



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter



FY 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Health & Nutrition Workgroup

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HEALTH & NUTRITION WORKGROUP

The SID-W Health and Nutrition Workgroup is a group of individuals actively engaged with issues of improving health around the globe. With events ranging from current and emerging health trends to the intersection of health and diverse sectors, this Workgroup aims to inform on the strategies, practices, and learnings that will lead to a healthier world.



Dear Members of the Health & Nutrition Workgroup,

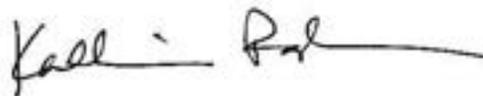
Our Fiscal Year 2020 was unusual for us, as it was for so many, ending during a global pandemic. This certainly affected our ability to deliver programming. Despite this hurdle, the Workgroup still managed to produce two excellent events including the [Health & Nutrition Workgroup Planning Meeting](#) and [The Nurturing Care Framework - the Education and Health Nexus](#).

We would like to thank former Co-Chair Roseanne Schuster (ASU International Development). She helped us put on many fantastic events during her tenure. We wish her the best in her future endeavors. We welcomed Stephanie Vasquez (Bixal) as the new Co-Chair. We are excited to work with her over the next few years!

Now that we have mastered the art of virtual programming, we look forward to offering more events accessible to a wider audience and providing an even more dynamic community for interaction. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. You can see all of our programs on our [website](#) – and please check back often as we add new ones regularly.

Thank you for your interest in and support of SID-Washington’s Workgroups. If you have questions, comments or ideas, please send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





Dr. Lara S. Ho

Deputy Director, Strategic Initiatives, International Rescue Committee

Lara has over been working for over two decades as a public health professional experienced in social/behavioral community-based intervention research and health systems strengthening in refugee and post-conflict settings. Currently based in Washington, DC, Lara has lived and worked in Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Chad, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, and Switzerland. As the Deputy Director of the Health Technical Unit at IRC, Lara currently manages a team of over 30 Technical Advisors who support a portfolio of projects globally in primary health, environmental health, nutrition, family planning and reproductive health, child health, and health systems, and health research.



Stephanie Vasquez

Program Manager/Product Owner, Bixal

Stephanie is an international development professional with expertise in domestic and international public health. Stephanie has more than 15 years of experience designing, managing, and implementing projects to improve health outcomes related to infectious and chronic disease programs. She has led start-up of various country-level HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs to reduce HIV among vulnerable populations. Recently, she led the final phase of a multi-site non-communicable disease program to strengthen community-based approaches to improve health outcomes among diabetic and hypertensive patients. She is experienced working with US government institutions and academic and local organizations. Her expertise includes capacity-building, sustainability, community engagement, local partnership/ownership, patient engagement, and bridging the gap between community and clinical services. She is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. She has a Master in Public Health and a B.A. in International Studies.



Roseanne Schuster, PhD, MSc

Director, MEL Practice and Innovation, Arizona State University

Roseanne Schuster is both the Director of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Practice and Innovation for the Global Impact Collaboratory at Arizona State University International Development and Assistant Research Scientist at the Center for Global Health, Arizona State University. She is a global nutrition and public health professional dedicated to increasing the impact of research and programming through innovative, cost-effective, and culturally responsive monitoring, evaluation, and learning. She has a decade of experience in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs seeking to improve health and environmental and social wellbeing. As the Director of MEL for the Global Impact Collaboratory, Dr. Schuster engages community-based, participatory, and implementation science approaches in interventions and evaluations to ensure programs are ultimately responsive to target populations and adaptive to the complex systems in which they operate.

Monday, March 9, 2020

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET | Online via Zoom

Health & Nutrition Workgroup Planning Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET | Online via Zoom

The Nurturing Care Framework - the Education and Health Nexus



Health & Nutrition Workgroup Planning Meeting

Workgroup Co-Chairs: **Dr. Lara S. Ho, MHS, PhD, RN**, Deputy Director, Strategic Initiatives, International Rescue Committee
Roseanne Schuster, PhD, MSc, Director, MEL Practice and Innovation, ASU International

Event Description: SID-W's Health & Nutrition Workgroup met on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 4:00 PM to plan events for the group in the next year. In recent months, the group organized events on topics such as Private Capital and Global Health. All members were encouraged to join and bring ideas for event formats and topics.

Key Takeaways

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Discussion from Workgroup Co-Chairs

- **Dr. Lara Ho** (International Rescue Committee) mentioned the need for programming to consider the consequences of COVID-19. Large gatherings should be limited, and organizations should focus on providing feedback on convenient channels for sharing and receiving information.
- **Roseanne Schuster** (ASU International Development) stated that the workgroups should collaborate with each other at least once or twice per year to discuss vital topics rather than having different work streams.

III. Key Ideas from the Main Discussion

Participants discussed the following topics during the main portion of the event:

- Event Ideas/Formats
- Health systems and performance-based financing to promote organizational goals.
- How to approach health nutrition challenges: Moderated panels that give brief presentations on strategies to improve health and nutrition on a global perspective.
- Attendees expressed interest in having regularly structured meetings so that the workgroup can better plan for future events.

