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 require 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.