

Transforming Nutrition: Ideas Policies and Outcomes Short Course 2014 EVALUATION REPORT

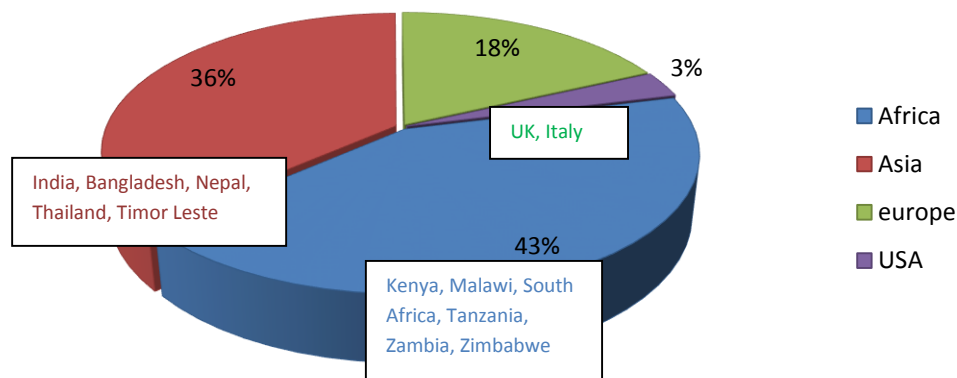
Course highlights

The Third annual Transforming Nutrition short course was held at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) from 14th to 18th July 2014. In total 34 participants attended.

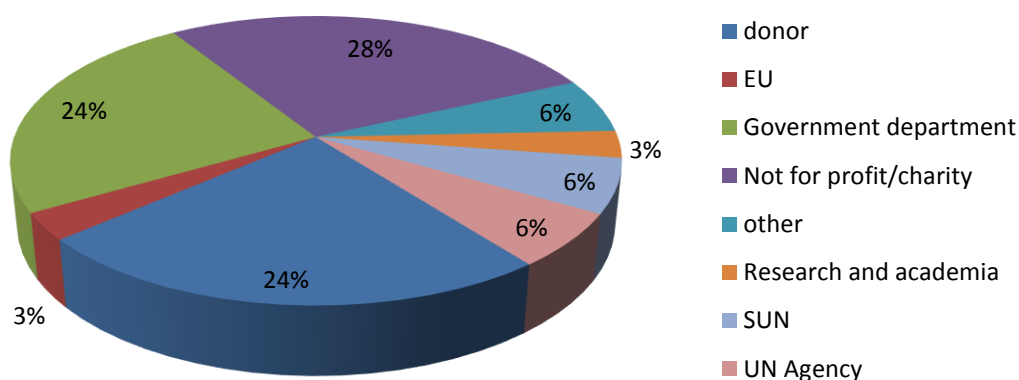
- Five participants were given full scholarships by CIFF and Irish Aid
- Two participants (both of whom are Transform Nutrition Champions) were fully funded by the course and invited to share their experiences and successes
- The cost of the course for full paying participants was £2,950 pp

Participant information

34 participants attended from the following locations –

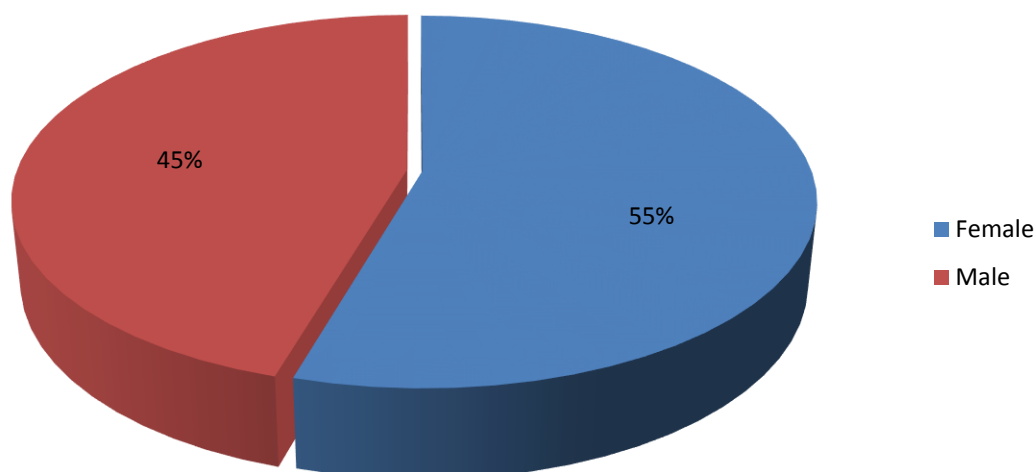


Participants came from the following sectors –



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With the following gender split -



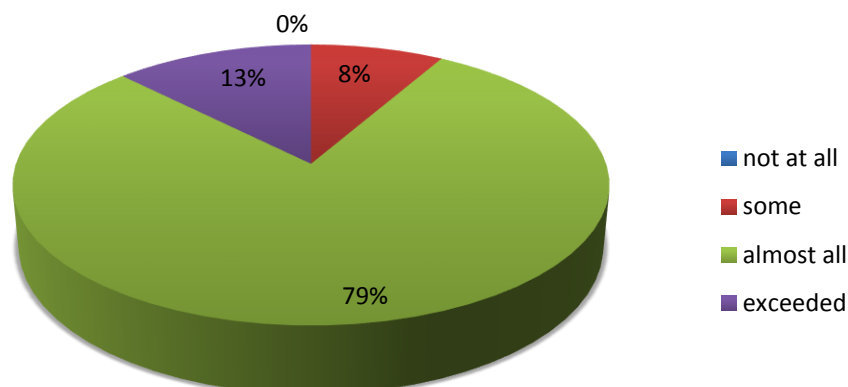
Feedback on course content

At the end of the course we asked participants to complete an evaluation form. Below are the responses to the questions posed. In total we received 25 evaluation forms.

1. When asked why they attended the course participant responded in the following ways –
 - To gain exposure to relevant research and evidence in nutrition, to better inform my work (advisory/consultancy) and my interaction with policy makers and the community
 - To learn about the new concepts and best practices for improving nutrition and to identify and find means to tackle malnutrition in the most efficient way
 - To improve my current knowledge on the latest nutrition evidence
 - To improve my implementation and programme design in terms of advocacy and policy analysis
 - To improve my influencing abilities
 - To ensure improve the design of nutrition sensitive interventions in my organisation
 - To improve networking with policy makers, researchers and development partners
 - To prepare a new maternal/child health and nutrition project
 - To share experiences and learn from other countries

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2. When asked whether the course met their expectations participants answered as follows –



The reason given were –

- **The course was well designed**
- **It covered a broad range of evidence and research which was presented across various nutrition specific/sensitive areas**
- **The inclusion of informative discussions about the different challenges and issues**
- **We learnt how to use evidence to inform action**
- **The course provided rich experience sharing and**
- **The course increased my confidence in handling nutrition issues**
- **It enabled me to look at nutrition from different perspectives**
- **It was an invaluable opportunity to work with, meet and become friends with colleagues who work on nutrition. As a network we will exchange ideas after the course**
- **It provided a good assessment of where current thinking and latest knowledge stands**

3. When asked what the most positive aspects were participants gave the following feedback-

- **The course was interactive and content was easy to grasp**
- **Very participatory**
- **Meeting and learning with colleagues from across the world**
- **The informal approach, including the opportunity to learn through dinnertime conversations with participants and the eminent dinner speakers**
- **Very well structured presentations dealing with key and focus areas/issues**
- **The global perspective on nutrition**
- **The provision of knowledge about multisectoral linkages (i.e. WASH)**
- **Networking**

