Advocacy Brief on Strengthening Nutrition Governance for Multi-sectoral Response

Kotido District is one of the districts in northern Uganda. It is located in the Kotido Sub-region and borders with Marach, Oyam, Napak, Kotido, and Pader Districts. The district is known for its high prevalence of malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant women. The district is home to a large number of refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan and has been affected by conflict and displacement for many years. The district has a population of approximately 181,050 people, with children under 5 years accounting for 31,416 of the population. The district has one of the highest rates of stunting in the country, with an estimated 30% of children under 5 suffering from this condition.

The Kotido District Local Government (KDLC) has been working to strengthen its nutrition governance through various initiatives. These include the implementation of a Joint Annual Nutrition Workplan (2019/20), the establishment of key stakeholders’ fora, and the promotion of cross-sectoral collaboration. The district has also developed a Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan (FSNAP) to guide its nutrition programming.

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NUTRITION, WASH AND HEALTH STATUS OF THE DISTRICT

NUTRITION STATUS

- FSNA baseline (2018)
- Desired situation (2025)
- Desired situation (2020)

Almost 4 in every 10 children had stunted growth, 10 in every 100 children had wasted bodies and 4 of every 10 children lacked enough blood (anaemic).

- 41% of households are food insecure
- 46% of households have food stocks
- Exclusive breast feeding
- 12%

NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- FSNA baseline (2019)
- INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES

WHEREAS most children are breastfed, 9 of 10 children do not get Minimum acceptable diet (eat)

NUTRITION, WASH AND HEALTH STATUS OF THE DISTRICT

- FSNA baseline (2018)

NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

WHAT IS NUTRITION GOVERNANCE AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR NUTRITION OUTCOMES?

Governance can be defined with regard to institutional structures, relationships between actors and organizations, decision-making processes, and incentives. It involves the capacity to act, the power to act and the commitment to act.

Good nutrition governance entails making adequate policy decisions in a timely manner, committing the necessary financial and organizational resources to their effective implementation, i.e. ensuring that benefits reach most of the population, preferably the most vulnerable. It also entails a sustained political commitment to ensure that nutrition programs and policies can withstand threats and constraints from changes in district leadership, political and socioeconomic upheavals (Solon 2007).

NUTRITION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

SOURCE: Institute of Development studies (IDS), 2013

POLLS OF NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- Source: Food Security and Nutrition Assessment in 8 districts of Karamoja 2018, Makerere University School of Public Health

- NUTRITION GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED IN THE DISTRICT

Coordination and Partnerships

- Stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted in Kotido district Local Government. The district had 37 key stakeholders either overseeing or implementing Nutrition specific and sensitive interventions as well as and creating an enabling environment for Nutrition implementation within the district. In total, 20 (54%) implement all the interventions including governance interventions. The map below shows the distribution of Nutrition specific, nutrition sensitive and governance interventions in the district.

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SOURCE: DISTRICT MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF NUTRITION SPECIFIC, NUTRITION SENSITIVE AND GOVERNANCE INTERVENTIONS

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