeholders was postponed until Quarter III.

ENGINE, working with RHBs held quarterly NNP regional multi-sector technical committee meetings in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions, with two meetings in Quarter I and four meetings in Quarter II. During these meetings, multi-sectoral technical committees exchanged updates about the progress of planned nutrition activities, challenges and the way forward. Major activities accomplished include engaging all regional partners working in nutrition to become part of the MSNTC; discussing partners performance against plan; building the capacity of newly joined NNP partners; initiating the NNP implementing sectors to prepare an integrated nutrition-sensitive plan; and building the capacity of NNP implementing sectors at different levels. In Amhara, the RNCB conducted joint field visits and actively

supported zones and *woredas* in NNP rollout in Quarter II. In SNNPR, the RNTC has not been active recently, but ENGINE has engaged with FMoH and RHB to strengthen the regional body.

In Quarter I, ENGINE identified ten model *woredas* to establish as nutrition multi-sectoral models as well as to document the coordination effectiveness. All ten established coordination mechanisms in the reporting period. Coordination mechanisms are structured differently in the various regions. *Woreda* nutrition multi-sector coordination bodies in the six model *woredas* in Amhara, Tigray and West Oromia are led by *woreda* administrators, while in the four model *woredas* in SNNPR and East Oromia, the bodies are led by the *woreda* health offices. In East Oromia, the technical committee has recommended that leadership be transferred to the *woreda* administrator for strengthened coordination. Leadership by *woreda* administrators appears to be the preferred model to maintain strong leadership and functional

Box I: Success of Woreda Multi-Sector Coordination

Woreda Nutrition Multi-Sector Coordination in Guduru woreda, western Oromia takes on Goiter

The *Woreda* Nutrition Multi-Sector Coordination in Guduru *woreda* was determined to tackle the issue of goiter and promote the use of iodized salt. They effectively raised the issue at the quarterly *woreda* council meeting conducted. After lengthy discussion and debate among the council and all 246 participants, the following points were agreed and acted on immediately:

1. All members of the *woreda* council were to use only iodized salt as an example for the rest community, with immediate implementation
2. To disseminate important information on the use of iodized salt throughout the *woreda* and community via *kebele* representatives
3. To control non-iodized salt in markets and make only iodized salt available

Local merchants are now selling iodized salt in the community and the members of the Nutrition Multi-sector Coordination Body continue to monitor and support the change.

Effective Nutrition Multi-Sector Coordination in Limu Bilbilo Woreda

Limu Bilbilo *woreda* in Arsi zone of Oromia established *woreda* level multi-sectoral coordination body in 2014 with ENGINE support. The chair of the body is the *woreda* administrator, which is seen as a best practice. The administrator ensures that all nine sectors of NNP have a monthly plan for implementing nutrition activities. Monthly meetings are held to evaluate performance against the plan, and detailed minutes taken by committee secretary from *woreda* health office. The strong leadership and consistent planning and review have led to a number of positive changes, including the adoption of ENGINE promoted improved vegetable varieties. The *woreda* AGP focal person commented, “*More impressive is the diffusion of agronomic practice in non-beneficiary communities. Working with different sectors has a good impact to improve nutritional status of the community. ENGINE is supporting two FTCs in the woreda but the woreda has scaled up the agronomic practice in 20 more FTCs of the total 25 remaining.*”

coordination bodies. The nutrition coordination bodies are showing tangible impact as demonstrated in box I.

ENGINE has supported 49 *woreda* multi-sectoral coordination meetings to familiarize NNP implementing *woreda* sectors on NNP and to design sector-based nutrition sensitive plans. Targets were exceeded (163 percent) as, in addition to the 17 meetings in the ten model *woredas*, ENGINE supported 32 coordination meetings in additional AGP *woredas* at the request of the Government (table I.1). In Oromia, Amhara and Tigray, members of multi-sectoral coordination committees conducted joint field visit to MVHHS, FTCs, HPs and HCs in ENGINE operational *woredas* and agreed to strengthen *kebele* level coordination mechanisms. In Amhara, most *woredas* prepared a plan of action to mainstream NNP into several sectors and are planning to roll out the NNP at the *kebele* level.

Table I.1. Woreda multi-sector coordination meetings conducted in Quarters I and II

S/N	Regions	Planned	Q1 achieved	Q2 achieved	Q1 and Q2 Achieved	Achievement %
1	Amhara	8	5	7	12	150
2	Oromia	12	6	11	17	142
3	SNNPR	8	8	9	17	213
4	Tigray	2	2	1	3	150
	Total	30	21	28	49	163

Conduct multi-sector nutrition training workshop with key nutrition stakeholders

Following the roll-out of NNP in Year III, ENGINE supported the establishment of RNCB and RNTC structures in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP. In this reporting period, ENGINE, in partnership with UNICEF, FMoH and RHBs facilitated and supported capacity-building training workshops for members of RNCB and RNTC in Oromia and Tigray regions. The objective was to strengthen capacities of the members of RNTC to implement NNP and to promote common understanding of nutrition among the sectors at regional, zonal and *woreda* levels. These included commitment from each sector to establish a core group to include nutrition sensitive activities in annual plans, to implement and monitor progress of nutrition activities, and to report progress and evidence for technical committee review. In addition, they committed to cascade the capacity building to their respective *woredas*. A total of 109 participants (58 from Oromia, 51 from Tigray) from RNCB and RNTC members, zonal administrators and economic and social advisors, core process owners and senior experts, university lecturers and representatives of parliament attended the workshops.

In Quarter I, following the regional level capacity-building workshop, ENGINE supported two zonal level capacity-building workshops in Amhara region, where training was cascaded to all zones of the region. East Gojam Zone cascaded the training down to *woreda* level to build the capacity of the NNP

implementing sectors. In Quarter II, the Amhara RNTC conducted joint field visits and supported zonal and *woreda* roll-out of NNP. In Oromia, three capacity-building workshops were conducted. All nine sectors from the zones participated and prepared a work plan to ensure sustainable coordination and build capacity of *woreda* multi-sectoral teams. The participants drafted a terms of reference (TOR) for the zonal coordination body. Administration offices were assigned to oversee implementation of NPP at zonal levels. In Tigray region, ENGINE supported roll-out of NNP to zonal and *woreda* level in South, West, and North West Zones. *Woreda* administrators and key sectors office heads attended the launch.

Promote exchange visits among countries that have successfully implemented multi-sector linkages

ENGINE is supporting the organization of National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB) experience-sharing visits. Key decision-makers and key stakeholders from NNCB will visit their counterparts in Brazil (facilitated by the Center of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil) and Uganda (supported by the Food Fortification Initiative). Due to its lack of response, India has been dropped as a possible third country. ENGINE has given support by preparing concept notes; facilitating meetings with agencies supporting the mission financially; and identifying countries and facilities to be visited. Tentative dates for the visit dates are set for Quarter III.

Activity (ii) Develop national nutrition advocacy approach

Following the consultative workshop held in September 2014 with Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) religious leaders and church scholars, the ENGINE Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) team conducted a follow-up workshop in Quarter II to analyze the data generated during the previous workshop and develop content for a sermon guide based on Ethiopian Orthodox teachings on four thematic areas: issues related to fasting and pregnancy; fasting during lactation; fasting and children under 5; and gender roles/family support during the first 1000 days. Church scholars and preachers are outlining the laws and regulations of the church based on the themes, after which the compiled sermon guide will be presented to the overall assembly of church scholars and the Holy Synod council members, chaired by his Holiness Abune Matias I, Patriarch of the EOTC.

In Quarter I, an advocacy technical working group (TWG) meeting was held where the FMoH plan to conduct an advocacy workshop for the remaining parliamentarians was discussed. ENGINE recommended to begin by following-up on the action points agreed during the first advocacy workshop. Additionally, ENGINE prefers the strategic approach of conducting the workshop for the incoming new federal parliamentarians and regional parliamentarians after the election, rather than with outgoing parliamentarians. Therefore it will be conducted in the third or fourth quarter depending on their availability.

In Quarter II, ENGINE also participated in an advocacy and SBCC TWG meeting to begin FMoH harmonization of nutrition SBCC materials. ENGINE shared both soft and hard copies of SBCC materials at FMoH request, and was appointed as a member of the material selection committee of the TWG. FMoH plans to adapt existing materials for national use in order to minimize duplication of efforts. A desk review of materials and the message harmonization processes will be conducted during the next quarter.

The First Lady, W/o Roman Tesfaye and the State Minister Dr Kebede Worku visited Amhara regional state to see multi-sectoral nutrition activities in November 2014. They visited ENGINE supported health facilities, MVHHs, and *woreda* multi-sectoral nutrition coordination members in the Wonchit Kebele of Dera *Woreda*, South Gondar Zonal Administration.

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

Activity (i) Address gaps in existing nutrition-related policies and guidelines

ENGINE took the lead in facilitating various TWG meetings and actively engaging in the development of NNP II and revising the National Nutrition Strategy (NNS). ENGINE's COP, Policy Advisor, Sr. M&E and Research, Sr. Health and Nutrition, Sr. Livelihood and Nutrition, Gender and WASH Advisors have provided technical support in the NNP II development process. ENGINE provided financial support for the NNP II and NNS revision first block write-up meeting, held on February 3-6, 2015 at Elilly International Hotel. Its purpose was to produce a draft revised NNP II document and initiate the NNS revision process. A second block of write up workshops to produce the final revised NNS and NNP II documents is planned in Quarter III.

ENGINE participated in the review of an AGP2 document and drafting of recommendations to FMoA on how to incorporate nutrition sensitive approaches and nutrition indicators into the program. A decision by FMoA on what nutrition content to include in AGP2 is pending.

In Quarter II, FMoH revised and harmonized its six-month plan (March–June) Eth. FY 2007 with key partners: ENGINE, UNICEF, MI and CIF. ENGINE aligned its work plan and resource support for FMoH in this quarter. FMoH set a priority to prepare a Comprehensive Community Based Nutrition (CCBN) guide and packages for health centers, health posts and communities to standardize nutrition services. Once prepared, this will be piloted in 75 *woredas* supported by CIF, ENGINE and UNICEF. A working group led by FMoH with ENGINE, UNICEF, MI, and CIF among others was established in this quarter. ENGINE will share its quality improvement (QI) approach during the development process.

ENGINE as a member of the steering committee for a European Union (EU) funded nutrition situation analysis, participated in two SITAN steering committee meetings and a workshop, where initial results of the exercise were shared and discussed. ENGINE additionally provided information on its nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in AGP *woredas* with the consultants leading the review and will organize a site visit for the team early in Quarter III. The situation analysis will inform EU nutrition investments as well as revisions to the NNP.

Activity (ii) Support national efforts on micronutrient control and prevention

ENGINE continued to support FMoH, EPHI and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoI) national level activities to facilitate the prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies in Ethiopia.

National micronutrient intervention guidelines revision

In this reporting period, ENGINE took the lead in addressing comments from FMoH Office of Minister on the micronutrient intervention guidelines. The guidelines have been revised accordingly and following

editing and proofreading, will be submitted to the MCH director and State Minister for approval early in Quarter III.

National food fortification plan of action

In Quarter I, ENGINE supported and participated in a meeting chaired by Mol to reach an agreement on finalizing flour and edible oil fortification standards, especially for iron. In Quarter II, ENGINE facilitated and participated in a meeting held at the FMOH to discuss the EPHI report on the rapid assessment of iron content in industrially processed wheat flour. The meeting participants agreed that the findings would be presented and discussed further in the upcoming national food fortification steering committee meeting. This meeting will be organized by ENGINE and held in the first week of June 2015. The results of this assessment will be used as an input to finalize the flour fortification standards as well as the National Food Fortification Implementation Plan of Action.

Support national micronutrient survey

In Year III, ENGINE provided financial support to EPHI/FMOH for a national micronutrient (iodine, iron, zinc, vitamin A and B12) survey. During this reporting period, EPHI initiated household level data collection, which will be finalized in the coming quarter. EPHI has an ambitious plan to release the preliminary results by June 2015.

IR I.2: Strengthened pre-service and in-service nutrition training for health care agents

Strategy I.2.1: Pre-service education for health care providers and agricultural agents

Activity (i) Develop and deliver pre-service education through partnerships with universities, colleges and other programs

Sub-activity (i) Implement education quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education

In Quarter I, ENGINE PSE conducted an education quality improvement workshop for the College of Dry Land Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mekelle University. All Phase II institutions¹ conducted baseline assessments and developed an action plan to fill identified gaps.

ENGINE facilitated two benchmarking visits to best performing institutions for Phase I² institutions to share best practices and approaches to overcome challenges. The annual review meeting of ENGINE PSE among all Phase I and Phase II institutions also took place in Quarter I.

¹ Phase II institutions: Colleges of agriculture at Debre Markos, Gondar, Hawassa, Jimma and Mekelle universities; and Department of Applied Human Nutrition at Bahirdar University

² Phase I institutions: Araya Khasu, Bahirdar, Hawassa and Shashemene Health Science Colleges; Gondar, Jimma, Hawassa and Mekelle Universities; Alage, Shire and Wolaita Soddo Agriculture TVET Colleges

Sub-activity (ii) Strengthen Nutrition Curriculum at project supported institutions

ENGINE provided 11 nutrition refresher trainings (five in Quarter I and six in Quarter II), reaching a total of 275 (41 female) instructors (133 in Quarter I and 142 in Quarter II), achieving 95 percent of the semi-annual plan. The training ensured a standardized nutrition background for ATVET instructors and responded to challenges encountered during delivery of integrated nutrition contents in their courses. In addition, the training created an opportunity to discuss institutionalization and sustainability of ENGINE PSE interventions at their respective institutions.

In Quarter II, essential nutrition content was integrated into 25 selected courses on plant science, animal science, horticulture, rural development and extension, as well as food science and post-harvest technology of agriculture disciplines. In addition, the nutrition curriculum of Bahir Dar University was harmonized with that of Hawassa University in Quarter II to ensure its standardization with up-to-date nutrition content.

