

# LEARNING FROM THE UGANDA NUTRITION ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN KISORO & LIRA DISTRICTS

“Pathways to Better Nutrition” Study



SUMMARY OF DISTRICT FINDINGS, 2013-2015



# Timeline of PBN District Activities

In Lira and Kisoro districts, as with the national Pathways to Better Nutrition (PBN) study, we used qualitative, budget, and secondary survey data to ask **how nutrition prioritization influences funding for nutrition.**

## District Findings

### Snapshots of Nutrition Findings

Both Lira and Kisoro have yet to reach the 2016 UNAP targets for reductions in undernutrition and breastfeeding. Lira is doing well in Objectives 1 and 4. Kisoro is doing well in Objectives 2 and 4. [See the District Snapshots for further analysis]

#### Snapshots of Nutrition in Uganda: Kisoro District

These district snapshots have been constructed as part of the "Pathways to Better Nutrition" (PBN) case study evaluations implemented by the USAID-funded SPRING project, focusing on two case study districts where SPRING and its partners have done extensive data collection. Using key indicators and objectives named in the 2011 Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP), these snapshots present the diversity of factors affecting malnutrition in the country. These district snapshots are best interpreted in conjunction with other SPRING PBN products, including the Factors Affecting Nutrition around Uganda (Pomeroy and D'Agostino 2014) set of subregional snapshots and the technical brief Summary of Kisoro and Lira Districts 2014 Baseline Study (Adero et al. forthcoming).

These snapshots assess what objectives or set of constraints are most pressing in each district. The contextual factors that will affect subnational implementation of national nutrition policy may vary across regions and districts.

Indicator	Level in Kisoro District	UNAP National Target (2016)
Any anemia, children 6-59 months	55%	50.0%
Any anemia, women of reproductive age	18.2%	12.0%
Exclusive breastfeeding, under 6 months	78.6%	75.0%
Minimum dietary diversity, children 6-23 months	3.7%	*
Challenging, non-pregnant women	13.6%	No target
Stunting, children under 5 yrs	51.4%	32.0%
Underweight, children under 5 yrs	14.2%	10.0%
Underweight, non-pregnant women	2.0%	8.0%
Wasting, children under 5 yrs	3.4%	5.0%

Sources: Food and Future Innovation Laboratory for Collaborative Research on Nutrition Africa (2013).  
\*The UNAP process is currently targeting for a dietary diversity index of 7%, but this measure is considered for Uganda's districts, as it is an indicator dietary diversity.

#### DESCRIPTION OF KISORO DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS (IN COMPARISON TO NATIONAL STATISTICS)

Refugee population level: Moderate/High  
 Location: Peri-Urban  
 Poverty Headcount: Average (44%)  
 Adult Literacy Level: Below Average (51%)



Note: Location definitions are derived from the number of people living in the districts, categorized as follows: peri-urban (100-1,000 people per sq km), rural (10-100 people per sq km), and urban (1,000+ people per sq km).  
 Refugee population measured by settlement density (people per sq km).  
 Source: UNICEF (2013), DHS/ICR (2013).



**November 2013**  
 Began PBN Study at National Level

**March 2014**  
 Began PBN Study at District Level (Lira and Kisoro) - 2013/14 District Budget Data Collection and Validation

- Collected and analyzed district budget documents for nutrition-relevant budget lines using the Output Budget Tool (nutrition relevance was determined based on strategies in the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan [UNAP] implementation plan).
- Interviewed district technical and planning staff to validate findings from the review.
- Held validation workshops with relevant stakeholders to identify the proportion of nutrition funding in each identified activity.

**April 2014**  
 Collected First Round of District Qualitative Data

- Selected key informants from the six key stakeholder groups (donors, academia, civil society, government, private sector, UN groups).
- Conducted first round of interviews.
- Recorded, transcribed, and analyzed interviews using objective "coding" to follow the themes of nutrition prioritization and funding.

