Technical Brief No. 1: The power of multi-sectoral governance in addressing malnutrition: Insights from Sustainable Nutrition for All, Uganda and Zambia

Available to download at http://www.snv.org/update/power-multi-sectoral-governance-address-malnutrition

2 Upcoming Briefs to be published in June 2018:
Final SN4A Policy Brief No. 4 & Technical Brief No. 3: Intra-household dynamics and dietary diversity in Uganda and Zambia
NATIONAL MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

Insights from the Nutrition Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda

Mr. Boaz Musiimenta,

Ag2Nut Webinar: Wednesday 2nd May
THE NUTRITION SITUATION IN UGANDA

Distribution of Stunting, Wasting, & Underweight in Children Under 5 (UDHS 1989-2016)
Regional Distribution of Prevalence of Severe and Moderate Stunting (UDHS 2016)
WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS MALNUTRITION IN UGANDA (DHS, 2016)

Nutritional status of children by age

Percent

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52 54 56 58

Stunted
Underweight
Wasted

Age (months)

Note: Stunting reflects chronic malnutrition; wasting reflects acute malnutrition; underweight reflects chronic or acute malnutrition or a combination of both. Plotted values are smoothed by a five-month moving average.

Uganda DHS 2016
OPPORTUNITY: MULTISECTORAL DETERMINANTS

Uganda joined the SUN Movement in 2011

The SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap (2016–2020) envisions a world free from malnutrition in all its forms by 2030.

Pillar for nutrition action is ‘Review, strengthen, and promote nutrition governance and accountability’.
TURNING GLOBAL STRATEGIES INTO LOCAL ACTIONS
Vision 2040

To reduce stunting among children under 5 from 33% in 2010 to 0% by 2040

Nutrition falls under NDP II Objective 3:
- Enhance human capital development

Nutrition target:
- Reduce child stunting in children under 5 from 33% to 25% by 2021

NAP: Objective incl.
- Strengthen the policy, institutional framework & capacity to effectively plan, implement & monitor nutrition
LG PLANNING & NATIONAL NUTRITION PLANNING

LG Development Planning Guidelines integrate key cross-cutting issues into government programmes and projects, including Nutrition

National Nutrition Planning Guidelines 2015 support identification, analysis, integration, monitoring, and evaluation of nutrition issues in national, sector, and local government development plans

Guidance aligned to the local government planning process

Mandates that local governments include nutrition in their district development plans and develop nutrition action plans
NCC COMPOSITION

NCC Core Members
Administration, health, planning, education, production, community development, water, and trade and industry

Direct Influencing Actors

Indirect Influencing Actors
LINKAGES BETWEEN LLG NNCS AND THE DISTRICT

District Council (DC)

District Technical Planning Committee (DTPC)

District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC)

Town Council Nutrition Coordination Committee (TNCC)

Sub-County Nutrition Coordination Committee (SNCC)

Municipal Nutrition Coordination Committee (MNCC)

Division Nutrition Coordination Committee (DiNCC)
INSIGHTS & EXPERIENCES

Strong leadership and commitment to multi-sectoral action is needed to address malnutrition

This involves establishing and sustaining an executive coordinating body, with multi-sectoral credibility and authority to facilitate mobilising and resourcing power, as reflected in Uganda.

Support advocacy opportunities from agenda setting to formulation of strategies and guidelines in line with the SDG’s, SUN and national development plans

High-level government play a critical role by coordinating actions across ministries and government offices, channelling donor and civil society efforts, and by stressing the importance of nutrition in the poverty reduction agenda.

Develop Accountability Mechanisms

Accountability is needed at all levels, where stakeholders have ownership and responsibility to fulfil nutrition duties.

Sub-national multisectoral platforms are critical
The power of sub-national multi-sectoral governance in addressing malnutrition:

*Insights from Sustainable Nutrition for All*

Etah Manda, SNV
Netherlands Development Organisation, Zambia

Ag2Nut Webinar: Wednesday 2nd May
Progress in reducing malnutrition but subregional variations persist

Source: Zambia DHS 2014
Sustainable Nutrition for All - Zambia and Uganda

National, Regional, Global Policy Development for Improved Nutrition

Improved Nutrition Outcomes

Demand Creation

SBCC

Strengthening NSA

Governance

Adapted from *Community Led Total Sanitation*
## Strong Political Commitment for a Multisectoral Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITMENT TO MULTI-SECTORAL ACTION</th>
<th>ZAMBIA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL</td>
<td>Early riser to the SUN movement Sustainable Development Goals, 2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL</td>
<td>National Food and Nutrition Policy National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan 1,000 Most Critical Days Programmes, Phase 2 Embodies multi-sectoral approach at sub-national level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB-NATIONAL</td>
<td>District Nutrition Coordination Committees Ward Nutrition Coordination Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO-ORDINATION BODY</td>
<td>National Food and Nutrition Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>Zambia Vision 2030 Zambia 6th National Development Plan</td>
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Recognition that sub-national platforms are needed

