

2.3. Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, Dietetics and Nutritional Problems

Optimal nutrition is critical for human development, economic growth and for being a stepping-stone for equity. Food and nutrition security continue to represent challenges for developing countries as maker and marker of development. This is true for Ethiopia, where malnutrition remains serious public health problem that costs the nation annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 16.5% and 28% of all child. However, research on the impact of mothers' prenatal nutrition on their foetus and young children neurodevelopmental outcomes and postnatal health; nutrition beyond 1000 days: food hygiene and safety, diet therapy and nutrition sensitive interventions are lacking. As a result nutritional problems remain as a threat for future healthy generation as well as food safety and hygiene from environmental chemicals and microbial contamination and adulteration of foods has become an ever-increasing concern. Therefore, nutrition, food safety and security, dietetics and nutritional problems sub-themes prioritized the following research areas that fill evidence gaps in the area.

- Maternal, fetal & child health nutrition in the first 1000 days;
- Prevention and management strategies for moderate acute malnutrition in infants younger than 6 months in community settings;
- Drivers of appropriate breastfeeding habits and transforming post-breastfeeding practices;
- Design effective nutritional intervention programs for Pre-school macro and micro nutrition and growth/development;
- Childhood and adolescent obesity/overweight;
- Nutrition interventional approaches for Non-Communicable Diseases;
- Nutrition concerns in gerontology;
- Food and nutrition security (strategies for using existing community-based delivery platforms for scaling up coverage of nutrition sensitive and specific interventions through demand creation and household service delivery, emphasizing on social protection programs, school feeding program, school curricula and agriculture and nutrition linkage);
- Policy and regulatory issues of food hygiene and safety and food adulteration;
- Effect of sewage irrigated vegetable farms on public health).
- Nutrition information system.