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STRENGTHENING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR A MULTISECTORAL RESPONSE TO UNDERNUTRITION

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Resiliency in Northern Ghana
(RING) Project

*SPRING Webinar: Raising the Status
and Quality of Nutrition Services
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USAID RESILIENCY IN NORTHERN GHANA (RING) PROJECT

- USAID-funded five-year project (2014 – 2019)
- Implementing partners: USAID, Government of Ghana (GOG), Global Communities (prime), John Snow, Inc., Urban Institute
- Government-to-government funded
- Goal is improved livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable households
- Three primary activity areas:
 - Agriculture and livelihoods
 - Nutrition and WASH
 - Governance

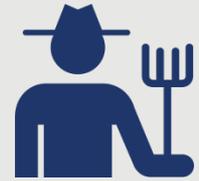


Figure 1: Map of 17
Implementation
Districts in Northern
Region, Ghana

To bring about meaningful change in the **quality** of **nutrition-sensitive** and **nutrition-specific** services provided in target districts, RING's implementation approach works **through the GOG** to build **resilient systems** that are better prepared to identify and address **nutrition and livelihoods needs**



Health Workers



Agriculture
Extension
Workers



Community
Health
Volunteers



Teachers



Local
Government



Environmental
Health Officers

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION: HUMAN RESOURCES

- All RING activities are managed, implemented, and monitored by government workers
- Government workers from all sectors who are engaged in RING understand that they have a role in addressing undernutrition
- RING conducted capacity building activities specifically for government staff to improve their capacity to deliver nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific activities

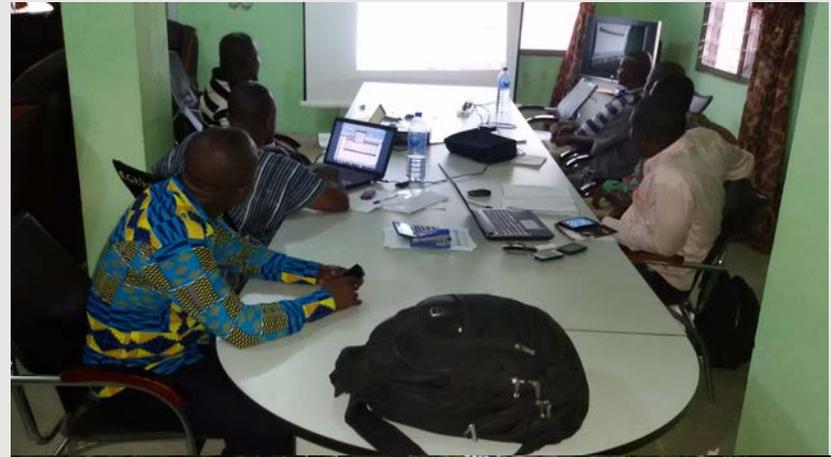


A Community Health Volunteer interacts with a caregiver of a child within the first 1,000 days period. Credit: RING.

EXAMPLE I

JOINT PLANNING AND BUDGETING

- Local government (District Assemblies) convene agriculture, health, WASH, and governance admin and technical staff to develop annual work plans
 - Nutrition is a collective goal
 - District-level yearly inception meetings
 - All implementing staff receive hard copy of full plan and budget
 - Plans are integrated into district's medium term development plans and sector-specific annual work plans



Above: East Gonja district reviews their annual work plan. Below: A cooking demonstration was organized by health, agriculture, and WASH staff. Credit: RING.

EXAMPLE 2

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NON-HEALTH STAFF

- RING conducts various capacity building efforts to mainstream nutrition behaviors across sectors
- District Nutrition Officers have trained more than 1,400 non-health staff on essential nutrition actions
 - Includes ag. extension agents, environmental health officers, school health teachers, community development officers, and more



Officers and extension agents integrate nutrition into WASH and agriculture activities, such as community-led total sanitation efforts and orange-fleshed sweet potato cultivation, pictured above. Credit: RING.

EXAMPLE 3

SUPPORT

- Activities promoted under RING can often be found in district and regional plans, though funding has been a challenge to execute them in the past
- RING funding allows GOG entities to fulfill their mandates at providing livelihoods, agriculture, nutrition, WASH, and good governance services to their constituents
- This correlation fosters greater sense of ownership in plans on the part of government officials and strengthens systems to address nutrition



THANK YOU.

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