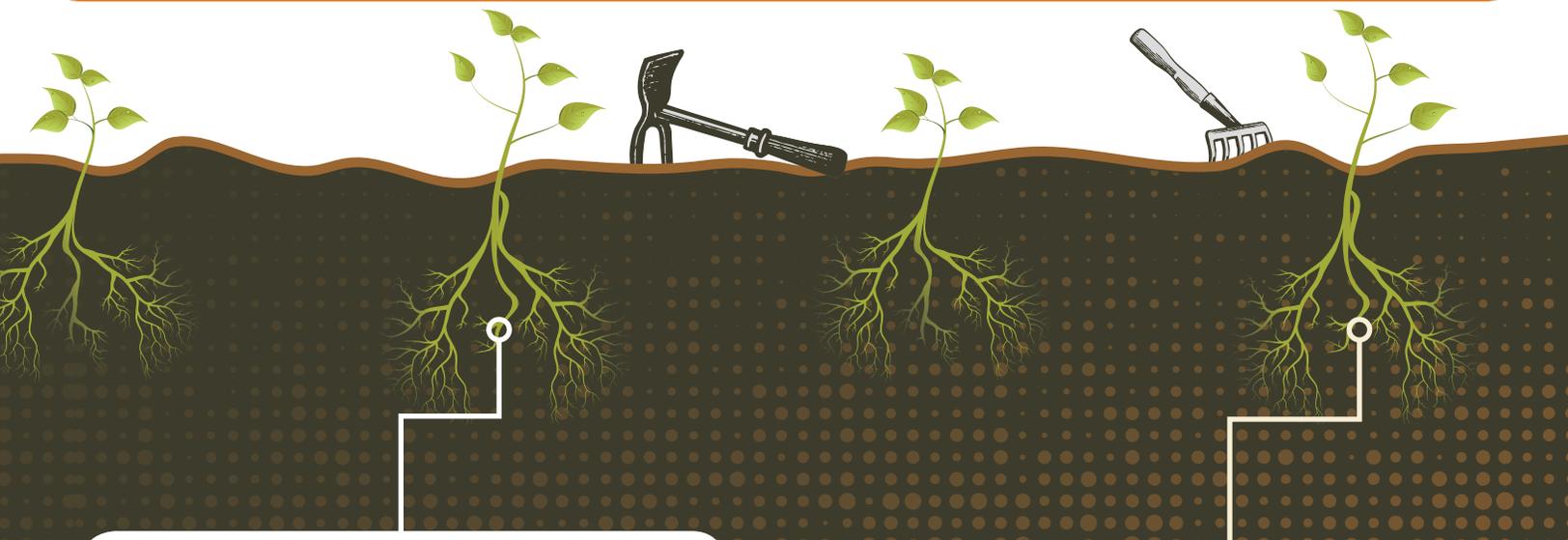
## Data Collection Methods

## Qualitative Data Findings

- Kisoro and Lira districts have demonstrated their commitment to improve nutrition by establishing coordinating structures at the district and sub-county levels, though functionality is still dependent on partner support. With the orientation of the districts by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), districts demonstrated understanding on UNAP objectives, roles, and structure but need more training on applying the UNAP to their planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring of nutrition activities.
- Absence of a monitoring and evaluation system to track and share the progress of nutrition efforts with national level ministries, partners, and the UNAP secretariat makes it difficult for the district to prioritize nutrition activities.
- Political involvement in the District Nutrition Coordination Committee is limited to the chief administration officer. This hampers the ability of other local leaders to advocate for improved nutrition policy and increased funding, which blocks the inclusion of nutrition in the overall district process.

## Budget Findings

- On average, 6.7 percent of the district budgets across Kisoro and Lira were allocated for nutrition activities from 2013-2015. Much of the local government funding comes from conditional grants that do not allow re-allocation for nutrition activities.
- Contrary to the common belief that nutrition activities are largely funded in the health sector, in both Lira and Kisoro districts, production provides a high proportion of nutrition funding and activities. It is important to note that the centralization of National Agriculture Advisory Services caused a decline in production funding in Lira from 2013-2015.
- Both districts are implementing activities from UNAP Objectives 1-4. From 2013-2015, funding for nutrition-specific activities (Objective 1) and institutional strengthening increased, while funding for food production (Objective 3) decreased due to the centralization of NAADS.
- In both districts, a significant amount of funding came from off-budget donor sources (about 42 percent of total nutrition funding) in 2013/14; however, the inability of donors to account for their own activities at the district level meant that very few nongovernmental organizations were able to report NGO contribution for 2014/15.
- There is no designated budget line for nutrition in the districts.



### August 2014 – January 2015

#### Held National and District Data-Validation Meetings

- Drafts of preliminary findings shared with (national) multi-sectoral nutrition committee and DNCCs

#### Collected Second Round of District Qualitative Data and “Snapshots of Nutrition” Secondary Data

- Conducted second round of interviews and focus group discussions.
- Analyzed available secondary data from the Nutrition Innovation Lab and Uganda District Health Management Information System (HMIS) for these indicators.

