

Understanding multi-sectoral coordination efforts to address anemia

Qualitative findings from Sierra Leone & Uganda

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I have no conflict of interest to report in relation to this presentation.

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SPRING
Strengthening Partnerships, Results,
and Innovations in Nutrition Globally

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WHAT IS ANEMIA?



Anemia is characterized by morphological abnormalities of red blood cells or low concentration of hemoglobin in the blood.

Anemia can cause...

Adverse
birth
outcomes

Maternal and
child mortality

Cognitive &
developmental
delays

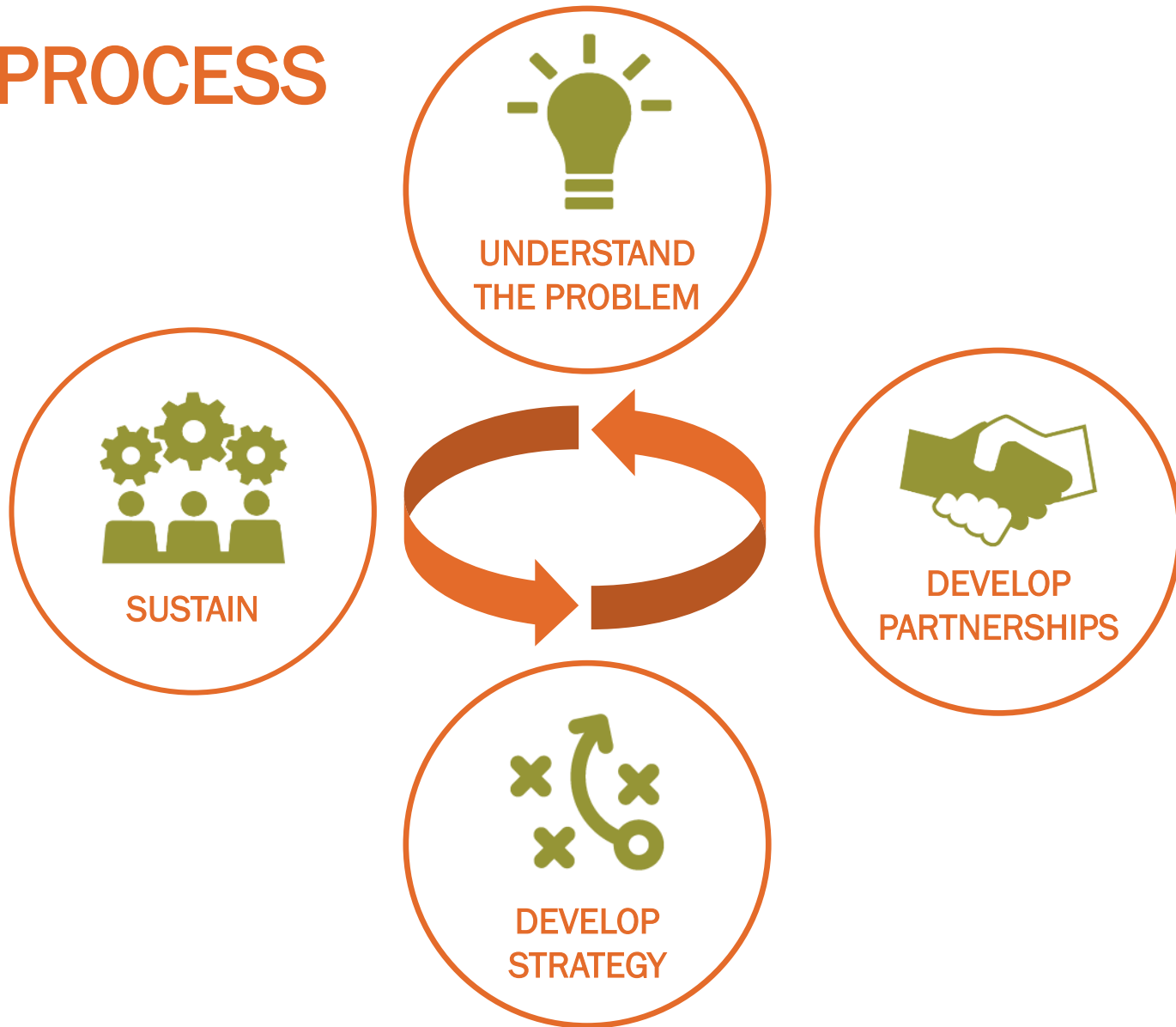


Only **3** out of **185 countries** with data are **on course to reduce anemia**





THE PROCESS



UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM

Evidence and Awareness



“ Now people are realizing its not just iron, it’s WASH, it’s malaria, and it’s genetics, and it’s perhaps something else as well. ”

—Sierra Leone



BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination Platforms and Collaboration



“ There is a bit of teamwork at the personal level...that has developed over time...I think it will improve working relationships between those ministries. ”

—Uganda



DEVELOP STRATEGY

Prioritization and Resources



“...when they brought in the costing, it made us get more realistic. The strategy looks big but we have thinned it down through the process.”

—Uganda



SUSTAIN

Funding, Institutionalization, and Engagement



“Ebola has taught us the importance of working with **communities and community leaders**. No program or initiative can be successful if it neglects to engage the community.”

—Sierra Leone

“I want the Uganda government to have a budget for it...We need to implement it, because **SPRING** is around, tomorrow it may not be.”

—Uganda



LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ Rich data sources are needed to get a clear understanding of anemia.
- ✓ Partnerships are key but competing priorities are a barrier.
- ✓ Strategies need to prioritize based on available resources.
- ✓ Maintaining anemia planning efforts requires institutionalization and funding .
- ✓ Engagement and feedback with subnational levels is essential.

