Strengthening Governance for Nutrition
-The Maharashtra Experience…

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Maharashtra Districts by Administrative Divisions

Bulk of the States GDP comes from these 2 divisions
Maharashtra is the second most populous state.

Only 10 countries have population more than Maharashtra.

Source: Census of India, 2011, RGI
Addressing Child Under nutrition in Maharashtra-The Turning Point..
Adversity to Opportunity.

2001-
- Response to media reports on child deaths due to malnutrition in the district headquarters in Aurangabad. (2001-)
- High power committee set up to investigate the deaths.
- Demonstrated experience in implementing the large-scale-- UNICEF-Partnered

2004-
- Media reports child deaths due to malnutrition in two tribal districts.
- Visit of the high power group from GOI.
- High power committee set up under the then CM to develop the response plan based on the PIL.
- UNICEF part of the High Power Committee.

2005
- Advocacy based on success of Marathwada Initiative.
- High level political support for Independent Mission to be headed by Senior officer.
- UNICEF invited by the Government to Partner.
- RJMCHN Mission established on 22 February 2005 through the State Cabinet approval at Aurangabad.
RJMCHN Mission: Phase-I and II

What is New?

- Sharper – Focus on the issue, youngest, poorest and the excluded including urban.

RJMCHN Mission-Independent Platform within Government.

- Focus on the First 1000 days - The Critical Window of Opportunity.

- Capacity building of Health and ICDS..
- Special extensive Campaign on Making villages malnutrition free.
- Establishing Community accreditation systems.
- Innovations for scale.
- Data for decision making- Validation of the existing ICDS data thru third party, and the CNSM survey 2012.
- Influencing budgets.
- Urban program.
- Influencing Medical and Nursing curriculum
The Key Results..
Trends in prevalence of under nutrition among children under two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>NFHS 3</th>
<th>CNSM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stunting</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>23.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wasting</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>16.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>22.6</td>
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</table>
Decline in prevalence of stunting among children under two

- 1999: 41.4%
- 2006: 39.0%
- 2012: 23.3%
Prevalence of stunting, underweight and wasting in children 0-23 months old. Maharashtra 2006-2012
The Gaps…
Marked improvement in institutional deliveries; however timely initiation of breastfeeding is still sub-optimal

Source: NFHS-2006, CNSM-2012
Poor quality of complementary foods in children under two

Source: CNSM, 2012
Conclusions…

- Mission provides enabling environment for Systems and community empowerment.
- Mission to be made accountable.
- Systems can deliver essential Nutrition interventions at scale.
- Data as driver for the future programming.
- Data demonstrated that decline has been propoor and Proequity.
- Creation of champions of change.
- Budgets influenced both from government and communities: (US $531 million)
- Opportunity for Partnerships and innovations.
- Maharashtra influencing pan India-Establishment of UP mission, Jharkhand, other states following.
The Lessons......

Is Mission the answer to addressing Child Under nutrition in the Country? Yes and No.

Yes-If the Mission is headed by a Policy maker and who is interested and understands the issue and willing to head it for at least five years.

Gets complete autonomy and very much part of the Government systems.

No-if it is going to be headed by an outsider, or by a technocrat.


Need for Urban Specific strategy.

Alternative mechanisms for addressing Governance for Nutrition.

Comprehensive approach for improving CF and feeding.
Opportunities...

Mission Phase-III with focus on Multisector plan for addressing stunting.

Vision 2030 – SDG-Stunting levels will be reduced from 34% to <10%.

Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition Policy awaiting cabinet approval.

Special High Burden districts by Niti Ayog.

National Family Health Survey -4 with districts data for setting targets.
The Journey.- Leadership with Accountability..