### July 2015

#### Ended PBN Study at National Level with Qualitative Data Collection, Budget Data Collection

- Final national interviews conducted; second year budget data collection and validation completed.

#### Began Final Analysis to Create Cross-national and District Recommendations

## Selection of Findings from District Budget Data Analysis

Figure 1. Composition of Central Government Conditional Grants to **Lira** and **Kisoro** Districts, FY 2014/15

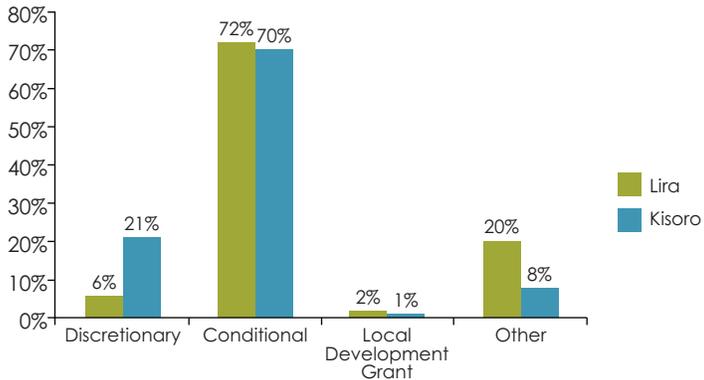


Figure 2. **Lira** District Total Nutrition Budget, FY 2014/15

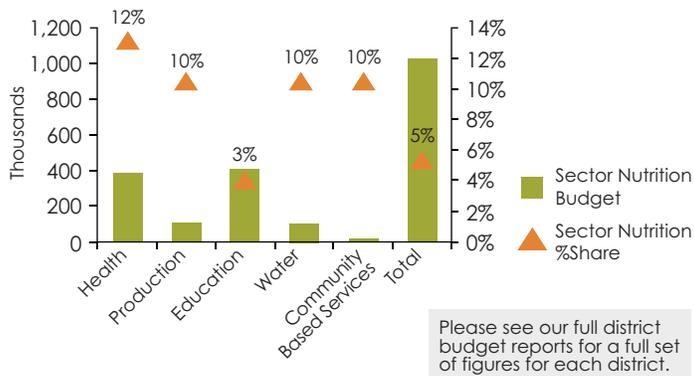
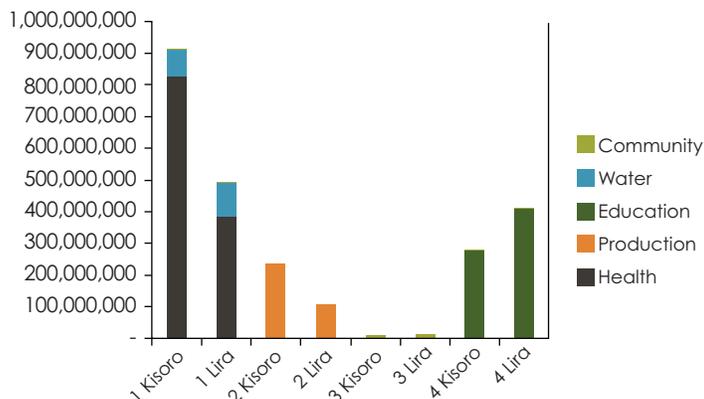


Figure 3. Sector Funding for UNAP Objectives in **Kisoro**, FY 2014/15



## Conclusions

Nutrition coordination committees are well aware of the UNAP's structures and goals, but need support to put the plan into action. In addition, pre-existing planning and funding mechanisms isolate the committees and make it difficult for local government to mainstream nutrition into their work plans and budgets. District funding seems most robust for Objectives 1 (MICYN) and 4 (Nutrition Systems), but further funding and planning support could be given to nutrition-sensitive activities related to Objectives 2 (Diverse Diets) and 3 (Social Protection). This is particularly true for Lira, which performs below the national average on Objective 2.

## Recommendations

- Government and partners should provide additional technical support to district nutrition coordination committees on how to integrate UNAP objectives during planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of departmental and district work plans.
- Government stakeholders should consider establishing dedicated funding lines for nutrition, particularly for coordination and other non-project needs, and/or provide some unconditional grants for LGs to use for this purpose.
- Government should establish a monitoring and evaluation framework for UNAP activities, with a clear plan for indicators and targets that follows best practices for data use and access at both district and central levels. Measuring lower-level progress will help assess impact, gain buy-in from local officials, and increase donor financing.



For other study reports and more information on our methodology, please go to [www.spring-nutrition.org/pbn](http://www.spring-nutrition.org/pbn)

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