

MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION

Global Learning and Evidence Exchange

Washington, DC



Coordination of Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programming: Lessons from Rwanda

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Key Aspects of Coordination & Collaboration

- Leadership: Mission Director commitment to MSN Strategy
- Coordination: Nutrition TWG created & co-chaired by DMD
- Cross-sectoral representation: Multiple Offices (PRO, Health, EG, DG, Educ) participated in monthly TWG meeting
- Collaboration between Mission and USAID/Washington: DC-based Nutrition, Food Security and WASH experts on TDY Missions for gap assessment & design

Coordination & Collaboration: Design Phase

- Cross-sectoral “Activity Design Team” created
- Revised Development Objective in CDCS to read “Health and nutritional status of Rwandans improved”-nutrition language was missing before
- Identified key interventions to anchor design process (nutrition, food security and WASH)
- Conducted mapping exercise to avoid duplication
- Engaged host government, specifically line ministries
- Engaged Washington technical experts

Mission-level Coordination & Collaboration

- Mission Nutrition TWG transitioned into Community Health and Improved Nutrition (CHAIN) Coordination team
- Mission created a Coordinator position to help coordinate these mechanisms – with our CHAIN Coordinator/Manager joining the Mission late last year.
- Integrated site visits done on quarterly basis (minimum)

Coordination & Collaboration with GoR

- USAID Co-Chairs the National Food and TWG meetings
- In 2011, District plans to eliminate malnutrition were developed for all 30 districts
- In 2013, Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition TWG was expanded to include other key Ministries.
- In 2013, a 5 year Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy developed.
- A National Independent Coordination Secretariat reporting directly to the Prime Minister's Office established in May 2016

Challenges to coordinate Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programming at the Mission and country level

- Mission Offices have different priorities (to engage in nutrition)
- Addressing chronic malnutrition was late (2010) by GOR
- Multi-Sectoral goals hampered by delays by some key offices and Ministries
- Reduction of stunting is good but not impressive (44% in 2010 to 38% in 2015)
- Disconnect between Social Cluster Ministries and the TWG

Key Takeaways for Successful Coordination

- Introducing new nutrition and food security indicators by USAID Washington was timely and we are grateful
- Multi-Sectoral nutrition interventions requires cross teams involvement if you want to succeed
- Mission leadership prioritizing nutrition was a key driver to our success
- Creating a Mission-level Nutrition TWG, co-Chaired by DMD worked wonders

Key Takeaways for Successful Coordination

- Involving Washington Nutrition and WASH experts during design phase helped speed up the process
- Engaging host gov't early to avoid delays/rejections at a later stage is key.
- GOR commitment to addressing chronic malnutrition created a conducive working environment.
- District Plans to eliminate malnutrition (DPEMs) holds districts accountable to implement nutrition



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