Sunaula Hazar Din-
Community Action for
Nutrition Project Nepal

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Why the name?

For Good......

“First Thousand Days”

“Golden Thousand Days”

Sunaula= Golden
Nutrition as a Development Agenda

• Multiplex or Complex?

• Not definitely simplex or duplex - nutrition appears on various “screens” of a human life
Nutrition as a Development Agenda

- Definitely, a very complex task to address
- Besides supply side constraints, Cultures and Behaviors have huge impact on nutrition outcomes
- It is an investment for human capital that does not manifest immediately
- Interact differently at different places
Sunaula Hazar Din Project took some challenges

- Two important features
  1) Community Driven
  2) Rapid Results Approach
Community Driven

• Communities challenged by giving them the responsibility to identify the causes of malnutrition in their areas

• Develop proposals and implement activities on their own to combat the causes of malnutrition
Rapid Results Approach

- Events
  - Pre-launch and Launch
  - 50-day monitoring review
  - and 100-day event
Rapid Results Approach
Evaluation of the Approach

Success depended upon:

- Social fabric, culture, and cohesion
- Local politics/community dynamics
- Local coordination
Social Fabric

• Culture
  • Women’s position
    • Stark difference between Terai and hills
  • Women in team- a project mandate
    • Some were forced to join
    • Some joined but not heard- “followed the rules on paper rather than with spirit”
    • “illiterate men started to feel threatened”

• Social Cohesion
  • Trust, trustworthiness, altruism and collective action were better in hills than in Terai
  • In Terai, the facilitators and team found difficult to convince people and work for collective good
Local Politics and Community Dynamics

- Demands focused for tangible stuff
  - Eg toilets
  - 100 days to show result

- Pressures from local political parties
  - Leadership of the facilitators

- Project being perceived as a source to make money
  - leading to strife, especially in Terai

Sunaula Hazar Din Project

- Elite Capture
  - Some complained on the lack of transparency
  - Some team members did not know they were in the team
    “only came for signatures”

  “I don’t know what my role was, I had to write my name and that’s all…. after that, I didn’t go back to the meetings.”
Local Coordination

• Food Security and Nutrition Steering Committees at local levels

• Sunaula Hazar Din Project anticipated coordination from local agencies

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• Mixed results

☑ Authority and Resources

✱ Given to local coordinating agencies
Results

• Objective- Behavior change for better nutrition
• End line survey data analysis ongoing
• Preliminary Results show improvement in some indicators but not all

• Results-shaped by the influence of social cohesion, local community dynamics and local coordination
Not so easy- Community Driven Projects

• In the context of political instability

• Even ensuring accountability from community is a challenge

“Seeing your Daddy’s Marriage”
There are opportunities

- Federal Structure
- Government closer to the people
- Strong accountability of the newly elected local government
Thank You