



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

NUTRITION PLANNING PRIORITIES GUIDE

FOR MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS,
AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS





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Foreword

The Government of Uganda is committed to fulfilling the constitutional obligation of ensuring food and nutrition security for the Ugandans. Over the past two decades, Uganda has made progress towards achieving adequate nutrition - a prerequisite for human capital development and socioeconomic transformation. However, malnutrition remains a serious challenge in our country, affecting millions of Ugandans in various ways, particularly women, children, and adolescents. It also hampers educational achievements and economic productivity, leading to significant costs for the country and families in treating related illnesses.

This Nutrition Priorities' Guide is yet another important step in addition to the previous efforts such as the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan I and II, among others. The Guide provides a framework for addressing nutrition issues in the country, sequentially developing strong and quality human capital that will propel socioeconomic transformation.

The Guide has been formulated within the context of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV), the Human Capital Development Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2. The Planners Priorities Guide complements the National Development Planning Guidelines and Local Government Development Planning Guidelines produced by the National Planning Authority. Users from MDAs and LGs can use this Guide during the 5-year planning, annual planning, and other short- term planning processes.

The aim of this Guide is to respond to the need for comprehensive multisectoral guidance to enable those involved in planning at national and local government levels integrate nutrition activities into their development plans and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. It is expected that the priorities guide will promote 'nutrition- sensitive thinking' during development planning processes.

I call upon all stakeholders to embrace the guide and effectively use it to improve nutrition outcomes across all age groups.



Prof. Pamela Kasabiti Mbabazi (PhD)
Executive Chairperson, National Planning Authority

Acknowledgement

It is with great pleasure that I present this Nutrition Planning Priorities Guide for Planners, economists in Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Local Governments and Cities. This handbook is an important step towards increasing awareness on “nutrition-sensitive thinking” and integration of nutrition across planning at national and local Government levels. Nutrition is a crosscutting issue that impacts not only health outcomes but also productivity, educational attainment, and the overall socio-economic development of our nation.

Uganda’s commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2 on Zero Hunger and SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, hinges on our ability to effectively integrate nutrition into all aspects of our development agenda. The Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) emphasizes the importance of improved nutrition in fostering human capital development, enhancing productivity, and driving economic growth. Consequently, this guide offers a wide range of nutrition sensitive, specific and governance interventions for consideration in MDA, LG and City Plans, Projects and Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks.

The Priorities Guide is produced as an extract annex to the National Planning Guidelines. It is not a standalone document and is anchored on the National Development Plan nutrition agenda and the lessons learned from previous development plans. It is designed to equip planners and economists with technical competence to facilitate identification and integration of nutrition interventions into MDAs, LGs and Cities’ strategic plans, projects, workplans and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. This guide aims to ensure a coordinated multisectoral approach to improving planning for nutrition.

I thank all stakeholders, including Government MDAs, Development Partners, Civil Society, and the Private Sector, who contributed to development of this handbook’s development. Special thanks to the Food Rights Alliance under the CASCADE project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, for their financial and technical support.

It is through our collective effort that we will succeed in improving the nutritional status of our people and building a healthier and prosperous Ugandan Society. I call upon all stakeholders to embrace this Guide and facilitate its full utilization to enhance nutrition sensitive planning, programming and implementation.



Joseph Muvawala (PhD)

Executive Director, National Planning Authority.

Nutrition Planning Priorities for MDAs and Local Governments

Institution	Priority Actions
Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Planning and budgeting for the Multisectoral Nutrition Coordination and National Food Systems Coordination Committees
	Nutrition reporting in the National Annual Performance Report (NAPAR)
	Development and review of the Uganda Nutrition Action Plans aligned to the NDPs
	Budgeting for the coordination of nutrition actors
	Budgeting for the monitoring of the implementation of Uganda Nutrition Action Plans
National Planning Authority (NPA)	Integrating nutrition and food systems transformation in the National Development Plans
	Design cost models for improving population health and nutrition outcomes.
	Provide national policy guidance on food and nutrition matters.
	Assessing for nutrition in the Certificate of Budget Compliance (CoC) assessments.
	Integration of nutrition into the National Development Report (NDR)
	Integration of nutrition in the Planning Call Circulars (PCC)
	Integration of nutrition in the Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) of respective relevant programmes
	Integrating nutrition into the relevant NDP Programmes
	Integration of key nutrition indicators and targets in the NDPs

Institution	Priority Actions
Ministry of Health (MOH)	Review, update, and develop relevant nutrition policies and regulations to standardize operations.
	Develop, standardize, and enforce protocols and guidelines for nutrition service delivery
	Develop, standardize, and enforce protocols and guidelines for nutrition service delivery
	Support local governments to enforce nutrition policies, regulations, and standards
	Support advocacy and resource mobilization for nutrition actions.
	Develop standards for nutrition services by level of implementation (from national to community level).
	Procure nutrition supplies and equipment Review, update, develop, and standardize in-service nutrition training for health care providers
	Support capacity strengthening for frontline service providers for nutrition.
	Review, update, and standardize health-related nutrition messages and information, education, and communication materials.
	Provide media and other institutions with appropriate nutrition information to promote recommended nutrition practices.

