



The Republic of Uganda

KYEGEGWA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 7 DAYS OF BREAST FEEDING
WEEK FROM 1ST -7TH AUGUST 2024**

**DISTRICT NUTRITION SYMPOSIUM AND
DILAOGUE**

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kyegegwa District was created by the Act of Parliament on the 16th December, 2009 being carved out of Kyenjojo District. The district has a total population of **649,240 people (UBOS, 2024) of which 126,637 (as at January, 2024), (OPM, 2024)**, are refugee population hosted at Kyaka II settlement. With a population growth rate of 7.3 per year (UBOS, 2024) and a very high fertility rate of 7.8 children per woman (UBOS, 2024) is far above the rate of investment in service provision like water, health, education etc. The District is currently made up of three Constituencies; Kyaka North, Kyaka Central and Kyaka South comprising of 13 Sub Counties, 6 Town Councils, 81 Parishes and 677 villages (MOLG, 2024). As a refugee hosting district, Kyegegwa is working with over 34 development and implementing partners to support multi-sectoral nutrition activities in the district.

Nutrition is a fundamental pillar of human life, health, and development across the life cycle including the special needs of pregnancy and lactation, and for promoting recovery from illness [1].

Kyegegwa, a refugee hosting district is currently faced with a triple burden of malnutrition due to multiple risk factors related to food, care, health, and the environment, with a stunting rate of 37% and 45.4% in the district and the Kyaka refugee settlement, respectively (FSNA, 2023). These contribute to an imbalance in the consumption of the required nutrients—and consumption causing undernutrition and overnutrition, respectively [9-11]. Moreover, the burden of NCDs in Uganda is rapidly increasing with high mortality incidences outstripping existing health investments [6, 9, 10].

Optimal nutrition improves the survival, development, health, and well-being of people of all age groups from utero, infancy to adulthood [2, 3]. It promotes positive pregnancy and birth outcomes, lowers the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and increases longevity [3]. Malnutrition in all its forms increases the risk and severity of disease across the lifecycle [4]. It is also essential for national development as a well-nourished and healthy population is highly productive [5, 6].

The government of Uganda is implementing several interventions in aspiration to meeting its commitment to the World Health Assembly's global nutrition targets [12, 13] and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) specifically SDG 2 - end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and SDG 3 - ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. These interventions are multi-sectoral and require strong coordination

across the various ministries, departments, and Agencies implementing the interventions. However, there are limited platforms for the multiple players in the nutrition arena to meet and discuss their experiences, research findings, lessons learned, and the challenges faced during their work.

The proposed **seven-day (1st –7th August 2024)** Symposium will engage key stakeholders in the discussions on the systems approach to improving the nutrition of all Kyegegwa populace. The Symposium will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to showcase and disseminate their work, innovations, and other initiatives to inform Nutrition programs, policy, and Information Systems.

Symposium audience

The Nutrition Symposium will attract representatives from:

- Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Local Government with mandates in nutrition
- National, Regional Referral hospitals, and lower-level facilities
- Office of the Resident District Commissioner
- Local government officials (District Chairperson, DEC members, CAO, DHO, ADHOs, Nutritionists & Nutrition focal points, District Councillors, LC III Chairpersons, SACAOs, Community Development Officer, Clinical officer, agricultural officers, veterinary officers, etc)
- Kabarole District Nutrition Committee members
- Toro Kingdom Officials
- Private sector (CBOS, etc active in nutrition)
- Civil Society Organizations
- Development and implementation partners
- Academia and researchers
- Politicians
- Parliamentarians
- Beneficiaries of the nutrition services within Kyegegwa District

Symposium Objectives

1. To strengthen the coordination mechanism for Nutrition in the district
2. To generate practical solutions and pathways for accelerating the achievement of sustainable optimal nutrition results
3. To take stock of the progress made in the implementation of Nutrition activities

4. To develop actions for accelerated delivery of DNAP

Symposium Achievements in the short run

Nutrition is multi-sectoral in nature and cuts across multiple sectors with different mandates and chains of command.

