



Strengthening Integrated Anemia Programming Using a Multi-Sectoral and Multi-Stakeholder Approach in Uganda

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Symposium

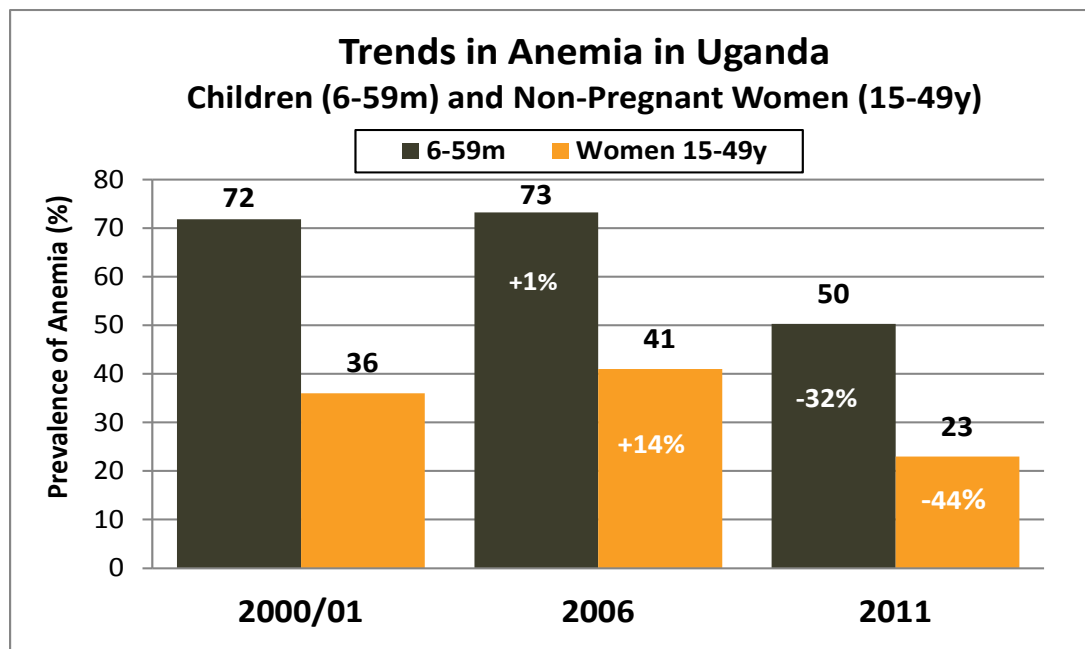
Approaches to Prevent and Control Anemia:
Examples of Global, National, District, and Community Effort
Micronutrient Forum Global Conference 2016

