‘Transforming Nutrition: Ideas Policies and Outcomes’: One year on...

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I attended the Transforming Nutrition leadership course on Nutrition in 2014 in the UK along with senior representatives from the Health and Women and Child Development departments from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha, India, as well as participants from several African and South Asian countries.

This course was truly special and unique as it brought together policy makers, practitioners, researchers from government, non-governmental organizations, donor, UN agencies under one roof to discuss, debate, share and update oneself with current thinking and latest evidence on the nutrition. Each of the sessions were well structured and interactive- thereby giving opportunities to participants to discuss challenges on the ground and exchange views on how best we can address these. The highlight of the course were the social events in the evening where eminent speakers from the development sectors were invited to share their experiences of championing the nutrition cause as well as share insights and examples of what has worked so far and what more needs to be done in the nutrition space!

I personally think, that this course was instrumental in raising the profile of nutrition amongst policy makers from India including importance of evidence and data for planning, multisectoral coordination and communicating the stories of change. For me, this course inspired me to champion the nutrition agenda within the organization, thereby ensuring that DFID in India has a strong focus on Nutrition with women at the centre. I feel privileged to be a part of the ‘Nutrition’ network that enables many of us to learn and exchange ideas but also seek support as we transform the world of nutrition for a better tomorrow.