



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Integration of Food and Nutrition Security into District Medium-Term Development Plans

A Review of the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs of 17 Municipal and District Assemblies in Ghana



About USAID Advancing Nutrition

USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project, led by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), and a diverse group of experienced partners. Launched in September 2018, USAID Advancing Nutrition implements nutrition interventions across sectors and disciplines for USAID and its partners. The project's multi-sectoral approach draws together global nutrition experience to design, implement, and evaluate programs that address the root causes of malnutrition. Committed to using a systems approach, USAID Advancing Nutrition strives to sustain positive outcomes by building local capacity, supporting behavior change, and strengthening the enabling environment to save lives, improve health, build resilience, increase economic productivity, and advance development.

Disclaimer

This report was produced for the U.S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared under the terms of contract 7200AA18C00070 awarded to JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI). The contents are the responsibility of JSI, and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.

Recommended Citation

USAID Advancing Nutrition. 2022. *Integration of Food and Nutrition Security into District Medium-Term Development Plans: A Review of the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs of 17 Municipal and District Assemblies in Ghana*. Arlington, VA: USAID Advancing Nutrition.

Cover: Women in Challu in the Sissala East District of Ghana participate in a cooking demonstration and integrated durbar to disseminate key messages on nutrition. Photo: Nurudeen Salifu/USAID Advancing Nutrition.

USAID Advancing Nutrition

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

2733 Crystal Drive

4th Floor

Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 703–528–7474

Email: info@advancingnutrition.org

Web: advancingnutrition.org

Contents

- Acknowledgements iv
- Acronyms..... v
- List of Figures..... vi
- List of Tables..... vi
- Executive Summary vii
- Introduction and Background I
- Objectives..... 3
- Methods 3
 - Study Site 3
 - Study Design 3
 - Sampling 3
 - Data Collection and Analysis 4
 - Study Measures 5
 - Ethical Considerations..... 5
 - Data Management..... 5
- Findings..... 6
 - Integration and Allocation of Funding for FNS in 2018-2021 and 2022-2025 MTDPs 6
 - Relevance of FNS Actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs 12
 - Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in the 2022–2025 MTDPs..... 13
 - Factors that Influenced the Integration of FNS into the 2022–2025 MTDPs 14
- Conclusion..... 17
- Recommendations 17
- References 19
- Annex 1. Review Checklist..... 20
- Annex 2. FGD Guide 24
- Annex 3. KII Guide..... 25
- Annex 4. Informed Consent 26

Acknowledgements

USAID Advancing Nutrition thanks the National Development Planning Commission for its immense support in the review of the medium-term development plans of the 17 district assemblies. We also wish to acknowledge the support received from leadership of the Regional Coordinating Councils of the Northern, North East, Upper East, and Upper West regions and the 17 District Assemblies. Many thanks to our Ghana Chief of Party, Yunus Abdulai, his hardworking team, and our U.S. office team, who played various roles during the planning, execution, and reporting on this study.

And finally, we say a big thank you to Mr. Eliasu Yakubu, for leading the team to conduct the review and to put together this report.

Acronyms

AAP	Annual Action Plans
DNCC	district nutrition coordination committee
DPCU	District Planning and Coordinating Unit
FGD	focus group discussion
FNS	food and nutrition security
IYCF	infant and young child feeding
KII	key informant interview
MMDA	metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies
MTDP	medium-term development plan
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SD	standard deviation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

List of Figures

Figure 1: Percentage Increase in Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions Between the 2018-2021 MTDPs and the 2022–2025 MTDPs 12

Figure 2: 2022–2025 MTDPs with High, Moderate, or Low Percentage of FNS Actions Considered Relevant..... 13

Figure 3: Percentage of 2022–2025 MTDPs’ that Demonstrate High or Low Multi-Sectoral FNS Collaboration..... 14

Figure 4: Steps for 2022–2025 District Medium-Term Development Planning 15

List of Tables

Table 1: Study Districts and Regions 3

Table 2: Sampled Districts for FGDs 4

Table 3: Number of FNS Issues in the MTDPs..... 7

Table 4: Number of FNS Objectives in the MTDPs..... 7

Table 5: Number of FNS Actions in MTDPs..... 9

Table 6: Percentage of FNS Actions with an Output Indicator in the MTDPs..... 10

Table 7: Percentage of FNS Actions with an Outcome Indicator in the MTDPs..... 10

Table 8: Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions in the MTDPs 11

Table 9: Change in Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions between the 2018–2021 and the 2022–2025 MTDPs..... 11

Executive Summary

Ghana has made some progress towards reducing malnutrition in recent years, but it remains a key development concern and requires a multi-sectoral approach to planning, financing, and coordinating actions to tackle it. The medium-term development plans (MTDPs) of metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies (MMDAs), which are prepared every four years, are an important entry point for ensuring that local governments prioritize interventions to improve food and nutrition security (FNS) in order to help reduce the incidence of malnutrition. As a result, USAID Advancing Nutrition Ghana provided financial and technical support to 17 municipal and district assemblies in four regions in Northern Ghana to plan for and integrate FNS into their 2022–2025 MTDPs.

We conducted this study, therefore, to ascertain whether there have been changes in the integration and allocation of funding to FNS in the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared with the 2018–2021 MTDPs and identify the factors that helped the integration of FNS into the 2022–2025 MTDPs. We also assessed the 2022–2025 MTDPs to determine the extent to which they contain actions that can help to address the FNS issues in those districts and whether they demonstrate multi-sectoral collaboration to achieve FNS. In line with the objectives, we used a checklist to review the MTDPs and conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) with members of district plan preparation teams and regional economic planning officers. Simple random sampling (proportionate to size) was used to sample nine districts from the four project regions for the FGDs, while purposive sampling was used to select both the participants for the FGDs and the key informants. In all, 34 MTDPs were reviewed and nine FGDs and four KIIs were conducted.

We found significant changes in the integration of FNS issues, objectives, and actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs relative to the 2018–2021, for most of the districts. For instance, the average number of FNS issues increased from 17 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to 21 in the 2022–2025 MTDPs, whilst the average number of FNS objectives increased from 14 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to 18 in the 2022–2025 plans. The 2022–2025 MTDPs contained, on average, 141 FNS actions, compared to 48 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs. Budgetary allocations to FNS increased in 10 of the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared with the 2018–2021 MTDPs. Efforts to get districts to increase budgetary allocations for FNS are, thus, still needed.

Again, over 70 percent of the FNS actions contained in 13 of the plans were relevant, as they were linked to at least one of the FNS issues that had been prioritized in those plans. Those districts therefore stand a better chance of achieving their FNS objectives if the FNS actions are well implemented. The other districts will need to modify some of their planned FNS activities to ensure that those actions also help to tackle the FNS issues that they have prioritized. In addition, 12 of the plans demonstrated high multi-sectoral collaboration towards improving FNS, as most of the FNS actions in those plans had multiple sectors listed as being responsible for implementation.

Regional and district officials alluded to technical and financial support provided by USAID Advancing Nutrition Ghana, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), and regional coordinating councils as the main reason for the high integration of FNS in most of the 2022–2025 MTDPs. These include support received to form district nutrition coordination committees (DNCCs), developing FNS planning guidelines, training key stakeholders on the use and application of the guidelines, conducting FNS situational analysis, and holding joint planning sessions on FNS. However, the integration of performance measures, both output and outcome indicators, in the MTDPs was generally low with decreasing trends in most districts. There was a reduction in the number of FNS issues, objectives, and actions in some districts, which is puzzling and requires further studies to get a better understanding why this happened.

We recommend that DNCCs and District Planning and Coordinating Units (DPCU) keep track of the implementation of the FNS activities included in their district MTDPs by discussing updates on these activities during their quarterly meetings and expanding their field monitoring activities to cover FNS activities. The DPCUs should also ensure that funds allocated to FNS activities are released when funds are available.

Introduction and Background

Malnutrition remains a major development concern in Ghana, although the country has recorded some gains over the years. Stunting in children decreased from 23 percent in 2011 to 18 percent in 2017¹. Anemia in children dropped by half (66% to 36%) and in women it declined by nearly half (41% to 22%) between 2014 and 2017². Malnutrition has serious implications for national development. It is said to be a contributing factor to deaths in children and it impairs physical and cognitive growth of individuals, which tends to affect their productivity and success in life. According to the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), the economy of Ghana has been losing \$2.6 billion annually – or 6.4 percent of its gross domestic product – due to child undernutrition.