Uganda's Journey

to Multi-Sectoral Anemia Programming



Anemia Situation in Uganda



Anemia landscape analysis

First national anemia stakeholders meeting

National Anemia Working Group established

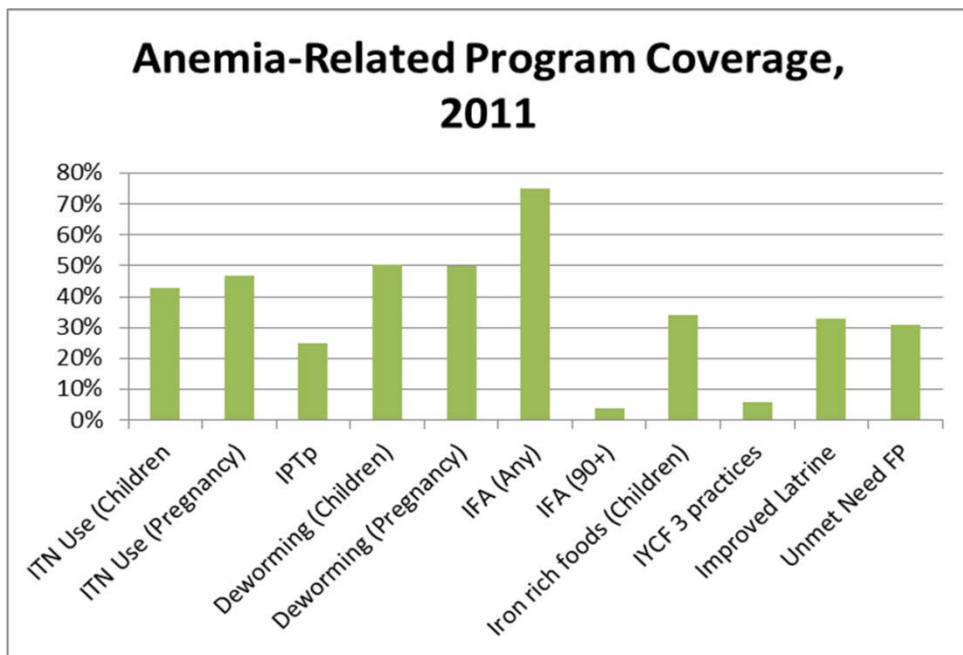
National Anemia Working Groups accomplishments

2012

2013

2014–2016 Ongoing

Anemia Situation in Uganda



“People now understand...how the data that is available can be used to understand the issues or the gaps.”

Anemia landscape analysis

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National Anemia Working Groups accomplishments

2012

2013

2014–2016 Ongoing

First stakeholder meeting was critical for setting the agenda



Participant testimonies:

“[The meeting] was a big eye-opener to many because... it has put forth how anemia is a multi-sectoral issue that cannot be addressed by one sector or one partner”

“We realized that anemia involves teamwork.”

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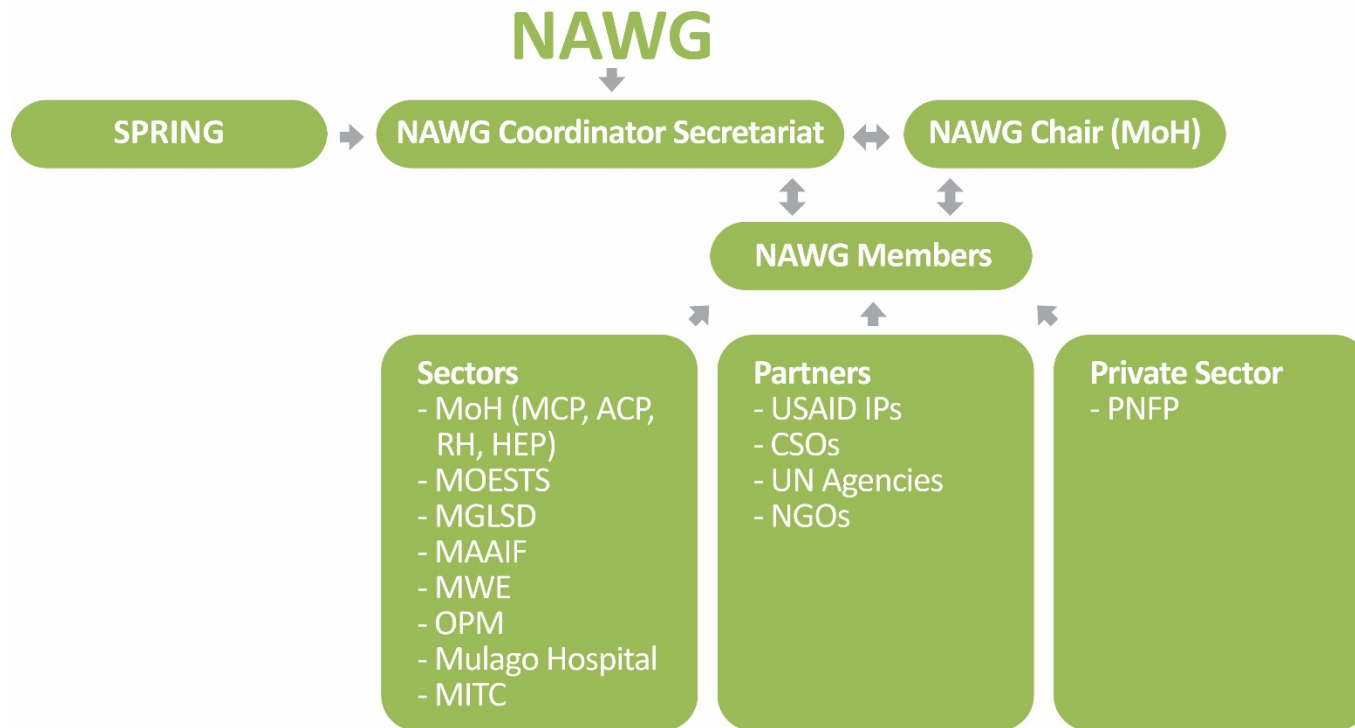
National Anemia Working Groups accomplishments