IV. Next Steps

Based on the discussion, the Co-Chairs will compile the feedback from the meeting and coordinate with SID-Washington Staff to roll out exciting events over the course of the next year.



The Nurturing Care Framework - the Education and Health Nexus

Moderator: **Dr. Lara S. Ho, MHS, PhD, RN**, Deputy Director, Strategic Initiatives, International Rescue Committee

Speakers: **Matthew Frey**, Director, Global Integrated ECD/Nurturing Care Program, PATH
Erin Milner, Senior Nutrition Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Advisor, USAID
Katie Murphy, Senior Technical Advisor, Early Childhood Development, International Rescue Committee

Event Description: The Nurturing Care Framework draws on state-of-the-art evidence on how early childhood development can guide the most effective policies and services that will help parents and caregivers provide nurturing care for babies and very young children. The framework builds on the foundation of universal health coverage, with primary care at its core, as essential for all sustainable growth and development. It articulates the important role that all sectors, including the health sector, must play to support the healthy development of all children to develop optimally and reap maximum benefit from pre-school and formal education. In this event, panelists discussed their work with the Nurturing Care Framework, touching on how education and health intersect. They also highlighted some of the work being done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Takeaways:

1) Introduction

Dr. Joanie Cohen (Creative Associates International) set the stage for the event by giving a brief background and overview of what the Nurturing Care Framework entails. Dr. Cohen defined a nurturing care framework as a stable environment created by parents and caregivers to promote children's health and nutrition, provide safety, and give young children opportunities for early learning and interactions that are emotionally supportive, responsive, and proactive. Dr. Cohen further mentioned that the nurturing care framework was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank Group in collaboration with partnerships from Early Childhood Development Action Network to provide a roadmap for ensuring the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Cohen also highlighted that the framework provides policies and services that support parents, caregivers, and families in the community to provide a safe and secure environment for children to grow.

2) The Nurturing Care Framework and Humanitarian Setting

Katie Murphy (International Rescue Committee) shared that specific threats faced by young children in humanitarian settings include: compounding adversities, lack of prioritization and funding for early learning and responsive caregiving within humanitarian settings, limited access to services, fragmented systems, and lack of support needed for children

to thrive. Murphy emphasized that early childhood is a critical time for brain development in children, and therefore, parents and caregivers need to support and create an environment that promotes early learning. Murphy also highlighted that research from the Harvard Center for Child Development found that the accumulation of persistent stress, especially in absence of safe, secure, and stable relationships with adult caregivers, can disrupt the synaptic connection and have long-term effects on a child's future health, academic achievements, and well-being. Therefore, responsive caregiving in early learning plays a critical role as it protects children from the negative effects of stress. Murphy explained how the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has partnerships with mass media workshops and is supporting the media groups with designing content on child education and television shows that are aimed to reflect the realities of children and families that have been affected by conflict crises in the Middle East.

3) Donor Perspective on Early Childhood Development and Nutrition

Erin Milner (USAID) shared that the nurturing care framework provides donors like USAID with the architecture for investing in early childhood development and evidence to make concrete connections between early childhood development and nutrition. USAID is collaborating within health, nutrition, education, and social protection spaces to implement integrated nurturing care programs and contribute to the evidence base. Milner mentioned that USAID implements the U.S Government Strategic Framework on advancing the protection and care for children in adversity. This framework focuses on building

strong beginnings, putting family care first, and protecting children. Milner highlighted examples of activities that are important for nutrition and development outcomes: (1) Responsive feeding, (2) integrated nutrition and ECD Curriculum development and training, (3) supportive supervision and mentorship, and (4) growth monitoring and promotion as well as integrated management of acute malnutrition.

4) How Nurturing Care is Taking Root in the Health Sector

Matthew Frey (PATH) discussed that 66 percent of African children are at a high risk of poor development. This statistic is due to the absence of a focus on early childhood development

in African countries' health systems. Frey shared that PATH began working with health ministries in Kenya, Mozambique, and Zambia to design and evaluate early interventions to promote child development in the health sector. Frey stressed that Early Childhood Development is failing in African countries due to lack of leadership in the health sector and therefore, it is important to reinforce healthy parental practices and promote a change in social norms. Frey concluded that it is also important to introduce health policies and guidelines that work towards fostering child development and this can be achieved by providing efficient training to health workers and laying out guidelines that are vital for promoting development and growth in the health sector.



Society for International Development,
Washington Chapter

The Nurturing Care Framework – the Education and Health Nexus



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Dr. Lara S. Ho - International Rescue Committee

Stephanie Vasquez - Bixal

Roseanne Schuster - ASU International Development

Photo Credit

Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs

Please note that some photos are from FY19 (July 2018 - June 2019).

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Program Associates: Megan Dixon, Mikaila Harper, Lydia Henning, Shabnam Kabir, Fadima Konate, Devang Laddha, Seth Reinhard, Melina Reynoso, and Vivian Zhang for their hard work to create this report.