The USAID Advancing Nutrition project has been working with government partners at the national level and in 17 districts in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West, and North East regions to help address the problem of malnutrition in Ghana. One of the key focus areas of the project is to strengthen multi-sectoral planning, financing, and coordination of interventions to improve food and nutrition security (FNS), which is said to exist when “all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life³.” Consequently, multiple interventions from multiple sectors – e.g., agriculture, health, economic growth and livelihoods, education and sanitation – are required to achieve FNS and, in effect, address malnutrition.

Accordingly, the project supported the NDPC to develop the Ghana Multi-Sector Food and Nutrition Security Guidelines to guide Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) on how the various sectors in a district can work together to mainstream FNS issues and strategies in their medium-term development plans (MTDPs). The MTDPs are developed every four years with guidance from the NDPC and serve as the framework for determining which activities are prioritized and investments made to accelerate development in those districts. They are therefore an important entry point for ensuring that local governments formulate multi-sectoral interventions to improve FNS and allocate funds towards the implementation of these activities. This comprises both nutrition-specific and -sensitive interventions (see box below).

Nutrition-specific interventions address the immediate determinants of fetal and child nutrition and development. These include vitamin A and zinc supplementation, exclusive breastfeeding, dietary diversity promotion, and food fortification. (IFPRI 2016)

.....

Nutrition-sensitive interventions, on the other hand, are aimed at influencing the underlying determinants of nutrition. For example, water, sanitation and hygiene; child protection; schooling; early child development; maternal mental health; agriculture and food security; health and family planning services; social safety nets; and women’s empowerment. (Ruel and Alderman 2013)

Following the development of the guidelines, USAID Advancing Nutrition collaborated with the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the NDPC to orient officials from Ghana’s 16 regions on the

¹ Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (2014) and Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey – 2017/18.
² University of Ghana, GroundWork, University of Wisconsin-Madison, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust, UNICEF. Ghana Micronutrient Survey 2017. Accra, Ghana; 2017.
³ Wüstemfeld, Marzella (2013). Presentation on Food and Nutrition Security at the UNSCN Meeting of the Minds – Nutrition impact of Food Systems; 25 – 28 March 2013. United Nations System – Standing Committee on Nutrition.

FNS planning guidelines. We also trained and supported District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCCs) from the 17 districts to apply these guidelines to integrate relevant FNS strategies into their 2022–2025 MTDPs. The DNCCs, which were formed with the support of the project, worked with the plan preparation teams of their assemblies to conduct situational analyses of FNS and to formulate objectives, strategies, and activities to mitigate the key FNS challenges in their respective districts.

Having provided all of this support, USAID Advancing Nutrition and the NDPC collaborated to review the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs of the 17 MMDAs to determine, among others, whether there have been any positive changes in how FNS was integrated in the current plans as against the old one. Findings from this review are expected to enhance learning among stakeholders at national and subnational levels on what works and is required to ensure that multi-sectoral FNS actions become part of local governments' development plans, with resources allocated to it.

The Project in Brief

In Ghana, USAID Advancing Nutrition provides technical support and assessment services to advance the government's efforts to improve district planning for equitable delivery of services that promote household resilience and early childhood growth and development. It is implemented in 17 districts in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West, and North East regions. The project commenced in June 2020 and is expected to end in September 2023.

Since its commencement, the project has been working with health authorities at national, regional, and district levels to improve the quality and reach of nutrition service delivery, particularly to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under 5 years in the 17 districts, through capacity strengthening for health workers and social and behavioral change communication. In line with this, the project has:

- Supported to train 715 health workers in infant and young child feeding (IYCF), anemia prevention and control, community-based management of acute malnutrition, and outreach planning.
- Supported over 600 health facilities to conduct outreach to communities to provide essential nutrition services, such as growth monitoring, immunization and iron-folate supplementation.
- Presented over 150,000 copies of maternal and child health record books, counselling cards, bin cards, and other materials for distribution to health facilities and trained over 430 health workers on the proper use of these materials for counselling and to collect nutrition-related data for effective decision making.
- Supported health authorities to conduct supportive supervision for health workers in 226 health facilities to improve the quality of nutrition and other health care services provided.

The project has also worked with the NDPC, Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) of the four regions, and the 17 municipal and district assemblies to strengthen multisectoral planning, financing, and coordination of food and nutrition security. This includes the formation of DNCCs, supporting the NDPC to convene meetings of the Cross Sectoral Planning Group on nutrition, supporting the development of the FNS planning guidelines, and supporting the 17 assemblies to apply the guidelines to plan for and integrate FNS strategies into their MTDPs, as earlier highlighted.