- **Co-ordination** across sectors, at all levels (vertical, from national to community; horizontal, multi-sectoral)
  - Involve actors, from development, government, academia, research, civil society and private sector
  - In Zambia- Chinsali, Isoka, Kasama
SN4A Zambia- District Nutrition Co-ordination Committee

**Building capacity** in the district teams (Chinsali, Isoka, Kasama) to coordinate, implement and monitor a multi-sectoral nutrition project in line with NNP and MCDP:

- Includes members from Government Departments - Health, Community Development, Mother and Child Health, Agriculture, Finance and Planning, NGO’s such as World Vision, and Agriculture Groups such as the Zambian National Farmers Union.

- Provide technical training and field practice, *facilitation, counselling and follow-up* in the hubs and communities

- Supporting **Hub NCC and Nutrition Action Group** to take ownership, and continue the community dialogue through *action planning*

- Providing support to apply skills (gender, WASH, nutrition, agriculture) according to the **needs** of the community.
Challenge of co-ordinating across sectors

“It’s not in my objectives”

The task of coordination should not be confused with the task of performing the functions themselves

“I’d like to help, but my role isn’t clear”

“What doesn’t get measured, doesn’t get done”

“Needs investment”

Capacity building is needed

“Needs investment”
Benefits of co-ordinating across sectors

- Multi-sectorality has been embraced with clear support for a district and sub-district level programme of inter-sectoral coordination.

- Potential to align plans and programmes through District Level Nutrition Action Plans and also integrate new approaches (e.g. triggering)

- Opportunity to generate learning and regular reflections amongst members are needed to do this. The level of reflection at district (coordinate) and hub level (implement) is different.

- Communities are change agents- opportunity to strengthen communities’ understanding of their rights to improve demand for better nutrition- DNCC is a platform.
Insights from Sustainable Nutrition for All & District & Sub-County Nutrition Coordination Committee Uganda

Prossy Nakayima, SNV
Netherlands Development Organisation, Uganda

Ag2Nut Webinar: Wednesday 2nd May
The Toro subregion, where SN4A is based, has the **highest stunting rates** in the country.

SN4A supports sub-counties in the two districts (Kasese and Kyenjojo) to establish Sub-county Nutrition Coordination Committees (SNCC).

Phase 2- Kakumiro
Similar to Zambia, DNCCs in Kasese and Kyenjojo have been strengthened, as well as Sub-county Nutrition Coordination Committee (SNCC). Recognising the need to have sustainable impact, hub structures have been established.

• The multi-sectoral approach is strongly recognised by the members- “There is a synergy of efforts, what one sector omits, the other complements. Efforts are combined for results.”

• There is increased transparency because sectors are aware of what other sectors are doing.

• Members are empowered to implement triggering activities in the communities, and thereby encourage individuals to address their own nutrition challenges. Each village has developed a village Nutrition Action Plan and democratically selected Village Nutrition Action Group (VNAG) members to foster adoption at the household level.
Further insights and challenges

Difficult to mobilise the implementers all at once. Time constraints, core activities and other commitments pull members from committee attendance and responsibilities.

“Nutrition was historically in the health department, As a subject nutrition however requires the attention of food, agronomy, education etc.”,

“It can be difficult to pool resources for coordination services.

“We need to share more – of plans and budgets - district may not know what SNV is doing. SNV may not know what others are doing”

“Further capacity building of district staff in inter-sectoral, and monitoring activities”
Final Reflections from Uganda

- The DNCC provides a **platform for multi-sectoral stakeholders to share information, and harmonise activities in the district**. This will also enable local governments to learn what strategies works best when collaborating across the sectors, what challenges can arise and how best to address them.

- The hub and VNAG goes beyond the district and subcounty level and reach households in the community. To support this, the structure should be included in the district action plan. Planned activities must be coordinated, coherent and nutrition-sensitive.

- The DNCC’s have a structure in place, and moving forward, there needs to be system in place to ensure the subcounty structures are part of the district coordination framework.

- Good progress with the District Nutrition Action Plans (DNAP). These guide the implementation of nutrition activities in the district.
Recommendations from SN4A

- **Ensure that the multi-sectoral platforms are replicated and aligned from national to subnational level to ensure community reach, especially of the most vulnerable households**

- **Build capacity including human and institutional capacity**

- **Provide support to local governance and civil society groups to develop social accountability mechanisms.** Stunting is invisible in the community. Strengthening communities’ understanding of their rights along with an increased understanding of the prevalence of undernutrition in their villages would strengthen their voices thereby creating demand for better quality nutrition services.

- **Leverage existing resources and work with, for example teachers and local leaders, to plan, implement, monitor and coordinate nutrition interventions at community and household level.** Build on existing approaches, but also be open and innovative to new approaches, such as triggering.