The following report provides a short overview of the SuSanA Working Group 12 meeting & informal get-together.

Discussion and feedback of the SuSanA WG12 meeting (WASH & Nutrition) on the SuSanA discussion forum
Link: http://forum.susana.org/forum/categories/131-wg-12-wash-a-nutrition/15771-wg-12-wash-a-nutrition-meeting-a-informal-get-together-in-the-run-up-to-the-wash-nutrition-forum-bonn-on-november-10

Overview of the meeting

To start the WASH Nutrition Forum with fresh ideas, a Working Group 12 meeting was held the evening before the conference, on November 10. During the meeting Working Group leads, SuSanA representatives, members and aspiring members shared their ideas of what sector integration could mean in practical terms.

After Working Group lead Stephan Simon (Welthungerhilfe) welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the cooperation between both sectors, the meeting started with an overview about the SuSanA platform. Arne Panesar (GIZ) posed the question of whether SuSanA is interesting for nutrition experts at all and if so, how it could serve to close the gap between both sectors.

The participants started discussing actively quickly. Abigale Mupambi (Progress coordinating trust) expressed her wish for WASH programs to be more nutrition sensitive. Renuka Bery (FHI 360) explained that this lack of mutual consideration could be based on the fact that the two sectors organized themselves very differently – the WASH sector usually sets its targets on community level while the nutrition sector often works on a household level for the poorest. Dr. Oliver Hoffmann (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.) further mentioned that the common approach of the WASH sector might create more interlinkage than the top-down approach of many nutrition programs. Theresa Jeremias (CARE) added that in contrast to the WASH sector, the nutrition sector is not united yet and has rather complex organizational structures.

In his presentation, Jean Lapegue (ACF) made the participants aware that WASH and nutrition programs worked in all different parts of Africa but never together in the same spot. He also drew the attention to unequal governmental focus regarding this issue, as for example in France. There 79 per cent of the resources are used for food assistance, 20 per
cent for health and only 1 per cent for WASH. Jean highlighted that a cooperation of both sectors is not only mostly necessary but should also be nothing like “rocket science” as it would only mean daily business in an improved way. He concluded that the key to success here might be a global mapping of all WASH and nutrition programs to create synergies. As a first success of the meeting, he and Abigale realized that they both work in Zimbabwe and should definitely work together.

Afterwards, Jona Toetzke (SuSanA / ACF) asked the participants for feedback about the Working Group 12 factsheet in order to elaborate it further. The feedback was diverse and the work on the factsheet can be continued efficiently.

At the end of the meeting both Arne and Thilo Panzerbieter (GTO) summed up that the Working Group meeting offered a productive opportunity for exchange and learning from each other and therefore presented a perfect start for the following two days of the WASH Nutrition Forum.

Contact us
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