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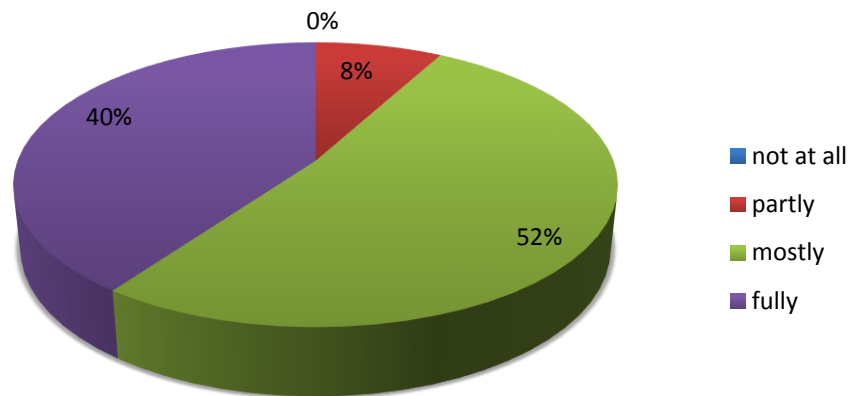
- Learning about the "value" of cash transfers
- Group work on specific framework and action plans
- Individual sharing of country experience and evidence
- Provision of evidence that can be used for developing nutrition policies and strategies in my country
- Rich discussions and question and answer sessions
- Strategies and scale up
- Nutrition specific and sensitive intervention
- Evidence of what works (quick wins)
- Spending 5 days focusing on nutrition ideas
- The energy
- Embedding M and E in the programme design and implementation

4. When asked what the least positive aspects were participants gave the following feedback-

- Lack of field visits, case studies, info about SAM and key elements of policy and what has worked
- Too much Quantitative data
- Too much on scientific evidence and research - lacking the application
- Very extensive - may consider spreading it over more days - It's hard to cram in so many topics and do them justice
- Overweight/obesity not explored enough
- More interactive sessions
- Too many participants for good discussions and debate
- Practical learning was missing
- Too much in small type on slides

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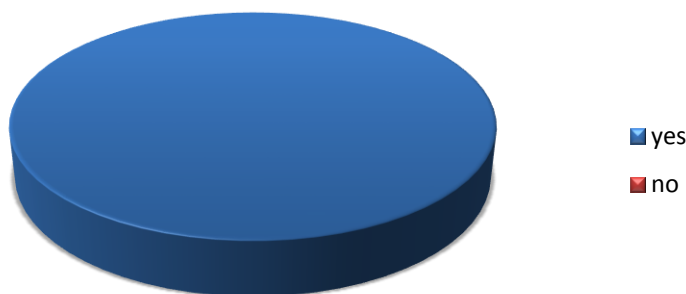
5. When asked whether the course improved their knowledge of nutrition policy and outcomes they gave the following feedback –



6. When asked what areas of work would be affected by what they had learnt participants described how they would put their learning into practice by -

- **Using evidence to inform decisions**
- **Shaping ideas for evaluation of programmes**
- **designing and planning strategies for tackling undernutrition**
- **providing training and capacity building to team members, policy makers and implementers**
- **Advocating**
- **Integrating nutrition into programme design**
- **Improving linkages with social protection**
- **pushing for an increased multisectoral approach to nutrition**
- **contributing to policy dialogue and assessment of programmes**
- **Using the material on evidence for undergraduate training**

7. When asked whether they would recommend this course to a colleague participants all answered positively –

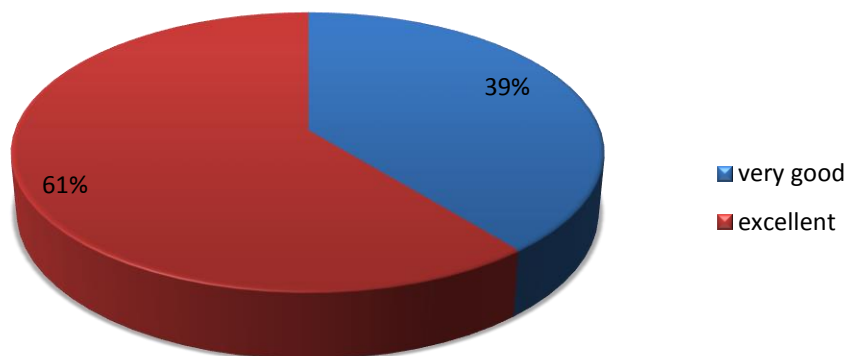


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Reasons given were as follows-