Institution	Priority Actions
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)	Develop policies, strategies, and guidelines on the integration of nutrition in agriculture programmes.
	Incorporate issues related to food production diversification in extension services, especially in selecting enterprise mixes to aid production of nutrient rich crops.
	Strengthening nutrition in routine monitoring using the agriculture information system.
	Support research programmes on emerging strategic issues that affect nutrition
	Develop information, education, and communication materials to increase farmers' awareness of benefits of bio-fortified crops such as vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes, iron-rich beans and maize, and orphan crops for biodiversity
	Provide media and other institutions with appropriate nutrition information promoting production and consumption of diverse nutritious diets
	Enhance awareness of available technologies through demonstrations conducted among selected farmers in different farmer categories
	Develop, adopt, and promote post-harvest handling technologies that protect, preserve, and improve food safety (e.g., reducing aflatoxin contamination, food damage, loss and waste).
	Develop nutrient-dense crops and innovative farming systems for improved household food security and nutrition
	Strengthen capacity of extension workers in nutrition education.

Institution	Priority Actions
Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development	Implement the 15-household model for social-economic empowerment to promote community mobilization and mindset change for appreciation uptake and utilization of food and nutrition services.
	Mainstream nutrition interventions in social protection programmes and humanitarian assistance safety net programmes.
	Implement income-generating activities targeting poor and vulnerable households and communities.
	Support initiatives that create an enabling environment for women to participate in development activities.
Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES)	Register all ECD centres in accordance with the Ugandan Basic Requirements and Minimum.
	Standards (BRMS) with special attention to school feeding.
	Sensitize private players to spread ECD centres to under-served areas.
	Ensure increased access to healthy meals in all education institutions.
	Promote and enforce mandatory consumption of safe and nutrient dense foods in schools.
	Mobilize parents and care givers to provide nutritious meals to school-going children.
	Promote the establishment of school gardens.
Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)	Increase access to inclusive, safe water supply in rural areas.
	Increase access to inclusive sanitation and hygiene services in rural areas.

Institution	Priority Actions
	Increase access to inclusive, safe water supply in urban areas.
	Increase access to inclusive sanitation and hygiene services in urban areas.
	Provide support to improve WASH services in institutions
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MOTIC)	Build capacity of local industries to adopt appropriate technologies for industrial food fortification.
	Support industrial uptake and value addition of bio-fortified commodities.
	Enforce surveillance for compliance with the mandatory food fortification regulation.
	Build capacity of the food sector's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on compliance to quality and standards.
	Support traders and processors of foods to form viable cooperatives.
	Mitigate non-tariff barriers that affect food and nutrition.
Local Governments-adopt, adapt and Implement all MDA specific actions tailored to their statutory departments. In addition to these are the following:	<p>Establish and support the Nutrition Coordination Committees at district and lower local government (LLG) levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold regular meetings and conduct quarterly reporting on nutrition - Strengthen capacity of LLG nutrition committees to coordinate multisectoral issues
	Incorporate and monitor nutrition indicators/ issues in local government performance assessments, checklists, audits, and reports

Institution	Priority Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate nutrition issues in routine inspections and support supervision of LLGs - Strengthen LLG capacity to conduct assessments for nutrition issues
	<p>Conduct nutrition social and behaviour change communication among political and cultural entities, private sector organizations, and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use various channels to create awareness on nutrition issues in the community
	<p>Conduct an in-depth assessment of human resource capacity in nutrition to determine gaps and needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fill the nutrition officer posts at local government level
	<p>Develop and enact by-laws and ordinances that promote nutrition and food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct community mobilization and sensitization on nutrition, resource mobilization for nutrition, and quarterly nutrition coordination meetings
	<p>Integrate nutrition services in development plans, annual work plans, and emergency preparedness plans using both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide backup support to LLGs to generate work plans that address cross-cutting issues like nutrition - Integration of nutrition issues in M&E frameworks, including the joint annual

Institution	Priority Actions
	<p>review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource mobilization and allocation <p>Conduct a district food and nutrition baseline survey to establish up-to-date nutrition baseline monitoring indicators</p>
	<p>Conduct periodic district-level food and nutrition surveys in vulnerable areas and among vulnerable populations.</p>
All MDAs	<p>Develop nutrition action plans aligned to the NDP Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) and Uganda Nutrition Action Plan.</p> <p>Develop annual nutrition work plans and action plans.</p> <p>Undertake annual workplan reviews</p> <p>Develop and implement a resource mobilization and tracking plan for nutrition</p> <p>Conduct nutrition capacity assessments among MDAs.</p> <p>Develop nutrition capacity development plans for MDAs.</p> <p>Develop standards and guidelines for child care facilities at formal workplaces</p> <p>Develop and implement employment regulations related to breastfeeding and childcare facilities at workplaces.</p> <p>Develop legislation and regulation to regulate the production and consumption of sweetened beverages</p>

Institution	Priority Actions
	Develop the public food procurement policy for schools and institutions
	Strengthen and develop school feeding programmes policy
	Conduct a detailed review and revision of existing policies and pending legislation, regulations and standards across relevant sectors
	Advocate for coordinated enforcement of relevant legislation at all levels
	Strengthen and scale up early warning systems, survey and surveillance on food and nutrition from community to national levels.
	Develop, disseminate and enhance the use of evidence-based nutrition knowledge products at all levels.
	Implement program-specific research and assessment plans
	Create capacity within national institutions to operate and maintain the National Information Platform for Nutrition
	Strengthen capacity to track progress in meeting national objectives to prevent malnutrition and monitor nutrition investments.



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