Objectives

The review had four objectives:

1. Determine whether there have been changes in the integration and allocation of funding to FNS in the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared with the 2018–2021 MTDPs of the 17 project districts.
2. Assess the extent to which the 2022–2025 MTDPs of the 17 project districts contain actions that are linked to the FNS “prioritized development issues”.
3. Assess how the 2022–2025 MTDPs of the 17 project districts demonstrate multi-sectoral collaboration to address malnutrition.
4. Identify the factors that helped in the integration of FNS into the 2022–2025 MTDPs of the 17 project districts.

Methods

Study Site

The study was conducted in 17 districts located in four regions in Northern Ghana where the USAID Advancing Nutrition project is being implemented, as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Study Districts and Regions

Northern Region	North East Region	Upper East Region	Upper West Region
1. Sagnarigu 2. Gushegu 3. Yendi 4. Karaga 5. Nanton 6. Mion	7. East Mamprusi 8. Mamprugu-Moagduri	9. Bawku 10. Bawku West 11. Garu 12. Tempane	13. Nadowli-Kaleo 14. Daffiama-Issa-Bussie 15. Wa East 16. Sissala West 17. Sissala East

Study Design

We used a mixed-method (i.e., quantitative and qualitative) approach for the review. It involved the use of a checklist ([annex 1](#)) to elicit information for objectives 1, 2, and 3 and the conduct of focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) to respond to objective 4. We developed the checklist in collaboration with the NDPC.

Sampling

We purposively selected all 34 plans of the 17 districts (i.e., the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs) for the quantitative analysis. We also used purposive sampling to select key informants from the four regions. We selected the Regional Economic Planning officers as they had provided support to the 17 districts in the preparation of the MTDPs and were also involved in the process of mainstreaming FNS into the plans. For the FGDs, we used simple random sampling (proportionate-to-size) to select nine (i.e., 53 percent) of the 17 project districts. They comprised three districts each in the Northern and Upper West regions, two from the Upper East Region, and one from the North East Region, as

indicated in table 2. We then used purposive sampling to identify participants for the FGDs, and they were mainly members of the district plan preparation teams⁴.

Table 2: Sampled Districts for FGDs

Region	Project Districts	Number of Districts Sampled Per Region Based on Proportionate-to-Size Sampling	Sampled Districts
Northern	1. Gushegu 2. Karaga 3. Mion 4. Nanton 5. Sagnarigu 6. Yendi	3	Gushegu, Sagnarigu, and Karaga.
Upper East	1. Bawku 2. Bawku West 3. Garu 4. Tempane	2	Bawku West and Bawku)
Upper West	1. Daffiama Issa 2. Nadowli-Kaleo 3. Sissala East 4. Sissala West 5. Wa East	3	Sissala East, Wa East, Nadowli-Kaleo
North East	1. Mamprugu-Moagduri 2. East Mamprusi	1	Mamprugu Moagduri

Data Collection and Analysis

With the support of the NDPC and the RCCs of the four regions, we constituted a team of 18 reviewers, who were trained to apply the checklist to review the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs of the 17 districts. The reviews took three days. To control for individual variability, the same team reviewed both the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs for each district. In all, 34 MTDPs were reviewed and the data uploaded via the Kobo collect open data kit platform for analysis. We used the Statistical Package for Social Scientist version 22 to conduct the analysis and presented the findings in percentages, means, and in tables and charts. For the qualitative part, we trained and deployed 18 data collectors to the four regions and nine districts to conduct KIIs with regional economic planning officers and FGDs with district plan preparation teams, using guides ([annexes 2 and 3](#)) prepared for both the KIIs and FGDs. Each KII and FGD was recorded and transcribed for analysis. In all, nine FGDs and four KIIs were conducted and we transcribed the data and analyzed it manually based on common themes identified in line with objective 4.

⁴ Ministries, departments, agencies, and metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies are required to compose a team of representatives from all departments or units to lead the preparation of the MTDPs, according to the NDPC’s ‘Guidelines for Preparing Sector and District Medium-Term Development Plans—2022–2025 Planning Cycle.’

