

USAID|UGANDA NUTRITION IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS' LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN KARAMOJA REGION

USAID's Maternal Child Health and Nutrition Activity (MCHN), USAID Uganda Learning Activity (ULA), NUYOK and APOLOU collaborated and organised **a two-day workshop on 28th - 29th April 2021.**

- The workshop created a platform to share community-integrated nutrition experiences and learnings from Karamoja (Moroto and Napak districts).
- In attendance were several USAID Implementing Partners (IPs) representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH), Napak and Moroto District Health Teams and Regional Nutritionists.
- Several community nutrition models and approaches such as work flow processes, care model groups, sustainable models, community integration best practices were discussed and shared during the two-day workshop

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The Field visit and the one day synthesis session were designed to;

1. Enable the visiting teams to gain knowledge about how NUYOK & APOLOU work within the karamoja region to address challenges affecting access to nutrition interventions.
2. Provide a platform for creating and establishing Inter-partner collaboration in promoting integrated Nutrition approaches within communities.
3. Learn from the host partners about the mechanisms they have utilized to strengthen the working relationships with key stakeholders within the community structures to implement nutrition activities within their specific districts.
4. Enable IPs share experiences and knowledge through presentation of their current community nutrition integration strategies, successes and challenges.

OBSERVATIONS DURING THE FIELD VISITS

Participants observed the following during the Field visits;

- Equal representation of both male and female community members during the interactions
- Well-coordinated Community leadership structures
- Use of Job aides and learning materials
- Community knowledge of child nutrition and malnutrition

KEY LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIELD VISIT

1. Utilization of Integrated nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions
2. Intentional Data Capture and flow processes
3. Community-led WASH interventions
4. Male Involvement in community Nutrition Practices
5. Creation of adolescent safe spaces

LEARNINGS AND ADAPTATIONS FOR NUYOK AND APOLOU ACTIVITIES

1. Restructuring of the MCGs
2. Targeted Training curriculum
3. Male Behavioural change
4. Peer-to-peer approach for WASH



ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE FIELD

The main activities undertaken during the entire event included:

1. A courtesy visit by the visiting team to the Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) for Napak and Moroto.
2. Field visits with district leadership, visiting IPs and hosts to selected communities in Napak and Moroto districts.
3. Exposure to practical initiatives taken up by the women and adolescents to solve some of the food security and sustainability challenges they encounter on a day-to-day basis.
4. Participation in experience sharing sessions on integrated nutrition practices from Implementing Partners around the country.
5. Interaction with district local government leadership, community members and regional nutritionists about the functioning of community gardens and other activities in general
6. Learning from the collaboration between Implementing Partners doing similar work in the same region (Nuyok & Apolou)



BEST PRACTICES CAPTURED:

1. Mother Care Groups: Use of lead-mothers selected by the community
2. Male Change Agents (MCA) Model: The use of MCAs and natural leaders in the community through direct male peer-to-peer support.
3. Economic Empowerment through Saving Groups
4. Adolescent Safe Spaces
5. Backyard Kitchen Gardens
6. Linking of farmers to agro-input dealers

WHAT OTHER PARTNERS CAN LEARN FROM APOLOU & NUYOK:

1. Mother Care Groups because of the flexible peer-to-peer learning and multi-pronged intervention packages
2. Use of graphic and visual IEC materials to reach out to both the literate and illiterate community members. Utilization of these materials accelerates knowledge capture and dissemination.
3. Use of male change agents increases male involvement in the community interventions. IPs recognised this as a great opportunity to strengthen the male involvement in MCHN activities within their regions.