Sub-activity (iii) Enhance faculty instructional capacity and create an enabling environment

ENGINE conducted five Effective Teaching Skills trainings (four in Quarter I and one in Quarter II) for a total of 121 (17 female) of 168 targeted instructors from all Phase II institutions. The six-day training equipped instructors with focused teaching and assessment skills for the classroom as well as practical skills.

In Quarter I, ENGINE PSE distributed additional skills lab materials for the establishment of new nutrition skills labs and lab corners at all eight supported health science institutions. Similarly, personal protective equipment was distributed to three ATVET institutions. In addition, the procurement process for audiovisual materials to support classroom teaching and overall education quality improvement for Phase II institutions was initiated in Quarter II.

Sub-activity (iv) Monitor and evaluate implementation of pre-service education strengthening activities

The pre-service education (PSE) component of ENGINE provided comprehensive support to project - supported institutions over the last three and half years. In order to measure improvements of students' competency in nutrition, ENGINE developed an assessment tool to collect data in the coming quarter.

ENGINE conducted joint program monitoring visits to Alage ATVET College, Shashemene Health Science College, the School of Human Nutrition and Food Sciences at the College of Agriculture, Hawassa University and Jimma University. The visits were instrumental in reviewing implementation progress and identifying persisting gaps within the institutions. The team recommended that Jimma University better organize its nutrition skills lab to adequately support skills teaching. The visiting team also recommended further technical and materials support for institutions to provide competency-based nutrition education.

In addition, supportive supervision was conducted for five institutions in Quarter I and seven institutions in Quarter II (100 percent of plan). The major support given for visited ATVET institutions was reinforcing the delivery of nutrition content integrated into their courses and discussion on institutionalization of quality improvement initiatives. Technical support for health science colleges focused on reorganizing the space and materials in the skills lab and mobilizing existing institutional resources to fully support the competencies taught by each discipline. In addition, agricultural colleges in

all five Phase II universities and the nutrition department at Bahir Dar University were visited to discuss baseline assessment results and ways to strengthen agricultural education quality improvement initiatives.

Activity (i) Establish Nutrition Center of Excellence

As part of the continued effort to establish an ACoE for nutrition, a range of technical and financial support was provided to Hawassa University over the reporting period. The key areas of support were renovating and equipping the nutrition skills lab; providing nutrition learning materials; developing a separate webpage for the school on the university website; providing WiFi internet connection for the skill lab and audio-visual aids for the Nutrition Club. The Center is progressing well and preparations were made for the institution to host a formal launch ceremony on April 2, 2015.

Strategy 1.2.2 Nutrition in-service capacity building for program managers and health providers

Activity (I) Strengthen nutrition in-service training and provide supportive supervision

The ENGINE PSE team continued to provide technical assistance to FMoH in finalizing comprehensive blended nutrition training package for health workers. The material has been approved by FMoH and will be piloted in Quarter IV.

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

Planned activities:

- Integrate nutrition into the facility quality services and implement 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
- Conduct food cooking demonstrations (FCD) to promote dietary diversity
- Improve tools used by frontline health and agriculture workers to ensure proper MIYCN counseling
- Continue implementation of ECCs through LNGOs
- Support target *woredas* in Child Health Day (CHD) implementation

IR 2.1: Quality of nutrition services strengthened

Strategy 2.1.1: Facilitate integration of quality improvement processes with Government of Ethiopia coordination entities, health facilities and communities

Activity (i) Develop quality improvement model to improve the quality of nutritional services at community and facility level

To improve the quality of nutrition services in a continuous manor, ENGINE is working with health facilities and *woreda* health offices to integrate nutrition services into the facility quality services. During the reporting period, ENGINE oriented 50 health offices in AGP *woredas* on QI program acceptance. The *woredas* accepted the initiative and assured their commitment for nutrition quality improvement. ENGINE, in collaboration with *woreda* offices, integrated nutrition into the quality service approach of 149 HCs with their satellite HPs', achieving 110 percent (149/135) of the semi-annual target.

ENGINE continued supporting continuous quality improvement (CQI) for model pilot HCs with their HPs. ENGINE applied the CQI model in 45 (136 percent of plan) health facilities. Four best practices, two on nutritional counseling, and one each on provision of iron and zinc supplements were selected and documented from Oromia and SNNP regions in Quarter II, bringing semi-annual achievement to 60 percent (6/10). ENGINE will continue to emphasize monitoring and documenting QI best practices in the next quarter. After best practice documentation, ENGINE will conduct exchange visits to well-performing health facilities to share best practices in Quarters III and IV.

Activity (ii) Promote coaching/mentoring and supportive supervision for health service providers

ENGINE in collaboration with trained Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) supervisors mentored a total of 1,019 775 HWs and 1,090 772 HEWs, achieving 107 78percent (1547/1,980) of the reporting period target in AGP woredas (table 2.1). The mentoring aimed to enhance the capacity of HWs and HEWs in providing quality MIYCN services and support to mothers and caretakers at health facilities. Comprehensive and standardized mentoring and supervision checklists, the MIYCN training guidelines and counseling cards were all utilized in the processes.

Table 2.1: Total number of HEWs and HWs mentored by regions

Regions	Planned		Achieved				Achievement %
	HEWs	HWs	HEWs	No. Female	HWs	No. Female	
Amhara	240	240	196	196	201	81	83
Oromia	430	430	430	323	405	164	97
SNNPR	240	240	68	68	70	27	29
Tigray	80	80	78	78	99	43	79
Total	990	990	772	665	775	315	78

During this reporting period, ENGINE zonal coordinators (ZCs), in collaboration with *woreda* and zonal health offices, conducted initial supervision visits to 314 HCs and 771 HPs, achieving 88 percent of the reporting period target (table 2.2). In Amhara, RHBs availability and plan for joint supportive supervision allowed for reaching more than the targeted facilities in the semi-annual plan. The supportive supervision visits aim to improve the delivery of nutrition and health services provided by HWs and HEWs. The team used checklists to assess and provide on-site feedback and developed action plans based on the findings.

ENGINE's supportive supervision and mentoring improved nutrition services at health facilities by ensuring the supply of micronutrients, especially zinc and iron-folate supplements, as well as improving the quality of nutrition counseling. It also improved participation in FCDs and attendance at counseling services, which is expected to improve the mothers' MIYCN and WASH knowledge and practices. Facilities integrated nutrition into their regular activities and began 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 cooking demonstrations and MIYCN trainings. As the household visits involved HEWs, the supervision teams use these interactions as opportunities to mentor HEWs and provide on-the-spot feedback for promoting optimal MIYCN and WASH practices. The teams also provided feedback to the primary health care unit heads and respective officials on HEW service delivery performance. The overall achievement of joint supportive supervision was 88 percent, showing significant improvement compared to the first quarter achievement, which was 55 percent.

Table 2.2: Total number of health facilities reached through joint supportive supervision by regions

Regions	Planned		Achieved		Total HFs		Achievement %
	HPs	HCs	HPs	HCs	Planned	Achieved	
Amhara	182	89	284	105	271	389	144
Oromia	357	133	234	93	490	327	67
SNNPR	228	100	171	68	328	239	73
Tigray	100	50	82	48	150	130	87
Total	867	372	771	314	1239	1085	88

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

Child health and nutrition training by region

In this reporting period, ENGINE trained 4,312 health and agriculture workers (1,864 female), covering 81 percent of the quarter target in AGP and non-AGP *woredas*. Trainings covered MIYCN/IYCF, nutrition planning and management for program managers; QI, NSA, WASH, M&E, ETS and nutrition for instructors and CCA training for implementing ECC for nutrition in 1000 days and WASH (table 2.3).

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

Regions	Annual target	Semi-annual target	Semi-annual Achievement			%
			Male	Female	Total	
National	5694	5300	2448	1864	4312	81
Amhara			602	354	943	76
Oromia			904	813	1717	88
SNNPR			391	368	759	66
Tigray			210	247	457	128

During this reporting period, ENGINE extended its preventive nutrition (program managers, MIYCN, and NSA training) support coverage to non-AGP *woredas* through partnerships with GOAL and GRAD, reaching 92 percent (360/390) and 85 percent (407/479) of training targets respectively (Annex 1 and 2).

In addition to this, ENGINE provided training on MIYCN for 30 regional ENGINE Plus team members on 25-27 February 2015 in Jijjiga town to build staff capacity and help them implement ENGINE Plus project in their areas. The overall objective of the training was to ensure linkage of the “milk matters” intervention with efforts to reduce wasting and stunting.

Brief summaries of trainings, by training component are presented below

Activity (i) Provide training to program managers, health workers and health extension workers

Training for program managers on nutrition program management

ENGINE provided nutrition program planning and supervision training for 108 (four female) *woreda* managers (of 246 planned targets) from health and agriculture sectors in Oromia, SNNP and Amhara regions, 72 in AGP *woredas* and 36 in non-AGP *woredas*. The training aimed to familiarize program managers with the concept of integration of health and agriculture, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, food and nutrition security, impact of nutrition, and planning and supervision of nutrition activities (table 2.4). The overall performance for this target was limited because *woreda* managers, health and agriculture heads/deputy heads were occupied with other government priorities, including political meetings in preparation for the elections in May.

Table 2.4 Training for program managers on nutrition program management

Regions	Semi-annual target	Semi-annual achievement			%
		Male	Female	Total	
Amhara	55	45	3	48	87
Oromia	107	35	1	36	34
SNNPR	68	23	1	24	35
Tigray	16	0	0	0	0
Total	246	103	5	108	44

Provide gap-filling standard Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition and on job training for health workers and health extension workers

During this reporting period, ENGINE provided MIYCN standard or basic and on-the-job training for 1500 HWs and HEWs (743 female) from all four regions (1012 in AGP *woredas* and 488 in non-AGP *woredas*) reaching 90 percent (1500/1675) of the semi-annual target. The aim of the training was to build capacity of HWs and HEWs to provide quality nutrition services. The training, in conjunction with mentoring and supportive supervision, has helped to improve facility-based routine nutrition services.

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

ENGINE trained 824 (396 female) HWs, HEWs and *woreda* offices on basic quality of nutrition services improvement. This training aimed to increase knowledge on the concept of quality improvement techniques and to build participants' skills to measure, analyze and improve quality of nutrition services at health centers, health posts and community. The target for training in this period was exceeded by 28% (824/645). The training reached more staff than targeted due to increases in number of targeted health facilities, as well as the necessity to conducting the training before establishing performance monitoring and QI teams and conducting QI assessment.

Activity (ii) Provide development agents/agricultural extension workers with gap-filling training on nutrition-sensitive agriculture

ENGINE trained 379 (66 females) DAs/AEWs on NSA training. The achievement was 89 percent (379/428) of the target for the reporting period, with 136 in AGP *woredas* and 243 non-AGP *woredas*. The training objective was to integrate nutrition into agriculture to advance DA capacity and share tools to promote NSA.

Activity (iii) Conduct food cooking demonstration (integrated with iodized salt utilization and hand washing) at community, school, farmer training center and health facility levels

ENGINE is using FCDs at the community level to address low dietary diversity for mothers and children. During the reporting period, ENGINE supported 783 FCD events at health facilities and community levels in AGP *woredas*, reaching 68 percent of the semi-annual target (783/1152). Some of the FCD sessions were also integrated with women’s conferences. A total of 34,560 individuals, including 25,020 pregnant and lactating mothers and 9,140 male partners attended the demonstration events (table 2.5). ENGINE promoted the importance of using iodized salt and hand washing during the demonstrations. ENGINE regional team incorporated household visits into supportive supervision visits to provide the opportunity to mentor, monitor and provide feedback to HEWs. The impact of these FCDs will be assessed through planned project outcome indicator monitoring survey (IR 4.2).

Table 2.5: Total number of FCD events and participants in AGP *woredas* by regions

Regions	Events in Quarter I and II			FCD Participants in Quarter I and II		
	Planned	Achieved	%	Plan	Achieved	Female
Amhara	288	117	41	8640	4398	2,820
Oromia	468	430	92	14040	22,302	15,619
SNNPR	300	149	50	9000	4410	3,921
Tigray	96	87	91	2880	3050	2,660
Total	1,152	783	68	34,560	34,160	25,020

ENGINE reviewed and standardized cooking demonstrations based on the lessons from monitoring visits to the regions. This includes preparation of recipes for children to 6-11 and 12-24 months of age utilizing available staples in each region.

Activity (iv) Improve tools used by frontline health and agriculture workers to ensure proper maternal, infant and young child nutrition counseling

Distribute and monitor proper use of maternal, infant and young child nutrition social and behavior change communication materials

ENGINE distributed new SBCC posters utilizing SBCC concepts aligned with messages in ECCs to regions to distribute to health centers and health posts located in the 21 ECC *woredas*. These posters will be used at the health facilities to create awareness on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (table 2.6)

In Quarter II, ENGINE also assessed the need for additional FMoH standard nutrition counseling materials in all AGP *woredas*. The materials will be printed and distributed in Quarter III.

Table 2.6. Number of SBCC posters distributed to health centers and health posts in ECC *woredas*

S/N	Regions	Number of SBCC posters distributed to health centers and health posts in ECC <i>woredas</i>		
		# of health centers	# of health posts	# SBCC posters
1	Amhara	133	552	6355
2	E. Oromia	82	361	3855
3	W. Oromia	99	256	3755
4	SNNPR	103	598	5565
5	Tigray	51	133	1940
	Total	468	1900	21470

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

During this reporting period, ENGINE compiled the findings of the impact assessment conducted on the mNutrition service for HEWs and AEWs in three regions. The assessment was conducted through interviews with frontline workers and SMS software data analysis to determine the accessibility and quality of the mNutrition service. Findings showed promising and generally positive feedback, although the data from Oromia region suggest that an additional local language needs to be added for the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) for better understanding of the content. Overall, the results showed that frontline workers found the mNutrition service to be a useful service to help them with their day-to-day health and nutrition activities and increased their knowledge of the ‘First 1000 Days’ concepts. As of Quarter II, all 500 targeted frontline workers are enrolled in the mNutrition service (100 percent), and will receive new updated messages in Quarter III.

