The Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance

(GINA)

Successes, Challenges, and the Way Forward

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June 07, 2010

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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

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GINA Country-Led Partnership

	Mozambique	Nigeria	Uganda
Agriculture	**IIAM**	**Fed. Min. of Agric & Rural Dev**	**National Agriculture Advisory Services**
Health	**MOH**	**MOH**	**MOH**
Nutrition	**SETSAN, MOH**	**Dept. of Human Nutrition, Univ of Ibadan**	**MOH**
NGOs	**World Vision**	**Food Basket Foundational International**	**Africare**
Research Institutions	**IIAM**	**IITA**	**NARO**
Other	**Ministry of Education**	**Fed. Planning Commission**	**Makerere University**

Creating the Policy Environment

GINA began at the national level to influence agriculture – nutrition policy formation and institutional development	**Mozambique**	**Nigeria**	**Uganda**
Agriculture Policies / Institutions			**PMA, NAADS**
Nutrition Policies / Institutions	**SETSAN**	**National Policy on Food and Nutrition**	**Food and Nutrition Investment Plan**
Food Security / Multi-sectoral Policies	**PARPA, SETSAN**	**SCFN, LGCFN, NCFN,**	**PEAP, Food & Nutrition Investment Plan**

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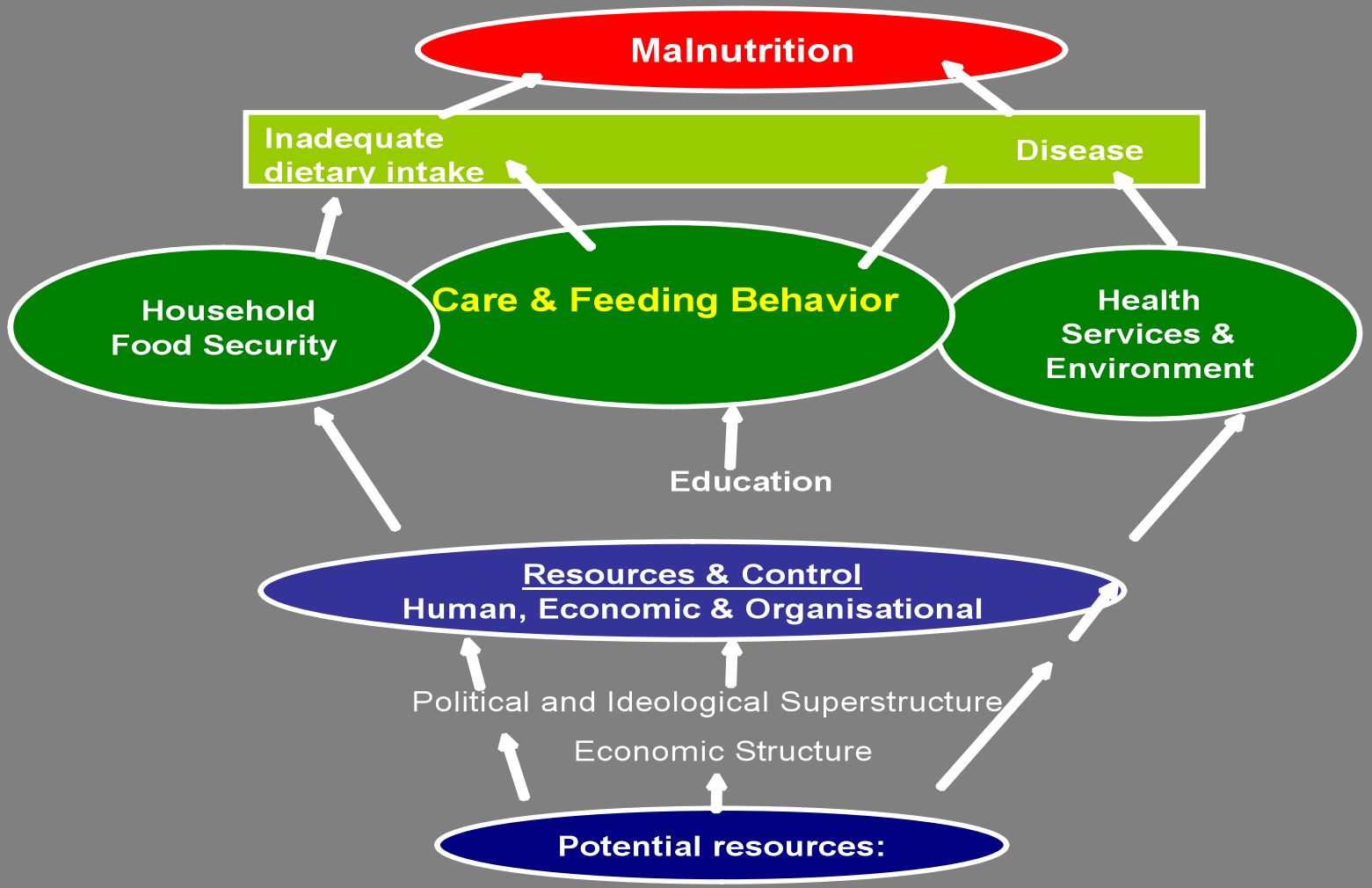
Causes of Malnutrition