- Sharing information on their experiences, challenges, innovations, and research findings across sectors to enable donors, and implementers to address the multifactorial causes of the nutrition challenges synergistically for both refugees and host communities.
- Participants explored the connection between food security, nutrition and health diets at household level.
- Participants have explored ways to assess, plan and implement suitable interventions and monitor malnutrition in affected communities.
- Finally, there are strengthened partnerships between Government, civil society, private sector and donors.

Overall Symposium theme is;

Closing the Gap, Breastfeeding Support for All.

Symposium Sub-themes were as follows;

1. **Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition (MIYCAN):** Scaling up baby friendly health facility initiative (BFHI) implementation in Promotion, protection, and support of optimal breastfeeding practices, leveraging community care practices for improved household and community nutrition, Nutrition in emergencies, Early childhood development interventions in improving early Childhood Nutrition, adolescent nutrition, Innovations addressing Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion to improve uptake of nutrition care seeking behaviour.
2. **Nutrition in Health and Disease:** Nutrition in health and disease including breastfeeding exposed infants, etc; innovations for the management of malnutrition, prevention, and control of malnutrition and nutrition-related non communicable Diseases (NCDs), nutrition policies, guidelines, and standards
3. **Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation:** Use of data to improve nutrition services, using research to inform action in nutrition, empowering the government structures with Nutrition in health management information system/ national information system (HMIS/NIS) skills, nutrition surveys,

Nutrition support supervision, and monitoring tools in Nutrition systems performance.

4. **Human Resources for Nutrition:** Current needs, pre- and in-service capacity building initiatives and lessons learned, advocacy for recruitment for a nutritionist at district level
5. **Nutrition Financing in Kyegegwa District, Rwenzori Region in Uganda:** The role of government and nutrition stakeholders in financing nutrition programs and activities; evidence from program and policy analysis for nutrition costing.
6. **Supplies for Nutrition in Kyegegwa District, Rwenzori Region in Uganda:** Current nutrition supply needs, why invest in nutrition supply chains? integrating innovative nutrition products into health system supply chains:
7. **Multi-sectoral response to improving nutrition-food systems for accelerating human, social, and economic development:** Nutrition-sensitive agriculture, the state of food security and nutrition in Kyegegwa, transforming food systems for health, and social protection in improving nutrition.

Approach

1. Keynote address by the Chief Administrative Officer
2. Oral Presentations:
 - i) Over view on Nutrition in Kyegegwa by Ronald Mugabi Ag. DHE
 - ii) Opening Remarks by the District Chairperson
 - iii) Framework for strengthening coordination of Nutrition services at different levels by Ms. Nadith Ahumuza (Senior Nutritionist, Fort portal Regional Referral hospital)
 - iv) Key on Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, 2023 by World Food Programme
3. Moderated Panel Discussion: A panel of nutrition experts was conducted on “**The Nutrition Transition, The Case of Kyegegwa**”. The panel discussions were aimed at breaking down the concepts around the nutrition transition and inspiring them to adopt healthier dietary partners, geriatric nutrition, and lifestyles.
 - i) Experiences in the fight against malnutrition by Medical team International, Kabarole Resource and Research Centre, Mother Against Hunger and Malnutrition (MAMAH), Kabarole District Nutrition Coordination Committee (KDNCC)
 - ii) Dissemination of the stakeholder mapping finding by the Denis Busobozi, District Planner/District Nutrition Focal Person

- iii) Panel group discussions on existing nutrition coordination and supervision, roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and limitations, recommendations for improvement in nutrition interventions and governance structures.
 - a. Question and answer sessions
- 4. **Poster presentations and Exhibitions:** Throughout the symposium time, posters were displayed in the whole and at the exhibition tent. Attendees were given an opportunity to visit the posters and Exhibitions during break tea and Lunchtime.
- 5. Dissemination of messages to different social media platforms
- 6. Radio talk shows on breast feeding
- 7. Community dialogue meetings in Itambabiniga