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

ENGINE provided capacity-building to HWs and HEWs through coaching, mentoring and formal trainings. During joint supportive supervision, the teams assessed HWs and HEWs routine nutrition service performance in their respective catchment areas. Facilities have also started sending reports on provision of routine nutrition services to *woredas*. During the reporting quarter, the trained health workers counseled 147,976 pregnant women on exclusive breastfeeding (EBF), complementary feeding (CF) and dietary diversity at health centers, far exceeding the planned target of 89,244. A total of 342,942 pregnant women and lactating mothers were counseled on EBF and CF, including counseling done at health posts. As table 2.7 shows, almost all mothers and children visiting the facilities received direct nutrition services on a routine basis as a result of ENGINE-supported MIYCN training, coaching and supportive supervision. In addition, 236,732 mothers received iron supplements and 93,902 children with diarrhea were treated with ORS and zinc at routine services at health centers and health posts.

Table 2.7: Total number of pregnant, lactating mothers & children who received direct nutrition service

Health post direct routine nutrition services	Amhara	Oromia	SNNP	Tigray	Total
# of pregnant women who sought ANC services	24,105	24,166	24,416	17,859	90,546
# of women provided with iron-folate	19,018	15,611	19,416	14,884	68,929
# of postnatal women counseled on EBF and CF	43,764	26,753	13,752	17,554	101,823
# of children diagnosed with diarrhea	14,007	8,609	9,177	7,979	39,772
# of children 0-59 months with diarrhea who received zinc & ORS	15,234	8,472	6,642	8,148	38,496
Health centers summary	Amhara	Oromia	SNNP	Tigray	Total
Total # of pregnant women sought ANC service	51,983	45,677	25,471	32,309	155,440
# of pregnant women counseled on infant and maternal nutrition	50,301	42,561	24,032	31,082	147,976
# of ANC women supplemented with iron-folate	50,503	27,997	19,711	28,330	126,541
# of lactating women counseled on infant feeding and maternal nutrition	17,180	36,237	17,042	22,683	93,142
# of lactating women supplemented with iron-folate	11,293	13,430	6,253	10,286	41,262
Total # of babies visiting the under-5 clinic	90,912	60,970	41,234	60,136	253,252
# of babies(0-59 months) in sick babies assessed/checked for malnutrition	89,061	58,548	38,278	58,309	244,196
# of children advised for increased feeding	83,205	50,002	32,802	54,216	220,225
# of children diagnosed with diarrhea	21,366	12,337	8,941	13,371	56,015
# of children 0-59 months with diarrhea who received zinc & ORS	20,823	11,512	8,386	12,844	53,565
Health centers and health posts summary	Amhara	Oromia	SNNP	Tigray	Total
Pregnant and lactating mother counseling on nutrition	111,245	105,551	54,826	71,319	342,941
Mothers received iron supplementation	80,814	57,038	45,380	53,500	236,732
Children with diarrhea treated with ORS and zinc	37,188	20,140	15,227	21,347	93,902

In this reporting period, ENGINE expanded its mentoring to GRAD/ENGINE *woreda* health centers and health posts in Amhara and Oromia regions. The aim was to maximize performance of health workers on providing quality of nutrition and other services. Similarly, ENGINE supported GOAL/ENGINE *woreda* health centers and health posts in MIYCN counseling, and ensured all facilities had MIYCN registration books and reporting formats. Following support/training, the majority of health centers in Oromia, East and West Hararghe have started to produce and communicate nutrition counseling service reports using the same format provided to them. Service utilization has increased significantly. The details of this activity are shown in annexes 1 and 2.

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

This is presented in IR 2.1. and IR 3.1.

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

Activity (i) Link with existing program and partners

Support implementation of *woreda* Child Health Days

Child Health Days (CHDs) are a community-based health implementation modality organized quarterly to screen for malnutrition in children under-5 and 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. This program is transitioning to routine service through the Health Extension Plan (HEP,) but there are some areas where the service is not yet integrated with routine services. During the reporting period, ENGINE technically and logistically supported vitamin A supplementation and deworming in 47 AGP (out of 43 planned) *woredas* in Oromia, Amhara, and Tigray regions. As a result, a total of 681,397 (out of 678,399 planned) children were supplemented with vitamin A and 465,314 (out of 511,841 planned) provided deworming tablets. ENGINE provided support in transporting nutrition commodities to sites, and will continue supporting the routine vitamin A and de-worming efforts at HC and HP levels.

IR 3 Improved prevention of under-nutrition through community based nutrition care and practices

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

Planned activities in this quarter

- SBCC strategy
- Adaptation of SBCC materials for non AGP *woredas*
- Mobilize communities to promote MIYCN practices through ECC
- Develop content for radio program
- Match economic opportunities with household interest and capabilities
- Strengthen MVHH saving groups and create access to financial services
- Promote diversified food production at demonstration plots and school demonstration gardens
- Increase and measure adoption and diffusion of cooking and agronomic demonstrations and training
- Facilitate effective approaches to small-scale horticulture and animal production.
- Support establishment of improved chicken multiplication units through private producers
- Promote farming technology package and livestock at household level
- Promote asset protection through micro-insurance
- Subsidized provision of WASH technologies
- Household latrine access and use improved through sanitation marketing
- WASH behaviors promoted in community

Strategy 3.1.1: Develop the SBCC strategy through powerful formative research

Activity (i) Roll out phased implementation of ENGINE's SBCC strategy

In Quarter II, ENGINE's SBCC team disseminated the SBCC strategy and oriented staff to the SBCC materials during the quarterly review meeting as well as through individual visits to each of the implementing project offices. This roll-out provides a common understanding of the strategy, behavior change concepts, materials and structure of ECCs to ensure that regional offices provide strong monitoring and support to ECC implementation and related SBCC activities.

Strategy 3.1.2: Promote optimal nutrition practices through dynamic communication channels

Activity (i) Update existing materials and develop new media and materials in line with revised social and behavior change communication strategy

In Quarter I, ENGINE finalized the design of new SBCC materials, in line with SBCC strategy, for facilities and ECCs sessions 1-6, including flipcharts, virtual facilitator recordings, ECC training manuals, games, accordion leaflets, promotional materials, music videos and songs. In Quarter II, ENGINE labeled, packaged and distributed all SBCC materials for use during ECC implementation of sessions 1-6 to all LNGOs in four regions (see table 3.1). ENGINE began provided orientation on the SBCC strategy and materials to local authorities and *woreda* officials.

In Quarter II, ENGINE prepared a Scope of Work (SOW) and submitted to USAID for approval for The Manoff Group (TMG) to provide technical assistance to develop additional SBCC materials needed for ECC 7-10 and Agriculture/Nutrition materials for DA/AEWs. TMG will also support the mNutrition and radio activities, and will assist with monitoring and documenting the ECCs and mNutrition activities.

Table 3.1. Number of social and behavior change communication materials distributed by region

S/N	Regions	Number of SBCC materials distributed to conduct ECCs in four regions									
		Posters	Accordion leaflets	Role play cards	Board games	Stickers	Testimony cards	Script booklet	1000 Days keychain	Flip-chart	Canvas bag
1	Amhara	8920	25920	3888	4536	3384	25920	216	4320	216	216
2	E. Oromia	5952	17280	2592	3024	2256	17280	144	2880	144	144
3	W. Oromia	5952	17280	2592	3024	2256	17280	144	2880	144	144
4	SNNPR	5952	17280	2592	3024	2256	17280	144	2880	76	144
5	Tigray	4464	12960	1944	2268	1692	12960	108	2160	108	108
	Total	31240	90720	13608	15876	11844	90720	756	15120	688	756

Implementation in non-AGP woredas

In Quarter II, following the completion of ENGINE's SBCC materials for AGP *woredas*, ENGINE and GRAD established a taskforce to select and adapt ECC materials for use in non-AGP *woredas*. The taskforce met twice and selected sessions and identified adaptations needed. The adaptation process is under way and will be completed in Quarter III.

Following the launch of ENGINE Plus in Somali Region, ENGINE held meetings with USAID/PRIME and the regional health bureau (RHB) to determine SBCC material needs in the region. ENGINE has initiated the process to establish an SBCC working group, which will hold its first meeting early in Quarter III. The taskforce will review existing materials and identify the need for new materials to support nutrition counseling, both in health facilities and in communities via HEWs and DAs. ENGINE will recruit an

SBCC coordinator for the region early in Quarter III who will work with ENGINE SBCC team to adapt ECCs for the region, utilizing the non-AGP materials adapted with GRAD as possible.

Activity (ii) Mobilize communities to promote maternal infant and young child nutrition practices

Sub-activity (i) Implement ECC through local NGO and social networks

Following training of trainers (TOT) on the ECC approach completed in Year III, trained LNGO supervisors and trainers cascaded the training to CCAs in four regions. A total of 772 CCAs (628 in Quarter I and 144 in Quarter II) were trained to facilitate ECCs at community level.

ECC implementation started in Amhara and Oromia at the end of Quarter II following the distribution of all ECC materials to LNGOs in the regions and orientation of *woreda* officials on SBCC strategy and materials. A total of 10,080 participants (34 percent of target) were reached in 792 ECC sessions; the second round of training is reprogrammed to Quarter III due to delayed ECC implementation. The ECC sessions will begin in Tigray and SNNP and continue in all regions in the third quarter.

Sub-activity (ii) mobilize communities through religious leaders to support nutrition social change

As described earlier in the report, ENGINE conducted a follow-up workshop to develop content for the sermon guide to be developed in line with the laws and regulation of EOTC, focusing on fasting practices in the country. ENGINE is working with church scholars to understand the relationship between fasting practices and under nutrition in an effort to improve and standardize religious guidance for communities. In Quarter III, the sermon guide will be finalized and will be presented to the Holy Synod for endorsement and dissemination.

Activity (iii) Deliver radio magazine on 1000 days

In Quarter I, ENGINE's SBCC team finalized TOR and request for proposals for production of a radio program. A solicitation and re-bid (due to lack of adequate submission in first round) were done in Quarter II. Over 10 production and media companies submitted proposals. ENGINE is currently conducting a rigorous selection process to find a suitable production company to produce a radio magazine program based on the design document using innovative and interactive radio formats. Selection of a radio production company will be finalized and radio production will start during the next quarter.

Activity (iv) Monitor, provide feedback and document lessons learned, best practices and results

Following the launch of the mNutrition service, a rapid impact assessment was conducted among 200 registered AEWs and HEWs, to determine the accessibility of the IVR and SMS service provided over a period of three months. Findings revealed that frontline workers found the mNutrition service to be educational and an asset to help increase knowledge and skills about maternal and child nutrition during the first 1000 days.

In Quarter II, ENGINE prepared a SOW for The Manoff Group, which includes monitoring and documentation of ECCs and mNutrition activities. Documentation of initial findings and recommendations related to the ECCs is expected in Quarter IV.

IR 3.2: Access to food and economic strengthening opportunities through programming and cross-sector linkages increased

Strategy 3.2.1: Apply economic strengthening interventions

Activity (i) Match economic opportunities with household interest and capability

In order to assess the sustainability of the project activities, ENGINE conducted an assessment among ENGINE-supported MVHHs (25 percent of the total Year I and Year II targeted households) to determine their ability to purchase planting supplies without additional support. Data was collected from 1270 households (98 percent of the target) in Quarter I and analyzed, while the report was completed in Quarter II. The assessment revealed that 99 percent of the MVHH are interested in continuing vegetable production in the future and 75 percent of them clearly indicated that they would purchase seed from their income or harvest vegetable seed for future use. In addition, 97 percent of the interviewed participants revealed that they were able to locate vegetable seed supply sources.

ENGINE, in partnership with *kebele* development committees, selected 4496 (3,138 in AGP and 1358 in non-AGP *woredas*) most vulnerable households (MVHHs) for livelihood and economic strengthening (LES) support. The overall performance is 73 percent, though the target was 100 percent met in AGP *woredas*. Activities in non-AGP *woredas* are described in Annexes 1 and 2. All selected MVHHs in AGP *woredas* were oriented on project-related support and their roles and responsibilities.

Activity (ii) Strengthen most vulnerable households savings groups and create access to financial services

In order to ensure MVHHs have access to financial services, ENGINE established 207 saving groups (83 percent of plan) in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray Regions during the reporting period. Thirty-five of the groups were established in non-AGP *woredas*.

Of the 172 saving groups established in AGP *woredas*, 126 (140 percent of target) were linked to MFIs. The target was exceeded in linking saving groups to MFIs due to the large number of savings groups formed in Quarter I, which allowed sufficient time to link more than planned to MFI in the reporting period. In Quarter II, an assessment was conducted on the status of the saving groups to determine factors that affect the sustainability of the saving group models. Economic impact was assessed principally through savings, loans, expense levels and the development of income-generating activities (IGAs). To estimate social impact, the assessment utilized indicators of community response and levels of participation in community activities by the saving group members. The results indicated that regular monthly meetings provided a central platform for strong solidarity and support among members and the contributions came from profits generated through IGAs initiated by ENGINE project. To ensure cash safety, saving groups have been advised to bank money and avoid holding it in cash. The assessment report is attached as Annex 3.

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

Activity (i) Promote demonstration plots and school demonstration gardens

During the reporting period, the ENGINE and *woreda* agriculture office experts provided on-site TA to schools, focused on vegetable production, management of fruit seedlings and demonstration of agronomic and cooking practices. ENGINE also supported schools to organize agronomic and cooking practice demonstration events to promote dietary diversification and MIYCN to the wider communities. As shown in table 3.2 below, a total of 92 events were organized in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray Regions, which is 114 percent of the semi-annual and 61 percent of the annual target.

Table 3.2: Number of demonstration events at schools conducted in Quarters I and II by regions

Region	Semi-annual target	Number of events conducted			Percentage accomplishment
		Quarter I	Quarter II	Semi-annual	
Tigray	8	11	0	11	138%
Amhara	26	23	13	36	139%
Oromia	19	5	15	20	105%
SNNP	28	4	21	25	89%
Total	81	43	49	92	114%

In order to assure continuity of the school garden activities at schools, training in nutrition and school gardening was provided for 138 newly assigned teachers (97 percent of plan) in the reporting period, 41 in Quarter I and 97 in Quarter II.

