### Highlight 2: Strengthening Capacity of Nutrition Leadership

Strong leadership plays a crucial role in enabling action to tackle undernutrition. From its inception in 2012, Transform Nutrition set out to establish a growing network of leaders armed with the latest knowledge, a supportive peer network, and an appreciation of the tools to bring about change in nutrition policies and programs. In 2018, for an impressive seventh year, the Transforming Nutrition course, led by the Institute for Development Studies and the International Food Policy Research Institute, trained global leaders, practitioners, and other professionals. This brings the total number of people reached through the course to nearly 200 from across policy, academic, donor, and civil society communities.

The teaching materials exposed participants to cutting-edge knowledge and evidence on nutrition. Using an interactive diagnostic approach, participants learn to apply such knowledge to specific national or subnational situations to identify strategic areas for nutrition action.

Leaders who have taken the course have gone on to apply the knowledge gained to their professional work in delivering programs and supporting policy processes for improving nutrition. A survey of course participants showed overwhelming agreement that participation in the Transform Nutrition short course has been useful for their work, and that they have shared lessons from the course with colleagues. Twenty-five percent of survey respondents stated that they were aware of changes in policy, and 54 percent stated that they were aware of changes in practice influenced by the course.

Transform Nutrition partnered with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) in 2013 and Save the Children in 2015 to recognize individuals who have had significant success in transforming thinking or action on nutrition. This initiative aimed to acknowledge and raise the profile of leaders in complex policy contexts. These “nutrition champions” are now part of the Transform Nutrition Leaders Network—a community of nutrition experts who connect with their peers nationally and globally to share experiences and lessons. The network is made up of previous nutrition champions, alumni from the short courses, and other researchers and practitioners who work on nutrition. It provides a platform to contribute to discussions on the realities of tackling nutrition and advocating for political leaders to prioritize nutrition on their agendas. Through communications, including events, online discussions, and blogs, it provides opportunities and different ways to engage and participate in the network.

The legacy of this work will carry on beyond the life of Transform Nutrition through the leaders’ network and the collaboration with the SUN movement. It will also be carried forward through the people who have been engaged in this work and their motivation and ability to influence and improve nutrition policy and practice in diverse contexts.

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