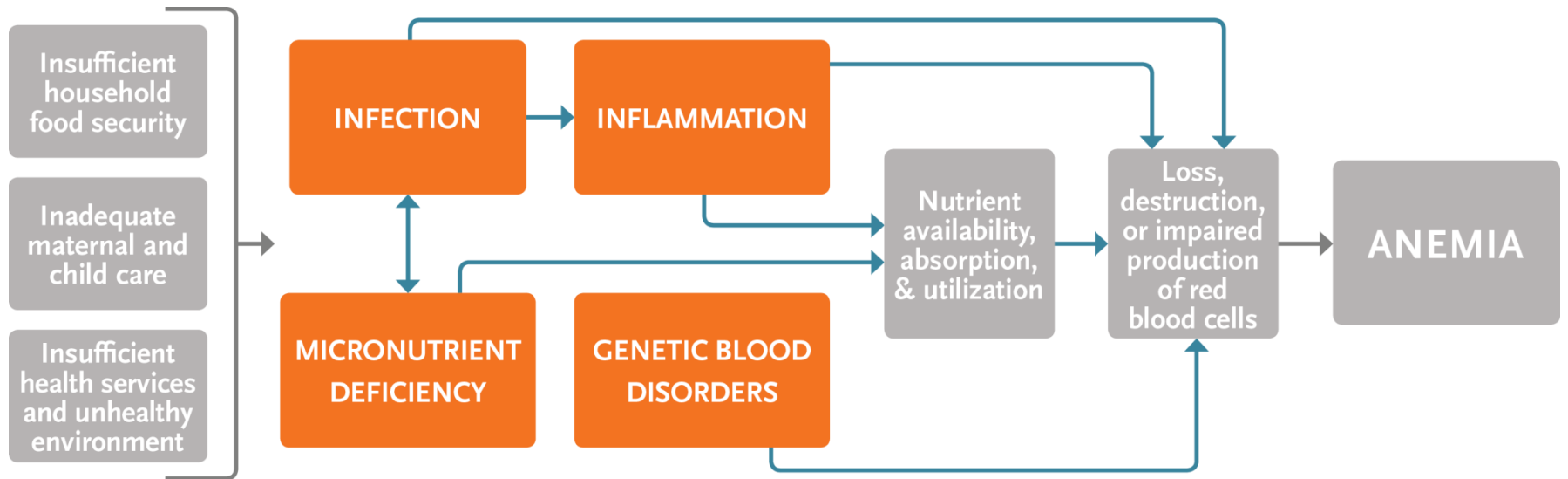


A close-up photograph of a young Black baby with a joyful expression, showing its teeth. The baby is being held by a woman whose face is partially visible on the right side of the frame. In the background, a woman in a teal uniform is looking towards the left. A growth chart is mounted on the wall behind them, featuring a pink border and the text 'Weight for Age' and 'Age (months)'.

National Anemia Working Group Members,
Sierra Leone and Uganda
SPRING/Uganda
HKI/Sierra Leone
USAID

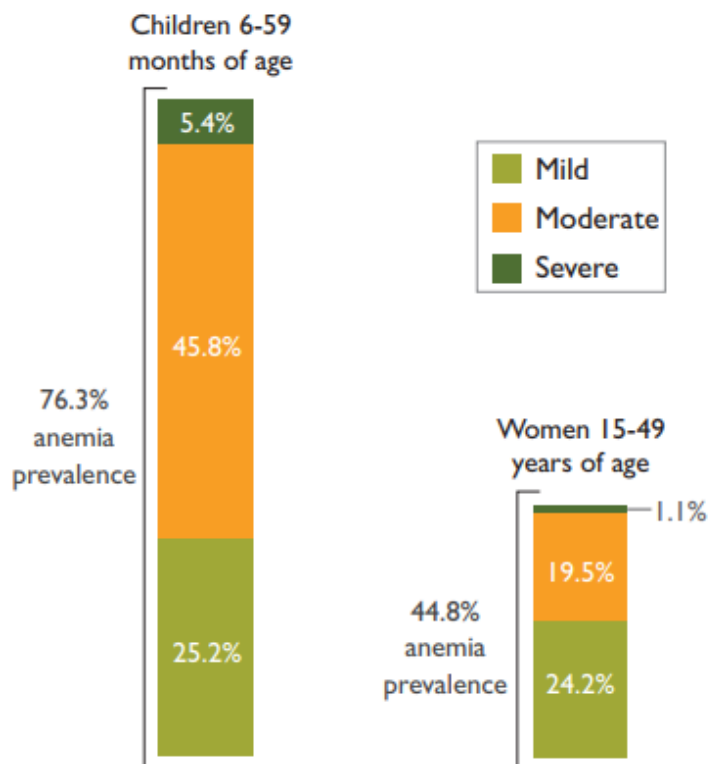
Thank you

Additional slide

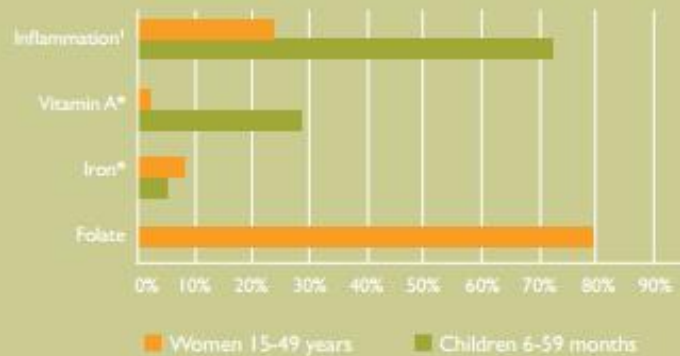


Prevalence of anemia among children 6-59 months and women 15-49 years in Sierra Leone

Source: SLMS 2013



Prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies among children 6-59 months and women 15-49 years



¹Inflammation: defined as elevated CRP and/or AGP

*Values adjusted for inflammation by mathematical correction

Source: SLMS 2013

Prevalence of malaria among children 6-59 months and women 15-49 years, by province



Source: SLMS 2013



Thank you!

For more info, please contact:

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