



# Community Stakeholder Mapping: An Approach to Explore District Challenges and Opportunities for Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action in Tanzania

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## Background

- **Stunting**, a form of malnutrition, currently affects 34% of children under five years in Tanzania.
- **Multi-sectoral nutrition (MSN)** involves many sectors and is essential to address the underlying causes of malnutrition and stunting.
- **District Nutrition Officers (DNUOs)** were deployed by the government in 2011 to coordinate implementation of multi-sectoral nutrition actions.
- The Tanzania National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan provides guidance to improve focus on nutrition in key sectors; however implementation is challenging.
- **Stakeholder Mapping** involves identifying, understanding and prioritizing potential collaborators for nutrition-related activities.

## Study Setting



Map of Tanzania, Morogoro Region. Source: Wikipedia

Location: One rural pilot district in Morogoro Region where:

- 19% of children under 2 years are not breastfed; 88% under 6 months are not exclusively breastfed.
- Nearly half of children under 2 years do not receive the minimum meal frequency.
- 66% of children between 5-59 months are anemic.
- 33% of children under 5 years are stunted.

Academic mentors from Sokoine University of Agriculture and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences supported the DNUO to collaborate with district colleagues to map community stakeholders.

## Goals and Objectives

- Identify community-based, nutrition-relevant activities, target populations, delivery channels, and resources at the local level.
- Foster relationships to expand the district network for nutrition.
- Encourage responsibility and collaboration among current stakeholders.
- Understand challenges and opportunities for multi-sectoral collaboration.
- Identify potential actions for scaling up.

## Methods

Academic mentors supported the District Nutrition Officer (DNUO) to:

- Adapt the REACH mapping tool to include open-ended questions that encouraged relationship building between the DNUO and community organizations. (<http://www.reach-initiative.org>).
- Conduct in-depth interviews with 7 stakeholders at their workplaces, May - Aug, 2016.
- Use Microsoft Excel software for data organization and analysis.
- Write up a report of key findings and recommendations.
- Facilitate a participatory workshop with stakeholders to discuss mapping results.

## Results

Theme	Key findings
<b>Stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stakeholders were non-governmental organizations (NGOs)</li> <li>• Half of stakeholders (4 of 7) worked in all the wards in the district</li> <li>• The DNUO identified 4 of 7 new stakeholders, previously unknown.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most stakeholders (5 of 7) were aware of at least one other stakeholder</li> <li>• A few stakeholders (3 of 7) were already collaborating with each other</li> </ul>
<b>Activities in the health sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General nutrition education and counselling (3 of 7)</li> <li>• Knowledge and behavior change for exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding (2 of 7)</li> </ul>
<b>Activities in other sectors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on optimal agricultural practices (3 of 7)</li> <li>• Facilitating school and community gardening plot programs (3 of 7)</li> <li>• Food processing and preservation (1 of 7)</li> <li>• Supporting early childhood development training (1 of 7)</li> <li>• Construction of WASH facilities (2 of 7)</li> </ul>
<b>Target Populations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women of childbearing age and their children, orphans, people living with HIV/AIDs, and small-holder farmers</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery Channels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's groups, health facilities, health volunteers, CHWs, local influential leaders, schools, places of worship, mass media, and farmer's cooperatives</li> </ul>

*"When the Agricultural extension officers and social welfare officers go together to the community, we can identify problems together."*

-District Nutrition Officer

## Challenges for MSN Action

- Low community awareness on optimal nutrition and agricultural practices
- Low economic status, poverty and stigmatization of groups targeted
- Uncoordinated implementation of activities in the district
- Gaps between local activities and policy specifications
- Lack of an independent budget for nutrition

## Opportunities for MSN Action

- Promote stronger collaboration between community representatives and NGOs.
- Utilize local mass media (i.e. radio programs) to disseminate messages and encourage participation in local activities.
- Have supportive government leaders promote local activities.
- Link the NGOs that have shared goals to increase collaboration
- Create a platform for stakeholders to share optimal practices and achievements.
- Reduce bureaucracy in NGO registration with the district.
- Include stakeholders in district planning and budgeting to share and pool knowledge.



Stakeholders discuss opportunities to work across sectors at the Mapping Feedback Workshop. Source: Akwilina W. Mwanri

## Conclusions

- Stakeholder mapping improved district awareness of nutrition-relevant activities beyond the health sector.
- Mapping enabled the DNUO to create a database on the current community nutrition workforce, resources and activities.
- Mapping showed pre-existing collaboration between some of the stakeholders.
- Stakeholders were interested in further collaboration and in obtaining more nutrition resources and support.
- Mapping helped the DNUO understand the challenges and opportunities stakeholders encounter in the district
- Mapping enabled the DNUO to facilitate a workshop on the value of multi-sectoral engagement and discuss how to increase collaboration on nutrition-relevant activities.