

## **Communication and Partnership Building to Improve Child Nutrition**

### **Session Description:**

Researchers/practitioners are well aware of the critical role communication, behaviour and partnership building play in sustainable, successful development programs of all types, most especially, child health and nutrition programs. However, this interdisciplinary approach to developing, implementing and evaluating nutrition programs is not often documented compromising the ability to learn from past experiences and move the methodology forward. This symposium aims to bring more attention to this approach and its value for nutrition programs of all types.

The symposium will present and discuss the experiences of colleagues using an interdisciplinary approach to improve child health and nutrition. The presentations will focus on how communication and partnership building has been critical to the successful implementation of programs in diverse contexts. The value of these experiences across contexts will be discussed in order to enlarge the community of researchers/practitioners using the interdisciplinary methodology to improve the impact of nutrition programs.

### **Purpose**

1. Introduce the concepts of an interdisciplinary approach in child nutrition programs that encompasses communication, behavioral development and partnership building.
2. Share experiences from diverse country examples on how this approach has resulted in successful programs and discuss what aspects might be relevant to other scenarios.
3. Help develop a typology for having this approach become normative.

### **Session Chair & Co-Chair :**

**Chair:** Dr. Frances Davidson, Health Science Specialist, Global Health Bureau, US Agency for International Development, USA

**Co-chair:** Dr. Suttalak Smitasiri, Head, Division of Communication and Behavioral Science, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand

### **Session Topics and Speakers:**

**Topic 1:** *Importance of Interdisciplinary Approach for Programs to Prevent Malnutrition :*

*An African Experience: The Role of Communication and Behavioral Development to Improve Infant and Young Children Nutrition*

**Speaker 1:** David Sanders, South Africa

**Topic 2:** *Promoting Healthy Diets among Young Children in Affluent Countries: Healthy Nation Programs*

**Speaker 2:** George Beaton, Canada

**Topic 3:** *Children's Food and Nutrition Education in Japan: Critical Factors in Program Development*

**Speaker 3:** Etsuko Kita, Japan

**Topic 4:** *Lessons learnt from Communication-based Nutrition Interventions for Children in Thailand*

**Speaker 4:** Dr. Suttalak Smitasiri, Head, Division of Communication and Behavioral Science, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand