What Does It Mean to Implement a Research Uptake Strategy? Experiences from the REFANI Consortium

The Research on Food Assistance for Nutritional Impact (REFANI) Consortium is a unique example of how a whole team has been working together to realise research uptake. Through the lens of the REFANI project, this panel discussion will examine how the project’s operational and research partners plan for disseminating findings, engaging with their local networks and stakeholders and packaging research results for public use. Through this dialogue, it is hoped that attendees will gain an in-depth look at how each person on a research project, irrespective of job title, can provide expertise and facilitate the utilisation of evidence across stakeholders in policy and practice.

Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2016
Time: 15:00 – 17:00 (please arrive 15 minutes early)
Location: Adam House – The Gallery Room, 7-10 Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AA
RSVP required: send e-mail to: zshwirtz@actionagainsthunger.org
(Telephone dial-in available for those unable to attend in person.)

Speakers

Kate Golden - Concern Worldwide - Senior Nutrition Advisor
As Senior Nutrition Advisor for Concern Worldwide, Kate is currently leading a team of advisers from the nutrition, WASH and livelihoods sectors to support community resilience programming in Concern’s more disaster prone contexts. Kate has been working in the field of nutrition in the developing world for thirteen years – including posts with Concern in Ethiopia (2003-2004), South Sudan (2004-2005) and the Republic of Sudan (2006). Kate has been working as a nutrition adviser based in Concern’s Dublin office since 2006. She holds a master’s degree in Nutrition Science and Policy from Tufts University and has practical experience in the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition, promotion of infant and young child feeding, nutrition assessments, data analysis and organic vegetable farming.
Mohamed Jelle - University College London, Institute for Global Health - Study Coordinator of REFANI Somalia study
Joining the REFANI project in late 2014, Mohamed is a public health nutritionist with over 7 years experience working in emergency nutrition with various NGOs. He has also worked with the UN in Kenya, Sudan and Somalia, mainly with refugees and IDPs in conflict and in drought contexts. Mohamed has a keen interest in maternal and child health, monitoring and evaluation, operational research and other cross-cutting issues such as women and youth empowerment and reducing violent extremism by creating job opportunities for the youth.

Ghulam Murtaza Sangrasi - REFANI - Study Manager of REFANI Pakistan study
Murtaza has been leading the REFANI study in Pakistan, specifically engaged in refining the study protocol, developing data collection tools, selecting clusters and enrolling households in the research. He has also been a part of the recruitment and training of the research team, and making logistical arrangements for the implementation of study. Murtaza has been working in the development sector with different organisations since 2010, in many areas of Pakistan; Sindh, Khairpur, Jamshoro, Tando Allahyaar, Mirpurkhas and Dadu.

Zvia Shwirtz - REFANI - Communications and Research Uptake Officer
As the Communications and Research Uptake Officer for the REFANI project, Zvia manages the day to day engagement with stakeholders, as well as produces materials for all consortium partners. Prior to joining the REFANI team, she worked as a communications officer for the Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, leading all communication work, externally and internally, for rapid response missions to countries facing animal health emergencies in Asia and Africa.

The Research on Food Assistance for Nutritional Impact (REFANI) Consortium is comprised of two operational partners (Action Against Hunger and Concern Worldwide) and two research partners (ENN and University College London). The Consortium organised a panel discussion in London in February 2016, Research Uptake in a Humanitarian Context: Insights on Designing and Implementing a Research Uptake Strategy, which gathered individuals from many fields, all interested in taking a closer look at the opportunities and challenges that exist when implementing a research uptake strategy. This discussion was successful in exchanging ideas and effective methods from the respective viewpoints of the panelists, all of whom work in research uptake, communications and advocacy, across different organisations.