

from both government and donor sources is expected to fall short of what is needed to fully implement the NNS and “scale up” nutrition on a national scale by 2016. This funding gap will require the government and its partners to work together closely to identify potential resources and new collaborative efforts. Doing more with less to achieve nutrition targets, build sustainable efforts, and improve community resilience entails improving the efficiency of program delivery.

It has been a significant challenge to bring ministries, donors, and other development assistance partners together to work on a common plan for improving nutrition in Tanzania. Coordination of nutrition efforts is improving under new and evolving coordination structures—both within the Tanzanian government (within and across ministries, TFNC, the President’s Office, and the Prime Minister’s Office) and between the government and its development partners (donors, NGOs, and CSOs), but continued improvements in coordination require sustained efforts by all involved. A push to re-focus government and donor activities on scaling up programs at the district and community levels is helping to mobilize a nutrition agenda with added resilience and, hopefully, sustainability.

There is much to learn from the implementation of MBNP thus far and the challenges that the Mission and its implementing partners are facing in effectively integrating nutrition into its development projects. The most important of these include encouraging collaboration among projects and persuading “non-nutrition” projects to start viewing nutrition-sensitive actions as an important area that needs objectives, targets, and measureable indicators. MBNP is providing technical support to strengthen the capacity of local partners while also measuring results so as to build an evidence base of effective approaches. These lessons, if well documented and widely shared, can inform other Feed the Future Missions as well as the implementation of the USAID and whole-of-U.S.-government Nutrition Strategies.

Tanzania has made multiple awards for projects with significant nutrition components. These include social and behavioral change communication, service delivery, community-level interventions, food fortification, nutrition education, and training to improve value chains in horticulture and staple crops. These cover a significant portion of USAID’s Nutrition Strategy Intermediate Results and complement Tanzania’s own NNS and Implementation Plan. It will be essential to continue efforts to coordinate nutrition targets and measures, confirming that projects are working in a synchronized way to achieve their overall objectives and help countries scale up their own nutrition actions.

As Missions create or build on flagship nutrition projects, supporting the agency’s nutrition strategy by inte-

grating clear objectives and common indicators should be a primary consideration. Collaboration among donors can be improved by sharing work plans, tools, educational materials (e.g., Behavioral Change Communication kits), monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and reporting on nutrition-sensitive actions. Undertaking more operational research and more regular sharing of program successes and challenges will enable the development of a nutrition “community of practice” among USAID project staff and implementing partners. USAID centrally-funded projects, such as SPRING¹⁶ and FANTA, can be more extensively used to strengthen both global and country efforts to scale up high-impact nutrition practices and policies—efforts that are taking place at the intersection of FtF and GHI efforts.

When projects that have already been awarded attempt to retrofit nutrition elements, it is difficult to get the best mix and coverage of nutrition-specific interventions and nutrition-sensitive actions. It is important, however, to use feedback from current experiences to inform future rounds of nutrition procurements. Integrating nutrition objectives and measures in nutrition-sensitive FtF projects will build an evidence base of successful outcomes that can guide nutrition investments.

Annex 1: Other International NGO and Donor-Funded Nutrition Efforts

In addition to USAID, the Irish Government (Irish Aid) has been a strong supporter of nutrition in Tanzania over the past four to five years. Along with USAID, Irish Aid currently serves as the SUN Donor Co-Convenor; in this role, they represent the wider donor community and help to facilitate work with the government. The United Kingdom Agency for International Development (UKAid) has also recently started to invest in nutrition in Tanzania, particularly in the area of food fortification. Save the Children, Concern Worldwide, Helen Keller International (HKI), the Ifakara Health Institute, and several other local and international NGOs have also been working with the government and the broader nutrition community through the Development Partners Group (DPG)-Nutrition to support activities within the National Nutrition Strategy and its Implementation Plan.

HKI, for example, has been working to scale up the production and consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes in two districts in the Mwanza region. This is an evidence-based way to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable populations, increase household income, and reduce livelihood insecurity. The project provides training in storage, drying, processing, and marketing and links producers to market opportunities. Focal groups within the project pro-

vide nutrition education. HKI also manages a number of other projects, including food fortification and a program seeking to improve the health and nutrition curriculum in 40 Tanzanian schools.