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National Anemia Working Group (NAWG)



National Anemia Working Group (NAWG)

The National Anemia Working Group is a multi-sectoral technical working group established to spearhead and champion anemia-related activities in the country and ensures its strategic importance within various national and sector agendas.



NAWG: Strengthening Professional Networks



“We come to know who is who so that when you want to refer, you can...There can be new contact, new collaborations, new dealings with each other.”

“There is a bit of team work at the personal level...That personal friendship that has developed over time...I think that will improve the working relationship between ministries.”

“[The NAWG] is sustainable...because here we are empowering ourselves.”

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NAWG: Active and Participatory Platform for Collaboration

January 2014-September 2016



18 NAWG Meetings

(Full group of NAWG members)

21 NAWG Secretariat Meetings including key team members from sectors. Focus on Strategy development, M&E framework, and SBCC

4 Health Tutors College Meetings. Development of anemia curriculum for pre-service and in-service tutor training

5 District focused planning meetings, two at national level and three at district level

Formalizing Cross-sectoral Efforts in Anemia Programming through an Action Plan



The Republic of Uganda

The Anemia Action Plan (2014/2015)

A Multisectoral Approach to Reduction of Anemia in Uganda

July 2014

“It would have been a benefit if there was time and opportunity to be able to talk to my [colleagues] in the planning department and my commissioner, and see how some of these proposed plans fit in with our budgeting framework.”

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National Anemia Working Groups accomplishments

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Drafting a National Anemia Strategy



NATIONAL ANAEMIA PREVENTION AND CONTROL STRATEGY

DRAFT

2016–2020
September 2016



Drafting a pre-service and in-service curriculum on anemia prevention and control for Health Tutor's College



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS
HEALTH TUTORS' COLLEGE MULAGO
ANAEMIA PREVENTION AND CONTROL
MODULE

December, 2016



Moving into the District



The DATA tool, which aimed to increase awareness and prioritize anemia actions at the district level, was piloted in Namutumba, Arua, and Amuria districts of Uganda in 2016.



“We need to be seen as moving away from these conference rooms to the field where the people are, so we can have an impact.”



Lessons from the Uganda Experience

1. Sharing evidence stimulated a national interest and inspired action toward multi-sectoral interventions
2. An anemia platform is critical to setting an agenda and to knowledge sharing
3. Endorsement from high level officials is essential to achieve momentum
4. Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement improves awareness and coordination
5. Dedicated staff helps sustain engagement
6. Increased district involvement is critical to moving forward
7. Use of existing government structures and systems ensure sustainability
8. Integration of anemia interventions across sectors and institutions is critical

Conclusion



Multi-sectoral integration isn't easy, but having a dedicated **anemia** platform and defining specific roles for each key stakeholder improves coordination and collaboration, which facilitates translating evidence into strategic direction and programmatic action.

Thank you