ENGINE supported a total of 79 FTCs with vegetable seeds in this reporting period, reaching 76 percent of the semi-annual target (table 3.3). In addition to the provision of vegetable seeds, ENGINE and *woreda* agriculture office experts provided on-site TA to the FTCs. Technical support focused on vegetable production and fruit seedling management.

Table 3.3: Number of farmers training centers supported by regions in Quarter I and Quarter II

Region	Year IV target	Semi-annual target	Number of FTCs supported			Semi-annual percentage accomplishment
			Quarter I	Quarter II	Semi-annual	
Tigray	11	11	11	0	11	100%
Amhara	29	29	12	7	19	66%
Oromia	51	44	6	23	29	66%
SNNP	20	20	20	0	20	100%
Total	111	104	49	30	79	76%

Activity (ii) Increase and measure adoption and diffusion of cooking and agronomic demonstrations and training

In order to increase the adoption of practices promoted in agronomic and cooking demonstrations, ENGINE supported exchange visits for 139 DAs (65 percent of target) from *kebeles* neighboring ENGINE supported *kebeles* and training for 6539 farmers (115 percent of target) living in *kebeles* adjacent to the ENGINE targeted FTCs. The training focused on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, dietary diversity and included agronomic and cooking demonstration.

ENGINE conducted an assessment among 1110 randomly selected farmers from neighboring *kebeles* who received agronomic training to measure the extent of adoption of agronomic practices by the farmers from surrounding *kebeles* who participated in ENGINE activities at FTCs and schools. Data collection spanned Quarters I and II, with the report completed in Quarter II. The assessment indicates that 97 percent of the respondents stated that they are motivated to adopt the technologies they observed in the demonstration events. They have already started adopting the technologies to grow different types of vegetables in their garden.

Activity (iii) Facilitate effective approaches to small-scale horticulture and animal production to increase access to food for the most vulnerable households.

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided 5954 MVHHs (68 percent of target) selected in Year III and Year IV with vegetable seeds, 1079 (48 percent of plan) were in non-AGP *woredas* (Annex 1 & 2). AGP achievement is shown in table 3.4. The achievement was below target because seed distribution for Year IV MVHHs was delayed in East Oromia and Tigray while the team waited to time distribution with the rains.

Table 3.4: Number of MVHHs in AGP *woredas* provided with vegetable seeds by regions

Region	Year IV target	Semi-annual target	Number of MVHHs provided with vegetable seeds			Semi-annual percentage accomplishment
			Quarter I	Quarter 2	Semi-annual	
Tigray	786	393	0	0	0	0%
Amhara	1692	1692	150	1432	1582	94%
Oromia	3325	2789	167	1476	1643	59%
SNNP	1632	1632	1632	0	1632	100%
Total	7435	6506	1949	2908	4857	75%

During the reporting period, a total of 3795 MVHHs in AGP *woredas* (1251 in Quarter I and 2544 in Quarter II) were trained in vegetable and fruit production, irrigation, water and livestock management

(feed preparation, forage production and animal health), reaching 86 percent of the semi-annual target. In non-AGP *woredas*, 1276 of 2375 (54 percent of target) were trained, resulting in overall achievement of 75 percent (5071 of 6770 planned) of the target. Particular emphasis was placed on introducing improved practices for vegetable and fruit production and livestock management to MVHHs, 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 enlisted 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.

In Year III, ENGINE finalized 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. In Quarter I, ENGINE conducted an assessment in ten model *woredas* and identified seed dealers (private vendors and farmers' cooperative) to be supported by ENGINE for sustainable vegetable seed supply in the *woredas*. The support schemes to potential seed dealers by ENGINE are based on the specific needs of the dealers in the *woredas*. The implementation of the support schemes will be undertaken throughout the year. In Quarter II, support included organized discussion forums between multipurpose farmer's cooperative staff, private seed dealers, *woreda* agriculture experts and *kebele* level development agents to establish linkage between vegetable crop producer farmers and cooperatives or private seed dealers intended to supply vegetable seeds to the farmers in the future

Activity (iv) Support establishment of improved chicken multiplication units through private producers

In Year III, ENGINE initiated public-private partnerships (PPPs) between public research centers and small-scale private chicken producers to improve the supply of locally adaptable improved chickens. In Quarter I, ENGINE delivered incubator-hatchery combined machines to private poultry farms in Ambo and Bahir Dar and facilitated installation of the machines. Six private chicken growers (three each in Ambo and Bahir Dar), were trained in Quarter I to receive day-old chickens from the multiplication units and raise them for two months before selling to ENGINE MVHHs. In Quarters I and II, ENGINE supported private chicken multiplication units produced a total of 5,352 sellable day-old chickens that were provided to the out growers. Out growers sold 546 chickens to 38 ENGINE supported MVHHs, as the chicks mature, the number will grow rapidly in Quarters III and IV. Of significant success is the exceptionally low morality rate (less than 0.8 percent) as chicken mortality in rural settings is historically between 40-60 percent; the success of the intervention is helping to address the shortage of improved poultry breed for beneficiaries. The support of *woreda* livestock offices in Guder *Woreda* and Bahir Dar providing technical support and vaccination services to both private chicken multiplication units and out growers helps to maintain the low mortality rate.

Based on project experience, ENGINE determined that it is important to provide hands-on training to government livestock experts on improved chicken production and healthcare to support MVHHs receiving chickens. Following a training needs assessment in Quarter I, 150 government livestock experts based in *woredas* and *kebeles* were trained in Quarter II, which is 82 percent of the semi-annual target.

Activity (v) Promote farming technology package and livestock at household level

During the reporting period, ENGINE provided 1933 MVHHs in AGP *woredas* (72 percent of plan) with productive livestock (432 MVHHs received chicken, 475 MVHHs received heifers and 1026 MVHHs received sheep or goats) based on their interest and capacity (table 3.4). In non-AGP *woredas*, an additional 271 MVHHs (46 percent of plan) received productive livestock in GOAL implementation *woredas* (annex 2).

Table 3.4: Number of most vulnerable households in AGP *woredas* provided with productive livestock by regions

Region	Year IV target	Semi-annual target	Number of MVHHs provided with productive livestock			% Accomplishment against the quarter target
			Quarter I	Quarter II	Semi-annual	
Tigray	288	244	143	141	284	116%
Amhara	872	740	80	392	472	64%
Oromia	1449	1101	123	659	782	71%
SNNP	684	602	0	395	395	66%
Total	3293	2687	346	1587	1933	72%

Households receiving livestock support were trained on management practices, feeding and healthcare; animals were provided deworming, pesticide spraying against external parasites and vaccination against economically important livestock diseases. Some households were also trained on backyard forage development, feed preserving techniques and access to locally available industrial by-products from beer production. To document the new approaches for providing feed, an assessment was conducted among 49 households that received heifers in Oromia. Milk yield of milking cow fed with dried brewery by-products increased more than 100 percent, and 78 percent of households showed interest and confirmed their financial capability to purchase supplementary feed for their cow. ENGINE has started facilitating linkage between heifer-supported households and feed sellers and will share lessons learned from such linkages in other areas.

ENGINE also trained households on home-made chicken feed preparation to replace purchased feed and linked households to nearby public veterinary health posts/clinics for timely vaccination and treatment services required after distribution. ENGINE additionally identified and provided business development technical assistance to five chicken feed suppliers (two in Oromia, and one each in Amhara, SNNPR and Tigray) and linked them to MVHHs receiving chickens to provide additional options for provision of chicken feed.

Access and availability of chicken vaccines and drugs for rural families is a problem due to unreliable stocking of the vaccines and drugs in rural vet clinics and health posts. In Quarter I, ENGINE identified 135 rural vet clinics and health posts located near supported MVHHs and started providing logistical support with *woreda* livestock agencies to ensure regular supply of drugs and vaccines.

In Year III, Athene/Gaming for Good, made a donation as a matching fund to support ENGINE LES activities. The funds are being used to support MVHH that previously benefited from sheep or goats to

purchase a heifer. The offspring of the provided goats or sheep are sold and income used to provide 65 percent of the cost of a heifer, while the project matching funds cover the remaining 35 percent. This enables more MVHH to both increase their assets and income base as well as receive a greater nutrition benefit through milk consumption. 1120 MVHHs received heifers in the reporting period, and many MVHHs have started getting and consuming milk from dairy cows.

Activity (VI) Promote asset protection through micro-insurance

Saving groups received orientation on the benefit of contributing money for livestock health insurance as part of an introduction to micro-insurance mechanisms. Seven of the 26 groups targeted started contributing money in addition to their regular savings. The remaining 19 groups have been convinced of the benefit of additional contributions as part of social micro-insurance, but actual contributions have not yet begun. Group members will be encouraged to contribute and use the money for immediate cash needed to treat sick animals with credit, and ultimately to utilize the fund as insurance for the loss of animals.

IR 3.3 WASH-related behaviors improved

Activity (i) Subsidized provision of WASH technologies

In Quarter I, ENGINE initiated procurement of water filters and mats that will be promoted and provided to target households at a subsidized cost. In Quarter II, the mats were received and distributed to regional offices. Selection of a company to provide household water filters was completed in Quarter II and filters will be received and distributed to regions early in Quarter III. ENGINE provided water filters to 30 health posts utilizing stock remaining from the *Willingness to Pay* study conducted in Year III. Remaining facilities will be reached in Quarter III after procurement is finalized.

ENGINE promotes establishing hand washing stations including use of local Tippy-Taps. In the reporting period 189 households (16 percent of plan) established hand-washing stations. During this reporting period, 744 beneficiaries from MVHHs and 25 health extension staff were oriented on how to install the Tippy-Tap and the importance of prevention of diarrheal diseases among children. The delayed roll-out of both WASH and ECC interventions resulted in low performance against targets.

Activity (ii) Household latrine access and use improved through sanitation marketing

In Quarter I, ENGINE engaged with government and implementing partners, including becoming a member of the National WASH Movement and the National sanitation task force at the invitation of FMoH. ENGINE actively participated in preparation of the national sanitation marketing training manual. ENGINE also carried out an experience-sharing visit to Arsi zone and Sidama zone to learn from implementation of sanitation marketing through Catholic Relief Society (CRS) and Plan International.

In collaboration with district government officials ENGINE assessed and identified saving groups and private sector micro-enterprises capable of engaging in sanitation marketing interventions within all ENGINE WASH focused districts. In Quarter II, ENGINE in collaboration with *woreda* offices and

partners, trained 20 individuals (27 percent of plan) from selected saving groups in Oromia on sanitation marketing. The training included both theoretical aspects on sanitation promotion and business development as well as practical training on production of sanitary platforms. Groups and individuals for sanitation marketing have all been identified and training in the remaining regions will take place early in Quarter III.



Figure 1. Trainees making Sanplat with plastic molds



Figure 2. Sanplat made by trainees during practical exercises.

Activity (iii) WASH behaviors promoted in community

In the reporting period, 23 school WASH and Nutrition clubs (128 percent of target) were established or revitalized in four ENGINE operating regions. In collaboration with regional health bureaus, ENGINE facilitated celebration of Global Hand Washing Day events at selected WASH focused districts of Oromia, Amhara, SNNPR and Tigray regional states in Quarter I. The events were conducted in 11 selected schools of WASH intervention districts. A total of 10,145 (4,919 females) individuals participated in celebration of Global Hand Washing Day at schools events.

In Quarter II, ENGINE provided WASH training for 15 regional and zonal MNCH and WASH coordinators as well as 14 district and zonal WASH staff from the public sector. The training aimed to increase awareness on the links between nutrition and WASH and to share and build skills in ENGINE's WASH interventions and implementation modalities. Following the training WASH activities are will be implemented in the ten WASH-focused districts of the Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, and Tigray regions.

In Quarter II, ECCs sessions were initiated in all regions (IR 3.1). These sessions include promotion of appropriate WASH practices; the messages will continue and be scaled-up in Quarter III to achieve changes in WASH behaviors.

IR 4: Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

Planned activities:

- Implement OR
- Capacity building/support PhD and MSc students
- Design and conduct first round of project monitoring assessment/survey
- Implement project monitoring and data quality system
- Develop communication strategy

Strategy 4.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy

This section of report covers operations research and capacity building activities implemented by Tufts University, Jimma University and Save the Children.

Activity (i) Conduct OR studies on acute malnutrition

During the reporting period, VI and Jimma University continued implementing a SAM research study and completed and disseminated the results of MAM and qualitative studies.

Moderate acute malnutrition

The purpose of the MAM OR is to provide evidence for whether there is a need for a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) in food-secure settings in rural Ethiopia. During this reporting period, VI prepared a final report on the MAM study with Save the Children input. Preliminary study results for the MAM study were presented at the National Nutrition Program Research Dissemination Conference, which took place in Adama from 23-25 October, 2014. The study findings were further disseminated in the ENGINE OR and MSC thesis findings dissemination workshop held on March 13,

Box 2: Key findings of MAM study

- Almost 50 percent of children who are MAM at the beginning of the post-harvest season either develop SAM or pass the four months of best food security without recovering. As a result, many risk entering the next hunger season in a highly vulnerable condition, with the likely consequences of increased risk of SAM and death.
- Children who suffer from MAM during the post-harvest season in a food secure zone experience an unacceptably high incidence of SAM and low recovery rate. This highlights the need to re-assess the current strategy for addressing MAM in areas classified as food secure.
- Mid upper-arm circumference (MUAC) category at enrolment was the best predictor of final outcomes in all models and could be used as a basis for targeted intervention.
- Stunting is widespread in areas of Ethiopia classified as food secure. The process of stunting continued even when there was correction of wasting, especially in children less than 24 months. SAM occurred in the most stunted children.

2015 in Addis Ababa. The manuscript for the MAM study findings is nearly completed and will be submitted for publication in a peer review journal early in Quarter III. Key findings are presented in box 2.

Based on the study findings, the study PI (VI) and co-PIs (JU) discussed and recommended conducting an additional round of data collection to assess outcomes of those enrolled after enduring another hunger season (those deteriorated to SAM, those remained MAM & those cured).

