



The Global
Nutrition
CRSP



Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program
Nutrition/CRSP – Africa

Annual Report
FY 2011 (Year 1)

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Friedman School of Nutrition
Tufts University
Boston

Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program – Africa

Annual Report 2010/11 (FY 2011-Year 1)

Foreword

The mission of the Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program - Africa (N/CRSP-Africa) is to discover how policy and program interventions can most effectively achieve large scale improvements in maternal and child nutrition. Bringing together resources from host country institutions and US universities, the N/CRSP-Africa emphasizes operationally relevant research that can support national governments across Africa in their attempts to improve nutrition, health, and agricultural productivity. The Management Entity (Tufts University) collaborates with a network of US partners, including the Schools of Public Health at Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University, the College of Agriculture at Purdue University and the College of Agricultural, Environmental, and Natural Sciences at Tuskegee University. It also has formal partnerships with private sector entities (Development Alternatives, Inc.), and non-governmental agencies, including International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

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1. Introduction

The Nutrition Research Support Program (CRSP) for Africa represents a novel model for focusing US-supported research on food and nutrition issues in developing countries. This includes, i) a geographic focus (following USAID *Feed the Future* priority regions and countries), ii) an applied focus (operations research rather than discovery science), iii) a focus on country-ownership (supporting research that informs nationally-defined priorities in food and nutrition), iv) resources allocated to large grants to work at scale (rather than many small grants supporting studies of experimental or pilot activities), and v) building capacity for analysis and policy formulation through formal education activities as well as engagement of local partners at stages of the research agenda.

Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy was awarded the Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (N/CRSP) for Africa in October 2010 as well as the N/CRSP for Nepal. The Friedman School serves as the management entity (ME) for both activities, in close partnership with several US university partners – Tuskegee, Purdue, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University – as well as Development Alternatives, Inc.

This report outlines achievements against the approved implementation plan for Year 1, covering October 4, 2010 to October 3, 2011. Specific measurable goals laid out in the first year's plan of work are highlighted in boxes (with the page number of the implementation plan in parentheses), along with the status of such goals (achieved or not) and details relating to achievements (or reasons for lack of achievement) are elaborated in the subsequent text.

2. Governance and Management Entity Activities

This section focuses on the global activities lead by Tufts as Management Entity of both Africa and Africa CRSPs. The synergies and cost-savings gained by having a single lead for both CRSP activities are substantial, allowing for effective cross-continent sharing of ideas among partners and the development of a central repository (website and workspace) for materials, papers, reports relevant to N/CRSP activities globally.

Defined goals and achievements - Year 1 (Management)

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 2.1 "A Board of Directors will be convened." [p2] | –Achieved |
| 2.2 "Establish a global Technical Advisory Committee." [p2] | - Achieved |
| 2.3 "Development and finalization of a policies and procedures manual." [p3] | - Achieved |
| 2.4 "Development and set up of a functional website and workspace." [p6] | –Achieved |
| 2.5 "Bibliographies on nutrition, health and agriculture will be developed and uploaded to the workspace for access by core partners". [p10] | –Achieved |
| 2.6 "Produce dissemination materials (project brochures)." [p10] | –Achieved |
| 2.7 "Develop the appropriate in-country management structures." [p7] | –Achieved |
| 2.8 "Build [institutional] partnerships with local institutions." [p6] | –Achieved |

2.1 Board of Directors will be convened – Achieved.

As per the approved implementation plan for Year 1, the N/CRSP focused its early efforts on developing governance and management structures for the Africa CRSP, and linking that to the Africa CRSP to secure intellectual synergies and cost-savings. To that end, a ‘global’ Board of Directors was convened in the first 6 months of the program to oversee both N/CRSPs (Asia and Africa), defining CRSP policies, offering guidance on budgets and management, and advising on strategic and programming issues. The BoD comprises representatives from each of the ME’s partner institutions (Tuskegee, Harvard, Purdue, Johns Hopkins University, and Development Alternatives, Inc.); and invitees from a range of other international organizations (see Appendix 1).

2.2. Establish a Technical Advisory Committee – Achieved.

At the same time, a technical committee (the TAC) was established to work in parallel with the BoD, but focusing more on substantive issues relating to the research and capacity-building activities under the CRSPs. The TAC has additional representatives from each of the core partners, in addition to technical experts from various institutions around the globe, such as UN agencies, the CGIAR system, and/or other universities and non-profit/non-governmental organizations. The individuals invited to serve on the TAC have specific knowledge of the issues and/or the regions of concern.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) took place on January 6th, 2011, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on January 7th. A second meeting of the BoD was convened on March 18, 2011. Minutes for all 3 meetings are posted on the N/CRSP workspace website:

www.nutritioncrsp.ning.com (and appended to this report). A number of key decisions were taken during the Year 1 meetings of the BoD and TAC, including:

- a) The Nutrition CRSPs will support the development of a robust evidence base for links between agriculture, nutrition and health, and for effective integrated interventions that will provide the basis for a “next Lancet Series”.
- b) The focus of research will be on the effectiveness and scalability of interventions including, but not limited to:
 - i) taking efficacy results of key interventions and seeing how they perform at scale;
 - ii) identifying interaction effects between interventions;
 - iii) considering agricultural interventions in terms of direct and indirect nutrition impacts;
 - iv) identifying linkages among agriculture, nutrition and health interventions (including attention to water and infectious diseases, as well as gender).
- c) Core partners will focus on research and capacity building in both Nepal and Uganda. All partners will develop work plans that will focus on research priorities and capacity gaps identified at the country level. Core partners will complement each other’s work around research issues that are specific to Uganda and Nepal
- d) Capacity building activities will target Ugandan and Nepali students/professionals through distance learning, research and methods workshops, short term training, MS degree programs with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral training.
- e) The Nutrition CRSP will report against a core list of indicators defined by USAID, in addition to collecting data relevant to answering specific research questions. Important issues

relevant to attribution will be discussed with USAID/Uganda. The ME is in charge of aggregating data and the knowledge management system.

- f) Development of a workspace (community of practice) and public website for exchanging ideas and sharing publications and findings relevant to the research of the Global Nutrition CRSP
- g) Development of a lasting global network, larger than just CRSP partners of nutrition and agriculture professionals working on the intersection between these two areas. At the end of five years, a legacy will be to establish a large community network of knowledge and practice. This network will also provide an outlet for disseminating working papers.

2.3. Finalize Policies and Procedures – Achieved.

In addition, within the context of structure and governance, the following key actions and/or decisions were taken, including:

- a) The drafting and approval of a Policies and Procedures manual, now posted on the N/CRSP workspace website (www.nutritioncrsp.ning.com) and the open site (www.nutritioncrsp.org) (appended to this report).
- b) The Nutrition CRSP requires local presence in Uganda and Nepal (accordingly both in Uganda and Nepal, Nutrition CRSP Coordinators have been identified and hired).
- c) The Nutrition CRSP will prepare an annual report in narrative form.
- d) Each core partner will provide an annual report that will be aggregated by the ME with the complete report attached as an annex.
- e) Fiscal reporting will occur on a quarterly basis from the core partners to the ME. The ME will aggregate all fiscal data.

Communications have been good among the core partners, based mainly on regular email, phone and face-to-face interaction throughout Year 1. The same is true of interaction with the N/CRSPs' USAID colleagues in Washington, D.C. (including, several meetings coupled with regular email and phone conversations). As the ME, Tufts worked closely with the AOTR in Washington, D.C. to explore the possibility of Associate Awards with USAID missions around the world. The N/CRSP- Africa successfully completed an Associate Award with USAID/Mali. Such interactions will be continued, and deepened, during Year 2 with a view to developing Associate Awards, as appropriate.

Open channels were also maintained throughout Year 1 with the other CRSP directors (frequent conference calls, weekly interaction by email, and a directors' collective meeting held in Uganda). This high level of communication has facilitated enhanced understanding of how the Nutrition CRSP should work with Washington and country missions, how it should collaborate with the CRSP Council, and how to get the best level of participation from among the many stakeholders interested in the work of nutrition generally, and the N/CRSP specifically.

The annual meeting of directors in Kampala was attended by senior USAID officials from headquarters, which allowed for intensive discussion on future funding plans and new USAID policies on evidence-based programming and empirical data collection under the rubric of Feed the Future. A key decision was taken by the CRSP Council that the CRSPs as a group would seek ways to collaborate

more fully and identify research priorities where multiple CRSPs can work together rather than independently.

2.4. Set up a Functional Website and Workspace – Achieved.

One instrument supporting open and regular communication among many partners and stakeholders situated around the globe is the website set up to allow for dedicated web-based work environments, the sharing of key documents, a forum for dialogue on key questions, and dissemination of knowledge generated. The website and workspace was successfully launched, allowing for effective information-sharing. It uses a platform that allows authorized individuals to access an interface that does not require expertise in HTML to post new content, add comments, links, images and documents to the site without assistance from the web designer. The site accommodates growth in content areas and is easily edited to meet changing goals and communications objectives of the research. All CRSP partners and RFA awardees now have access to a secure platform where they can engage with each other, as well as public pages that allows any other stakeholders to contribute to, or benefit from, the work of the N/CRSP.

2.5. Upload Bibliographies – Achieved.

The ME and core partners have been regularly posting to the worksite (for shared attention), a) key readings relevant to the research questions of the N/CRSP, b) literature reviews focused on evidence of if and how agriculture supports improved nutrition globally, and c) data sources relating to Uganda specifically. This activity will be ongoing throughout the life of the N/CRSP.

2.6. Produce dissemination materials – Achieved.

Several kinds of project-related materials were produced in Year 1, including several 2 to 5 page brochures (that were handed out at meetings and posted on the website), as well as materials used by the CRSP Council to highlight the work of the Nutrition CRSP at BIFAD meetings, the CRSP director's retreat in Kampala, Uganda (July 2011), and in reports to Congress.

2.7 Develop appropriate in-country management structures – Achieved.

At country level (in Uganda), the ME established formal partnerships with several local institutions that have strengths in different domains. These included Makerere University (in research around agriculture, public health and nutrition) and the Uganda country office of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (evaluation research and analysis of existing data that will inform the evaluation of large scale interventions such as the Community Connector). Office space for the N/CRSP has been secured at IFPRI for the N/CRSP Coordinator. The ME pays the salary of the N/CRSP Coordinator who is also seconded to Makerere University (Food and Nutrition). In addition, the ME will cover half the salary for a post doctoral fellow who will work actively with RFA awardees in Year 2. The post doctoral fellow (a Ugandan recent PhD from University of Goettingen) will also be based at IFPRI and provide 50% of their time to the N/CRSP Africa. Local administration of N/CRSP is working smoothly.

2.8 Build partnerships in Uganda with local institutions – Achieved.

Further institutional partnerships are also being explored (collaborative as opposed to administrative) with academic institutions such as Kyamboga University and the Regional Center for Quality Health Care (RCQHC, School of Public Health, Makerere University) to determine areas for support as well as interactions around assessing capacity needs in Uganda (around health and nutrition). Good working

relations have been established with agencies such as UNICEF, World Food Programme (Purchase for Progress program is being implemented in certain Community Connector districts). Interactions have also be held with VEDCO, a local non profit organization working in the area of improving agriculture, nutrition and health in Uganda.