Study Measures

We measured the following indicators for each of the study objectives:

Objective 1:

For each the 2018–2021 MTDPs and 2022–2025 MTDPs and budgets of the 17 project districts we determined the following:

- Number of FNS issues (minimum, maximum, and mean)
- Number of FNS objectives (minimum, maximum, and mean)
- Number of FNS actions (minimum, maximum, and mean)
- Number of FNS output indicators as a percentage of the FNS actions (minimum, maximum, and mean)
- Number of FNS outcome indicators as a percentage of the FNS actions (minimum, maximum, and mean)
- Budgetary allocations for FNS actions (minimum, maximum, and mean)

Objective 2:

For the MTDPs we determined the following:

- Percent of FNS actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs that are linked to at least one of the prioritized FNS issues (categorical ranges: low < 50%, moderate 50–69%, high ≥ 70%).

Objective 3:

For objective 3, we measured multi-sectoral collaboration with the following indicator:

- Percent of FNS actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs that have multiple sectors listed as responsible for implementation (categorical ranges: low <50%, high ≥ 50%).

Objective 4:

For this final objective, we explored through FGDs and KIIs the key factors that helped the districts in integrating FNS into their 2022–2025 MTDPs.

Ethical Considerations

We used an informed consent form to secure the consent of all participants/key informants for the FGDs and KIIs. We explained to them the purpose of the review, and the right to voluntary participation and to refuse to respond to any question or even withdraw completely at any point, even if they agreed to be part of the study. We also sought consent and recorded each FGD and interview session.

Data Management

For quality control, the qualitative and quantitative data collection processes were supervised by a consultant and the USAID Advancing Nutrition team. As quantitative data were uploaded via the Kobo Collect open data kit platform for analysis, they were reviewed for consistency and accuracy. Recordings were transcribed shortly after completing each FGD and KII to ensure the accuracy.

Findings

Integration and Allocation of Funding for FNS in 2018-2021 and 2022-2025 MTDPs

To achieve the first objective of the review, we compared the number of FNS issues, objectives, actions, and indicators in the 2022–2025 MTDPs to what was contained in the 2018–2021 MTDPs. We also compared budgetary allocations to FNS in these plans.

Integration of FNS Issues

According to the NDPC’s *Guidelines for Preparing Sector and District Medium-Term Development Plans*, the first step in developing an MDTP is to conduct a performance review and situational analysis to identify development issues. Since MMDAs cannot address all of them at once, the NDPC requires them to prioritize the issues they intend to tackle during the four years, using the following as guide:

- Severity and diversity of the problem and intended benefits (social, economic, environmental etc.) of addressing it.
- Significant multiplier effect on economic efficiency, e.g., attraction of investors, job creation, increases in incomes and growth.
- Significant linkage effect on meeting basic human needs and rights.
- Significant effects in the sustainable spatial development of designated spaces or corridors.

In identifying and then prioritizing development issues for the MTDP, the Ghana Multi-Sector Food and Nutrition Security Guidelines recommends that districts ensure that FNS issues are highlighted as well. FNS issues cut across education, health, child protection, water, and other sectors. The FNS Guidelines includes illustrative FNS issues: poor IYCF and nutrition practices; malnutrition in infants and young children; maternal nutrition issues, especially anemia in pregnant women; food production issues, such as low yields and lack of dry season vegetables garden; food environment regulation, food storage, and safety issues; and poor food handling in markets and by food vendors in markets. Others include poor access to diverse diets in rural areas, especially access to fruits and vegetables in the lean season; water, sanitation, and hygiene issues in schools and communities; factors that contribute to the consumption of unhealthy diets and poor dietary diversity in communities; and low rural women empowerment and livelihood.

We found that the minimum number of FNS issues contained in the MTDPs reviewed increased from six in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to 13 in the 2022–2025 MTDPs, as shown in Table 3. The mean number of FNS issues included in those MTDPs also increased from 17 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to 21 in the 2022–2025 MTDPs. The maximum number of FNS issues, however, decreased from 36 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to 33 in the 2022–2025 plans. Overall, this shows some appreciable increases in the integration of FNS issues into the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared to the 2018–2021 MTDPs.

