

ENGINE Project Profile

ENGINE (Empowering the New Generation to Improve Nutrition and Economic opportunities)—is USAID’s flagship multi-sector nutrition project in Ethiopia which builds upon the Government of Ethiopia’s National Nutrition Program as well as the U.S. Government’s Global Health and Feed the Future initiatives.

The core initiative of this large-scale, five-year project (2011 – 2016) is to prevent undernutrition during the first 1,000 days, from the start of pregnancy until the child is 2 years old.

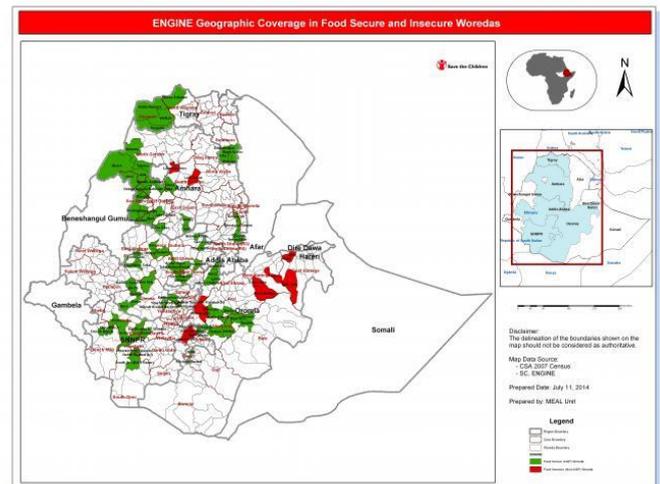
Save the Children leads the implementation of ENGINE with its partners TUFTS UNIVERSITY, JHPIEGO, LAND O’ LAKES.

Project Period: September 2011 - September 2016

Project Location: 116 *woredas* (districts) in Ethiopia: Amhara (24), Tigray (8), Oromia (46), SNNPR (22), and Somali (16) regions

Total Project Budget: \$55.0 million

Funding Agency: USAID



Goal: To improve the nutritional status of women and young children through sustainable, comprehensive, coordinated and evidence-based nutrition interventions.

Objectives:

- Strengthen the capacity to institutionalize nutrition programs and policies
- Improve quality and delivery of nutrition services
- Improve community-based nutrition care practices
- Adopt a rigorous and innovative research and learning agenda

Partners:

- Implementing partners:** Tufts University, JHPIEGO, Land O’ Lakes, and three local NGOs (EOTC-DICAC, FIDO, and EMRDA)
- Government partners:** Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Education, and Higher Education Institutions and Ethiopian Public Health Institute
- Technical Assistance Partners:** Valid International and Manoff Group

ENGINE will reach

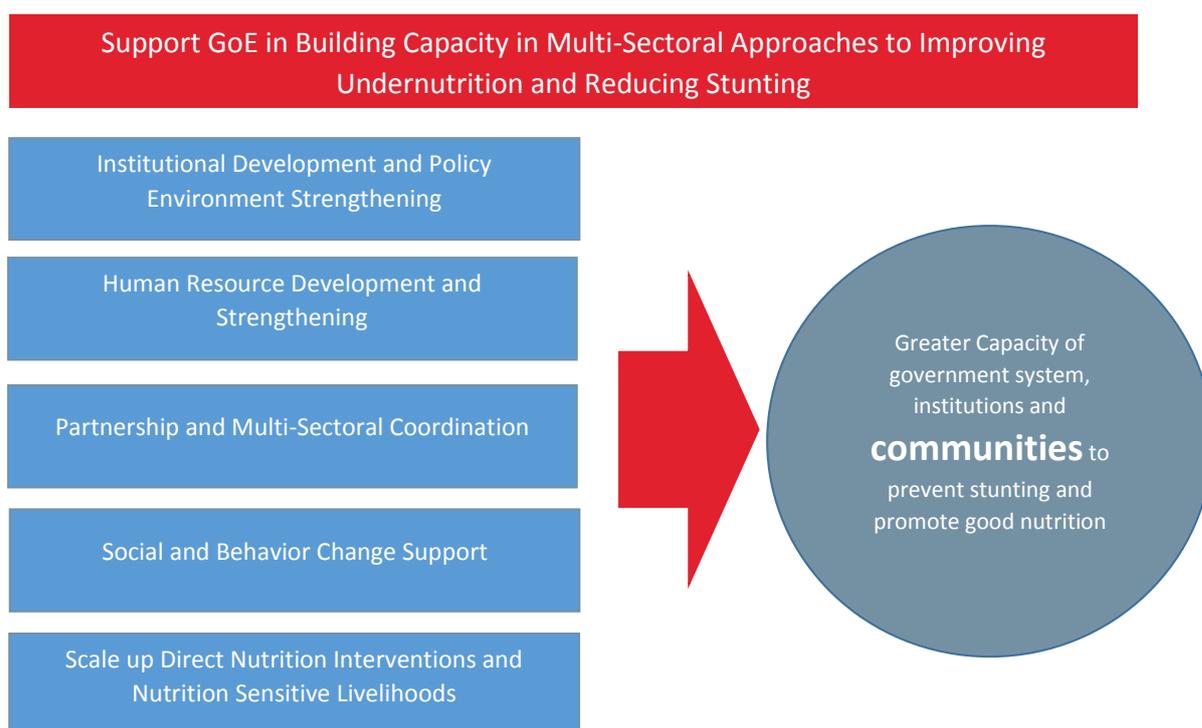
- 3.11 million under-5 children
- Half a million pregnant and lactating women
- 3.2 million women of reproductive age
- 2.8 million households