Severe acute malnutrition

The objective of the SAM OR is to determine the long-term health outcomes of children age 6-59 months 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. Recruitment of eligible children ended on December 31, 2014. A total of 430 children, which was 91 percent of plan (215 cases and 215 controls), were enrolled. Each enrolled study participant will be followed for one year. SAM study sub-sample biological data collection was successfully completed on Feb 28, 2015. By end of the reporting period, 206 children (49 percent), completed the follow-up period and were discharged from the study.

Qualitative study: Community perceptions of malnutrition

The aim of the study was to better understand the complex nature of malnutrition and to help policymakers to design nutrition education strategies. The study helped gain understanding of local knowledge and perceptions of the definition, causes and solutions of malnutrition in Jimma zone, Ethiopia. During the reporting period, VI completed a final qualitative study report with Save the Children input. The results of the qualitative study (see Box 3) were presented in during the National Nutrition Program Research Dissemination Conference held in October 2014 and the ENGINE supported OR and MSC thesis findings dissemination workshop held in March 13, 2015 Addis Ababa. A manuscript of the results is being finalized and will be published in peer review journals early in Quarter III.

Box 3: Key findings from community perceptions of malnutrition study

Two distinct perceptions of the definition of malnutrition and its causes and solutions were identified.

- Participants in the first factor group were “active adopters, rational thinkers,” who did not believe nutrition myths and were willing to allocate time/resources to address malnutrition.
- Participants in the second factor group were “passive dependents, conservative thinkers” who believed in some nutrition myths and did not realize their own power to address malnutrition.
- “Active adopters, rational thinkers” were more likely to have well-nourished children than “passive dependents, conservative thinkers.” Participants in both groups failed to recognize the value of separating livestock from human living areas.

Recommendations:

A strategy for identifying and eradicating nutrition myths should be incorporated within the nutrition education component of the Health Extension Program (HEP); building materials and shelter-building demonstrations should be provided to ensure that communities are better able to adopt animal-rearing practices that also support the nutrition and health of children; “active adopters, rational thinkers” can be role models and provide nutrition education and support in the absence of Health Extension Workers (HEWs).

Activity (iii) Implement birth cohort study

The birth cohort (BC) study aims to establish the effectiveness of ENGINE's direct and indirect interventions targeting maternal and child nutrition and health outcomes. The BC study data collection is progressing as planned. During this reporting period, 1,377 pregnant women were recruited, which completed the recruitment of index women (4,680 pregnant women which is 100 percent achievement) as of Dec. 31, 2014. Thus far, 3,837 (81.9 percent) of the recruited participants have given birth and 3,584 (93.4 percent) mother-infant pairs are currently being followed.

In Quarter I of this reporting period, a frontline workers (HEWS, DAs and other HWs in health centers) questionnaire was completed, pretested and updated. The frontline workers study will supplement the main study and help to triangulate findings. In Quarter II, the data collection was launched after providing two rounds of training to the enumerators in their respective *woredas*. Thus far, 377 frontline workers have been interviewed.

In the past six months, five supportive supervisions by Tufts University ENGINE team have been conducted to provide technical and administrative support, which is 83.3 percent of the target for the reporting period. The supervision team provided on-site feedback to resolve data quality issues identified in the data manager error reports and distributed study supplies to field team. In Quarter III, preliminary analysis of data from first visits to pregnant women as well as preliminary data from frontline worker survey will be available to management to inform the program.

Activity (iv) Conduct agriculture-nutrition cohort study

This study examines ENGINE's role in affecting nutrition, food security and livelihoods outcomes through its integrated programming. During this reporting period the second round Ag-Nut panel data collection was completed and the third round of data collection started and is continuing into Quarter III.

The second round (pre-harvest) Ag-Nut panel study data collection was successfully completed on Nov. 19, 2014, and reached 1185 of the 1197 households recruited in the first round, which is 99 percent of the targeted sample size for this round. Data were collected from three groups of study participants: namely, household heads (n=1185), adult females (n=1185) and mothers/caretakers of children under-5 years (n=697). A study team from Jimma and Tufts Universities conducted two supportive supervisions during the 2nd round survey. After the data collection was completed, both round one and two data were cleaned. In Quarter II, preliminary analysis of the first round data began. In Quarter three, preliminary data on program participation will be available from this study.

The Boston-based Tufts research team travelled to Ethiopia in Quarter II to supervise and provide support during the third round of training of enumerators. The seven-day training for the third round (post-harvest) data collection was provided to 37 enumerators. The sessions ran from Feb. 6 – 27, 2015. Data collection was launched on Mar. 4, 2015. So far, data has been collected from 705 households, which is 58.9 percent of the total sample size targeted for this round.

The study manager, Co-PI and Tufts-ENGINE Ethiopia representatives conducted the supportive supervision at the data collection sites.

Activity (v) Conduct secondary data analysis research

Nutrition policy research

Nutrition policy paper abstract entitled “Dynamics of National Nutrition Program (NNP) Implementation in Ethiopia” was presented at the NNP operational research dissemination workshop organized by EPHI, held from Oct. 23-25, 2014 in Adama. More than 85 participants from different non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and governmental institutions, including two members of parliament, attended the workshop.

Secondary data analysis research

Five ENGINE sponsored abstracts from the secondary data research were presented (three oral and two posters presentations) in the NNP operational research dissemination workshop in Adama, October 2014. Two abstracts were also presented in operational research and MSc thesis findings dissemination workshop organized by ENGINE in Addis Ababa on Mar. 13, 2015. Two secondary research manuscripts from Jimma University researchers were prepared and submitted to Tufts PIs for review and comments and are now being prepared for submission for publication.

Activity (vi) Build capacity of researchers and postgraduate students

Research capacity building

A professor from Ghent University visited Jimma University in November 2014 to discuss promoters' issues with the PhD candidates. In Quarter II, one candidate was paired with a promoter at Ghent University. This is in addition to four students previously paired with promoters. The final two students are still in the process of reaching agreement with promoters, with potential matches with professors from Wageningen and Hoheinhem Universities. During the reporting period, six PhD candidates attended two courses: Nutrition Policy Program, Planning & Interventions and Medical Research Ethics and Policy at Jimma University.

Through Year III, ENGINE supported 56 MSc student theses from five government universities and prepared abstracts of 22 completed MSc thesis findings which were compiled and printed in booklets. The theses findings were disseminated in a workshop held on March 13, 2015. In this reporting period, ENGINE committed financial support for eleven additional MSc students from Jimma, Mekele and Harommaya universities. Three MSc students' thesis findings were presented at the NNP Operational Research Dissemination Conference.

Strategy 4.2: Develop and manage an innovative and dissemination strategy

Activity (i) Preparation for project end line survey for impact evaluation

During the reporting period, Save the Children began detailed planning with VI and Tufts on the timeline, methodology and budget for the end line evaluation. Planning and preparation will be completed in the third quarter.

Activity (iii) Documenting effectiveness of livelihood intervention

During the reporting period LOL completed the review of data quality and analysis and completed the final report of the ENGINE's livelihoods effectiveness study which was conducted in Year III. Key findings include:

Box 4: Key Findings from livelihood effectiveness study:

- Households targeted by ENGINE project are cultivating 14 types of vegetable and root crops using planting materials and technical assistance from ENGINE along with fruit trees and rearing livestock.
- Both crops and livestock were providing food and income.
- These items complemented staple and other crops, contributing to increased dietary diversity along with a new source of income.
- There are also indications of enhanced women's empowerment as women were reporting their influence on decisions around ENGINE-related inputs and activities, more than for traditional field crops.

Activity (vi) Establish program monitoring system

Sub-activity (i) Performance data collected from ongoing activities on a timely basis

During this reporting session, ENGINE M&E team provided two days intensive training to regional M&E coordinators from the five regional field offices on database utilization, ENGINE M&E tools and indicator definitions, data quality assessment tools and DQA SOP orientation, reporting and documentation. This training enabled newly recruited regional M&E coordinators to verify the quality of reported data, to fix discrepancies between reports and database, assess the reporting and recording system, and implement corrective actions based on the findings.

Sub-activity (ii) Initiate annual assessment of critical outcome indicators

The midterm evaluation recommended that ENGINE's robust baseline and evaluation design and program monitoring be complemented with an assessment of critical outcome indicators on a regular basis. This would help to inform program strategy and implementation. In Quarter I, ENGINE successfully designed and carried out a project monitoring baseline survey of 360 MVHH to be targeted in Year IV, as well as the current status of year 500 MVHHs supported in Year III in ten ENGINE model *woredas*. The final report was prepared in Quarter II. To determine trends in key MIYCN and livelihood outcome indicators in the course of project intervention, the same survey will be conducted on the same households two more times over six, eight-months intervals.

Sub-activity (iii) Provide technical assistance support to MOH, RHBs and WorHOs with the integration of nutrition indicators into the HMIS

FMoH has not yet started roll out of the new HMIS with nutrition indicators.

ENGINE, working with UNICEF, took the lead in providing technical support to the FMoH nutrition case team in the establishment and implementation of the NNP monitoring tool/nutrition programmatic information database. The NNP monitoring tool is in its final stage, being implemented at the Federal level and piloted in selected regions.

ENGINE participated in the development of Maternal, Child Health (MCH) and Nutrition web page content, drafted a nutrition section which was submitted to the MCH director for approval. The web page content is ready to be posted in the FMoH website.

Sub-activity (iv) Support quality of program implementation and data utilization at all levels

In this reporting period, ENGINE supported and participated in joint annual health and agriculture sector planning meetings conducted in 14 *woredas* of SNNP. The objective of the meetings was to communicate and align ENGINE annual work plan with the health and agriculture offices and other *woreda* partners. The participants agreed to amend nutrition activities in the sector plans and committed themselves to closely monitor its implementation. In the other regions, the annual *woreda*-based planning has not yet begun, but are scheduled for implementation by the RHBs for Quarter III.

ENGINE, in collaboration with government partners also held zonal level multi-sector review meetings in three zones in Amhara and one zone in SNNP regions. These were conducted with the involvement of NNP implementing sectors and nutrition partners. Each NNP implementing sector reviewed its plans to ensure nutrition-sensitive activities were included and assessed the progress of the existing nutrition-sensitive activities. The meetings also focused on building the capacity of the NNP implementing sectors.

ENGINE also supported and coordinated 80 (92 percent) health and agriculture level regular nutrition integrated review meets: 15 in Tigray, 17 in Amhara, 14 in SNNPR and 34 in Oromia regions and 9 cluster PHCUs. The meetings allowed for review of gaps identified during integrated supportive supervision, post-CHD assessment results, and development of action plans to address those gaps to ensure the quality of nutrition services improves at all levels. Key actions identified in Quarter II include the need to reach all communities with cooking demonstrations and conduct follow-up after cooking demonstrations to ensure complimentary feeding practices at the household are improving. Health facilities also agreed they should collect and report key nutrition indicators not found in the HMIS database and that *woredas* should take responsibility to ensure that vitamin A and deworming tablets are always available at health facilities.

ENGINE provided capacity-building training to 156 (127 percent) health institute data workers/HMIS staff (45 in Amhara, 56 in Oromia, 31 in SNNP and 24 in Tigray), on the basics of project monitoring and evaluation (M&E), data collection utilization and HMIS indicators. Special emphasis was placed on MCH & nutrition indicators. The aim of the training was to impart knowledge on data collection, data quality, utilization, reporting and documentation.

ENGINE continued to provide regular onsite mentoring and supportive supervision of recording, reporting, data utilization and data quality at field level. This was aimed at maintaining the quality of OR data at service delivery points based on the existing government systems through its OR implementers, regional M&E officers and zonal coordinators.

To identify level of overall functioning of the ENGINE project M&E system, ENGINE M&E team conducted data quality inspection which is part of the planned quarterly data quality checks using routine

data quality assessment (RDQA) tool. The data quality assessment was done for Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR in Quarter II. The objective of the assessment was to verify the quality of reported data; assess the reporting and recording system; and implement and recommend corrective action based on the findings. The team conducted RDQA of the service delivery sites (school, FTCs, HCs, HPs and also at *woreda* and regional offices) and ENGINE regional database and reporting system. Accordingly, findings of the assessment with action points were shared to regions. The number of data discrepancies and overall documentation in both hard and soft copies are improved as compared with previous assessments. Weaknesses identified were occasional late reports from zonal coordinators to regions and incomplete documentation in some health facilities. Regions committed to further improve documentation and to hold zonal coordinators and regional M&E coordinators accountable for data quality checks before submission to central M&E team. In addition to RDQA, the central M&E team provided remote technical support and monitoring.

National Nutrition Program Research Dissemination Conference

EPHI, in partnership with key nutrition partners including USAID/ENGINE, World Bank, Micronutrient Initiative, UNICEF) and the Food and Nutrition Society of Ethiopia (FoNSE) held a three-day NNP Operations Research Dissemination Conference from October 23 – 25, 2014. ENGINE disseminated 11 operation research documents in the fields of nutrition policy; micronutrients; dietary diversity; complementary food product development; and nutrition and agriculture linkage. A total of 47 research papers in the areas of nutrition were presented. The conference was attended by ninety-five participants, including policymakers and parliamentarians, research institutes, academia, NGOs and UN agencies.

ENGINE operations research and MSc theses findings dissemination workshop

On March 13, 2015, ENGINE conducted a one-day workshop on OR studies and ENGINE supported MSc thesis findings dissemination. The workshop was held at Elilly International Hotel, Addis Ababa. In addition to disseminating findings from OR and MSc theses, the workshop served to increase understanding of ENGINE OR studies and approaches, including international and local operations research implementation and experiences. The event provided an opportunity for universities, research institutes and decision makers to exchange ideas on how to make use of findings in program implementation. A key recommendation was for ENGINE to support MSc research that is operational or intervention focused, rather than assessments of the current situation. It was also recommended that universities propose more research on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and gender. The participants included partners from government institutions, representatives from other FtF projects, as well as area experts, lecturers and researchers from various universities and research institutes.

