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Reference



Title: New Multi-sectoral Tools to Address Anemia at the National and District Levels

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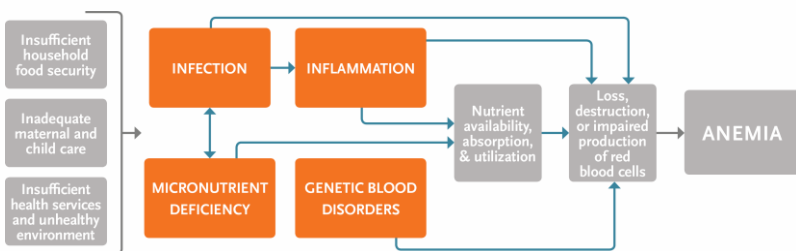
Background and Objectives:

Anemia is caused by many factors, so it can be difficult for decision makers to prioritize preventive measures to address the causes specific to their operating context. In collaboration with country implementers, the SPRING project developed two tools to encourage stakeholders at the national and district levels to gather and interpret data related to anemia and anemia programs: the “Guidance for Conducting a Landscape Analysis for Anemia” and the “District Assessment Tool for Anemia” (DATA).



More Than Half of All Children in Africa and Asia Are Anemic

	Children <5	Non-pregnant women 15-49 years
Global	43%	29%
South Asia	58%	47%
Central & West Africa	71%	48%
East Africa	55%	28%



Methods:

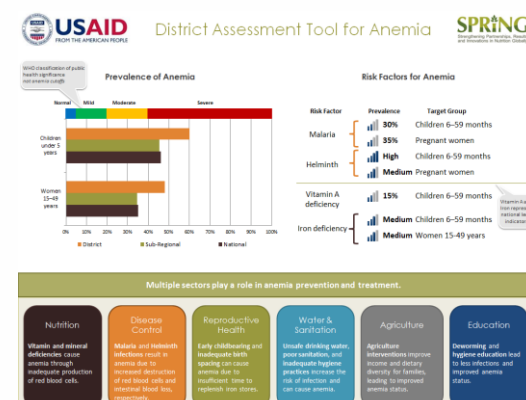
The "Guidance for Conducting a Landscape Analysis for Anemia" is designed to provide stakeholders a broad understanding of the national anemia situation. It was developed based on experiences assessing the anemia situation in several countries and was validated by 34 experts. The "District Assessment Tool for Anemia" (DATA) is geared toward districts and helps them understand the anemia situation and prioritize preventative actions. DATA was developed with input from multiple stakeholders, field tested in Ghana, and piloted in Nepal and Uganda.

Results:

The Landscape Analysis guidance walks users through a 4-step process to assess the anemia situation: 1) characterize anemia prevalence; 2) establish the causes of anemia; 3) review anemia policies; and 4) assess the status of anemia interventions.

DATA guides a 2-day facilitated workshop with a multi-sectoral group of district-level stakeholders. It underlines the importance of local contextual factors, identifies these factors, and assists district stakeholders in prioritizing anemia actions.

We look at anemia as a problem that needs teamwork, rather than as an individual sector’s problem. So for us to achieve anything, one thing that I’ve learned critically is that we need to come on board together, and work as a team.
—Uganda District Health Officer



Conclusions:

An effective multi-sectoral effort to combat anemia requires insights from several data sources and an understanding of data gaps and their implications. These resources guide stakeholders through the collection and use of such information. An important next step will be to scale up and evaluate these tools.

There are policies at the national level...but there’s a gap in terms of what is really happening on the ground. I also discovered that there is a gap in data. Sometimes there are national figures on certain indicators which are lacking at the district level.
—Uganda National Anemia Working Group member

Keywords:

Anemia, multisectoral tools, decision-making, planning

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Conflict of Interest:

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