Ethiopia's Multi-Sectoral National Nutrition Program: Lessons Learned 2013-2015

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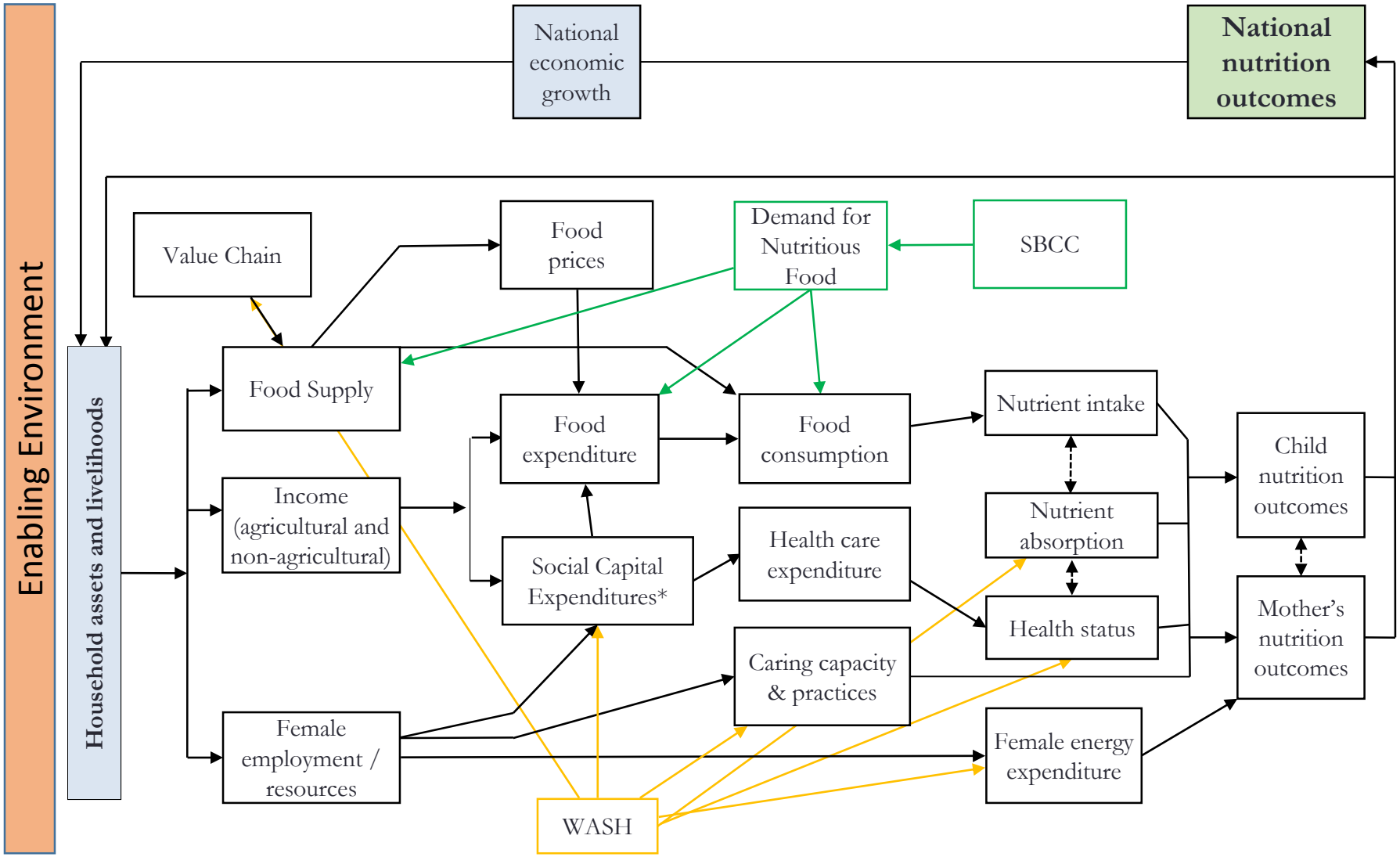
Lessons Learned from a Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Perspective