The World Bank has focused its nutrition efforts on micronutrient malnutrition, largely through investments in food fortification. The World Bank, Helen Keller International, DFID (the U.K. government), GAIN, USAID, and others are working with government and the private sector to enable rural “hammer mills” that mill locally grown corn and sorghum to fortify their grain cost-effectively. Similar to the USAID-funded Tuboreshe Chakula project, this rural food fortification program is working alongside the national food fortification program and aims to make fortified foods more accessible and acceptable. It also focuses on demonstrating how hammer mill and home fortification programs can be designed and implemented through existing government programs; plans are for it to collect data on how such programs can be sustained and scaled up in different regions of the country.

UN Agencies

The United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) is the five-year business plan for 20 UN agencies in Tanzania, covering their funding and programs. It is designed to support the achievement of the Tanzanian government’s development goals as well as the MDGs. In nutrition, UNDAP focuses on strengthening community health structures for promoting better local health and nutrition behaviors. The UN supports a review of these structures and expansion of training and quality accreditation to strengthen community health services and equip them to respond to increased demand across the country. UNICEF, as the lead agency on nutrition, works with the Tanzanian government to integrate nutrition into policies, plans, and budgets, and to strengthen the abilities of institutions to deliver nutrition services. WFP works on food supplementation and food fortification; it also supports dialogue on nutrition within the agriculture sector. WHO has become increasingly involved in nutrition in Tanzania, with efforts focused on building capacity to produce technical guidelines on nutrition and on integrating nutrition interventions into health programming.

REACH is an inter-agency consortium comprised of FAO, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, and partners from the NGO community, academia, the private sector, and donors. It is not an implementing agency but a catalyst for building in-country multi-sector nutrition capacity governance that creates a space for government and donors to scale up nutrition interventions. It has identified priority nutrition outcomes and at this writing is completing an extensive mapping

project. This shows nutrition conditions, stakeholders, and all nutrition interventions in the country being conducted by development donors and their implementing partners.

Nutrition Objectives Identified by REACH in Tanzania

- Increased awareness of the problem and of potential solutions
- Strengthened national policies and programs
- Increased capacity at all levels for action
- Increased efficiency and accountability

Endnotes

- ¹ The Lancet’s first series on MCN is accessible at <http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-undernutrition>, and the second at <http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-nutrition>
- ² World Health Organization global targets to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition accessible at http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrition_globaltargets2025/en/index.html
- ³ The SUN Country Framework is accessible at http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/SUN_Framework.pdf
- ⁴ The 2014 New Year Message from the SUN Movement Coordinator is accessible at <http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/2014-SUN-Movement-New-Year-Message.pdf>
- ⁵ Secretary Clinton’s comments are accessible at <https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2011/06/12/travel-diary-secretary-clinton-visits-tanzania>
- ⁶ Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey, 2010
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ World Bank data on nutrition in Tanzania is accessible at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NUTRITION/Resources/281846-1271963823772/Tanzania.pdf>
- ⁹ President Kikwetwe’s Call for Action is accessible at <http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/president-of-tanzania-sets-out-his-call-for-action-on-nutrition#.Uvpax2JdUfU>
- ¹⁰ The government’s investment plan is accessible at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/tc/tca/WEB/FTP/TC/TCA/CAADP%20TT/CAADP%20Implementation/CAADP%20Post-Compact/Investment%20Plans/National%20Agricultural%20Investment%20Plans/Tanzania%20CAADP%20Post-Compact%20Investment%20Plan.pdf>
- ¹¹ Details on MBNP are accessible at http://www.africare.org/documents/MBNPBrief_goal_objectives_beneficiaries.pdf
- ¹² The “Let’s Improve Food” project is accessible at <http://www.abtassociates.com/noteworthy/2013/simple-commercial-solutions-to-reduce-malnutritio.aspx>
- ¹³ <http://www.tanzania-agric.org/>
- ¹⁴ The Staples Value Chain project is accessible at <http://www.acdivoca.org/site/ID/tanzania-staples-value-chain-NAFAKA>
- ¹⁵ Details of NAFSN are accessible at <http://feedthefuture.gov/article/new-alliance-food-security-and-nutrition-0>
- ¹⁶ Background and information on the SPRING project is available at <http://www.spring-nutrition.org/>



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