Table 3: Number of FNS Issues in the MTDPs

Number of FNS Issues	MTDP	
	2018–2021	2022–2025
Minimum	6	13
Maximum	36	33
Mean (standard deviation (SD))	17.4 (±18.3)	20.9 (±8.1)

Some of the FNS issues mentioned in the 2022–2025 MTDPs include prevalence of micro- and macro-nutritional deficiencies; infant and adult malnutrition; poor hygiene practices; unsustainable sanitation and health services; the high cost of agricultural production inputs; the low proportion of irrigated agriculture; inadequate access to land for agriculture production; poor storage and transportation systems; high incidence of HIV and AIDS among young persons; increasing morbidity, mortality, and disability due to communicable, non-communicable, and emerging diseases; poor quality health care services; poor marketing systems for agricultural products; low productivity and poor handling of livestock/poultry products; limited number of skilled staff for industries; and high levels of food insecurity.

Integration of FNS Objectives

Goals and objectives are critical components of the MTDPs. They communicate what the districts intend to achieve by tackling the issues prioritized in the plans. We reviewed the selected MTDPs to identify objectives that were linked to addressing the FNS issues (both nutrition-specific and -sensitive) listed in the plans and to compare the level of integration of these objectives between the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs. In other words, these are objectives whose achievement would impact positively on FNS, directly or indirectly.

We found that the minimum number of FNS objectives increased from one in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to nine in the 2022–2025 plans. The maximum number of FNS objectives increased from 33 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to 37 in the 2022–2025 plans, while the mean number of FNS objectives increased from about 14 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to about 18 in the 2022–2025 plans, as shown in table 5. These show an increase in the number of FNS-related objectives in the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared to the 2018–2021 MTDPs.

Table 4: Number of FNS Objectives in the MTDPs

Number of FNS Objectives	MTDP	
	2018–2021	2022–2025
Minimum	1	9
Maximum	33	37
Mean (SD)	14.3 (±9.0)	18.4 (±8.8)

The increases in FNS objectives may be partly as a result of the general increase in the level of integration of FNS issues in the 2022–2025 MTDPs. Consequently, as districts prioritize more FNS issues, they are more likely to formulate more FNS objectives. Below are some of the FNS objectives included in the 2022–2025 MTDPs of the 17 districts:

- Accelerate implementation of Community-based Health Planning and Services policy to ensure equity in access to quality healthcare.
- Strengthen maternal, newborn care and adolescent services.
- Strengthen prevention and management of malaria cases.
- Promote demand-driven approach to agriculture development.
- Improve production efficiency and yield.
- Improve post-harvest management.
- Enhance application of science, technology, and innovation.
- Promote livestock and poultry development for food security and income generation.
- Ensure sustainable development and management for aquaculture.
- Ensure affordable, equitable, easily accessible universal health coverage.
- Strengthen health care management systems.
- Reduce disability, morbidity, and mortality.
- Strengthen food and nutrition governance.
- Improve access to safe and reliable water supply.
- Improve access to improved and reliable environmental sanitation services.
- Ensure effective child protection and family welfare system.
- Promote economic empowerment of women.
- Strengthen social protection.
- Enhance climate resilience.

Integration of FNS Actions

FNS actions refer to the activities and interventions included in the MTDPs for implementation which could impact FNS, if actualized. After setting objectives, MMDAs identify the major activities that are required to achieve each objective and present these in their Annual Action Plans (AAPs), which is a key part of the MTDP. Some AAPs have between 100-200 activities and as such an MTDP (which has AAPs for each of the four years) could contain more than 500 activities. However, many of these activities do not get to be implemented due to gaps in funding. We reviewed these activities in the AAP sections of the MTDPs to identify which were FNS-related.

Our review showed that the minimum number of FNS actions increased from 10 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to 24 in the 2022–2025 MTDPs. A similar trend was found in the maximum number of FNS actions included in the plans. The maximum number more than doubled from 159 to 404. Consistent with these findings, the mean number of FNS actions included in MTDPs went from about 48 in the 2018–2021 MTDPs to about 141 in the 2022–2025 MTDPs. These results also demonstrate significant increases in the integration of FNS actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared to the 2018–2021 MTDPs (table 7).

Table 5: Number of FNS Actions in MTDPs

Number of FNS Actions	MTDP	
	2018–2021	2022–2025
Minimum	10	24
Maximum	159	404
Mean (SD)	47.8 (±39.7)	140.6 (±128.8)

The increases in FNS actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs could partly be due to the general increase in the level of integration of FNS objectives. So, the more FNS objectives are integrated, the more actions are required to meet those objectives. This also shows that the assemblies have stepped up their efforts to find solutions to the FNS challenges in their districts. If these are well implemented, they will contribute to improving the health and nutrition of the population, thereby promoting district growth and development.

