

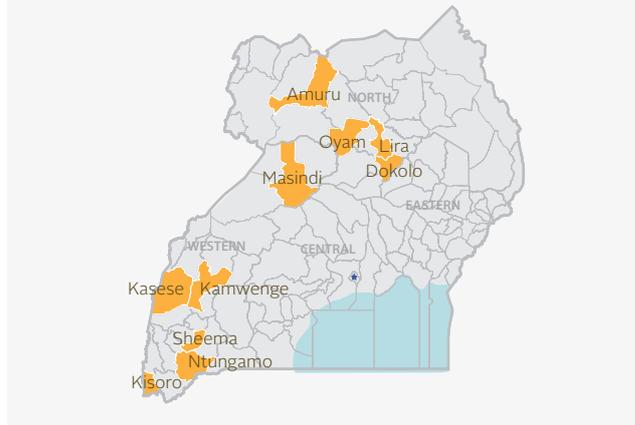
DNCC INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Malnutrition in Uganda has multiple underlying causes and conquering it requires contributions from all government sectors at the national and local level including health, agriculture, gender and social development, education, planning, water and environment, trade and industry, and administration. Likewise, the engagement of the development community and private sector is also essential. At the national level, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Nutrition Secretariat takes the lead in coordinating nutrition policies and activities. District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCCs) play an integral role at the decentralized level in ensuring nutrition activities take place within the districts.

DNCCs, whose members include representatives from the sectors listed above, are responsible for planning, implementing, and monitoring multi-sectoral nutrition activities in their districts. However, the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan 2011–2016 (UNAP) only provides a broad mandate for DNCCs and does not include specific roles and responsibilities or benchmarks for DNCC performance. Additionally, while DNCCs were formally established by OPM through the UNAP, they were created as a parallel system and not formally integrated into existing local governance structures. Because of this, there was inconsistency in the way that DNCCs operated, were supported by partners, and fulfilled their multi-sectoral mandate.

Recognizing the challenges faced by DNCCs and understanding that improving nutrition outcomes at the district level is a long-term challenge requiring investment in local government systems and frameworks, the OPM Nutrition Secretariat and the Ministry of Local Government, in collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and with technical support from the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA) and Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation, are

DNCC Initiative Districts



working together to strengthen nutrition leadership and governance at both the national and district levels. This partnership, known as the DNCC Initiative, has three main objectives:

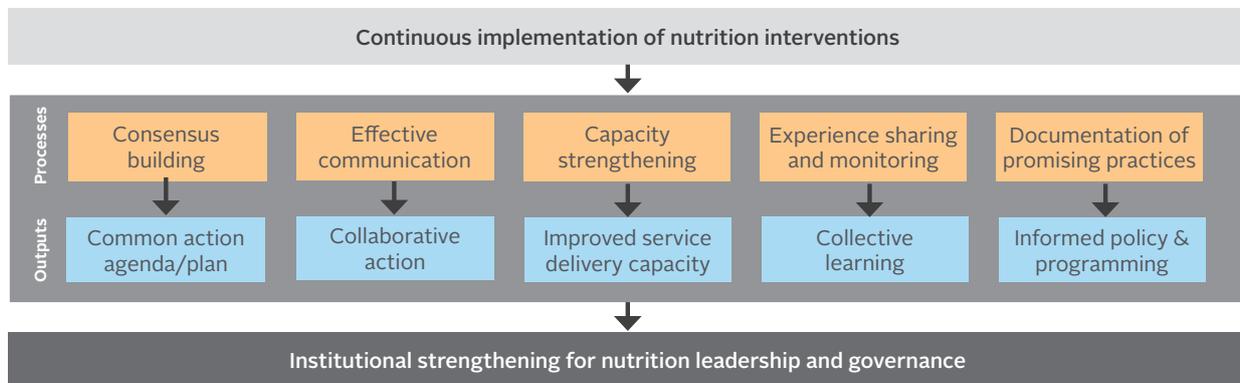
- To strengthen the national oversight and support structure for the DNCCs
- To enhance awareness of and commitment to nutrition among local level stakeholders including technical and political leaders, implementing partners, and community members
- To strengthen DNCC capacity to plan, budget, leverage existing resources for, advocate for, and monitor nutrition activities

The DNCC Initiative focuses on 10 districts in the Feed the Future zones of influence in the southwest (Kamwenge, Kasese, Kisoro, Ntungamo, and Sheema) and north (Amuru, Dokolo, Lira, Masindi, and Oyam) regions.

DNCC Initiative Framework

Strong coordination, collaboration, and buy-in from stakeholders is needed to achieve the DNCC Initiative's objectives and ensure sustainability. A

Figure 1. Framework for Strengthening Nutrition Leadership and Governance in Uganda



¹For more information about the MSP approach, visit <http://www.mspsguide.org>.

multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) approach¹ will be applied to bring together the diverse community of multi-sectoral nutrition stakeholders that have differing mandates and levels of experience with nutrition programming. The MSP approach works by engaging different perspectives and points of view in order to clarify and agree on common objectives and expectations, leading to plans to improve nutrition that are locally owned and sustainable.

Based on the MSP approach, a DNCC Initiative framework (see Figure 1) was developed for strengthening nutrition leadership and governance in Uganda. This framework shows the key processes and outputs required to achieve lasting institutional change.

DNCC Initiative Activities

DNCC Initiative activities take place during ongoing implementation of nutrition activities in the target districts and, therefore, are incorporated into and strengthen existing structures and systems (see Figure 2). Experience sharing, documentation of promising practices, and learning are ongoing throughout the DNCC Initiative to ensure that the Initiative can be replicated and scaled-up across other districts seeking to strengthen nutrition leadership and governance.

Figure 2. Summary of DNCC Initiative Activities

Start-Up/Year 1	Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with stakeholders on DNCC Initiative design • Regional and national consensus building events • Orientation of the Ministry of Local Government on the nutrition coordination framework • Development of and orientation on National Nutrition Planning Guidelines 2015 • Support to integrate nutrition into district development plans (DDPs) and development of district nutrition action plans (DNAPs) • District-level advocacy for approval of DDPs and DNAPs • Targeted nutrition training for community development officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to integrate nutrition into district annual work plans and budgets • Training of key stakeholders on the application of the MSP approach and the nutrition planning process • Development of monitoring plan and indicators for DNAPs and support for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation • District-level advocacy training for DNCC members • Targeted nutrition training for district health officers and district production officers
Ongoing → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support to DNCC meetings • Advocacy for implementation of nutrition activities at the district level • Events to share experiences and lessons learned • Documentation of lessons learned and compilation of the DNCC toolkit 	

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