Activity (v) Implementation of ENGINE's communication strategy

In the reporting period, ENGINE worked with knowledge management consultants to develop and finalize a knowledge management plan that will be implemented during the project period. ENGINE continues to update its project website with resources and stories of events to ensure they are readily available to stakeholders. ENGINE has also shared stories for publications with USAID Frontlines magazine (see box 5 below) as well as the *Save the Children International Everyone Campaign* website. Working with a video production company, ENGINE completed the filming of six of eight short documentaries that showcase the project's successes and intervention areas. The videos will be released in Quarter III. ENGINE has also prepared two success stories: one highlighting the impact ENGINE livelihood interventions on one MVHH; and another on one of ENGINE's gender activities, cooking demonstrations for men. (Annex 4)

Box 5: Excerpts from The 'ENGINE' Behind Improved Nutrition in Ethiopia, USAID Frontlines Magazine April/May 2015 edition, by Lauren McCall.

“Most other food security projects in Ethiopia only work in one area, but ENGINE works in three different sectors: agriculture, health and education,” said Dr. Habtamu Fekadu, ENGINE's director and a staffer with Save the Children in Ethiopia. “Undernutrition has different causes that must be addressed by different sectors.”

“This new type of comprehensive intervention to link growing more nutritious foods, and nutrition education is already showing strong improvements. New data for the last three years show an estimated 160,000 fewer children are stunted, despite population growth. Food security isn't just about the quantity of food, but the nutritional quality of available food,” said Dennis Weller, mission director for USAID/Ethiopia.

“I expect a big change when the goats grow, reproduce and we can sell the offspring,” said Ayele*.
“With the extra money, I know I'll be able to keep my children in school. I can't read or write, so I would like my children to know how to read and write.”

(* a project beneficiary)

Crosscutting: Gender

Planned activities:

- Organize regional workshop to disseminate ENGINE gender strategy and analysis findings
- Adopt decision-making/life skills training guide and share for regions
- Provide decision making skill training for men and women from selected, well-performing MVHH
- Organize experience sharing/peer learning sessions for members of women groups, share good practices on nutrition
- Support and conduct fathers group meeting at selected health facilities
- Select male role models from ENGINE targeted MVHH from ECC targeted sites
- Organize a cooking demonstration for men only attendants to transfer skill and messages (quarterly)
- Organize community events to recognize/certify men
- Identify context specific technologies and promote to ENGINE households to address women's work load

Update Gender topics in training manuals and job aids

In quarter one, ENGINE adopted a decision-making and life skills manual focused on decision-making and communication skills to improve nutrition in the household by facilitating couple communication. The manual has been shared to all the regions and in Quarter II all regional teams were oriented on the manual and its application.

Integrate gender activities at the community and household level

In Quarter I, ENGINE began to implement a number of new gender-focused activities in communities. The rate of implementation was greatly increased in Quarter II as gender is now given due attention by project management in Addis Ababa and regions. The ENGINE gender advisor provided TA to all regions at least once in the reporting period to support implementation.

ENGINE organized regional workshops in Oromia in Quarter I and in Tigray and SNNPR during Quarter II. The aim of the workshops was to disseminate ENGINE'S gender strategy and gender analysis findings for regional, zonal and *woreda* level nutrition technical committee members and gender specialists. It also created awareness among the participants on the importance of integrating gender in nutrition programs to improve the nutritional status of mothers, children and adolescents. A total of 164 participants (59 female) attended the workshop. The remaining two regional workshops (Oromia and Amhara) will be carried out in Quarter III. A gender sensitization meeting for all ENGINE advisors and sub-primers has been organized in Quarter III.

In this reporting period, ENGINE successfully conducted decision-making life skills training for men and women in the targeted households. The overall aim of this training is to build and influence the decision-making capacity of the men and women and promote joint decision-making on nutrition matters. A total of 1057 (107 percent) men and women attained the trainings in all ENGINE regions. ENGINE also organized 21 (62 percent of plan) food cooking demonstrations for men in SNNPR, Tigray and Oromia

to motivate male partners to take part in family cooking and feeding practices and to create awareness among men on nutrition and women's workload. ENGINE also provided orientation for men about ENGINE support in the households to increase their awareness and support for the women in livelihood activities and to help relieve women's workload. In the reporting period, 964 (173 in QI and 791 in Quarter II) men received orientation, reaching 80 percent of target. To increase male involvement in health decisions for the family, ENGINE organized seven (18 percent) fathers' groups meetings at HPs to discuss health issues of mothers and children. The discussions with the men focused on child feeding practice; feeding of pregnant and lactating mothers and the role of men; and the concept of Nutrition in the 1000 days.

Six (35 percent of plan) experience sharing visits with 90 women participating were carried out in the reporting period among women's saving groups to create an opportunity for the members to exchange lessons and learn from each other's success and challenges to improve their performance around savings and livelihood activities.

As ECCs (Strategy 3.1) are rolled out, ENGINE will identify and select male role models with progressive approaches in supporting their families as role models and change agents. The men may already produce and provide adequate nutritious food for their families, help their wives in housework and livelihood activities, and have the ability to influence others. In this reporting period, 12 (19 percent) male role models were selected from ENGINE *woredas*.

In Quarter II, ENGINE conducted assessments in Amhara & SNNPR to explore existing improved technologies that reduce women's workload at household level. There are some proven improved and new technologies that may be promoted to address women's workload. Regional teams are now selecting the technologies most appropriate for their region and will provide support to households in Quarter III.

Strengthen gender in program monitoring system

In Quarter II, the gender advisor did an analysis of gender disaggregated Quarter I data on key indicators. The same analysis will continue quarterly. ENGINE also identified a number of potential gender indicators for a PMP to help track gender mainstreaming in the project. ENGINE management is reviewing proposals and indicators will be included for Quarter III reporting.

Data quality issues

ENGINE continued to providing regular onsite mentoring and supportive supervision of recording, reporting, data utilization and data quality at field level to maintain the quality of OR data, at service delivery points based on the existing government systems through its OR implementers, regional M&E officers and zonal coordinators.

To assess and improve the overall functioning of the ENGINE project M&E system including data management and flow from service delivery sites, ENGINE M&E team conducted data quality inspection which is part of the planned quarterly data quality checks using a routine data quality assessment (RDQA) tool. The data quality assessment was done for Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR in Quarter II. The objective of the assessment was to verify the quality of reported data; assess the reporting and recording system; and implement and recommend corrective action based on the findings. The team conducted DQA of the service delivery sites (schools, FTCs, HCs, HPs and also at *woreda* and regional offices) and ENGINE regional database and reporting system. Accordingly, findings of the assessment with action points were shared to regions. The number of data discrepancies and overall documentation in both hard and soft copies are both improved as compared with previous assessments. Weaknesses identified were occasional late reports from zonal coordinators to regions and incomplete documentation in some health facilities. Regions committed to further improve documentation and to hold zonal coordinators and regional M&E accountable for data quality checks before submission to the central M&E team. In addition to RDQA, the central M&E team provided remote technical support and monitoring.

Challenges and constraints and plans to overcome them during the reporting period

Challenges	Actions
<p>Late delivery of SBCC deliverables in Quarter I by contracted creative agency and delayed procurement process for printing of all SBCC materials resulted in delayed implementation of ECCs and the innovative SBCC component of ENGINE as well as adaptation of materials for non-AGP <i>woredas</i>.</p>	<p>ENGINE management held meetings with creative agency to understand and address bottlenecks and to agree to an updated and firm delivery schedule for all remaining deliverables. ENGINE management followed the procurement process for printing of SBCC materials closely with the four contracted printers to ensure delivery of all materials as agreed.</p> <p>ENGINE cascaded training to LNGO CCAs in the first quarter to ensure the LNGOs were able to implement in communities immediately upon delivery of materials. Materials were received in Quarter II and ECCs started promptly in Quarter II.</p> <p>ENGINE established a taskforce with GRAD and moved quickly in Quarter II to begin adaptation of ECC materials for non-AGP <i>woredas</i>; the adaptation will be completed in Quarter III.</p>
<p>Implementation of the partnership with GRAD in non-AGP <i>woredas</i> has been slowed by poor engagement by GRAD implementing partners.</p>	<p>ENGINE management discussed with GRAD management. USAID also intervened in Quarter I to resolve the issue by providing additional budget to GRAD. While collaboration has improved, GRAD has still not received the funds and has not hired community level staff to deliver activities for the partnership. The projects agreed to develop a joint detailed monthly plan.</p>
<p>ENGINE's sub-prime, Land O'Lakes has not yet secured proper registration with the Charities and Societies Agency (ChSA)</p>	<p>Save the Children has worked with LOL to determine possible courses of action, including facilitating a meeting with USAID in Addis Ababa in Quarter I,</p> <p>Save the Children sent LOL a letter to complete registration in January or risk termination of sub-agreement due to unacceptable risk of operating without proper license.</p> <p>LOL management is giving the issue full attention and have hired a consultant to facilitate the process with the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA) and ChSA in Addis Ababa. The process is reportedly nearly complete. Save the Children has extended the deadline for LOL based on the progress made and will monitor the situation in Quarter III and determine the appropriate course of action.</p>
<p>Increased complexity of the project (inclusion of three LNGOs, expansion to non-AGP <i>woredas</i> in partnership with GRAD and GOAL, and expansion to Somali Region with a new program approach) as well as new Save the Children US and Save the Children International procedures requiring review of quarterly reports prior to submission to USAID have made maintaining the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) reporting period to USAID very difficult.</p>	<p>ENGINE team has requested all partners to submit reports earlier than required by their sub-agreements, and the ENGINE M&E and management teams are working significant amount of overtime to deliver quality reports as early as possible. A review of the process and timelines will be done in Quarter III and discussed with USAID.</p>

WASH activities are delayed due to long procurement process for water filters and mats.	ENGINE management worked closely with the logistics department to finalize procurements. Mats were received in Quarter II and filters will be received early in Quarter III. ENGINE completed training of WASH focal persons in advance and completed selection of groups for WASH marketing to enable rapid start up when all materials are received.
Matching of PhD students with appropriate advisors to European universities is taking a longer time than expected.	The visit of Dr. Carl from Belgium University to Jimma University and two professors from Denmark were critical to helping move the process along. Five out of seven students have been matched and the remaining two are in process. Jimma University continues to follow up and facilitate communication around the assignment of promoters as well as PhD travel to Belgium.
Insufficient available impact and outcome level data from PRIME and others sources in Somali Region will necessitate ENGINE to conduct baseline survey.	ENGINE has reviewed all available data and consulted with Save the Children evaluation expert on possible design and timing of baseline for ENGINE Plus. ENGINE will submit plan to USAID for discussion and approval.
One of 16 targeted <i>woredas</i> in Somali Region is isolated, operationally inaccessible, and ill-suited to planned interventions and not a PRIME target <i>woreda</i> .	ENGINE has consulted with regional government who advise that a new <i>woreda</i> should be selected in Quarter III following the election.
Lack of water for human consumption in Somali Region was the most pressing challenge identified during <i>woreda</i> level consultation and could undermine ENGINE Plus implementation. Thirteen of 15 assessed <i>woredas</i> were suffering from water scarcity.	ENGINE held a meeting with the Humanitarian Response Director for Save the Children and is coordinating closely with other projects in the Jigjiga hub. Save the Children will seek additional humanitarian funding as needed and possible address acute water scarcity. ENGINE may also use its limited private matching funds if required.
Aware <i>woreda</i> in Somali region is currently insecure. The security status may delay or affect activity implementation in comparison to other more secure <i>woredas</i> .	Save the Children has a strong security system and protocols in place and works closely with regional, zonal and <i>woreda</i> level officials to stay aware of security situation and to act accordingly.

Major activities planned in the next reporting period

Project management & partnership

- Hold quarterly review regional and subprime meetings
- Support regions in launching activities in Somali Region
- Strengthen FtF linkages and conduct experience sharing visits with partners at the regional level
- Joint management meeting for non-AGP partnership

IRI. Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies strengthened

- Support National, regional and *woreda* level Nutrition Multi-sector Coordination Mechanisms
- Establish/strengthen Nutrition Coordination body (NCB) and nutrition multi-sectoral coordination committee in Somali Regional
- Continue supporting the launch of NNP and establishment of WMNCB (including dissemination of NNP document) at zonal and *woreda* levels including non-AGP and ENGINE Plus Somali *woredas*
- Address gaps in existing nutrition-related policies and guidelines
- Support exchange visit for NNCB and NNTC
- Implement nutrition education quality improvement process
- Strengthen the curriculum for nutrition education
- Launch and continue supporting ACoE for nutrition at Hawassa University
- Support the ACoE for nutrition to host national conference on nutrition
- Conduct review workshop on improving quality of nutrition education through strengthening of existing institutional quality assurance system for Phase II institutions
- Benchmarking visit to Araya Khasu HSC to foster cross learning of institutions
- Provide nutrition technical update training for instructors from agriculture technical and vocational education and training (ATVET) colleges and develop teaching and learning materials
- Support documentation of students' mini project at Team Training Program (TTP) sites of health science universities
- Complete procurement of audio visual aids, reprinting selected nutrition-sensitive agriculture reference materials and then distribute to Phase II institutions
- Provide technical assistance to FMoH in piloting blended nutrition learning materials
- Conduct six follow-up visits/supportive supervisions to project supported institution
- Conduct one joint program monitoring visit with PRIME to project supported institutions
- Collect data for assessing nutrition competency of graduating class students from project supported institutions

IR2. Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved

- Implement QI activities for nutrition services at health facilities and conduct QI training for HW & HEWs
- Conduct on-job coaching and mentoring for health service providers
- MIYCN training to HWs & HEWs including in non-AGP and ENGINE Plus *woredas*
- Program management training for health and agriculture program managers (*woreda* heads) including in non-AGP and ENGINE Plus *woredas*
- DA/AEW training on NSA
- Promote and conduct cooking demonstration (integrated with iodized salt and hand washing) at community, school, FTC and health facility levels
- Distribute and ensure proper use of MIYCN SBCC materials at health facilities
- Support ENGINE Plus *woredas* and target health facilities in micronutrient supply chain management
- Establish SBCC working group with RHB in Somali Region
- Monitor and report caregivers counseling for mothers by trained HWs
- Provide multi-sector nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture training for program managers and frontline health and agriculture workers
- Support *woreda* level CHD implementation where CHD exists and routine program through planning, logistics management, mentorship and post monitoring and reviews.
- Support *woreda* and target health facilities in micronutrient supply chain management