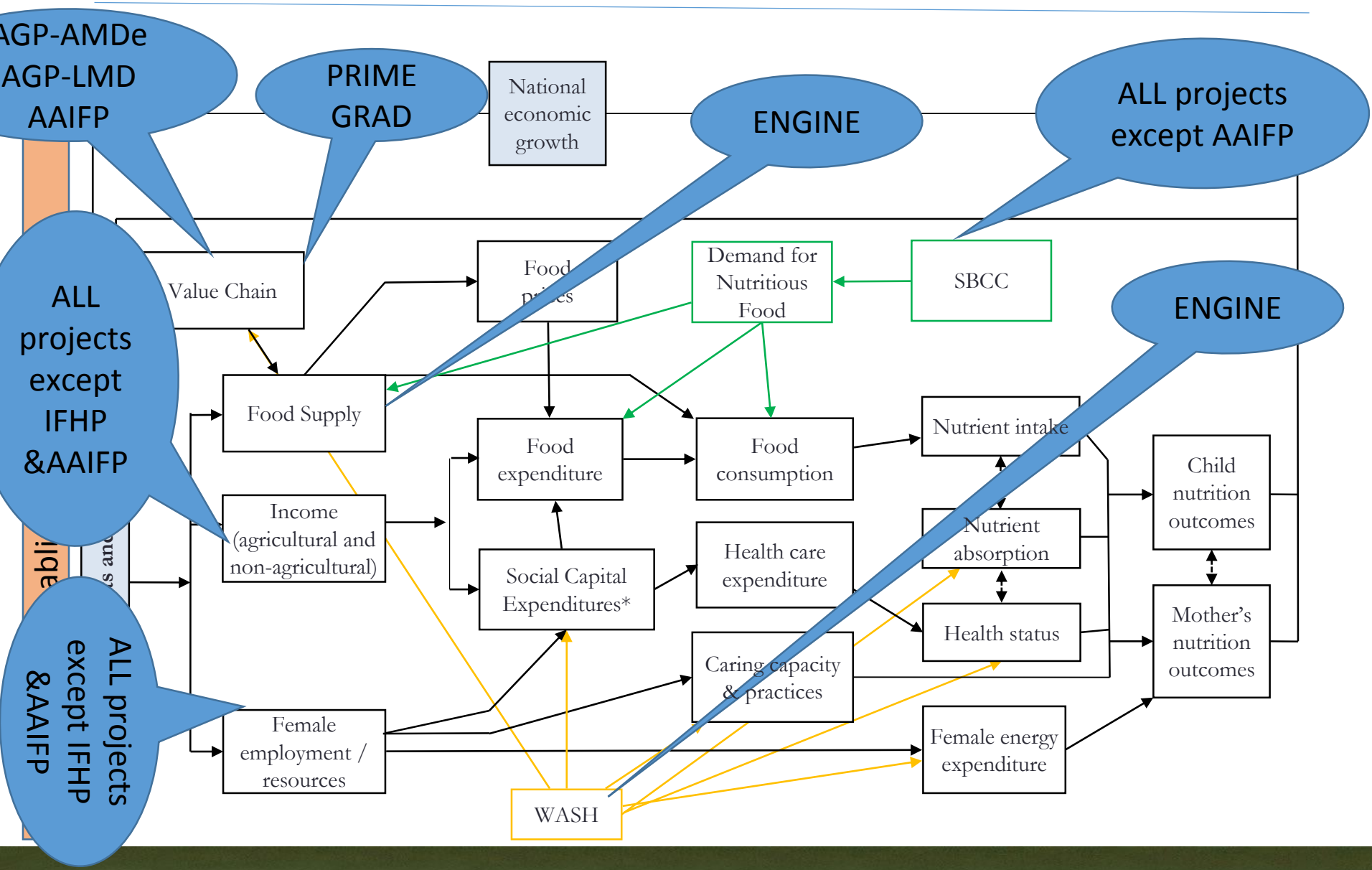
"The National Nutrition Program needs the coordinated effort of different sectors such as health, agriculture, water, and education, and working with development partners," Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

How nutrition fits in CAADP and USAID DO1

Ag-Nut Pathway and FtF Projects



Ag-Nut Pathway and FtF Projects



Contributions of Value Chain and Resilience FtF projects to IR 5 of DO1

	AMDe	LMD	GRAD	PRIME
Nutrition Staff	Nat & regional	National	Nat & regional	National and Regional
Baseline survey	*Cost of Diet Survey	*IYCF baseline-selected woredas	*Yes	On dietary diversity
Nutrition in PMP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
MOA Training	5+ in 2014	3 TOT (126 DAs)	Yes	Yes
HEW Training	No	yes	yes	Yes
Cooking Demos	Yes at cooperatives	Yes for care group	Yes	Yes
Schools	No	School Milk Day 18,000 students	No	Planned
Community SBCC	No	yes	yes	Yes
New SBCC Materials	Brochures, sticks, manuals	Adapted from ENGINE	Adapted from ENGINE	Joint PRIME and ENGINE for Somali

