Nutrition-sensitive Social Protection in Tanzania

Amadeus Kamagenge, *Director of Community Support, Tanzania Social Action Fund – Tanzania Productive Safety Net Project*

Muderis Abdulahi Mohammed, *World Bank Group*

SecureNutrition Seminar Series  
Feb 23, 2016
Tanzania
Conditional Cash Transfer and Public Works Program

Objective:
Create a comprehensive, efficient, targeted social safety net to a vulnerable section of the Tanzanian population

Targets:
1.1M extremely poor HH (6M individuals)

Nutrition-Sensitive component(s):
Promotes income/consumption
Promotes caring and health practices/services
Targets nutritionally vulnerable population
Accommodates women’s needs
Has nutrition indicators
How does the nutrition-sensitive component fit in the rest of the project?

• Nutrition was mainstreamed in the Program, hence PSSN became nutrition – sensitive with a view to addressing nutrition challenges that has been there for so long (stunting was 49.7% (1991), in approx. 20 yrs declined to only 42 % (2010).

• Since the challenge of nutrition in Tanzania is not strongly linked with food security, the problem is less food intake than other factors (dietary composition, feeding practices and intestinal disease).

• The solution is not transfers alone but rather targeted nutritional interventions.

• Cash benefits for PSSN beneficiaries was purposely linked with nutrition education and changes in behaviour.

• Community session were introduced just before delivering cash benefits.
Who delivers the nutrition education?

• Delivery of nutrition education involves a number of sectors, using ward level extension staff and Village Health Workers.

• PSSN is implemented in a decentralized governance structure, where implementation takes place at the community level in villages, mtaa and shehia.

• Location and type of topic influences one who delivers nutrition education:
  • At health facilities Nurses deliver nutrition education.
  • At community sessions in village, mtaa and/or shehia site:
    • Ward level extension, particularly
      • Health Officers,
      • Community Development Officers,
      • Agriculture Officers
      • Livestock Officers
  • Village Health Workers.
Partnerships with local/international NGOs or other IOs?

- Indeed there is partnership at all levels:
  - At National level
    - Prime Minister’s Office is chairing. The Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre serves as the Secretariat. Ministry responsible for Health, Community Development, etc. are involved. UNICEF, DFID, Irishaid, USAID and other Programs collaborate largely in supporting development and revision of documents.
  - At District level
    - The main player is the Local Government Authority largely through the District Nutrition Officer supported by Community Development Officer. District Medical Officer, District Education Officer, etc. also collaborate.
  - At Community level
    - Nutrition education is largely provided by employees in sectors dealing with nutrition related subjects and CHW.
How were qualified educators identified, recruited, and trained?

• Identification of educators
  • Sectors including Health, Community Development, Water, Education, Agriculture, etc. identify educators.

• Recruitment of educators
  • Given decentralized setting, educators are recruited by Local Government Authorities (District Councils, Town Councils, Municipal Councils and City Councils)

• Training of educators
  • Long – term training is organized and supported through respective sectors
  • Short – terms training is mostly organized by Local Government Authorities or local NGOs and IOs in collaboration with LGAs.
What was the process for designing these materials?

• Most of the materials are developed by the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) involving studies and research.
• Sectors also participate in designing the materials, collaborating with TFNC.
• There are specific materials developed by Ministries responsible for Water, Health, Agriculture, Education, etc.
• Materials used have been put together from pre-existing manuals and handbooks. There also a flip chart with specific messages.
Beneficiaries of PSSN attending a community session just before receiving cash benefits