Feed the Future: The U.S. Government’s Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative - Multiple micronutrients supplementation - Infants and young children|Lactating women (LW)|Pregnant women (PW)|Preschool-age children (Pre-SAC)

Programme: Feed the Future: The U.S. Government’s Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative

Programme Data

Programme Description

Feed the Future, the U.S. government’s global hunger and food security initiative, is a $3.5 billion commitment to support country-driven approaches to address the root causes of poverty, hunger and undernutrition. A whole-of-government initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Feed the Future leverages the strengths of multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector. Globally we aim to assist 18 million vulnerable women, children, and family members – mostly smallholder farmers – escape hunger and poverty. Together, we will increase agricultural productivity, decrease poverty, drive economic growth, and reduce undernutrition to improve millions of lives.

Over the next five years in Uganda, Feed the Future aims to help an estimated 709,000 vulnerable Ugandan women, children and family members – mostly smallholder farmers – escape hunger and poverty. More than 450,000 children will be reached with services to improve their nutrition and prevent stunting and child mortality. Significant numbers of additional rural populations will achieve improved income and nutritional status from strategic policy engagement and institutional investments.

To meet its objectives, Feed the Future Uganda is making core investments in three key areas:

1. Nutrition
   - Essential nutrition actions at health facility and community level
   - Management of severe acute malnutrition at health facility level
   - Production of ready-to-use therapeutic foods and complimentary foods
   - Social Marketing of Complementary Foods
   - Behavior Change Communication for Improved Nutrition
   - Micronutrient interventions including food fortification
   - Capacity building, policy, advocacy and research

2. Agriculture.
   - The maize, coffee and bean belt are in Southwest and Central Uganda. The choice to focus on these value chains represents considerations regarding Ugandan government priorities, division of donor labor, and the highest impact interventions for the expected scale of Feed the Future resources.
   - Maize for Regional Food Security
   - Coffee for Growth
   - Beans for Nutrition
   - Value Chain Investments
   - Agro Input Supplies

3. Connecting Nutrition to Agriculture
   - Agriculture Research
   - Supporting Policy & Enabling Environment
   - Partnership Investment
   - Capacity Building
   - Community Connector

Program type

Multi-national

Cost
$47.5 million

References
- http://feedthefuture.gov/country/uganda

### Implementing organisations

- **UN agencies**
  - World Food Programme (WFP)

- **International NGOs**
  - Other
  - Details:
    - Peace Corps

- **National NGO(s)**
  - Details:
    - AgriBusiness InitiativeTrust

### Funding sources

### Action data

| Start date | January 2011 |
| End date | January 2015 |
| Country(ies): | Uganda |
| Status: | On-going |
| Area: | Rural |
| Place: | Southwest and North of Uganda |
| Topic: | Multiple micronutrients supplementation |
| Target group: | Infants and young children |
| | Lactating women (LW) |
| | Pregnant women (PW) |
| | Preschool-age children (Pre-SAC) |
| Delivery: | Community-based |
| | Hospital/clinic |
| | Primary health care center |

### Implementation details:
USAID will build on previous strategic investments in nutrition and take them to scale in the areas and populations of greatest need to support the GOU and private sector to reduce chronic undernutrition in the country with a primary focus on prevention. Through these interventions an estimated 709,000 vulnerable Ugandan women, children, and family members?mostly smallholder farmers?will receive targeted assistance to escape hunger and poverty. More than 450,000 children will be reached with services to improve their nutrition and prevent stunting and child mortality. The core investments in nutrition will focus on community and facility based prevention and treatment, targeted nutrition service delivery, the enabling environment for nutrition and capacity building.

**Targeted Nutrition Service Delivery? Fortification and Supplementation**
Targeted nutrition service delivery is focused primarily on approaches to reduce specific micronutrient deficiencies in Uganda. FTF will continue to support vitamin A supplementation and de-worming for children and iron folic acid supplementation and de-worming for pregnant women at the facility level, through district-level health programs in target geographical areas. In addition, food fortification...
activities will be supported to improve the necessary vitamin and mineral content of staple foods that will reach a larger target audience, primarily in urban and peri-urban areas where fortified foods are more accessible. This will build on previous work supported by the USG that has resulted in cooking oil fortification with vitamin A that now covers more than 85 percent of the country’s market and the fortification of maize and wheat flour with vitamin A, iron, zinc, folic acid and vitamin B12 and. New food fortification vehicles will be added that include sugar fortification with vitamin A.

The agriculture team is also looking at improved seed varieties to increase micronutrient content such as the orange-fleshed sweet potato, which has increased levels of beta-carotene (Vitamin A). The introduction of fortification of foods will be combined with educational activities that promote dietary diversity through the community and facility based programs.

As previously mentioned, a key component to treatment of undernutrition in Uganda is the production of therapeutic and complementary foods. USG’s Feed the Future will expand on previous investments in local ready-to-use therapeutic food production to increase availability and distribution in health facilities across the country to treat acute undernutrition.