IR3. Improved prevention of under-nutrition through community-based nutrition practices

- Train remaining CCAs on ECC
- Implement ECC activities
- Conduct modified ECC to ENGINE's MVHs
- Adapt ENGINE's ECC for non-AGP *woredas*
- Adapt ENGINE ECC for Somali region
- Develop job aids and materials for religious leaders
- Map and harmonize SBCC materials in Somali Region
- Air 1000 days radio magazine
- Train and mentor smallholders fodder-producing households on improved fodder/forage development strategies, agronomic practices and management
- Train *woreda* agriculture livestock staff in chicken production
- Training of model farmers at FTCs from adjacent *kebeles*
- Facilitate community conversation and mobilization (customary institutions, community representatives i.e. gender, clan and wealth groups' integration, government experts and NRM stakeholders and users)
- Train community facilitators and fodder production officers on community mobilization
- Training on fodder production, management and harvesting for the DAs

- Training DAs about causes of malnutrition to support the link between DAs and HEWs activities in Somali Region
- Train and mentor smallholders fodder-producing households on improved fodder/forage development strategies, agronomic practices and management in Somali Region
- Provide vegetable seeds to MVHHs (Year III & IV households)
- Support seed suppliers at *woreda* level
- Provision of seeds/ seedlings, hand tools and other inputs for fodder production
- Provide improved/local sheep and/or goats or chicken heifers to MVHHs
- Link MVHHs with veterinary services and obtain official vaccination documents
- Train MVHHs on the type of intervention
- Promote and sell household water filters and floor mats at subsidized price
- Establish sanitation marketing groups
- Support safe disposal of child feces through improved sanitation
- Identify households for animal feeding, animal health service through cost sharing and non-cost sharing
- Provision of training to influential male and female community leaders in MIAYCN

IR4 Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

- Preparation of logistics for end line impact survey
- Continue implementation of ENGINE OR on birth cohort, agriculture-nutrition panel and severe acute malnutrition (SAM)
- In collaboration with Valid PIs and JU Co-PIs, prepare the manuscript for publication
- Continue secondary data analysis and documentation
- Carry out data quality assessment and supportive supervision for M&E officers in all regions
- Build research capacity for researchers and postgraduate students (MSc & PhD) in ENGINE partner institutes
- Finalize a joint M&E plan for the partnership with GOAL, GRAD and ENGINE Plus
- Formative qualitative research for ENGINE Plus to identify barriers to behavior change, for appropriate targeting and identifying communication strategies for ENGINE Plus
- Conduct baseline survey for ENGINE Plus

Crosscutting: Gender

- Provide decision making skill training for women and men from selected, well-performing MVHH
- Organize a gender sensitization sessions for ENGINE technical staff at Addis including sub-primes
- Provide supportive supervisions and TA for regions

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, 2,544 MVHHs received training and TA on forage development and animal feed preserving techniques.

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

Table 3.10: 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	2,544	2,544 households received training on forage production and feed reserve
	Provide required vaccinations for livestock	# of animals vaccinated	9,227	During the reporting period, 9,227 animals have been vaccinated. All animals received a thorough animal health examination by a government veterinary officer.

Issues requiring the attention of USAID management

Save the Children's subprime, LOL, has not yet secured proper registration in the country. This creates a risk to Save the Children and ENGINE. Save the Children has supported LOL in their efforts to complete registration, but has sent a formal notice to LOL management that registration needs to be completed promptly or the sub-agreement may be terminated. Save the Children has extended the deadline for registration by LOL after evaluating the progress LOL has made, but if it does not successfully register in the third quarter, Save the Children will terminate the sub-agreement which may have an impact on the project.

ENGINE is moving forward with its partnership with the GRAD project in seven non-AGP *woredas*, particularly with health and nutrition specific interventions which ENGINE leads and can implement with limited resources from GRAD. However, the lack of additional funding from USAID to GRAD has limited their ability to effectively implement joint activities, particularly SBCC and livelihood activities. The lack of additional funding has also led to less than full engagement and responsiveness from GRAD implementing partners.

While ENGINE Plus in Somali region has launched and start-up activities are underway, it was recognized that one of the 16 target *woredas* is in reality not a *woreda* where PRIME is implemented. Furthermore, the *woreda* is exceptionally difficult to reach and is not conducive for the majority of the planned livelihood interventions. Save the Children has consulted with regional government and it was agreed to start in the other 15 *woredas*, and that following the election in May, the region would propose a new *woreda* that is more accessible and conducive for project implementation. ENGINE will submit a request for this change in geography following the May election.

ENGINE will submit a work plan for ENGINE Plus in Somali Region early in Quarter III. The work plan and program monitoring plan (PMP) will include changes needed to targets set in the original proposal that are also included the agreement amendment that awarded additional funds for ENGINE Plus. The work plan and PMP will also include the need to conduct an ENGINE Plus baseline survey. ENGINE will request an agreement amendment to correct the established targets.

Increased complexity of the project (inclusion of three LNGOs, expansion to non-AGP *woredas* in partnership with GRAD and GOAL, and expansion to Somali Region with a new program approach) as well as new Save the Children US and Save the Children International procedures requiring review of quarterly reports prior to submission to USAID have made maintaining the PEPFAR reporting period to USAID very difficult. ENGINE will discuss with the AOR and request agreement amendment to adjust the reporting timeline without affecting FtF reporting deadline.

Data sharing with host government

Have you shared this report with the host government?

- Yes
- No

We have not shared this report, but at the request of FMOH we did share a semi-annual summary report (June – Dec 2014) of ENGINE activities to FMOH in January 2015.

Annex I: Report on partnership with GRAD in non-AGP woredas

Project start up

The implementation of activities planned under the partnership with GRAD in all seven non-AGP *woredas* in Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR regions is progressing well. Implementation in three *woredas* in SNNPR started in the second quarter following a lengthy approval process with regional government. ENGINE completed recruitment of zonal MNCH coordinators for Oromia in Quarter I and SNNPR in Quarter II, while recruitment in Amhara was completed in Year III. An MOU was signed in Quarter II between ENGINE and GRAD to guide the partnership.

In Quarter I, a one-day orientation session led by advisors from both project was held in Amhara with GRAD's local implementing partner which included an overview of the collaboration and its intended impact, progress reporting, modalities of livelihood support to beneficiaries and logistical issues. In Quarter II, an ENGINE-GRAD partnership familiarization and joint regional work plan development workshop was held. The objectives of the workshop were to orient stakeholders on the intended partnership; discuss the modality of implementation; as well as prepare a work plan and budget for the region and implementing *woredas*. Accordingly, participants discussed and understood implementation modalities and developed a joint work plan for implementation. The need for monthly planning and coordination meetings at the regional level was identified and will be implemented in Quarter III.

Implementation in Oromia was initially slow due to limited engagement of GRAD implementing partner Meki Catholic Secretariat (MCS) and their need for additional funding. In Quarter two ENGINE regional team visited the MCS office in Meki from Jan. 14-16, 2015 to make an official introductory visit and to discuss on key programmatic and operational issues with head or representatives of the ENGINE-GRAD partnership initiative. GRAD organized a meeting on Jan. 21, 2015 to follow up on issues identified in the earlier ENGINE visit. The ENGINE country and regional teams, CRS head office staff, CARE head office staff and MCS staff responsible for GRAD project in Meki participated. The team discussed the purpose of the partnership, modality of implementation, operational and logistic issues and agreement was reached to start implementation of those activities in the joint plan that require minimal resources from GRAD until the additional budget is released from USAID. It was agreed that implementation of planned activities that will be covered from ENGINE resources should commence immediately. Additional funds were not received by GRAD in the reporting period, which continues to limit full implementation of joint activities, particularly livelihood activities.

GRAD regional and Addis based nutrition advisors visited ENGINE SNNPR project office on February 26, 2015. The nature of the partnership and joint planning and preparation to organize activities were discussed. It was agreed to hold a monthly meeting that can be used as a platform to exchange updates and facilitate the implementation of the joint plan.

During the reporting period, ENGINE and GRAD COPs and core team for the partnership met twice to resolve challenges that arose during implementation. The projects agreed on the design of documentation of the partnership, M&E and reporting of indicators, and issues that may arise in regional implementation, including modality of homestead seed and poultry support and the need for a shared detailed plan between regional teams.

Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies

Support the nutrition multi-sectoral coordination mechanism

The regional team in Amhara supported the NNP advocacy and sensitization workshop for two GRAD/ENGINE project *woredas* (Libokemkem & Lay Gayint) during the reporting period. A total of 45 participants (11 female) attended the workshop. Following the workshop, a *woreda* nutrition technical committee (WNTC) and a *woreda* nutrition coordination body (WNCB) were established in both GRAD/ENGINE *woredas* of the region.

In Oromia, ENGINE technically and financially supported a nutrition multi-sectoral sensitization workshop in Arsi Negele *woreda* in West Arsi Zone. The workshop led to the establishment of a nutrition multi-sectoral coordination body as well as technical committees with roles and responsibilities clearly delineated in the signed and shared TOR. Following the establishment of the coordination mechanism, ENGINE supported one nutrition multi-sectoral coordination meeting under the framework of NNP. The establishment of nutrition multi-sectoral coordination in Adami Tulu *woreda* in East Shoa Zone is planned for the next quarter.

Quality of nutrition services strengthened

Provision of training for health and agriculture program managers (*woreda* heads) and GRAD's gender & nutrition coordinators on nutrition program management

Working in partnership, GRAD and ENGINE reached 85 percent (407/479) training targets, including health and agriculture program managers, integrating IYCF into CMAM and NSA.

Table 1. GRAD - ENGINE total number of people trained in child health and nutrition by region

Regions	Semi-Annual Plan	Semi Annual Achievement			%
		Male	Female	Total	
National	479	291	116	407	85
E. Oromia		91	35	126	
SNNPR		60	14	74	
Amhara		140	67	207	

Provide program managers training

ENGINE provided nutrition program managers training for 26 (1 female) *woreda* level agriculture and health office heads in Amhara (13 in the first quarter) and SNNP (13 in the second quarter) regions.

The training aimed to capacitate the program managers in integrating nutrition into their respective *woreda* plans. At the end of the training participants developed post-training activity plans that included the establishment of NNCB & NTC, organizing and conducting NNP sensitization meetings and supporting ENGINE/GRAD program implementation at *woreda* level. Overall, a total of 65 percent (26/40) participants were reached in Amhara and SNNPR during past quarters. The remaining target will be reached in the next quarters.

Provide MIYCN training for health workers and health extension workers

In the first quarter, ENGINE provided MIYCN training in Amhara Region for 67 (21 female) health workers from health centers and *woreda* health offices in two ENGINE GRAD intervention *woredas*. During the second quarter, ENGINE and GRAD trained 166 (68 female) health workers working in health centers and *woreda* health offices in Amhara (39), Oromia (66) and SNNPR (61). A total of 76 percent (233/307) participants were reached in Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR during the reporting period. The training aims to build the capacity of the health workers in providing quality preventive nutrition services in their respective facilities, and will continue to reach the remaining target in the next quarter.

In Oromia (Adami Tulu and Arsi Negele *woredas*) all HCs have received registration materials and other stationary supplies to help record data, as well as materials informing about MIYCN counseling services and follow up activities at the facilities. Following the provision of the training, a post-training follow up was carried out to assess the initiation of MIYCN counseling service and overall facility setup. Accordingly, four HCs were visited for technical support. During post-training follow up, 521 pregnant women received counseling service on recommended Maternal, Infant & Young Child Feeding at five HCs in Adami Tulu *woreda* by trained health workers attending ANC service.

In SNNPR, ENGINE provided MIYCN training for 61 participants (14 female), including health workers, health center heads and GRAD staff. Participants planned to orient the remaining HC staffs to train health extension workers on the content of MIYCN, conduct counseling for caregivers (mothers/fathers) on MIYCN and provide orientation to HDAs.

Provide development agent and agriculture extension worker training on nutrition-sensitive agriculture including Keyhole gardening and Perma-gardening

In the first quarter, nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) and Perma-garden training was provided for a total of 40 (six female) development agents/agriculture extension workers (DA/AEWs) from 19 GRAD implementing *kebeles* in one intervention *woreda* in Amhara region. In the second quarter, 108 (23 female) DA/AEWs in Amhara (48) and Oromia (60) were trained in collaboration with GRAD on NSA. The training also included topics of Keyhole gardening and Perma-gardening. The overall performance is 56 percent of the plan for the reporting periods.

Conduct Enhanced Community Conversations using village economic and social association structure

Training of GRAD animators and conducting Enhanced Community Conversations (ECC) at village economic and social association (VESA) level were planned for the reporting period. These activities

were not conducted as the result of delays both in staffing of animators by GRAD and adapting ENGINE ECC materials. The ENGINE ECC materials have been reviewed by a taskforce of ENGINE and GRAD staff, who have identified the sessions to be included and the adaptations to be made. This is underway and materials will be finalized in Quarter III.

Provide technical assistance (Mentorship) to health extension workers for the implementation of direct nutrition services at facility and community levels

In Oromia, ENGINE visited five HCs and two HPs and provided mentoring to 13 HWs (four female) and three HEWs to improve the quality of the MIYCN counseling service.

In Amhara, the ENGINE regional team visited nine HCs and six HPs and mentored 40 HWs and HEWs (25 female). The aim of the support was to improve performance of HWs on providing quality service in nutrition. During the mentoring, gaps in nutritional counseling were identified and addressed based on practical counseling demonstration.

Conduct nutrition cooking demonstrations at community levels including promotion of use of iodized salts and WASH

In Amhara, ENGINE technically supported seven nutrition cooking events at HPs and at the community level. A total of 230 participants (186 female) attended the events. In Quarter II, ENGINE updated standardized cooking demonstration procedures which will be shared to FtF Nutrition TWG and which will be used to improve the quality of cooking demonstration conducted for VESA groups.