3. Uganda-Based Research

The operations research supported by USAID through the Nutrition CRSPs was successfully initiated in Africa (Uganda) through the awarding of an initial RFA to a partnership between US and Uganda-based institutions. Primary data collection has been delayed as the Community Connector RFA (the program around which the N/CRSP research will be wrapped around) was released in September 2011. The ME however has been working with the RFA awardees in developing a timeline and

Defined goals and achievements - Year 1 (research)

3.1 Identify priority applied research areas [p06]	-Achieved
3.2 RFA around research implementation....” [p10]	-Achieved
3.3 Support the generation of empirical data [p4]	-Achieved
3.4 Stakeholder Workshop [p10]	-Achieved
3.5 “Explore the potential for establishing an in-country TAC” [p12]	-Achieved
3.6 Identify “(and potentially extend the value) of existing panel surveys” [p4]	-Achieved
3.7 “.....host second workshop...on generating further stakeholder engagement and consensus around priority research topics” [p12]	-Achieved

3.1. Identify Priority Applied Research Areas- Achieved

Throughout Year 1, considerable interaction with local stakeholders (at USAID/Uganda, USAID Washington DC, implementing partners, other agencies, national counterparts, etc.), consultation with researchers during and since the IFPRI meeting in New Delhi, the stakeholder forum and the workshop on research gaps, detailed reviews of the literature, and interaction with other CRSP directors, has supported an understanding of key knowledge gaps relating to agriculture-nutrition interactions in Africa. As a result, the broad questions to be pursued by the Nutrition CRSP have taken shape. In order to achieve synergies between NCRSP-Africa and NCRSP-Asia, discussions will be held in December 2011 at Johns Hopkins University around study design for the N/CRSP work in Nepal that will also include participation of the Uganda team. There is considerable overlap in the broad lines of research being pursued in both Uganda and Nepal. The broad lines of research are currently formulated to revolve around the following questions (anticipating that additional questions will arise):

- i) What is the added-value in achieving nutrition impacts of integrating agriculture into targeted nutrition and public health programs?
- ii) Controlling for maternal height and education, income, health status, etc., do integrated interventions succeed better in preventing or reducing stunting than co-located (separate) interventions?

- iii) Does it matter what 'kind' of agriculture or livelihood activity is undertaken (homestead gardening, irrigated staple grain production, livestock production, export crop marketing, or combinations of these)?
- iv) Does increased farm diversity (in crops or marketed product diversity) axiomatically improve women's or a child's diet diversity (and by what transmission mechanisms)?
- vi) How can enhanced diet diversity be best supported through nutrition interventions to achieve reduced (or prevent) stunting (are these cumulative or separate effects)?
- vii) Is behavior change achieved faster (and/or more sustainably) if messages are narrowly targeted, delivered across multiple platforms (multiply reinforcing), or reinforced across multiple sectors of activity?

In addressing such questions close attention will be paid to costing of process and inputs, management constraints and solutions at each step of program roll-out, best practice in local (district and community level) 'integration' of decisions, program support, and other inter-ministry actions.

In Uganda, it is clear that these (and additional ancillary) questions will be best answered by a) establishing a birth cohort in multiple sites where the Community Connector will be implemented in Uganda that represent different agro-ecologies, and b) identifying critical questions best answered through discrete, free-standing studies. The ME is consulting closely with local implementing partners of USAID programming to determine potential complementarity of CRSP versus program-specific data collection goals.

3.2. Issue RFA around Research Implementation – Achieved.

To initiate the operations research (begin discussions with the mission and its implementing partners on their own information priorities, study design and initiate baseline data collection early in Year 2), the ME developed a Call for Proposals for a Year 1 sub-award. The call was made in June 2011, announced on the N/CRSP website and communicated through multiple channels in Uganda as well as in the US. The proposals were required to demonstrate capacity to design and conduct rigorous multidisciplinary field research across multiple sites in Uganda, and to promote capacity-building of Ugandan institutions in the process. In addition, awards would only be made to partnerships between US academic and Nepal-based institutions. Six complete proposals were received and reviewed (blindly) by members of the CRSP global TAG and ME partners, as well as by disinterested, non-applicant affiliated individual technical specialists invited by the ME for this purpose. One proposal rose to the top of review rankings and the award was committed in September 2011. The ME responded to losing bidders with constructive criticism of their proposals with a view to enhancing local capacity for stronger proposal bids in future. The Year 1 RFA award was won by Makerere University (School of Public Health in collaboration with Dept of Nutrition and Food Science and School of Agriculture) in collaboration with Harvard University partnered with Tufts University (both Universities were recused from the review process). The award was for US\$270,000.

3.3. Support Generation of Empirical Data Useful to Operations on the Ground- Achieved.

Field-level data collection did not start during this reporting period. The issuance of the Year 1 RFA supported preparation for initiation of primary data collection in the field in Year 2 of the CRSP (as noted in the Implementation Plan for Year 1, which noted that "the baseline work for the planned FTF program would likely not take place until later 2011/early 2012"). Data collection did not start in

Year 1 because the Community Connector (CC) was not awarded as of October 3, 2011. The CC is the focus of the proposed operations research. The Year 1 implementation plan noted that “discussion will take place with USAID/Uganda and its implementing partners to agree on which indicators are to be collected at a minimum in relation to the N/CRSP, derive common understanding of operational definitions, and who will have responsibility for collecting what and when (how program-specific M&E systems should dove-tail with research-focused data collection, etc.)” This has been achieved. N/CRSP researchers have been interacting with USAID/Uganda and Innovations for Poverty Action (who will be involved in a randomized controlled trial (RCT) evaluating interventions incorporated into the Community Connector including the effect of gender on livelihoods and nutrition) in Uganda to determine the scope for collaboration on research as well as complementary data collection. Discussions have also been held with the Feed the Future Uganda M&E specialist on the need for harmonizing data collection (baseline).

