INTEGRATION OF MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS INTO THE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS AT DISTRICT LEVEL

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Transforming Global Strategies into National Policy

Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy Global Learning and Evidence Exchange
East and Southern Africa Regional Meeting
Strengthening Nutrition Leadership and Governance in Uganda (DNCC Initiative)

A 2-year process and partnership to:

- Strengthen the national oversight and support structure for nutrition
- Enhance awareness of and commitment to nutrition among local level stakeholders
- Strengthen DNCC capacity to plan, budget, leverage existing resources, advocate for and monitor nutrition activities
Enhance local capacity to plan for multi-sectoral nutrition interventions

Orientation on National Nutrition Planning Guidelines
Integration of Nutrition in District Development Plans
Development of the District Nutrition Action Plans
Stakeholder Consultation and Review of DNAPs
Nutrition in Annual Work Plan
Monitoring Work Plan Implementation

Ongoing advocacy, technical assistance, and sensitization
DNCC members in action

Intradistrict discussion and interdistrict sharing and learning

Photos by Anita Komukama, FANTA

Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy Global Learning and Evidence Exchange East and Southern Africa Regional Meeting
Example of how multi-sectoral nutrition interventions support district visions

**DDP Vision:** Prosperous people and a productive environment by 2040

**DNAP Goal:** Reduce levels of stunting by 32% to 20% by 2020

**DNAP Objective:** To improve access and utilization of services related to maternal and infant and young child nutrition

**Strategy:** Promote water hygiene and sanitation practices at the household level and schools

**Contributing Sectors:** Education, health, community development, works and technical services

**DNAP Objective:** To enhance the knowledge and skills of households on production and consumption of diversified foods

**Strategy:** Promote consumption of diverse nutritious foods

**Contributing Sectors:** Community development, health, production and marketing

**Sector Activities**
Challenges in Multi-sectoral Nutrition Planning

- Inadequate technical capacity for multi-sectoral nutrition planning
- Lack multi-sectoral nutrition data that is representative of the district
  - Lack of agreed upon multi-sectoral nutrition indicators and reporting system
- Difficult to plan without allocated nutrition resources
  - Adaptation of existing sector interventions into nutrition-sensitive interventions
  - Sector perceptions of their role in nutrition
Lessons Learned

• Fostering ownership of processes among district leadership and key partners helped advance the process
  • Joint planning and alignment with national processes ensured nutrition was included across sectors in key district plans
  • Partners provided needed follow-up and guidance
• Integrating nutrition into existing government systems and structures for accountability and local level ownership helps to:
  • Identify nutrition resources
  • Streamline implementation of nutrition interventions
Lessons Learned

• Technical expertise and support was critical for developing a local government-owned nutrition agenda
  • A nutrition capacity strengthening strategy for frontline workers would help improve sustainability and decrease need for outside technical support
  • Advocacy to political and technical leadership ensured official adoption of DNAPs
    • Resource allocation for nutrition interventions
    • Take advantage of any opportunities, even if imperfect, to advance the nutrition agenda
Lessons Learned

• Sharing experiences within the sectors of the same district and across the districts improved understanding of what a multi-sectoral agenda for a district would look like
  • Improved cohesion from regular collaboration on DNAPs
  • Friendly competition and cross-district discussions facilitated adoption of DNAPs
• Start small, learn, and document to inform adaptation at scale
Key Takeaways

- This is a process; there are no short-cuts and there is a lot of learning
- Engage political and technical stakeholders early to ensure prioritization of nutrition in planning processes and foster ownership of the agenda
- Building consensus among sectors and stakeholders will help achieve multi-sectoral nutrition planning and implementation
- Technical capacity strengthening for nutrition frontline workers is needed in all sectors
- Nutrition information and financial resources are important for planning, but often lacking