TRANSCRIPT FOR "Districts Address Anemia with DATA"

<https://www.spring-nutrition.org/media/videos/districts-address-anemia-data>

*The video will illustrate SPRING’s DATA process and approach at the global and country levels.*

**Introduction to DATA by Narrator**

The USAID-funded SPRING Project supports countries to prevent anemia – a condition that leads to illness, mortality, and poor growth and development.

To strengthen planning for anemia reduction at the subnational level, SPRING developed the District Assessment Tool for Anemia, or DATA. DATA is an Excel-based tool used during a two-day facilitated workshop, where local stakeholders from different sectors prioritize actions. As of 2017, DATA has been implemented in Ghana, Nepal and Uganda.

**Akiror Stella, District Health Educator for Amuria District, Uganda**

Anemia is really a problem in Uganda.

They are not aware, those who have mild anemia. But with severe cases, they feel very bad because sometimes it is life threatening.

**Pranay Upadhyay, Public Health Administrator, Ministry of Health, Nepal**

Anemia is a big problem in our country. Among five-year-old children, the rate of anemia is high and among pregnant women and adolescents the prevalence of anemia is seen to be very high.

We are in need of data and a lot of information from the district, which is not with us right now.

**Kenneth Otikal, Senior Planner for Amuria District, Uganda**

One of our major gaps is information…data, for planning, for, budgeting, and rationally for decision-making.

So, I really think this tool is so timely

**Sarah Ngalombi, Senior Nutritionist, Ministry of Health, Uganda**

When we went through it, we realized that it was a very important tool that would help us, prioritize—identify, how to practically prevent and control anemia in the country, right from national level to the district level and community level.

**Savita Malla, Lead, Advocacy and Communications Specialist, National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat, Nepal**

The challenges that the districts have regarding nutrition and regarding anemia, actually it varies from district to district.

In some districts it is lack of access to proper food, proper nutrition. And in some of the far west regions, it is a genetic problem.

So we cannot generalize the problem of nutrition and anemia.

**Sabitri Poudel, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Nepal**

After we provide the questionnaire to the participants in the different districts, or who are there as our participants, we will collect the answers from them and plot it in the dashboard.

**Dr. Nick Okwi, Acting District Health Officer for Amuria, Uganda**

In this short two-day interface with the DATA tool, I think I realize that, one, is the aspect of data utilization, which has been so minimal.

Two, many people think that anemia is basically health care problem, but through this we realize that very many sectors must be involved

**Doreen Abwola, National Medical Stores, Uganda**

Even education, agriculture, water and sanitation, really play a great role in fighting anemia.
I see that a number of departments, a number of sectors are going to work together.

**Pranay Upadhyay [*title in earlier segment*]**

We have learned in the training the different barriers that come in the way and now we will develop effective plans with the help of a list of these barriers. If we effectively develop the plans and bring some interventions, then we will be able to reduce anemia to a great extent.

**Susan Oketcho, Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda**

I was happy with that gentleman who said, “hey, anemia has brought us together.” Now, having known the possible causes of anemia, having known where we are, having known the possible solutions to anemia, what I’ve learned today is that the district people are energized. I think they have had a rejuvenated commitment.

**Ending of DATA video Narrator**SPRING’s experiences have shown that DATA equips districts to address anemia in their local context. Countries that adopt DATA can improve the coordination and integration of anemia programs across sectors.