In addition, to support the development of design and have a clear understanding of the situation on the ground, a stock taking/mapping of programmatic interventions in Community Connector districts is being undertaken. This will involve gathering information from government, local and international NGOS, donors (bilateral, UN) and their activities in the Community Connector districts by sub district and parish and applying GIS mapping to determine overlaps in programmatic interventions. It is anticipated that this will allow the research team to better understand the effectiveness of the Community Connector interventions.

3.4. Stakeholder Workshop– Achieved.

N/CRSP Africa hosted a launch stakeholder workshop titled “Research in Nutrition, Health and Agriculture: Evidence on what works” from 28-29 June 2011 in Kampala, Uganda. Approximately 70 participants from Government agencies including “line” ministries (Health, Agriculture), National Planning Authority, USAID/Uganda, universities such as Kyamboga, Makerere University, UN agencies such as UNICEF, World Food Programme, World Bank, and non-governmental agencies such as VEDCO, CARE, BRAC-Uganda attended the sessions. The overall aim of the workshop was to bring together experts in nutrition, health and agriculture to gain insight in the research in the key areas that is being conducted to address the existing conditions. Furthermore, as we headed towards discussions around scaling up proven and cost effective interventions, the need to understand evidence around impact and/or activities that highlight the effect of interventions was crucial. The objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop were:

1. Gain insight on research focused on agriculture, health and nutrition that describes existing conditions and understand the gaps in knowledge
2. Gain insight on research focused on evidence generation around interventions (health, nutrition and agriculture) in Uganda and globally that will allow the Nutrition CRSP to strategize activities around implementation research
3. Understand the policy and governance and how they relate to research and/or programmatic issues around nutrition, health and agriculture in Uganda

In this workshop existing knowledge and knowledge gaps were identified; research priorities and methods to address these gaps were discussed; and all of these were related to current Ugandan circumstances regarding policy and governance.

3.5 Potential to establish an In-Country Technical Advisory Committee explored–Achieved.

The plan to establish a Uganda-based Technical Advisory Group (UTAC), to help oversee N/CRSP activity in country and promote stakeholder buy-in was actively pursued in Year 1. The formalization of the UTAC and invitations to the group will be a first priority action in Year 2.

3.6. Identify and Extend Value of Panel surveys–Achieved.

As planned, several longitudinal surveys were identified in Year 1 including the long-term demographic surveillance site in Iganga, Mayuge. The ME initiated discussion with each of the lead investigators to explore the potential for accessing such rich secondary data for analyses that would be supportive of answering N/CRSP research questions and/or building additional primary data collection as new rounds of the panel. As the Community Connector will not be rolling out in the area of the panel surveys (Iganga), it was agreed that the N/CRSP Africa team would develop study designs and protocols that would allow for the set up of a birth cohort with subsequent panel surveys in the districts (sample of all program districts) of the Community Connector. This can then be compared to data from the long-term demographic surveillance sites.

3.7. Second Workshop -Achieved.

N/CRSP Africa hosted the second workshop in July 2011 (July 20 and 21) in Kampala. The aim of the meeting was to set the priorities on initial research needs and identify gaps that need to be filled by targeted research focused on programmatic implementation of nutrition, health and agriculture interventions. The objectives of this meeting were:

1. Define research questions oriented around nutrition outcomes of single or integrated nutrition interventions.
2. Obtain a view from the ground on implementation activities and understand the obstacles in conducting research for practice
3. Identify existing data that could be used for essential quick studies and/or filling in gaps required for baseline
4. Discover who is doing what and where.

At this workshop, participants discussed outcomes linked to the first objective, provided perspective on implementation and implementation obstacles, identified current and future (e.g. DSS) sources of data, and helped fill the gaps regarding who is active in relevant areas to the N/CRSP.

A third workshop was initially planned for Year 1 on research methods, which was to include the RFA awardee as well as the Community Connector awardee. However, as the CC RFA award was not made in Year 1, the timing of this activity was shifted to Year 2 to harmonize with the award by the USAID/Uganda Mission.

4. Uganda-Based Capacity-Building

The Year 1 implementation plan identified a number of activities intended to support increased capacities (knowledge, skills, analytical competencies, certification, etc.) relevant to nutrition. The need for capacity enhancement at national, district and community level (and for institutions as well as individuals) is reinforced during all meetings with government, donor and NGO organizations across Uganda. The importance of better linking professional competencies across different disciplines and ministries was underscored at the IFPRI-hosted conference held in New Delhi in

February 2011. The N/CRSP supported travel to, and participation in, that meeting of two Ugandan professionals (national partners of the N/CRSP)—one with an agriculture background, the other with a health/nutrition background. They interacted not only with CRSP-supported professionals from Uganda, but also with the many hundreds of other participants interested in the issues that lie at the core of the N/CRSP’s research agenda. In addition, the ME has (1) hired a full time N/CRSP coordinator who is a nutrition professional (Ugandan), and (2) also funds an half-time Ugandan post doctoral fellow who is an agriculturalist. The ME has emphasized the importance of hiring local personnel within the context of building leadership and capacity in these individuals.

