Programme Description

South Africa’s HIV burden is the greatest in the world. From 2009 to 2011, the US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Infant & Young Child Nutrition Project worked to prevent HIV from reaching the next generation and to improve the nutritional status of mothers and children. The project informed a new set of national guidelines on infant and young child feeding in the context of HIV, and with national and international partners, identified opportunities for integrating nutrition assessment, counseling, and support services into programs focusing on prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. The project also worked in one district to mobilize communities and local government to integrate nutrition activities into community development plans. All of the project’s efforts have contributed to strengthening programs that seek to improve the nutrition of infants and young children, pregnant and lactating women, and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), particularly populations at risk of contracting HIV.

Program type

Multi-national

References


Implementing organisations

- Government
  - Health
- Research / Academia
  - Details:
    - more
    - University Research Co., LL C
- Private Sector
  - Details:
    - more

Funding sources

- Bilateral and donor agencies and lenders
  - US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Action data

- Fecha de inicio: January 2009
- Fecha final: January 2011
- País(es): South Africa
- Estado: Completed
**Area:** Urban  
**Urban**  
**Rural**  
**Peri-urban**

**Lugar:** Eastern Cape Province

**Tópico:** Infant feeding in the context of HIV

**Grupo de interés:** Infants (up to 1 year of age)  
Infants and young children  
Pregnant/lactating women with HIV/AIDS

**Entrega:** Community-based

**Detalles de la implementación:** Nutritional care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS was reported to the Global Nutrition Policy Review (GNPR) 2009-2010 in Eastern Cape Province, IYCN supported PATH’s efforts to improve the quality, availability, and uptake of PMTCT services by strengthening under-resourced PMTCT sites and mobilizing communities to increase the uptake of those services. To prevent malnutrition and ensure HIV-free survival of children, IYCN contributed to integrating infant and young child feeding activities into PMTCT interventions. Specifically, the project helped develop a training package for lay counselors and community health workers and supported the training of 100 community health workers on infant and young child feeding. In addition, the project assisted the provincial health department to develop tools for surveying facility-based nutrition services. By adapting a regional, community-based planning tool for use locally, IYCN worked with private-sector partner, J & J Trust, South Africa’s Ekurhuleni Municipality, and Ward 86 within the municipality’s Nigel District to conduct a pilot program that integrated nutrition interventions into economic and community development planning. This model approach can be scaled up throughout the district and beyond to enhance awareness of the nutritional status of young children and dietary and feeding practices that can improve their health. Through this approach, IYCN trained community volunteers to engage the community in nutrition activities. The community response was overwhelming, and community leaders included nutrition activities in development plans. These new activities included establishing a support group for pregnant and lactating mothers and their parents and initiating an awareness campaign on available structures to support lactation.

| Tamaño de la población a cobrar: | x |
| Nivel de cobertura: | x |
| Indicador(es) de resultado: | x |
| Resultados reportados por determinantes sociales: | Vulnerable groups |
| Historia personal: | I have seen the level of interest in nutrition in the community increase, and now ward members are empowered to influence the development plans of the municipality and the district to prioritize support for nutrition.?? Benny Sikhakhane, IYCN Project consultant |
| Otras lecciones aprendidas: | The use of existing structures and processes made planning community nutrition activities and allocating resources feasible. The community in Ward 86 continues to implement nutrition activities based on their community development plans. Although the project did not fund the implementation of these activities, community leaders were able to leverage existing structures and resources. Engagement with communities revealed that people are aware of nutrition and related issues, but that technical support is needed to develop creative behavior change interventions. It is possible to build better linkages between the community and health services by engaging the municipal planning system. |

**Typical problems**

**Solutions**

<table>
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<th>Other actions from same programme</th>
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<td>Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Project - Food distribution/supplementation for prevention of acute malnutrition - Infants and young children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Project - Deworming - Pregnant women (PW)</td>
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<td>Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Project - Management of moderate malnutrition - Preschool-age children (Pre-SAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Project - Management of severe acute malnutrition - Preschool-age children (Pre-SAC)</td>
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</table>
Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Project - Food distribution/supplementation for prevention of acute malnutrition - Lactating women (LW)/Pregnant women (PW) 
Maternal, infant and young child nutrition programmes - Infants (up to 1 year of age) 
Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) Project - Distribution of insecticide-treated bednets - Family (living in same household)

Links to policies in GINA
Roadmap for Nutrition in South Africa

eLENA Link

Infant feeding for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV