



## Nutrition & Public Health

In the field of nutrition and public health, Social Sectors Development Strategies, Inc. (SSDS) focuses primarily on large-scale program evaluations and cost studies. We ensure that relevant information is available in a user-friendly format to improve the use of data for decision-making at the local, national and international levels. Our results are used to design, document or modify programs or to advocate and plan for changes in policy or funding levels.

SSDS staff members have worked on projects related to food fortification, national vitamin A supplementation programs, anemia reduction programs and Child Health Weeks. We also have long-term program management and implementation experience in emergency food aid, therapeutic feeding and community-based nutrition projects carried out in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. This experience equips our staff with practical insights into programmatic issues essential for the effective implementation and long-term sustainability of local and global health strategies for nutrition.

Staff members produce strategy papers, analytical reports, costing, planning and budgeting tools, as well as individual or cross-country case studies. Reports and findings remain confidential when that is the client's preference, but in many cases the larger programmatic lessons are disseminated through presentations at professional meetings and in the form of publications in the popular press or in trade or peer-reviewed journals.

Over the years SSDS has collaborated with a diverse set of clients working at the local, national and international levels to promote sound nutrition policy and effective program implementation. Selected project examples are provided here along with a list of key publications.

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## SSDS Activities

### **Food Fortification & Micronutrient Supplementation Programs**

- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition's 10-year global strategy for food fortification
  - Country-level strategic investment plans to support food fortification programs
  - Literature review of costing studies on food fortification
  - Country-level cost studies and simulations of alternatives for preventing vitamin A deficiency
  - Development of costing guidelines for fortification and supplementation programs designed to prevent maternal anemia and/or childhood vitamin A deficiency
  - Development of a population-based tool to estimate the impact of micronutrient deficiencies
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### **Food Fortification & Micronutrient Supplementation Programs, cont.**

- Efficacy studies of maternal and infant vitamin A supplementation in improving vitamin A status
- Case study of the national vitamin A supplementation program in Madagascar
- Social marketing of vitamin A supplementation for preschool age children in Indonesia
- Impact evaluation of the vitamin A supplementation program on child survival in Niger
- Situation analysis of maternal anemia reduction activities in India

### **Child Health Weeks**

- Global review of Child Health Weeks
- Cost study of Ethiopia's Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS)
- District-level budgeting and planning tools for Child Health Packages

### **Supplementary & Therapeutic Feeding Programs**

- Assessment of Decentralized Food Models in India's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Program
- Costing tool to estimate the resource needs of programs for community-based management of acute malnutrition

### **Program Management & Implementation**

- Therapeutic feeding programs (Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan)
- Community-based nutrition projects implemented by non-governmental organizations (Bangladesh and Indonesia)
- Growth monitoring and nutrition education programs (Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Indonesia)
- Household and facility-based surveys (numerous countries in Asia and Africa)

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## **Selected Publications**

**Fiedler JL, Sanghvi TG, Saunders MK.** A review of the micronutrient intervention cost literature: program design and policy lessons. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management.* 2008;23:1-26.

**Huff-Rousselle M, Purushothaman S, Tirupathaiah N, Fiedler JL.** Assessment of decentralized food models in India's Integrated Child Development Services Program. *Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project.* Washington, DC: Academy for Educational Development, 2007.

**Phillips M.** A cost analysis tool for programs of community-based management of acutely malnourished children (CMAM): Report from phase I. *Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project.* Washington, DC: Academy for Educational Development, September 2007.

**Phillips M and De Mattos A.** What is the role of international agencies in the micronutrient sector? *Food and Nutrition Bulletin.* 2007;28:S204-S212.

**Rice AL.** Postpartum vitamin A supplementation: Evaluating the evidence for action. *A2Z Project Technical Brief.* Washington, DC: Academy for Educational Development, January 2007.

**Rice AL, West KP Jr, Black RE.** Vitamin A deficiency. In: Ezzati M, Lopez AD, Rogers A, Murray CJL, editors. *Comparative quantification of health risks: global and regional burden of disease attributable to selected major risk factors.* Geneva: World Health Organization; 2004.