Defined goals and achievements – Year 1 (Capacity-Building)

4.1. Capacity Building through workshops [p 11-12]	
4.1.1 Stakeholder forum	-Achieved
4.1.2 Second workshop on Research needs	-Achieved
4.1.3 Third stakeholder workshop	-Not achieved
4.2 Training activities [p 12]	
4.2.1 Training in research methods and management (second workshop)	-Achieved
4.2.2 Student support for degree coursework and field work	-Achieved
4.2.3 Support development of ten modules (related to N/CRSP)	-Achieved
4.2.4 Identification of students for Bangalore-Boston Nutrition Course	-Achieved
4.2.5 Identification of students for Certificate courses	-Not achieved
4.2.6 Participation in Nepal workshop	-Achieved
4.3 Stock Taking activities [p12]	
4.3.1 Review of existing/planned graduate school curricula to determine scope/content of curriculum re-design or free standing modules	-Partially Achieved
4.3.2 Review of content of training for frontline workers	-Not Achieved
4.3.3 Assessing the scope of public private partnerships	-Partially Achieved

4.1. Capacity Building through workshops

4.1.1. Stakeholder forum- Achieved.

The stakeholder forum that was held on June 28-29, 2011 also focused on building capacity in local institutions. Indeed, faculty and students from universities such as Makerere, Kyamboga and School of Medicine in Gulu were in attendance. Local NGOs including VedCO and representatives from National Planning Authority and line ministries of Agriculture and Health were present at the meeting. In addition, the N/CRSP Africa team spent one day interacting with individual researchers/faculty members/students discussing their ongoing activities and the potential for building their capacity (individual and institutional) through the N/CRSP Africa. Several potential research and training collaborators were identified. In addition, N/CRSP Africa held a satellite meeting with FANTA 2 (Robert Mwadime) and RCQHC (Regional Center for Quality Health Care) at Makerere University and Kyamboga University to harmonize activities around stock taking for capacity building. This is discussed further in detail in the stock taking section. We received extensive positive feedback after this stakeholder forum and satellite meeting.

4.1.2. Second workshop on research needs- Achieved.

The second workshop focused on bringing together academic institutions (Makerere, Kyamboga) and local and international non governmental organization staff to meet and interact around the issues

discussed in 3.7 (above). Academics received first hand experience on field based issues around program implementation while NGO staff were exposed to the issues around research that wraps around programming (namely the need for good quality evaluation and effectiveness research, types of research methodology to be used, the need for appropriate comparators to understand the true effect of a programmatic intervention). We again received extensive positive feedback after this meeting.

4.1.3. Third Stakeholder workshop - not achieved (deferred to Year 2)

A third stakeholder workshop was planned for September 2011 however this was delayed into Year 2 due to the delay in award of the RFA. The aim of the workshop was to further integrate thinking and approaches, again addressing skill-sets and capacities in applied research and begin to build up a wide partnership of Uganda-based research collaborators interested in the entire N/CRSP agenda. The N/CRSP Africa team will conduct this activity in Year 2.

4.2. Training Activities

4.2.1. Training in research methods and management (Second workshop).... Achieved.

See above (Section 4.1.1)

4.2.2. Student support for degree coursework and field work. Achieved

Six students from Makerere University (2 from Public Health, 2 from Food and Nutrition and 2 from Agriculture) will receive support to complete their degrees through funding of their MS thesis field work. Another student, with experience in community-based, field nutrition epidemiology, was selected for a scholarship for her MPH degree.

4.2.3. Support for development of 10 modules... Achieved

N/CRSP Africa supported Makerere School of Public Health for the development of 10 course modules around nutrition and food security within the context of agriculture and public health. This activity is being led by Dr. Henry Wamani and Dr. Sheila Katureebe at the School of Public Health.

4.2.4. Identification of students for Bangalore-Boston Nutrition Collaborative Course... Achieved

N/CRSP Africa will support one Ugandan professional (post doctoral fellow) for the Bangalore-Boston Nutrition Collaborative course in January 2012. More students have been identified and are likely to be included in Year 2 (as the course is fully registered).

4.2.5. Identification of students for certificate courses... Not achieved

It was expected that the ME would recruit several Ugandan professionals to participate in on-line training in areas appropriate to CRSP goals (such as Monitoring and Evaluation of Nutrition Programs, Nutrition Communications for Health Professionals, and Program Design and Management Issues). This activity was tied to the activities within the Third Workshop which was deferred, and it will be addressed in Year 2.

4.2.6. Participation in Nepal Workshop... Partially achieved

The N/CRSP-Africa ME planned on attending the Nepal research design meeting (held in August 2011, after several time changes to accommodate key stakeholders in Nepal). This was partially achieved as

not all N/CRSP Africa ME members could be present due to scheduling conflicts after the time changes. Dr. Shibani Ghosh was in attendance and brought considerable information back into the Uganda project that will be useful in the planning of the RFA awardee activity as well as subsequent training around effectiveness research. This principal of interaction between N/CRSP Africa and N/CRSP Asia continues with dual attendance scheduled for the Year 2 Nepal workshop held at Johns Hopkins (December 2011).

4.3 Stock Taking Activities

4.3.1 Review of existing/planned graduate school curricula... Partially achieved

The primary aim for this was to allow for the development of course modules (Makerere School of Public Health is in the process of doing this). N/CRSP –Africa found that Kyamboga University (along with front line worker capacity) are mapping the different types of programs, curricula that exist within the context of nutrition, public health and agriculture (graduate school level). With key stakeholders, it was agreed that N/CRSP –Africa activity around stocktaking should be undertaken once this mapping is complete to prevent duplication of effort.