KEY RESOLUTIONS AT THE SYMPOSIUM

1. Setting up and equipping the Breast feeding corner at the District Headquarters
2. Sub counties and Town council to operationalize the Nutrition interventions including the Nutrition Coordination Committees
3. District, Health facilities, Schools, Sub county headquarters and Town Council headquarters to setup nutrition demo sites
4. Political leaders to mobilise and sensitise households to set kitchen gardens for improved nutrition
5. Mainstream nutrition in all activities
6. Plant fruit trees at institutional headquarters (District, Town Council, Sub county, Schools, health facilities, and OPM Offices at Bujubuli)
7. Allocate budget and spend on nutrition interventions
8. **Set up and operation nutrition committees in schools and health facilities (RESDA)**
9. Conduct regular exchange visits to learn from best performing local governments
10. Map, monitor and supervise all nutrition implementing partners

11. Conduct Monthly, quarterly, half year and annual Nutrition coordination, review and planning meetings for Kyaka II Settlement and sub county/Town council rotational meetings. (Care International in Uganda, OPM, etc)
12. Regulate the consumption of alcohol (spirits) among the refugees and host communities in Kyegegwa District. (District Leadership/RWACs)
13. Integrate youth and People with disabilities in nutrition interventions including campaigns.
14. Advocate for the recruitment of Nutritionists in the District
15. Short term action plan developed

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION TO NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS IN FY2024/2025 BY KYEGEGWA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

S/N	Lower Local Government	Subcounty DDEG FY 2024/2025	Nutrition Allocations
	Kyegegwa District		3,200,000
1	Kyegegwa Town Council	21,298,834	141,992
2	Mpara Town Council	20,771,188	138,475
3	Kazinga Town Council	12,240,906	81,606
4	Bugogo Town Council	15,450,754	103,005
5	Hapuuyo Town council	8,635,323	57,569
6	Kakabara Town council	13,823,845	92,159
7	Kasule Sub-County	19,254,700	128,365
8	Kakabara Sub-county	13,908,324	92,722
9	Kyegegwa Sub-county	36,397,969	242,653
10	Hapuuyo Sub-county	21,346,760	142,312

11	Kigambo Sub-County	24,484,850	163,232
12	Migongwe Sub-county	25,937,669	172,918
13	Migamba Sub-county	21,521,098	143,474
14	Kijongobya Sub-county	-	-
15	Mpara Sub-county	23,438,820	156,259
16	Kyatega Sub-county	22,799,579	151,997
17	Nkaakwa Sub-county	19,429,038	129,527
18	Rwentuha Sub-County	22,741,466	151,610
19	Ruyonza Sub-County	19,138,474	127,590
20	NKanja Sub-County	11,641,926	77,613
	Total	374,261,523	2,495,077

APPRECIATION

We thank the following the partners for supporting nutrition interventions in Kyegegwa DLG.

- 1. Office of the Prime Minister- Kyaka II Refugee Settlement**
- 2. Fortportal Regional Referral Hospital**
- 3. Kabarole District Local Government**
- 4. Kabarole Resource and Research Centre**
- 5. Care International in Uganda**
- 6. World Food Programme**
- 7. United Nations High Commission for Refugees**
- 8. United Nations Children's Fund**
- 9. Medical Teams International**
- 10. AVIS**
- 11. ALIGHT**
- 12. World Vision**
- 13. JESSE**
- 14. AWYAD**

15. International Rescue Committee
16. Let's Help International
17. Humanity Inclusion
18. RESDA
19. Adventist Development Relief Agency
20. Finn Church Aid
21. Nsamizi Training Institute
22. Children of the Edge
23. YIDA

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