



Multisectoral Approaches to Reduce Chronic Malnutrition

USAID Resiliency in Northern Ghana Project (RING)

Feed the Future Implementing Partners Meeting

March 21 – 22, 2017

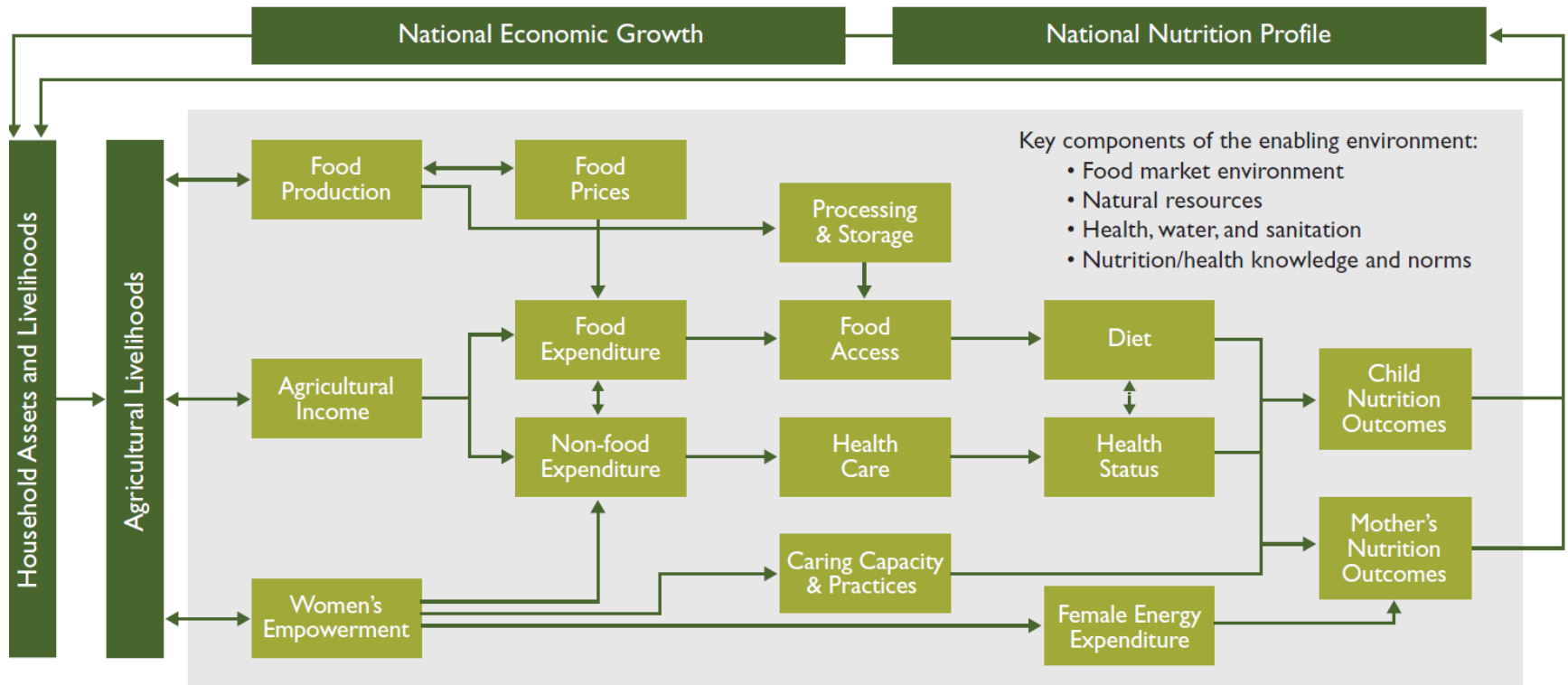
USAID RING PROJECT

- USAID-funded five-year project (2014 – 2019)
- Implementing partners: USAID, Government of Ghana, Global Communities, John Snow, Inc., Urban Institute
- Northern Regional Coordinating Council and 7 Regional Departments
- 17 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
- Goal is improved livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable households
 - 20% reduction in stunting, underweight, wasting, and anemia in children under five
 - 80% households increase incomes by 100%
- Five technical areas:
 - Agriculture and livelihoods
 - Nutrition and WASH
 - Governance
- Nutrition collaborating partners: SPRING (7 district overlap), Systems for Health, UNICEF, Communicate for Health