4.3.2 Review of content of training for frontline workers- not achieved (outcome revised)

In June 2011, N/CRSP Africa organized a satellite meeting to discuss the need of assessing capacity gaps (at all levels) within the context of nutrition in academia, governmental and non governmental sectors of Uganda. We found that FANTA 2 has funded RCQHC and Kyamboga to conduct an assessment of front line worker needs around nutrition training. To prevent duplication it was agreed that the N/CRSP Africa would focus its capacity gaps stock taking around higher level professionals (line ministries, district managers, academics, graduate level students etc). N/CRSP-Africa is waiting to receive a final report on front line worker assessment as well as determine if UNICEF is also undertaking such an assessment as the REACH process is also being contemplated (UN initiative) in country. Given this, and to prevent duplication of work, N/CRSP-Africa has not conducted this assessment but anticipates concluding this in the first half of Year 2.

4.3.3 Assessing the scope of public private partnerships... partially achieved.

This stock taking was part of the activities of DAI. It was completed in June 2011 and findings were presented at the Stakeholder forum. DAI is currently working with leading academics (e.g. Prof Joyce Kikafunda and Prof Elizabeth Madraa) in developing a working paper for the N/CRSP Africa that will be disseminated via the Nutrition Workspace. This will also drive the activities around public-private partnerships and their role in addressing issues around complementary feeding period in Year 3.

5. Financial and Budget Issues

The ME has worked closely with its core partners to establish sub-contracts and scopes of work for Year 1, allowing for disbursement of funds to enable their activities to begin. While in some cases the final agreements and disbursements were delayed until the last quarter of FY 2010/2011, because they depended on final approval of the Year 1 budget which was only achieved in June 2011, the partners have shown serious engagement with the N/CRSP and commitment to its overall research and capacity-building agendas. With the approval of a carry-over of funds unspent in Year 1, Tufts and its partners will be able to pursue the activities defined as priorities into Year 2 with no break in process

or funding pipeline. The Project Directors have requested USAID AO and AOTR for the Nutrition CRSP (Uganda and Nepal) to give consideration and approve an exception to the maximum length of forward funding per ADS 602.3.3. The burn rate of Year 1 is not indicative of the burn rate expected over the next year because of the delay in expenditure of funds while both Nutrition CRSPs aligned with the Mission's integrated agriculture and health programs and their associated timelines.

6. Overall Progress towards FTF Indicators

Custom indicators for the N/CRSP Africa include the following (see table below). Targets were not established for Year 1 for other FTF Indicators since the Community Connector had not been awarded in Uganda, and no outcomes could be reasonably anticipated.

Custom Indicators	Baseline	FY 2012 targets	FY 2013 Targets	FY 2014 Targets
Number of U.S. and host country institutions that have gained enhanced capacity in nutrition research, monitoring and surveillance methodologies, nutrition information systems, and/or nutrition interventions with USG assistance	3	7	8	8
Number of food consumption and/or nutrition surveys undertaken, or reported on and disseminated	0	4	8	8
Number of U.S. or host country institutions or individuals having completed a nutrition assessment, survey or gap analysis.	3	9	9	9
Number of people trained in child health and nutrition (nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition) through USG-supported programs (longer-term)	0	0	2	3
Number of people trained in child health and nutrition (nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition) through USG-supported programs (short term)	0	100	100	100
Number of people identified for training in child health and nutrition (nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition) through USG supported programs (longer term)	5	6	6	6
Number of U.S. and host country institutions with enhanced capacity to assess, plan, design, implement, monitor and/or evaluate nutrition programs, policies and practices	1	7	7	7
Number of U.S. and host country institutions and individuals who have gained enhanced capacity in clinical, operational, agricultural, translational and/or public health nutrition research aimed at the reduction of malnutrition with USG assistance	10	100	100	100
Number of peer-reviewed journal articles co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance (submitted or published)	0	2	6	10
Number of brief articles and presentations co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance	1	5	10	15

7. Project Performance Narrative - Summary

Overall the Nutrition CRSP-Africa achieved the desired outcomes regarding (1) governance and management, (2) the collaborative development of institutional partnerships with key Ugandan organizations, and (3) a mutually satisfactory working relationship with the USAID Mission in Uganda. Our US based governance and management goals were achieved through a series of meetings, reviews, and protocol developments. After several meetings in Uganda we held two inclusive workshops relating to policy and nutrition research, successfully commissioned several baseline data studies and facilitated the same for our core partners (Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Purdue, Tuskegee, DAI). The latter include key analyses of agricultural and nutrition status over time in Uganda (“stock-taking exercises”) as baselines upon which the Community Connector will be built. For example, cross-sectional data from 2007 and 2008 in the Southwest and North are being re-analyzed, and new panel data (2011) has been acquired to complement older information

Our RFA drew substantial interest and eventually an excellent team with representation from agriculture, nutrition, and health faculty from Makerere University, Harvard, and Tufts was chosen through an arms-length process with input and suggestions from the AOTR, Dr. Cheryl Jackson. The efforts of the RFA team (headed by Dr. Henry Wamani of Makerere School of Public Health) are being directed (as we enter FY 2012) into the Districts recently designated by the Mission in Kampala for Community Connector activities. A research support workshop planned for FY 2011 has been deferred to FY 2012 so that this activity aligns with the needs of the Community Connector project implementation (which was delayed; see below).

