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

Dr. Jane Nabakooza, Uganda Malaria Control Program

Authors: Nancy Adero, Sarah Ngalombi, Jacent Assimwe, Jolene, Wun, Danya Sarkar, Teemar Fisseha, Sorrel Namaste, Jane Nabakooza

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 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

Trends in Anemia in Uganda
Children (6-59m) and Non-Pregnant Women (15-49y)

- Prevalence of Anemia (%)

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>6-59m</th>
<th>Women 15-49y</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000/01</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>73 (+1%)</td>
<td>41 (+14%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>50 (-32%)</td>
<td>23 (-44%)</td>
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Anemia landscape analysis
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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-related program coverage, 2011

- ITN use (Children)
- ITN use (Pregnancy)
- IPTp
- Deworming (Children)
- Deworming (Pregnancy)
- IFA (Any)
- IFA (Boys)
- Iron rich foods (Children)
- IYCF 3 practices
- Improved latrine
- Unmet need

Anemia landscape analysis

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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.”
National Anemia Working Group (NAWG)

- SPRING
- NAWG Coordinator Secretariat
- NAWG Chair (MoH)

NAWG Members

- Sectors
  - MoH (MCP, ACP, RH, HEP)
  - MOESTS
  - MGLSD
  - MAAIF
  - MWE
  - OPM
  - Mulago Hospital
  - MITC

- Partners
  - USAID IPs
  - CSOs
  - UN Agencies
  - NGOs

- Private Sector
  - PNFP

- Anemia landscape analysis: 2012
- First national anemia stakeholders meeting: 2013
- National Anemia Working Groups accomplishments

- 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.

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2012 \hspace{1cm} 2013 \hspace{1cm} 2014–2016 Ongoing
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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2012 2013 2014–2016 Ongoing
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

“...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...”

A Multisectoral Approach to Reduction of Anemia in Uganda
July 2014

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Drafting a National Anemia Strategy
Drafting a pre-service and in-service curriculum on anemia prevention and control for Health Tutor’s College
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
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