Buzunesh Shalo watering their homestead garden in Limu Dima village in south-eastern Ethiopia (ENGINE Supported)

Key activities:

- Strengthen existing nutrition multi-sector coordination and support development and revision of nutrition policies, guidelines and standards.
- Integrate nutrition into pre-service education of health and agriculture and build capacity of academic institutions to address nutrition and food security.
- Build capacity of health facility staff and frontline health and agriculture workers to provide high quality nutrition services, especially during the first 1000 days (e.g., nutrition training, supportive supervision, mentoring, quality improvement, supply management, and data for decision-making).
- Promote optimal maternal and infant young child feeding practices and dietary diversity through dynamic communication channels (e.g., individual counseling, innovative Enhanced Community Conversation (ECC), mNutrition, radio drama, and role models) and cooking demonstration.



ENGINE technical assistance framework

- Promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture techniques and livestock management to increase production and consumption of diverse foods (e.g., homestead production of horticultural crops and livestock such as chicken, demonstration of agronomic practices and preparation of diversified foods at farmers training centers and schools, and public-private partnership to avail high productive chicken).
- Support most vulnerable households (more than 90% are women) with nutrition sensitive livelihoods (e.g., provision and training on poultry, small livestock, and homestead gardening vegetables and organize into saving groups).
- Promote WASH activities for households with children less than 2 years to prevent diarrhea and improve child nutritional status (e.g., handwashing and tippy tap, sanitation marketing of latrine slab, households water filter, locally appropriate play mat, and separation of livestock and young children).
- Mainstream gender in all its nutrition activities and implement labor saving technology for women.
- Implement a rigorous research strategy in collaboration with local universities to support and guide effective nutrition policies and practices to reduce undernutrition (e.g., impact evaluation, operations research, documentation of lessons learned).

Key accomplishments:

Since the project was launched in 2011, ENGINE has rapidly rolled out its direct nutrition and livelihood interventions at the household and community level in 116 woredas (districts) of five regions, and has made significant progress in reaching its objectives. ENGINE has:

- Played a pivotal role in revising and strengthening the National Nutrition Program (NNP) by adding multi-sector coordination and response to leverage integrated interventions using a life-cycle approach.
- Been involved in the development of blended nutrition training materials, national food fortification activities, and revision of micronutrient guidelines.
- Launched Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R) - an innovative management approach to improve the quality of nutrition education - at 12 pre-service institutions (PSEs) of health and agriculture.
- Prepared nutrition core competencies for nutrition, health, and agriculture professionals and made integration of nutrition into 52 nutrition, agriculture, and health courses in all of the 12 PSE institutions over the last three and a half years.
- Supported the establishment of Nutrition Academic Center of Excellence at Hawassa University.
- Trained 22,440 health and agriculture specialists and managers on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN), nutrition counselling skills and nutrition-sensitive agriculture/livelihood.
- Distributed 31,550 counselling materials on breastfeeding and complementary feeding to health posts and health centers.

Beseatu Modifa with 3 of her children and Chicken and chicken coup provided by ENGINE



Reached 3.2 million children under five with nutrition specific interventions.

Scaled up its innovative and multi-sectoral Enhanced Community Conversation (ECC) and community level new SBCC materials, and reached 12,500 mothers, fathers and mother-in-laws.

Implemented livelihood and economic strengthening activities in 100 woredas (districts), benefited 14,625 beneficiaries and women's groups through homestead gardening and livestock provision.

Provided short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training to 93,301 individuals

Recently scaled up its WASH interventions to 10 woredas.

Developed ten operation research

protocols and four cohort studies in partnership with Tufts University and Valid International and close collaboration with local research partners (Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), Jimma and Hawassa Universities) to generate evidence to influence nutrition policy in addressing undernutrition in Ethiopia.

- Supported seven PhD students under its operational research, and provided financial and technical support to 100 MSc students' theses from five universities (Jimma, Gondar, Mekelle, Hawassa and Haromaya) and disseminated the research findings to stakeholders.
- ENGINE was evaluated (internal and external) at mid-term in June 2014, which showed that it is on track to achieve most of its performance monitoring indicators. The project has started to address most of the gaps and recommendations of both evaluations over the last one year.

Updated: June 2015