Substantial human and institutional capacity building activities were conducted and are on-going \$30,000 in student scholarship support for Master’s thesis research projects in agriculture, nutrition and public health as well as \$20,000 for public health nutrition curriculum review for higher education was provided to Makerere University. Ugandan students have now applied for N/CRSP supported training at core partner universities (Tuskegee and Purdue) and a similar process has been set up for applications to Harvard and Johns Hopkins. Another Ugandan is being sponsored in Uganda for an MPH degree, and Ugandans in the US who are completing their PhDs in nutrition sciences have been identified for potential field research support conducted in Uganda. An Ugandan who has recently received his PhD in Germany will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at IFPRI in Uganda, half-funded by the Nutrition CRSP, and will be mentored in his work by both IFPRI and Tufts faculty. Nutrition CRSP team members are also serving as mentors and thesis committee members for students at Makerere. Our core partners have undertaken reviews of current graduate school curricula complementing the funds we have allocated to this purpose at Makerere University.

Political and leadership capacity building is being addressed via engagement with the Nutrition Technical Committee working group (Chaired by Dr. John Kakitahi) serving the National Planning Authority’s (Chair, Dr. Wilberforce Kisamba-Mugerwa). The NPA is coordinating Govt. of Uganda nutrition efforts and has helped with the October 2011 tabling of a parliamentary proposal to support nutrition, the Uganda National Action Plan for Nutrition (UNAP).

8. N/CRSP-Africa Story

NCRSP – Uganda Success Story Vignettes

IN FY 2011, the NCRSP- Africa successfully linked into key Nutrition partners in Uganda as preparations for the launch of the Community Connector were finalized. This was been accomplished through a series of workshops, meetings, stock-taking exercises, and capacity building exercises. This included a kick-off workshop bringing together researchers, implementing agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties to review the status of nutrition in Uganda and to identify research opportunities.

This **initial policy and research priorities workshop** (June 2011) was facilitated by Dr. Robert Mwadime of FANTA II (top right). Megan Rhodes of the USAID Kamapla Mission (top left) outlined the Feed the Future agenda (bottom left). Professor Joyce Kikafunda provided summary remarks, thanking USAID for choosing Uganda as the ‘flag bearer’ site for the Nutrition CRSP – Africa and for the pioneering work of the USAID GINA project (bottom right), facilitated by Dr. Cheryl Jackson of USAID Washington. **Dr. Wilberforce Kisamba-Mugerwa, Chair of the National Planning Authority**, provided concluding remarks (photos: Dr. Jeffrey Griffiths)



Capacity Building.

Scholarships were provided to fund student thesis projects in the areas of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Public Health. Many students complete their classroom work but are unable to find funding for their field projects and thus fail to obtain their MSc in Nutrition, Agricultural Economics, or MPH-Nutrition. Shibani Ghosh (Tufts), Edgar Agaba (Makerere University), Jeffrey Griffiths (Tufts), and Joyce Kikafunda (Makerere University), from left to right, conclude discussions at Makerere University regarding support for Master's level students in Nutrition at Makerere (May, 2011. Photo: Dr. Jeffrey Griffiths).



Baseline Data Collection. The Nutrition CRSP has identified key partners in the Districts where the Feed the Future Community Connector project in Uganda will be implemented. To left Nutrition CRSP team members are consulting with Dr. Vincent Owine, the District Health Officer for Oyam. (from left: Diana Kingston, Tufts Nutrition student and

former Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda; Dr. Owine; Edgar Agaba, Nutrition CRSP Uganda Coordinator; and Dr. Justine Besigye, faculty at the Makerere School of Public Health. Photo: Dr. Jeffrey Griffiths).

Appendices

A1. Nutrition CRSP - Africa Leadership 2010-2011

Core Management Team	Position	Institution	Email Address
Jeffrey K. Griffiths	Program Director, Africa	Professor, School of Medicine and Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts	Jeffrey.Griffiths@tufts.edu
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Global Technical Advisory Committee	Position	Institution	Email Address
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A2 : Table 1 - Activities and Outputs, N/CRSP-Africa Year 1

Theme (a): Scientific Research				
Outcomes	Results Framework #	Output Indicators	FY 2011 Targets	FY 2011 Actuals
Outcome 1: Improved host country nutrition and food security monitoring, analytics and surveillance capacities	N/CRSP	1. Number of U.S. and host country institutions that have gained enhanced capacity in nutrition research, monitoring and surveillance methodologies, nutrition information systems, and/or nutrition interventions with USG assistance	3	6
	N/CRSP	2. Number of food consumption and/or nutrition surveys undertaken, or reported on and disseminated	1	1
	N/CRSP	3. Number of U.S. or host country institutions or individuals having completed a nutrition assessment, survey or gap analysis.	3	3
Theme (b): Human and Institutional Capacity Development				
Outcomes	Results Framework #	Output Indicators	FY 2011 Targets	FY 2011 Actuals
Outcome 2: Improved host country academic, technical and research capacity in nutrition, health and agriculture	1.1	4. Number of individuals (disaggregate) who have received short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	0	1
	1.1	5. Number of individuals (disaggregate) who have received long term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	0	0
	8	6. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition (nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition) through USG-supported programs (longer-term) a) identified, b) trained	a) 6 b) 0	a) 12 b) 0
	N/CRSP	7. Number of U.S. and host country institutions with enhanced capacity to assess, plan, design, implement, monitor and/or evaluate nutrition programs, policies and practices	3	6
	N/CRSP	8. Number of U.S. and host country institutions and individuals who have gained enhanced capacity in clinical, operational, agricultural, translational and/or public health nutrition research aimed at the reduction of malnutrition with USG assistance	2	10
	N/CRSP	9. Number of peer-reviewed journal articles co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance (submitted or published)	0	0
	N/CRSP	10. Number of brief articles and presentations co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance	0	1
Theme (c): Improving the Nutritional Status of Women and Children Through Agriculture and Food Based Programs				