Enabling Environment

Our program will work to leverage other sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, public/private, etc) to create demand for fortified foods, adopt good nutrition behaviors, and activities like exclusive breastfeeding and integrated nutrition/WASH/food hygiene. Advocacy efforts will continue to emphasize the importance of nutrition among key stakeholders. Uganda is one of the countries that is taking on the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative spearheaded globally by the Irish Government, U.S. Government and the UN. SUN focuses on integration of relevant sectors with a view to addressing the window of opportunity within the 1,000 days (from minus 9 months to 24 months). We will work to harmonize FTF and SUN activities to maximize efficiency and national coverage in close consultation with MOH, MAAIF and other stakeholders. Through the existing micronutrient fortification program that has successfully enriched common staples such as oil and flour, FTF will continue to advocate for mandatory fortification of manufactured foods.

Target population size: estimated 709,000 vulnerable Ugandan women, children, and family members?mostly smallholder farmers?will receive targeted assistance to escape hunger and poverty. More than 450,000 children will be reached with services to improve their nutrition.

Coverage level (%): This component will reach children in 47 districts in the Southwest and North of Uganda.

Outcome indicator(s): Some key outputs of nutrition activities are: nutrition officers placed in a majority of districts; active Food and Nutrition Councils organized in districts; mandatory fortification of major manufactured foods; therapeutic food reconstituted from locally available foods developed and distributed to district and regional hospitals; and community behavior changes to prevent undernutrition.

M&E system:

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Through an interactive approach across Mission teams and in collaboration with other donors and the GOU, the USG FTF effort will go beyond the status quo of performance monitoring. At the basic level, data will be collected by implementing partners and reported to USAID/Uganda through quarterly reports while quality will be assessed via Data Quality Assessment visits to the field.

IMPACT EVALUATION

To build an evidence base to adjust ongoing projects and inform future programs, we will design rigorous impact evaluations for select FTF programs. We have already identified such an opportunity with our Community Connector program, which fully integrates agriculture and nutrition activities at the household level. Discussions have been held with partners within the MIT Poverty Action Lab consortium on the use of Randomized Control Trial (RCT) experiments. We will use the results of these impact evaluations to test the hypotheses of our FTF strategy and make mid-stream adjustments to programs if necessary, or scale up programs that are working well. Using the earning component of FTF programs like Community Connector is in line with the Mission's continuing CLA component. We will also partner with other donors to disseminate and promote lessons learned.

USAID/Uganda, through unbiased and independent impact evaluations, will identify interventions that work; we will be an active contributor to the greater discourse in testable development hypotheses and our programs will benefit from our increased understanding.

CAPACITY BUILDING/SUPPORT TO DATA COLLECTION

A key component of our Feed the Future program will be capacity building of the Government of Uganda in the collection, analysis, and use of agriculture and nutrition data for planning, monitoring, and evaluation. We will work with all relevant government agencies and ministries including the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Health. We will work in partnership with the National Planning authority as they attempt to convene the multisectoral Food and Nutrition Council as a cohesive and functional unit. We will seek to build local academic institutions? capacity in nutrition through improved pre-service and in-service training, and enhanced research capacity. In addition to training in data collection and assistance in improving data systems, we will build analytical capacity in the Ministry of Agriculture by establishing a Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) node.

NUTRITION COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (CRSP)

We will use the Nutrition CRSP to assist us with specific research questions that tell us about the impact of our nutrition-related FTF programs. We have already had preliminary discussions with a Nutrition CRSP team. The Nutrition CRSP is intended to investigate effective ways of translating research results into widespread development practice. The CRSP anticipates the development of a well-balanced research strategy that is both innovative and problem solving, responds to the food and nutrition scientific needs, and to the capacity development requirements of Uganda. USAID/Uganda, through the CRSP, will be better positioned to build more effective strategies and programs, while
establishing a research capacity within the Mission and the country as a whole. As programs continue to be developed and procured in the coming months, the CRSP will assist in collecting the relevant local and international knowledge base needed to better implement, evaluate, and learn from our programs. Within individual programs, the CRSP will be an active participant in identifying and rigorously measure testable hypotheses related to food security.

**Post-intervention:**

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<tr>
<th>Vulnerable groups</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prevalence of households with moderate or severe hunger; Prevalence of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet; Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding of children under 6 months; Number of health facilities with established capacity to manage acute under nutrition; Prevalence of anemia among children 6-59 months; Prevalence of Poverty: Percent of people living on less than $1.25/day; Expenditures of rural households; Prevalence of stunted children under five; Change in average score on Household Hunger index; Percent of children 6-23 months who received a Minimum Acceptable Diet.</td>
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**Outcome reported by social determinants:**

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<th>Typical problems</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
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<td>Other actions from same programme</td>
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**Other actions from same programme**

- Feed the Future: The U.S. Government?s Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative - Crop selection strategies - All population groups

**Links to policies in GINA**

- Uganda Food and Nutrition Strategy and Investment Plan
- Uganda National Plan of Action for Nutrition
- The National Food and Nutrition Strategy
- The Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy

**eLENA Link**

- Multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by pregnant women