

Costing and scaling-up a community-based nutrition-sensitive early childhood development intervention in Malawi

Amy Margolies, Aulo Gelli, Roshan Daryanani, Aisha Twalibu And Carol Levin

Presented by: Aisha Twalibu



Introduction

- Community-based preschool meals can provide an effective platform for implementing integrated programs
- Dearth of evidence on the **costs** and **cost efficiency** of such programs
- Assess economic costs and cost efficiency



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NEEP-IE Intervention

- Model driven by community level actors
- Intervention involves training and inputs (no food transfers)



Methodology

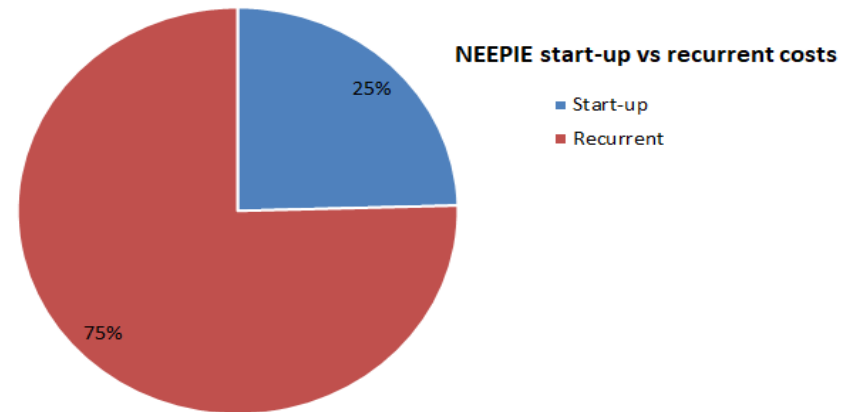
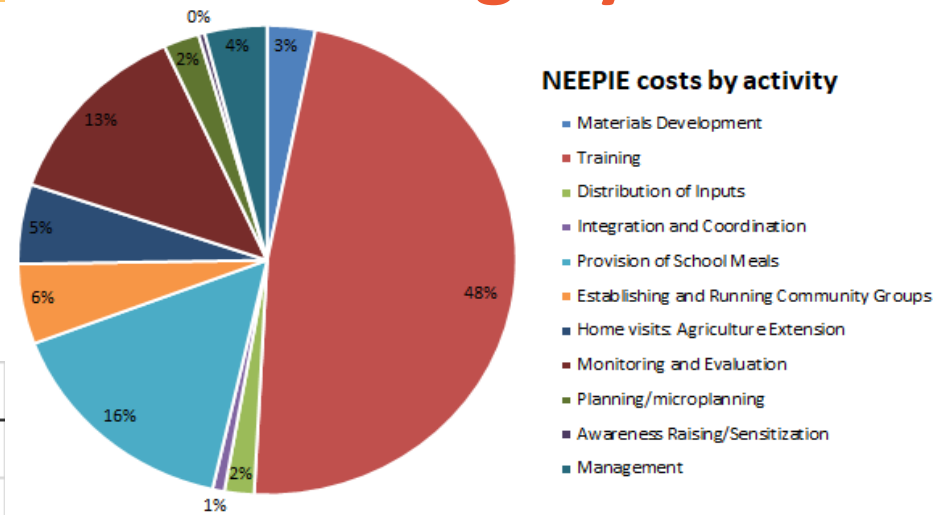
- SEEMS-Nutrition standardized cost and cost-effectiveness approach for multisectoral nutrition programs
- A mixed methods approach
 - Top-down expenditure analysis and bottom-up microcosting approach
- Use of standardized activity and input cost categories
 - Standardized assumptions for currency conversion and capital depreciation
- Total incremental costs and cost-efficiency
 - Cost per beneficiary: Total intervention cost divided by number of target population reached with the intervention.

Costs by activity category

Results

Costs by input category

| Input | USD | % |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Personnel | \$75,770.07 | 38% |
| Equipment | \$1,301.31 | 1% |
| Supplies | \$37,152.14 | 19% |
| Ag supplies | \$3,585.16 | 2% |
| Fuel and maintenance | \$1,219.05 | 1% |
| Travel/per diem/allowances | \$44,356.00 | 22% |
| Overhead | \$1,089.84 | 1% |
| TOTAL | \$197,377.37 | 100% |



Cost analysis results

Cost Efficiency

| Total Cost | Population | Cost/reached |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| \$197,377.37 | Pre-School Children: 1,017 | \$160 per child |
| | Beneficiaries: 4,806 | \$41 per beneficiary |
| | Households: 900 | \$219 per household |

Discussion

- Evidence on the total incremental costs of implementing an agriculture-nutrition intervention through an ECD platform
- Mapping of costs to program activities highlights the drivers of cost
- Monitoring of program costs and increasing efficiencies
- Decision-making around future program design

Malawi Government scale-up

Objective

- Improve coverage and utilization of early childhood development services, with focus on nutrition, stimulation and early learning from conception to 59 months

Components

- Community based nutrition and early stimulation
- Centre based early learning, nutrition and health interventions
- Multi sectoral coordination, capacity and systems strengthening
- Contingent emergency response

Districts

- 13 across the country
- 7 (nutrition, early stimulation and learning)
- 3 (nutrition and early stimulation)- Zomba
- 3 (early learning)

Costing of scale-up program

- Collect additional data to explore the economic cost of implementation at scale
 - NEEPIE cost data is from small-scale, NGO based implementation
 - Government roll-out will involve different cost structures, including economies of scale
- Activities will generate critical country level evidence on the costs for planning and scaling up nutrition sensitive programs
 - In addition it will contribute critically needed empirical evidence on the costs of working across sectors for SUN efforts for supporting financial projections for multisectoral approaches to improve nutrition and health outcomes



Photo credit: Save the Children

Thank you! Zikomo.
Questions?