Apply economic strengthening interventions to meet households' needs

Select households among the village economic and social association group

In Oromia, ENGINE and GRAD selected 250 households among 31 VESA groups, and in Amhara 233 of the planned 250 households were selected for nutrition sensitive project support. Selection criteria included households with children under 2 years, women of reproductive age, and economically poor households. The actual performance is 55 percent (483/875) of the target for the reporting period. The remaining targets, primarily from SNNPR, will be finalized in the third quarter. ENGINE is in discussion with GRAD, who is responsible for leading livelihood interventions on the modality of support, particularly on poultry and homestead gardening interventions. The modality of support will be finalized early in Quarter III.

Select farmer training centers with access to water to promote vegetables and fruit production

During the reporting quarter, four of a planned seven farmer training center (FTC) sites (two per region), have been selected in Amhara and Oromia regions. These sites, which have access to water to promote vegetables and fruit production for VESA members, were selected in consultation with experts from *woreda* agriculture offices. ENGINE and *woreda* agriculture offices communicated with the respective DAs about the activities to be undertaken with the support of the ENGINE-GRAD partnership. The remaining FTCs in SNNPR will be selected in Quarter III.

Provide Keyhole gardening/perma-garden training to community facilitators and animators at *woreda* level

Perma-garden training for GRAD's community facilitators and animators has been provided in the two GRAD intervention *woredas* in Amhara Region. The training was provided to 215 participants (40 female), which is 46 percent (215/467) of the quarter plan. The remaining target for Oromia and SNNPR will be conducted in the third quarter.

Train households from village economic and social association groups on homestead vegetable production including Perma-gardening and Keyhole gardening.

In Amhara, 166 (66 percent) of the selected 233 households received training on homestead vegetable production including Perma-gardening and Keyhole gardening and 204 (84 percent) households received vegetable seeds, fruit seedlings and hand tools on a revolving credit basis through the VESA structure. In addition, 73 households from VESA groups received training on poultry management.

In Oromia, ENGINE and GRAD supported training of 235 households from VESA groups on integrated dietary diversity and livestock management and 73 HH in poultry management. The overall objective of the training is to provide VESA households with an attainable, practical and sustainable method to increase their own household vegetable production at the homestead, as well as increase consumption to impact on household nutrition through improved agronomic practices.

Overall, 34 percent (474/1375) of the targeted households were trained in Amhara and Oromia during the reporting quarters. The remaining target will be reached in the next quarters.

Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

Development of a joint M&E plan was slowed by the departure of ENGINE Sr. M&E advisor. The position is now filled, and ENGINE and GRAD have held discussions on developing a joint M&E plan for the partnership. Agreement was reached on inclusion of key nutrition indicators into GRAD's yearly intermediate results assessment so the study can also serve as a baseline for the collaboration. The plan will be finalized in the third quarter. In addition, consensus has been reached on what Feed the Future indicators should be reported jointly or independently to avoid double counting. ENGINE will have a non-AGP M&E advisor starting early in Quarter III to support these activities.

Challenges

As the result of delays in the release of promised additional funds from USAID to GRAD, implementation of activities planned under the partnership, which require significant GRAD resources are delayed. This has also contributed to the limited involvement of GRAD implementing partners to fully integrate activities planned under the partnership as part of their regular activities. GRAD implementing partners have only an indicative plan, but not detailed implementation plan by quarter. This has made joint planning and implementation of activities with ENGINE challenging.

Despite efforts by both ENGINE and GRAD to orient regional teams and partners to the nature of the collaboration and the expectations for both projects, some confusion has remained and the need for regular regional meetings to align plans has been identified and action taken.

The delayed completion of ENGINE's ECC materials for AGP resulted in a delayed timeline for adaptation and roll-out of ECCs through VESA groups. In Quarter II, this process moved forward significantly and adapted ECC materials are expected in Quarter III.

Major activities planned for the third quarter

- To jointly review the implementation status of the partnership in order to fix shortcomings and revisit the work plan and implementation modality for the remaining period of the fiscal year
- Finalize the adaptation of ECC materials to that of the food insecure *woredas*, print and distribute ECC materials to the project *woredas* and roll out the implementation of ECC through GRAD implementing structures (community facilitators and VESA groups)
- Finalize the development of M&E framework in the context of the partnership, establish baseline data and document lessons learned as part of learning agenda

Annex 2: Report on partners with GOAL in non-AGP woredas

Start-up

In the reporting period, ENGINE continued its partnership with GOAL in non-AGP *woredas* of Oromia and SNNPR. In addition to the four *woredas* that began implementation in Year III, ENGINE expanded to three additional *woredas* in East and West Hararge in Quarter I and three *woredas* in SNNPR in Quarter II, following a long approval process with regional government in SNNPR.

ENGINE hired five zonal coordinators to support the partnership in Oromia and SNNPR. ENGINE and GOAL finalized and signed an MOU to guide joint implementation. Two workshops were held in Oromia to familiarize ENGINE, GOAL and partners staff about the partnership and planned activities. In SNNPR, ENGINE conducted regional ENGINE-GOAL partnership familiarization and a joint regional work plan development workshop in Quarter II. The workshop helped participants to understand implementation modalities and develop a joint action plan

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

IR 1.1: Strengthened policy environment

Strategy 1.1.1: Strengthen existing nutrition multi-sector coordination

Activity (i) Support the nutrition multi-sectoral coordination mechanism

The revised NNP was previously launched in East and West Hararghe zones, however it was neither introduced nor launched at the *woreda* level in seven ENGINE-GOAL partnership *woredas*. Accordingly, ENGINE gave technical support to Deder *woreda* in East Hararghe zone to conduct its first *woreda* level nutrition multi-sectoral meeting on Jan. 2, 2015. The strategic objectives of the NNP and why nutrition matters to the region and the country as a whole were presented. The NNP documents were printed and provided to representative from nine NNP implementing sectors. As a result, *woreda* level NCB and NTCs were established and a draft ToR was presented to the participants and signed by the heads of the nine implementing sectors. A relevant plan of action was decided on at the conclusion of the meeting. A total of 20 participants (three female) participated. ENGINE will support the launching of NNP in the remaining *woredas* in Quarter III.

IR2.1: Quality of nutrition services strengthened

Build capacity of health system to implement direct nutrition interventions and Social and Behavior Change Communication on nutrition and WASH

During this reporting period, ENGINE extended its preventive nutrition support coverage to non-AGP *woredas* in East and West Hararghe and in SNNPR in collaboration with GOAL. Trained staffs started counseling on key messages on nutrition and conducting cooking demonstration.

In partnership with GOAL, ENGINE reached 92 percent (360/390) of training targets. The training includes health and agriculture program managers, integrating IYCF into CMAM and NSA.

Table I. GOAL ENGINE total number of people trained in child health and nutrition by region

Regions	Semi-annual plan	Semi-annual achievement	Male	Female	%
E. Oromia	273	256	194	62	94
SNNPR	117	104	80	24	89
Total	390	360	274	86	92

Provide training for health and agriculture program managers (woreda heads)

During the reporting period, ENGINE technically and financially supported nutrition program planning and supervision training for health and agriculture program managers in SNNPR. This was aimed at building managers' capacity to integrate nutrition into their respective *woreda* plans and coordinate nutrition programs. A total of 10 (25 percent of target) participants from Sidama Zonal Office and target *woredas* attended the four-day training. At the end of the training participants developed action plans in line with ongoing nutrition program implementation in the region. Program managers' training in Oromia will be conducted following the election.

Provide integrated infant and young child feeding into community management of acute malnutrition training

In Oromia, ENGINE conducted basic MIYCN training for HWs and *woreda* health staff members from five *woredas* in East and West Hararghe zones. A total of 161 (41 female) participants attended the trainings. Participants produced a post-training action plan to guide them in initiating activities that they are expected to implement. Additionally, the participating PHCUs were provided with the necessary registration and reporting materials and practical demonstrations on how to use them.

In SNNPR, ENGINE in collaboration with GOAL supported MIYCN training for HWs, health center heads and GOAL staff from SNNP ENGINE/GOAL and ENGINE/GRAD *woredas*. A total of 94 participants (24 Female) attended from Dale, Boricha, and Shebedino *woreda* in Sidama zone where ENGINE/GOAL projects are jointly operating. Participants planned to orient/train the remaining HC staffs and HEWs on the content of MIYCN, to conduct counseling for caregivers on MIYCN and orientate HDAs along with HEWs.

Monitor and report Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition counseling for mothers by trained health workers

In Quarter I, ENGINE visited 36 health facilities (23 HCs and 13 HPs) to provide technical assistance in MIYCN counseling as well as to ensure all facilities have MIYCN registration books and reporting formats and are able to use them.

In Quarter II, the regional team observed that, following the training, the majority of HCs in East and West Hararghe had started to produce and communicate nutrition counseling service reports using the

same format being applied for AGP *woredas*. In the second quarter, a total of 4062 pregnant mothers received nutrition counselling services on recommended MIYCN practices at 19 reporting HCs in East Hararghe. These included 3831 pregnant mothers who were provided with iron folate. A total of 870 children with diarrhea attended the under-five clinics, and all were provided with zinc tablets and ORS. Similarly, in five *woredas* of West Hararghe, a total of 6180 pregnant mothers attended the ANC clinics and received nutritional counseling services in 16 reporting health facilities and 3450 were prescribed Iron folate. Likewise, a total of 3297 children attended the under-5 clinic during the second quarter, of which 1237 were diarrheal cases who were prescribed with zinc tablets and oral rehydration salts (ORS). The remaining health centers have not submitted their nutrition service provision report, but ENGINE continues to provide technical support and mentoring, and expects all facilities to report in Quarter III.

Provide training to development agents, agricultural extension workers and GOAL *woreda* staff on nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Training for AEWs in NSA was conducted in the first quarter in West and East Hararghe. The training developed the capacity of AEWs on NSA together with the basic concepts of nutrition. A total of 95 (13 female) of 130 planned participants were trained. Training in SNNPR will take place in Quarter III.

Conduct nutrition cooking demonstrations at community levels biannually at health posts including promotion of use of iodized salts and WASH.

During the first quarter, ENGINE supported nine community level food-cooking demonstrations in GOAL non-AGP *woredas*. A total of 397 (270 female) participated in the demonstrations. During the second quarter, a total of 70 sessions were organized in seven *woredas*, reaching 4,071 participants (2,841 female).

IR 3.2 Apply economic strengthening interventions to meet households' needs: Selection/targeting of households with community management of acute malnutrition cases for livelihood support

Target households of community management of acute malnutrition beneficiaries

ENGINE and GOAL selected 875 (70 percent) households in Oromia with children exposed to relapse of acute malnutrition, per health facility records, were selected for project support of livelihood activities. In SNNPR, the targeting is under way and will be reported in the next quarter. Selection of the households is based on clinical records of children. Some of the children were from well-off families and did not qualify for livelihood support based on the vulnerability criteria. In collaboration with *kebele* leaders and community elders ENGINE identified those who are qualified both in terms of need and relapse of acute malnutrition. Children from well-off families suffering from relapse are referred for additional counseling on infant feeding.

Provide vegetable seeds, fruit seedlings and hand tools to households

In Oromia, a total of 875 CMAM beneficiaries were provided with farm tools to support homestead gardening (shovels, machetes, rakes and watering cans). Distribution was facilitated at respective *kebeles* through the *Woreda* Agriculture Office.

Organize groups for saving

ENGINE and GOAL supported establishment of 35 saving groups (40 percent), consisting of 10-20 members, in East and West Hararghe target *woredas*. The regional team is working with local sectors offices to link the groups to local microfinance institutions to derive maximum benefit.

Goat or chicken provision for community management of acute malnutrition beneficiaries

ENGINE and GOAL supported provision of goats for 271 CMAM beneficiaries in all targeted *woredas* with the involvement of committee comprised of representatives from relevant sector offices, *woreda* and *kebele* development committees as well as GOAL staff. Accordingly, the committee procured 1,084 goats and distributed for seven targeted *woredas*. To date, 31 percent of the targeted Year IV beneficiaries were reached. Support will continue in Quarter III.

Train households on homestead vegetable production including Perma-gardens, Keyhole gardening poultry and goat rearing

In Oromia, ENGINE-GOAL supported integrated training of 802 CMAM beneficiaries in order to raise their awareness on livestock management and homestead production. The achievement was 92 percent (802/875). In East Hararge, Meta *woreda* AEWs provided additional on-site technical assistance for 71 CMAM beneficiaries on identified key gaps after training. These included iodized salt utilization, practicing diversified feeding and supporting pregnant and lactating women with HH activities. The remaining target in SNNPR will be reached during the next two quarters.

IR 4 Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

ENGINE and GOAL held discussions on developing a joint M&E plan for the partnership. Finalization of the plan was delayed due to departure of ENGINE Sr. M&E advisor. The vacancy has been filled and ENGINE and GRAD met in Quarter II and the joint learning agenda will be finalized early in Quarter III.

Support & participate on biannual *woreda* health office regular nutrition integrated review

In Oromia, ENGINE technically and financially supported *woreda* level integrated health and nutrition biannual review meetings at three *woredas*: Meta, Oda Bultum and Boke, which were attended by *woreda* health office experts, HWs and HEWs. The review meetings helped to revitalize the preventive nutrition programs in the *woredas* by creating a platform to raise MIYCN and other preventive nutrition agendas. All of the meetings were concluded by producing action points, which will be implemented by the responsible individuals within health offices.

Major activities planned for Quarter III

- Support *woreda* review meetings
- Support joint supervision visits
- Support multi-sectoral coordination in additional *woredas*
- Conduct quality cooking demonstrations with standardized approach
- Complete household selection for livelihood support
- Provide training and support for homestead gardening and provision of poultry and small livestock.

Annex 3: Assessment of ENGINE savings groups



Annex 3 Savings
Group Assessment.c

Annex 4: Success stories



Annex 4 ENGINE SAPR Success Stories.zip

Annex 5: Trip reports



Annex 5 Trip Reports.zip

Annex 6: Matrices: FtF, PMP, Workplan



Annex 6 Matrices FtF PMP Workplan.zip