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Topic: Community health and nutrition programs

Title: Dissecting the multi-sectoral approach to nutrition specific and sensitive programming in Uganda

Presentation Type: Oral

Background and purpose: In the global call to scale up nutrition interventions in high burden malnutrition countries, nutrition programming has taken a multi-sectoral trend. However, multi-sectoral programming is a new phenomenon to nutrition programming. This study therefore, explored the delivery of nutrition interventions following a multi-sectoral programming as recommended by the scaling Up Nutrition movement.

Methods: Two programmes implementing nutrition sensitive and /or nutrition specific interventions in Uganda were studied. Following a qualitative approach; programme implementers and beneficiaries were interviewed. Beneficiaries were community members as well as health facilities where as implementers were programme staff and health workers. A selected four districts where the two programmes were implemented and two districts where neither of the programmes implemented were studied for comparison purposes. Data was managed using NVivo® software, coded and analysed for emerging themes and concepts.

Results: Both programmes implemented high impact interventions in the nutrition window of opportunity through existing local government structures employing majorly behaviour change communication and/or livelihood strategies. Results further showed that innovations to improve community nutrition programming especially through existing local government structures and community groups were hindered by inherent systemic and community challenges.

Conclusion and implications: This study demonstrated the need to clearly align programming pathways (policy to scaling up) in order to consolidate wider gains from community nutrition programming through multi-sectoral engagements. Therefore

incorporating and implementing nutrition considerations in broader policies and programs of health, food and agriculture for economic growth and development is significant in multi-sectoral implementation. .