Outcomes	Results Framework #	Output Indicators	FY 2011 Targets	FY 2011 Actuals
Outcome 3: Improvement in the nutritional status of women and children	G	11. Prevalence of underweight children (weight/age)	DHS 2011	DHS 2011
	N	12. Prevalence of stunted children (height/age)	DHA 2011	DHS 2011
	N	13. Prevalence of wasted children (weight/height)	DHS 2011	DHS 2011
	N	14. Prevalence of underweight women (BMI < 18.5)	DHS 2011	DHS 2011
	8	15. Number of children reached by USG-supported nutrition programs	TBD	TBD
	5	16. Prevalence of households with moderate or severe hunger	TBD	TBD
	6	17. Mean number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age (Women's Dietary Diversity)	DHS 2011	DHS 2011
	6	18. Prevalence of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet	TBD	TBD
	7	19. Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of infants under six months	DHS 2011	DHS 2011
	8	20. Prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age	DHS 2011	DHS 2011
	8	21. Prevalence of anemia among children 6-59 months	DHS 2011	DHS 2011
	A	22. Gender Perception Index (pending)	TBD	TBD
Outcome 4: Improved agricultural productivity	1.2	23. Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a results of USG assistance	0	0
	1.5	24. Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations and community based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	0	0
	1.5	25. Number of private enterprises, producer organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance	0	0
	2.5	26. Number of rural hectares formalized	0	0
Outcome 5: Increased household agricultural incomes	A	27. Per capita expenditure of rural households (proxy for income) of USG targeted beneficiaries	TBD	TBD
	4	28. Number of jobs attributed to FtF implementation	0	0
	2	29. Value of incremental sales (collected at farm level) attributed to FtF implementation	0	0
	3	30. Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FtF implementation	0	0
	3	31. Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of FtF activities	0	0

Outcome 6: Enhanced research to practice continuum	N/CRSP	32. Number of integrated research studies linked to mission programs aimed at the reduction of malnutrition conducted with USG assistance (a) initiated, or b) completed	a) 1 b) 0	a) 1 b) 0

Table 2: Additional activities and Outputs, Year 1 (program governance and management)

Theme	Activity	Output/Deliverable	Date Planned	Date Achieved
Governance and Management				
	Governance structures put in place	Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee put in place	Dec 2010	Dec 2010
	Governance oversight of CRSP process	1st meetings of BOD and TAC	Jan 2011	Jan 2011
	Governance oversight of CRSP process	2nd meeting of BOD and TAC	Mar 2011/Sept 11	Mar 2011
	Management structure with core partners finalized	Contracts and scopes of work finalized	Apr 2011	Apr 2011
	In-country management structures finalized	Set up of in-country management structures	Apr/May 2011	Aug 2011
	Communications	Website; communications strategy defined	June 2011	June 2011
	In-Country governance (Uganda TAC)	N-TAC members identified, first meeting held	Sept 2011	Planned for Nov 2011 (see deviation narrative below)

Deviation Narratives

A. A research design workshop, planned for the 4th Quarter of FY2011, has been deferred to February 2012 to be aligned in time with the award of the Uganda Community Connector, so that the research agenda addresses the implementation plan. The naming of the Ugandan Technical Advisory Group (TAG) planned for FY2011 has also been deferred so that the research agenda and TAG are best suited to the Community Connector. (The Connector's award by the Mission in Kampala was delayed ~ 6 months from the original anticipated date). We do not anticipate any further target deviation as simple deferral of the workshop and Uganda TAG to align with the Community Connector was the solution to this issue.

B. In FY2011 we had planned on **developing training activities (course modules) for front line delivery workers**. Our Ugandan colleagues working with the Uganda National Action Plan for Nutrition have concluded that this would likely be duplicative of work done by other organizations. They have communicated to us that the Nutrition CRSP should concentrate on graduate school training

first and then re-assess training needs for the District or front-line levels thereafter. The curriculum review and development process is therefore now focused on graduate education, and will have interdisciplinary agriculture, nutrition, and health inputs. No further target deviation is expected as this organic shift in focus has been accomplished.

C. Our US Core Partners (Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Purdue, Tuskegee, DAI) achieved many FY2011 objectives but not others. In general, **curriculum objectives** not met were delayed by Ugandan university requirements for Government input or approvals. Goals for **recruiting students to the US core partner schools** were partially delayed by (1) TraiNet requirements and J1 visa processing; (2) timing requirements so that short-term training in the US did not conflict with pre-existing obligations in Uganda; and (3) application schedules in the US. Some **baseline collection activities were also delayed as the proposed geographic locations for the baselines was shifted to Community Connector districts**. We do not anticipate further target deviation as the student recruitment process is underway, the timing for students and faculty to visit the US core partners have been identified, and application schedules for students are being identified pro-actively. Lastly, activities relating to **complementary foods** [inventorying availability, sources of data regarding these foods, and case study development] were initiated but not completed in FY2011 in part due to a later-than-expected identification of the geographic areas where the Community Connector will be active. These will be completed in the first half of FY2012, in alignment with the Community Connector baseline data collection period. We do not anticipate any further target deviation relating to these activities.

A3 – List of Attached Reports

1. Policies and Procedures Manual
2. Complied minutes of the N/CRSP global BOD and TAC meetings, Year 1.
3. Core Partner Annual Reports