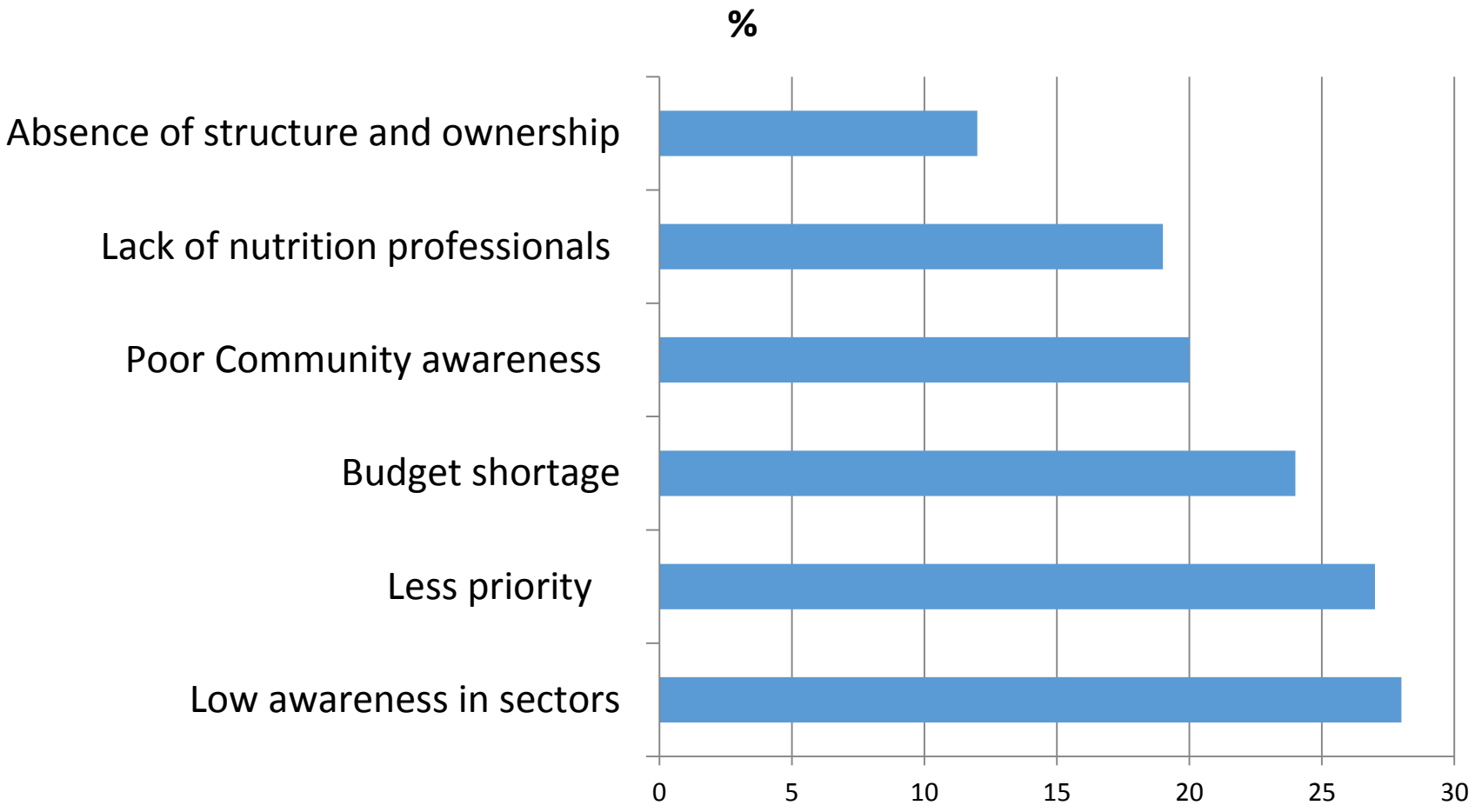
Challenges

Table 1. Major Challenges During Implementation of NNP, by Region and Sector.

	Major NNP Implementation Challenges					
Region	Budget Shortage, %	Lack of Nutrition Professionals, %	Lack of Attention, %	Low Awareness, %	Coordination Problem, %	Others
Tigray, N = 6	33	33	0	83	17	83
SNNPR, N = 17	35	47	29	71	53	18
Oromia, N = 14	14	14	29	29	29	0
Amhara, N = 16	38	6	44	25	25	25

Source: Eileen K, et al: Multi sector nutrition program governance and implementation in Ethiopia: Opportunities and Challenges, FNB, , 2015

Challenges:
collaboration and coordination at regional level



Considerations

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International Understandings of "Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture

- It is conceptually fallacious to expect agriculture projects themselves to improve anthropometric indicators of child nutrition (e.g. a reduction in stunting) given the fact that improved nutrition requires not only improved food security, but also improved caring practices, health services and WASH.

Considerations

Converge and layer of FtF, Health, WASH and Emergency projects at household, village (*Kebele*), and district level to have maximum impact but it means:

- More than geographic convergence and doing joint field visit
- Convergence/layering should have a clear purpose with clear objective and accountable partnership

Lessons Learned

Multi-sector nutrition programming

- It is a process and requires patience and time
- Exchange visits help to conceptualize how multi-sectoral approaches and/or coordination work
- Incentivize the multi-sectoral approach (budget, capacity, accountability)

Adaptive Management-budget and implementation flexibility (PRIME and ENGINE) is critical for multi-sectoral program like nutrition

FTF partners coordination platform is important to complement FtF investment

Measure what a project contributes not what we wish: value chain vs stunting.

Key Takeaways

- Multi-sectoral approach needs alignment with government priorities (sometimes it may not be nutrition)
- Multi-sector nutrition program requires PATIENCE, TIME, and CONTINOUS ENGAGMENT
- Ensure capacity building for nutrition to use multiple approach, target multiple sectors and implemented at different levels
- Convergence or layering of interventions of projects or programs is key for maximum impact but approaches should be tried out or contextualized