

Delivery Systems for Scale: An Interagency Effort to Support Scaling of Wasting Detection and Treatment

Background

In July 2022, USAID announced unprecedented funding to rapidly scale up wasting treatment services. A global award of \$284 million was designated for UNICEF, and an additional \$217 million was directly awarded to WFP country offices. This one-time commitment represents the most significant single investment in wasting treatment in history, providing a unique and time-bound influx of funds aimed at expanding treatment coverage across 13 high-priority countries.

Collaborating with USAID and UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Action Against Hunger, and Save the Children led the 'Delivery Systems for Scale' project. This initiative provided essential technical and coordination support in direct alignment with the supplemental funding from USAID, reinforcing the collective effort to enhance wasting treatment services.

Project Overview

From December 2022 to September 2023, our project focused on three core areas: Country-Driven Support, Coordination, and Learning. This strategic approach allowed us to provide rapid assistance to six countries: Chad, Madagascar, Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, and Yemen. During its 10-month implementation period, the DSFS project produced a total of 67 deliverables in response to countries' requests. These deliverables covered a wide range of topics, including the development of national SOPs for implementing simplified protocols, the creation of scale-up plans with associated monitoring tools and frameworks, and recommendations for national supply chain risk management.

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COUNTRY-LEVEL SUPPORT		COORDINATION	LEARNING
Dedicated, on-going and embedded support to country-level plans for scale	Rapid, short-term and on-demand technical assistance	Global-level cross-agency coordination and progress monitoring	Knowledge management and documentation of lessons learned

Strengths of DSFS

- **Comprehensive Support:** The project offered a wide range of support to multiple countries, including study protocols, synthesis reports, action plans, toolkits, and case studies.
- **Collaborative Approach:** The project fostered collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including UN agencies, NGOs, and country-level partners.
- **Engagement and Communication:** The project prioritized stakeholder engagement and, fostering collaboration and accountability
- **Learning and Documentation:** The project contributed to the global knowledge base through capturing lessons learned, best practices, and challenges
- **Innovative Approaches:** The project facilitated innovative analyses, such as scenario analysis and cost analysis, to support country-level decision-making and resource allocation.

Limitations of DSFS

- **Limited Timelines:** The project faced challenges in meeting goals due to short deadlines and delays in recruitment.
- **Capacity Development Gaps:** Despite capacity building efforts, lack of time and investment hindered effective utilization of diverse expertise.
- **Partial Stakeholder Engagement:** While broad stakeholder involvement was a strength, incomplete engagement resulted in communication gaps that limited alignment with evolving needs.
- **Documentation Challenges:** Project priorities and timelines restricted thorough knowledge sharing and continuous improvement.

Highlights

In addition to the creation of strategic resources for country-level planning, we supported global cross-agency coordination and progress monitoring of scale efforts, including UNICEF, BHA and key stakeholders and compiled:

- 7 TORs for technical support across 6 countries
- 6 case studies on country-led scale scaling efforts
- 2 multi-country webinars on mobile treatment delivery and adaptations in emergencies
- A global scale study on progress and lessons learned to scale up early detection and treatment of severe wasting

Featured Output: Global Scale Study

This report consolidates the latest data and evidence on global and regional action to address enablers and barriers to country level scaling of program coverage, quality and access early detection and treatment of severe wasting in children between 2013 to July 2023. The analysis draws from country level experience that has been synthesized across context or regions to identify progress over the last decade, drivers of change, and opportunities not to miss in collaborating on a country level expansion of timely, accessible, sustainable and effective treatment and care in the years ahead.



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