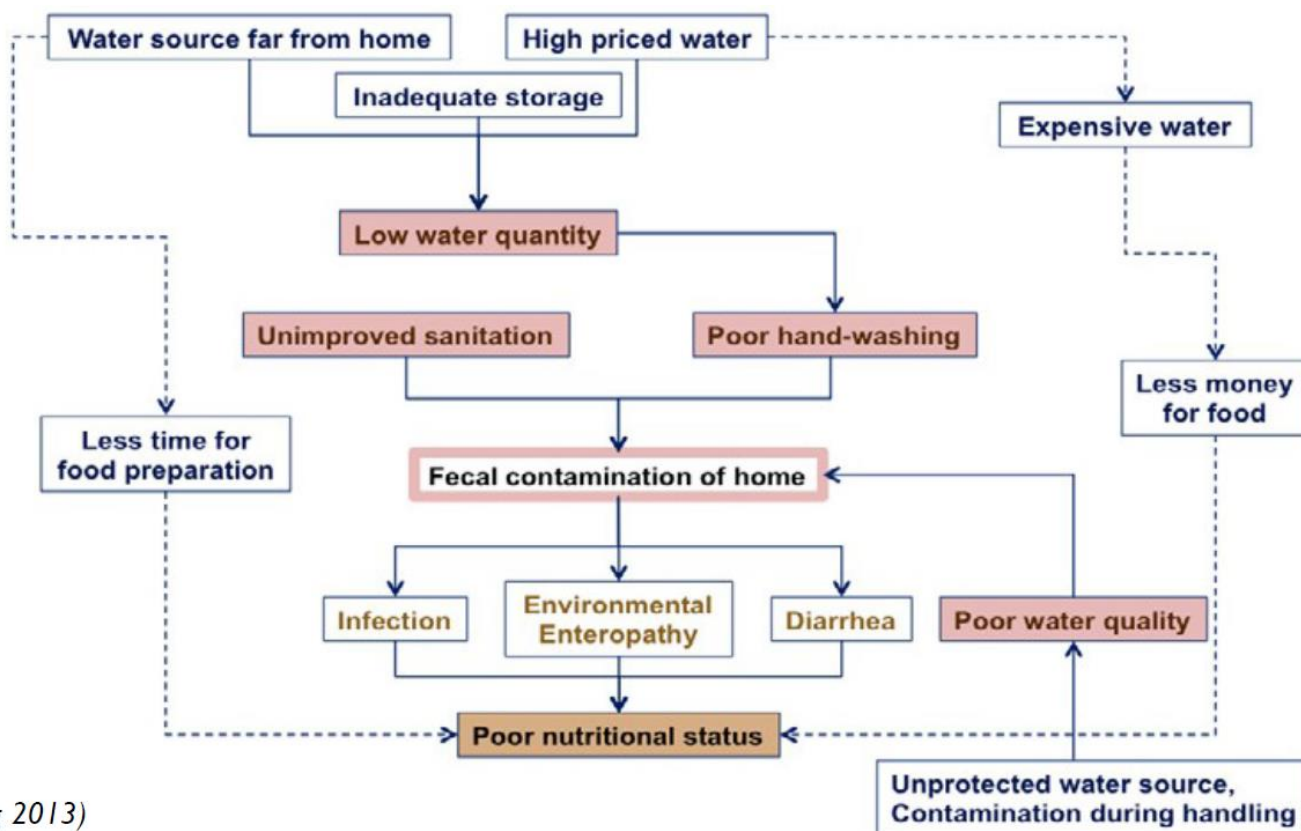


Figure 1: Map of 17 Implementation Districts in Northern Region, Ghana

PATHWAYS BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMMING AND NUTRITION



PATHWAYS BETWEEN WASH PROGRAMMING AND NUTRITION



(Cumming 2013)

EXAMPLE I: SOYBEAN CULTIVATION

- High protein crops used to fortify nutrient poor staple foods and local dishes
- 4,406 acres farmed in 2015 with a yield of 600 MT (average yield of 180kg per acre)
- 7,428 acres farmed in 2016 with a yield of 2,207 MT (smaller plots and better practices to improve yield, small is beautiful concept, with an average yield of 289 kg per acre)
- Cooking demonstrations teach soy utilization for improved complementary feeding and maternal diet and WASH practices
- Involvement by MOFA, GHS and EHU





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RESILIENCY IN NORTHERN GHANA PROJECT

EXAMPLE 2: VSLA PAIRED WITH NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AND NUTRITION-SPECIFIC INTERVENTION

- VSLA serves as anchor intervention
 - 29,405 members of 1,090 groups
 - Savings accumulated to date GHs 2,587,638
 - Total Loans to members GHs 995,353
 - Loan utilization (dry season): 27%-Agriculture, 12%-Education, 50%-Income generating activities, 7%-Health and 4%-Others
- Layered with Mother-to-Mother Support Groups to improve Infant and Young Children Feeding practices
- Layered with agric and livelihood activities for production, sales and consumption (Soybean, OFSP, Leafy Green Vegetables, small ruminants, poultry, shea nut)
- Involvement by MOFA, Business Advisory Center, Community Development and GHS



EXAMPLE 3: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NON-HEALTH SECTOR STAFF

- RING conducts various capacity building efforts to mainstream nutrition behaviors across sectors
- District Nutrition Officers have trained more than 1,900 non-health staff on essential nutrition actions
 - Includes ag. extension agents, environmental health officers, school health teachers, and community development officers.
- Trained 192 facilitators from WASH, agric, health and governance sectors on how to screen stunting advocacy video (produced by SPRING/Ghana) at the community-level
 - 1,348 reached through stunting advocacy video screenings



Photo (left): Abdul-Rahman Rabiату, an Environmental Health Assistant from Sagnarigu District pictured on her motorbike, was trained in September 2016 on how to integrate nutrition into her routine WASH activities at the district-level.

Photo (right): Two community leaders from Daboya promoted positive nutrition behaviors in their communities after participating in the stunting advocacy video screening.

CHALLENGES, BEST PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Challenges
 - Low literacy levels for facilitating support group meetings
 - Motivation of non-health sector staff
 - Tension regarding which sector will lead an activity
- Best practices
 - Multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration is key
 - Need well-defined roles for officers from each sector that are understood and valued by all
 - Need emphasis on early joint planning and participation
 - High acceptability and enthusiasm for integrated approaches
- Opportunities for further development
 - Drip irrigation with leafy green vegetables and OFSP at health facilities
 - Tippy tap construction at GAP demonstration plots



A community member from Bisaldo, Saboba District washes her hands with soap and water using a tippy tap.

THANK YOU

