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Topic: Food and nutrition security

Title: Repeated reports on persistent problems: An available literature synthesis on undernutrition in the semi-arid Karamoja Region of North Eastern Uganda

Presentation Type: Poster

Introduction

Major global improvements in undernutrition mortality were achieved in the MDG era and eradication of hunger is a sustainable development goal. However, undernutrition contributes to half of the 6.6 million annual child deaths worldwide. We used available literature in order to investigate temporal changes in undernutrition in Karamoja District, a semi-arid area in North Eastern Uganda.

Methods

Medical data-base (Pubmed.gov), regular search engines (google), and a country specific academic search engine (Makerere University) were used to identify and synthesize electronically available information on undernutrition in the Karamoja region. Inclusion criteria included English language, publication in the last ten years, Karamoja based, electronic access and focus on undernutrition. Using these criteria, fifteen electronically accessible reports published between 2008-2016 were identified and synthesized. The main publishers were Ministry of Health Uganda, Unicef, World Food Programme, Action Against Hunger, ACF International, FAO, Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems, Makerere University, and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, many of whom initiated multiple reports.

Results

Levels of stunting and acute malnutrition over the last 8 year period are largely stagnant at serious levels (Table 1) despite that the Office of Prime Minister of Uganda presented an Action Plan for food security for the Karamoja Region in 2009. Seasonal vulnerability, frequent widespread food insecurity and severe micronutrient deficiencies are present.

Conclusion

Current undernutrition interventions in Karamoja are failing to make substantial gains

calling for a discussion on existing strategies. There is a need to understand the plateauing in undernutrition levels in this region.

For table 1 see attachment