- The course brought together good people
- It is a great learning experience
- Helpful - especially for government departments and policy makers and nutrition specialists
- The course facilitates networking and keeps participants up to speed on the latest evidence
- Increases knowledge and experience sharing
- very informative
- Good exposure to state of the art information
- Very focused comprehensive and interesting – providing participants with adequate knowledge
- Learning through experience sharing
- the course is useful for those who will design /prepare nutrition programmes
- I want the course to be conducted in South Africa to benefit more
- Nutrition has emerged from the shadow in the last few years, but much programming (e.g. agriculture, health, education etc.) is still missing , particularly the opportunities and linkages – this course provides the training and awareness required to address this

8. Overall facilitation was rated as follows -



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Additional feedback

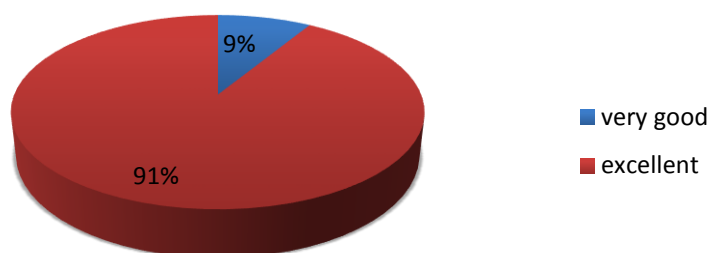
9. We asked the participants to provide us with additional comments, particularly in terms of what they would like to see more of in future courses.
 - **More analysis on evidence based case studies to be shared along with the processes involved, challenges faced, time span**
 - **Include best practice, field visits and success stories (videos)**
 - **Include a practitioner/implementer**
 - **Clarify expectations and objectives to the participants upfront to manage expectations**
 - **Bring in different players from broader spheres i.e. government and development partners**
 - **More qualitative evidence to back up figures and graphics**
 - **More discussion on overweight and obesity**
 - **more space for Q&A**
 - **Pedagogical strengthening - mix of methods**
 - **More guest lecturers**
 - **Have an implementation expert facilitator**
 - **Would welcome opportunities for more focussed and specific topics , eg – role of EU development policy, implications for global trade arrangements , GMO debate pros and cons, Green revolution, Land Grabs and food production and prices, role of small farmers in food production**
 - **Nutrition update on latest research and evidence**
 - **Prior training and knowledge beforehand so we all understand the basics**
 - **Provision of a follow-up course a year later**

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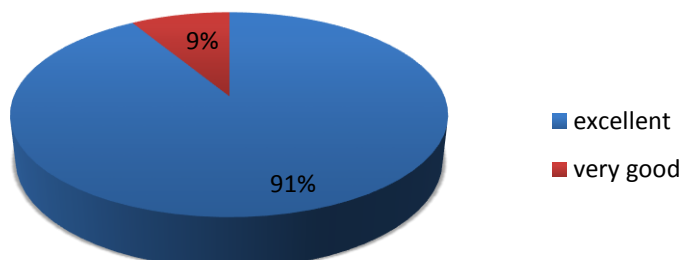
Feedback on course logistics and organisation

10. Pre and post course organisation and administration was rated as follows –

Logistics support during the course



Pre-course logistics



Comments given were as follows –

- most professional
- superb
- So helpful
- Excellent
- Administrative support was outstanding
- Support was excellent from beginning to end with communication running through the process
- very good

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Analysis of feedback

In total 93 people applied for the 2014 short course. Of these only five were declined, of the remaining 54 the majority were not able to attend due to lack of funding. This, along with the feedback from those who did participate, indicates there is a strong argument for providing in-country nutrition courses.

The need for more case studies was requested by the majority of those who attended the course. In total 11 participants requested the inclusion of more case studies to support their learning.

A number of participants highlighted the benefits of the short course as a networking possibility with one requesting “post training knowledge network follow up”. We currently have a short course Facebook page, but the uptake has been minimal (currently 10 members from the 2014 contingent). There is definitely a need for a more structured post-course network/alumni and this is something that could to be developed and incorporated within the Health and Nutrition cluster knowledge mobilisation strategy.

Quotes

“This is the first very well designed nutrition course for me”

“Keep up the good work. Beneficial informative - confidence building”

“Much appreciation and gratitude to the facilitators and administrator for the course. It was engaging and enjoyable”

“Thoroughly enjoyed it and gained a lot – now advocating and sharing slides with colleagues in Australian Aid programme”