The Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance (GINA) Successes, Challenges, and the Way Forward

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USAID/EGAT
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Africa ...big forests, mountains, clear lakes, enormous land, huge rivers, miles sea coasts, wood – minerals & oil - clear water – grains – cattle – fish
GINA Goal

• To use integrated agriculture and health interventions to improve nutritional outcomes of children less than 5 years of age
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agriculture</strong></td>
<td>IIAM</td>
<td>Fed. Min. of Agric &amp; Rural Dev</td>
<td>National Agriculture Advisory Services</td>
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<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td>MOH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition</strong></td>
<td>SETSAN, MOH</td>
<td>Dept. of Human Nutrition, Univ of Ibadan</td>
<td>MOH</td>
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<td><strong>NGOs</strong></td>
<td>World Vision</td>
<td>Food Basket Foundational International</td>
<td>Africare</td>
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<td><strong>Research Institutions</strong></td>
<td>IIAM</td>
<td>IITA</td>
<td>NARO</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Fed. Planning Commission</td>
<td>Makerere University</td>
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**Creating the Policy Environment**

GINA began at the national level to influence agriculture – nutrition policy formation and institutional development.

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<td>PMA, NAADS</td>
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<td>Nutrition Policies / Institutions</td>
<td>SETSAN</td>
<td>National Policy on Food and Nutrition</td>
<td>Food and Nutrition Investment Plan</td>
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<td>Food Security / Multi-sectoral Policies</td>
<td>PARPA, SETSAN</td>
<td>SCFN, LGCFN, NCFN,</td>
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</table>
Immediate causes – Inadequate diets or disease

Underlying causes – Food security; care and feeding behaviors; and access to health services, clean water, sanitation and other environmental factors

Basic causes – Political and economic superstructure, issues of governance, peace and security
Agriculture and Nutrition Pathways

International Center for Research on Women

The Agriculture Nutrition Advantage
Human Capital

Agricultural processing

Meal preparation

Nutritional status

Kept for household

Sold at market

Income

Female Domains

Livestock, fish, non-timber forest products

Food crops

Non-food cash crops

Male Domains

Health

Care

Dietary Intake

Meal preparation

Assets & Resources
Gender Perspective

- Focus on women because of their role as care givers, producers, processors of food

- The implications of the project on household resources

- Nutrition and health protocols
  - Customs detrimental to child health and development
  - Customary belief in child malnutrition

- Though focus was on women, participation by men was significant
Successes and Program Outcomes
Policy Outcomes

- Formulated and Implemented Policies to address hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition
- Nutrition positioned in the national development policy frameworks
- Multi-disciplinary Advisory Committees at National/Local levels

National Food and Nutrition Policy
National Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition Security
Nutritional Status improved for 3,000 children in target areas in GINA countries Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda

GINA Underweight Average (Weight/Age)

Baseline  Final
32.4 %    14.1%

56.5 % reduction in severely and moderately underweight children
Nutrition Outcomes

- Trained 300 community leaders on essential nutrition actions for improving health and nutritional status
- Eighty growth promoters trained to monitor and weigh children
- Increased knowledge of women about Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices
## The Health Perspective of GINA: Strengthening efforts to reduce childhood malnutrition

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI)</th>
<th>Micronutrient Supplementation</th>
<th>Nutrition</th>
<th>Malaria</th>
<th>Diarrhea Control</th>
<th>Family Planning</th>
<th>Sexually Transmitted Illness and HIV/AIDS Prevention</th>
<th>Epidemic Response to Cholera, meningitis etc</th>
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- Food demo activities
- Backyard & community garden
- Sanitation & Safety
- Preparation & use of ORT
- Sanitation and safety
- MOH Linkage
- Educational messages (A-B-C)
- Creation of water supplies
- Development of household latrines
- Sanitation and safety
- Human waste, personal, home, environmental
- MOH Linkage
Agricultural Outcomes

- Improved farm management practices:
  - Sunken and raised beds for soil water management
  - Planting vegetable seedlings on ridges
  - Nursery management practices
  - Improved Seeds

- Increased availability of nutritious foods in participating households
Agricultural Outcomes

- 23 Technologies Transferred
  - High Yield Cassava
  - Ground Nut Shelling and Milling
  - Maize Shelling and Milling
  - Oil Palm Processing
  - Water Harvesting
  - Cassava Grating
  - Irrigation pumps
Agricultural Outcomes

Linkages to Markets

GINA Farmer Groups organized into functioning entities

GINA groups have included both men and women farmers, which yielded many benefits for participants
Gender Outcomes

Empowerment of women with knowledge and skills to prevent or reverse malnutrition, capacity to care for their children, access to technical resources to improve food production and/or food processing
Achieving Results and the Challenges
Challenge 1:

Translating Policies and Action Plans to Program implementation

- Committed to national policy development
- Strong in advocacy and policy analysis
- Strong Technical Skills
- Polices, Action Plans and Work Plans to Program implementation.
Challenge 2:

Paradigm Shift in Project Management
International Organization Mgt to Country Led Mgt

- Major transition in project and financial management requirements
- Transition expectations
- Performance and accountability standards
- Transition from managing at the national to provincial, state and local levels
Challenge 3: Capacity Building

- Project Management Capacity
- Financial Management Capacity
- Management
- Field Based Implementation Capacity
- Technical Issues
Challenge 4:

Strengthen linkages between policies, programs, & actions

- Two-pronged strategy:
  
  Top-down and bottom-up
National level

- Enhance knowledge among policy makers
- Coordinate with multiple ministries
- Implement advocacy strategies
- Utilize media to promote nutrition
Challenge 5: Utilize Integrated Community-Based Activities

Sensitize and raise awareness about nutrition with:

- Farmer groups
- Community Based Organizations
- Local Councils
- Rural Communities

- Social marketing and behavioral change component
- Farmer exchange visits
Challenge 5: Utilize Integrated Community-Based Activities

Introduction of nutritious crops and animal food sources

Select implementing partners with strong and established local networks

Ensure adequate timeframe for community participatory approach
Way Forward – Feed the Future Initiative

• USAID has initiated the Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program at $15 million over 5 years to further determine what kind of investments in agriculture based strategies, policies, and human health can be used to:

• Achieve large scale and sustainable improvements in nutritional outcomes in children and women

• Achieve significant improvement in:
  – dietary diversity
  – dietary quality
  – infant and young child feeding practices

• Develop national and local level capacity to implement programs to combat malnutrition

• Translate research into widespread development practice in the Feed the Future Countries