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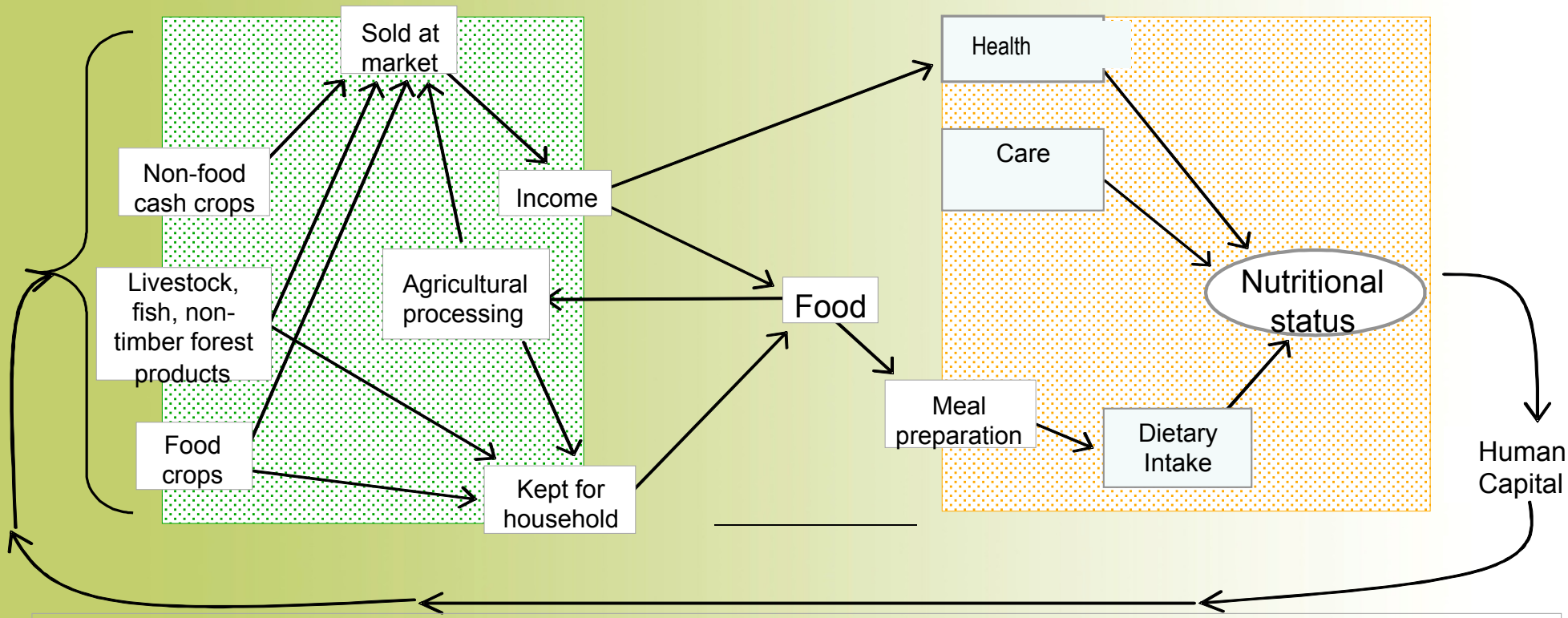
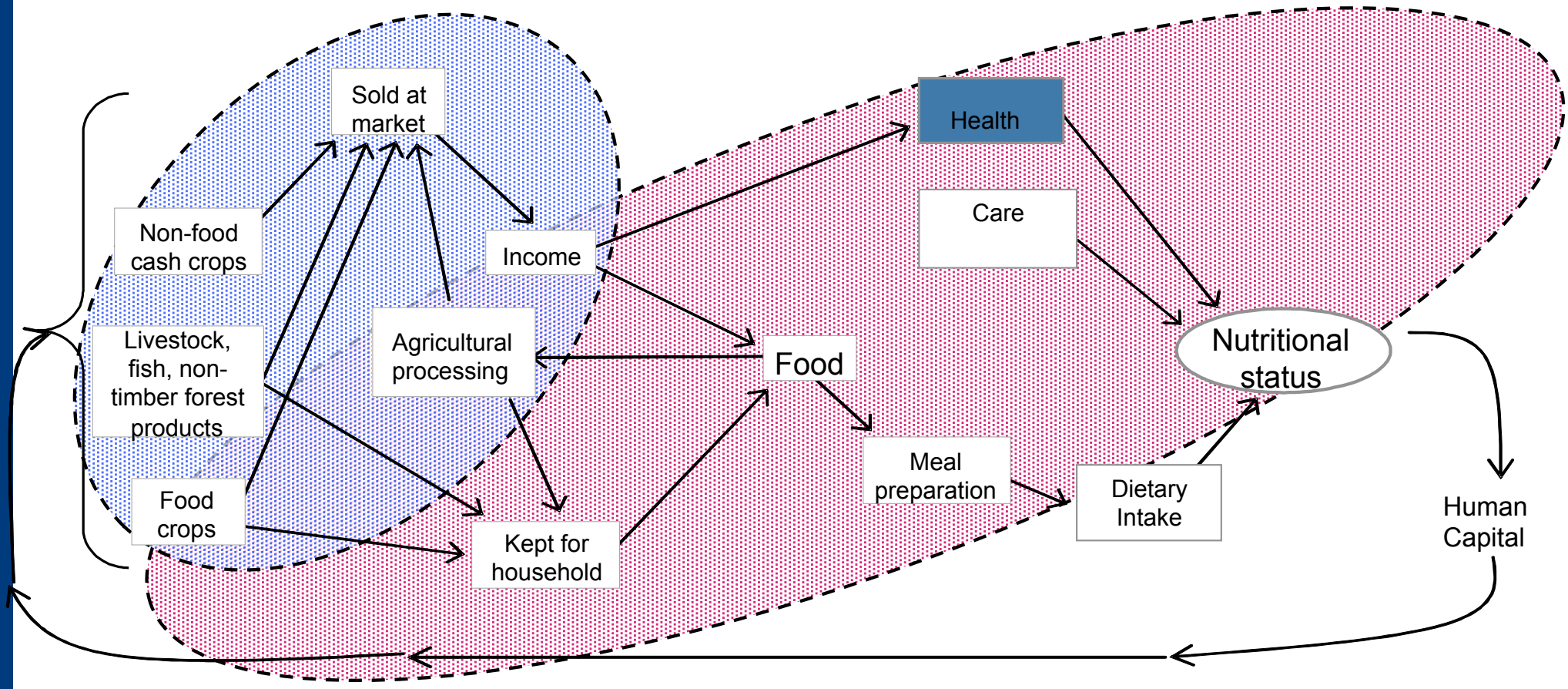
Agriculture and Nutrition Pathways



Male & Female Domains



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

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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

NUTRITION OUTCOMES

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

	Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI)	Micronutrient Supplementation	Nutrition	Malaria	Diarrhea Control	Family Planning	Sexually Transmitted Illness and HIV/ AIDS Prevention	Epidemic Response to Cholera, meningitis etc
Mozambique & Uganda	▪Educational messages ▪MOH Linkage ▪Household surveillance	▪Promotion of childhood health ▪Promotion of Vitamin A, iron, iodine ▪Promotion of maternal health ▪MOH Linkage	▪Promotional messages (breast feeding; complementary feeding) ▪Growth Monitoring ▪Food demo activities ▪Backyard & community garden	▪Educational messages (treated nets; Insecticide use) Creation of water supplies Development of household latrines ▪Sanitation & Safety	▪Educational messages ▪Preparation & use of ORT ▪Sanitation and safety ▪MOH Linkage	▪Educational messages - Birth Spacing Contraceptive choices	Educational messages (A-B-C) ▪MOH Linkage	▪Sanitation and safety (human waste, personal, home, environmental) ▪MOH Linkage
Nigeria	▪Educational messages ▪MOH Linkage ▪Household surveillance	▪Promotion of childhood health ▪Promotion of Vitamin A, iron, iodine ▪Promotion of maternal health ▪MOH Linkage Household surveillance	▪Promotional messages (breast feeding; complementary feeding) ▪Growth Monitoring ▪Food demo activities ▪Backyard & community garden	▪Educational messages (treated nets; Insecticide use) Creation of water supplies. Development of household latrines ▪Sanitation & Safety	▪Educational messages ▪Preparation & use of ORT ▪Sanitation and safety ▪MOH Linkage	No GINA -related activities	No GINA -related activities	▪Sanitation and safety (human waste, personal, home, environ.) ▪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

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Achieving Results and the Challenges

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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.

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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

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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**