

Anemia Coordination – Lessons Learned

Sierra Leone Micronutrient Survey Dissemination Meeting

Dr. Sorrel Namaste, Anemia Team Lead, SPRING

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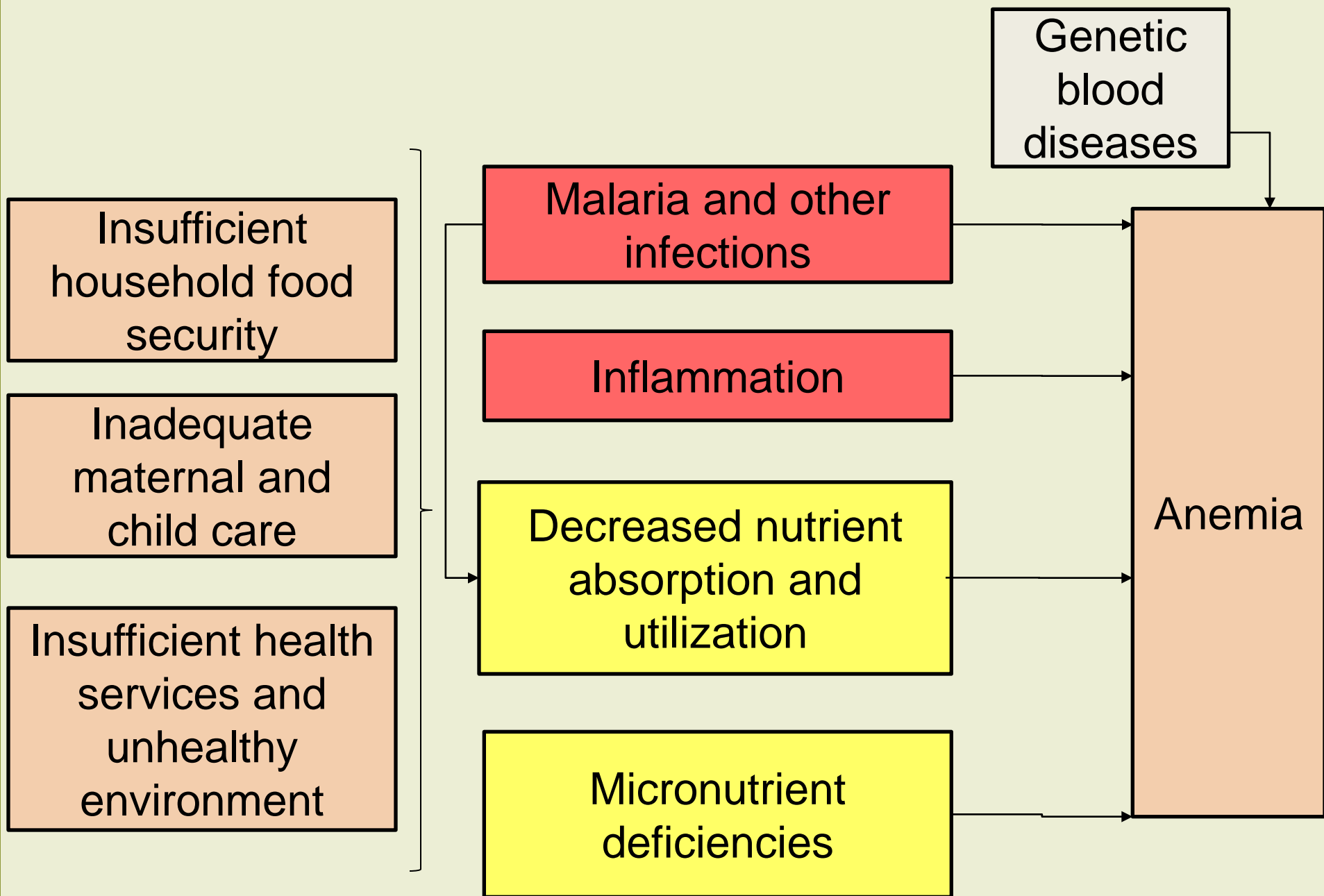
Anemia has a wide-range of negative consequences

- Increased maternal, neonatal, and child mortality
- Low birthweight
- Fatigue and poor work performance
- Impaired child development



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Anemia is where
countries are finding
it most difficult to
make progress

Only **5** out of **185**
countries with
anemia data are
on course
to reduce anemia.



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Urgent need to learn from country experiences

“Little is known about why some countries have been trailblazers and others have not”

“High-quality case studies are needed to understand patterns of progress”

-Global Nutrition Report 2014



SPRING – Multi-sectoral Anemia Programming

- Country-led processes to create multi-sectoral anemia platforms
- Incorporates key stakeholders to support coordinated and integrated national anemia interventions
- Documents the process to identify factors that result in successful implementation and sustainability



Multi-sectoral Anemia Platform Strengthening in Uganda

*LANDSCAPE
ANALYSIS*

*STAKEHOLDER
MEETING*

*ANEMIA
ACTION
PLAN*

*TRACK
PROGRESS*

- GoU initiated a relationship with SPRING to build a national anemia platform
- Established Anemia Working Group
- Held 2 stakeholder meetings
- Drafted anemia action plan
- Developing anemia strategy
- Track progress and process documentation



*Uganda National Anemia
Stakeholder Meeting, 2015*



Key Lessons Learned from Uganda

- Anemia platform is critical to setting the agenda
- Endorsement from high level officials is essential
- Multi-sectorality and stakeholder engagement improves anemia awareness and coordination
- Useful platform for knowledge sharing
- Dedicated staff help sustain engagement

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

“We realized that anemia involves teamwork. It is not an issue of one area.”



Key Lessons Learned from Uganda

- Increase district involvement
- Improve linkage and streamline with other coordinating bodies
- **Increased integration of programs across interventions**
- Map priorities prior to developing an action plan
- Need defined process for funding anemia activities
- Monitoring and accountability needs to be carried out systematically

“we need move away from these conference rooms to the field where the people are”



Multiple Sectors Play a Role in Anemia Reduction

Agriculture

- Dietary diversity
- Iron-rich crops
- Cash crops
- Small livestock

Health

- Supplementation
- Deworming
- Breastfeeding
- Family planning
- Malaria

Water and Sanitation

- Latrines/handwashing
- Clean water
- Livestock management
- Prevent infections

Education

- Health and hygiene education
- Delivery platform
- Female literacy

Thank you!

For more info, please contact:
sorrel_namaste@jsi.com



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