Integration of FNS Indicators

As per the NDPC’s planning guidelines, MMDAs are required to formulate and include in their MTDPs indicators to track the implementation of programmes and projects as contained in the plans. The NDPC recommends that districts include both national and district indicators as part of their monitoring matrix. It also recommends that MMDAs conduct periodic evaluation of their programmes and projects as this is key in improving decision making and providing insights for effective programme and project design and implementation.

We assessed the extent to which the 2022–2025 MTDPs incorporated FNS output and outcome indicators to help measure the performance of FNS as output indicators provide a sense of how the MMDAs plan to track progress of their FNS activities, whilst outcome indicators help to measure the impact of these activities or the desired change. FNS output indicators may include number of health workers trained in IYCF, number of households supported to construct latrines, and number of adolescent girls dosed with iron folic acid supplements. FNS outcome indicators may include exclusive breastfeeding, stunting in children 5, anemia prevalence in pregnant women, dietary diversity, and number of open defecation free communities.

Output Indicators

We calculated the number of output indicators as a percentage of the FNS actions in each MTDP. We found that the minimum percentage of FNS output indicators was zero in both the 2022–2025 and 2018–2021 MTDPs reviewed. In other words, there were no output indicators for some of the activities. The maximum percentage of FNS output indicators also remained relatively constant, i.e., all of the FNS output indicators in the 2018–2021 MTDPs and 97.4 percent in the 2022–2025 MTDPs. The mean percentage of FNS output indicators in the 2018–2021 MTDPs was 46.6 percent, while that in the 2022–2025 was only 15.8 percent.

Table 6: Percentage of FNS Actions with an Output Indicator in the MTDPs

Percent of FNS Activities with an Output Indicator	MTDP	
	2018–2021	2022–2025
Minimum	0.0	0.0
Maximum	100.0	97.4
Mean (SD)	46.6 (±35.8)	15.8 (±28.9)

From the above, it is clear that there was a significant reduction in the percent of FNS actions with an output indicator in the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared with the 2018–2019 MTDPs. In other words, while the mean number of actions increased, the number of indicators did not. This could negatively affect monitoring of the implementation of FNS actions in the plans, which will make tracking of progress difficult. It could contribute to failure in the implementation of some of the planned actions and make it difficult to hold officers accountable during and after implementation of such activities.

Outcome Indicators

We calculated FNS outcome indicators in each MTDP as a percentage of the total FNS actions, which was then used to determine the minimum, maximum, and mean percentage of FNS outcome indicators in the plan (table 11). The results show that the minimum percentage of FNS outcome indicators in both the 2022–2025 and 2018–2021 MTDPs was 0 percent, which means that some of the MTDPs did not have any outcome indicators to help evaluate the impact of the planned FNS actions during or after implementation. The maximum percentage of FNS actions with an outcome indicator in the 2022–2025 MTDPs was 46.2 percent, whereas, all FNS actions in the 2018–2021 plans had outcome indicators to help measure their impact. The mean percentage of FNS outcome indicators in the 2022–2025 MTDPs was 8.6 percent, while that in the 2018–2021 plan was 37.9 percent.

Table 7: Percentage of FNS Actions with an Outcome Indicator in the MTDPs

Percent of FNS Actions with an Outcome Indicator	MTDP	
	2018–2021	2022–2025
Minimum	0.0	0.0
Maximum	100.0	46.2
Mean (SD)	37.9 (±38.7)	8.6 (±11.6)

These show significant reductions in the percent of FSN actions with a outcome indicators in the 2022–2025 MTDPs relative to that in the 2018–2021 MTDPs. Since several actions may contribute to the same outcome indicator, this may be of less concern than the reduction in output indicator. However, this may make it difficult to measure the impact of all FNS activities in the 2022–2025 MTDPs.

Commonly stated outcome indicators in the MTDPs included: improved nutritional status of children; reduced cases of acute malnutrition; reduced maternal mortality ratio; reduced institutional malaria case fatality by sex and age; increased fortification of staples; improved nutrition among the population; increase in acres of land cultivated; improved yields of grains and legumes; reduced prevalence of

anemia; increased rate of exclusive breastfeeding; reduced proportion of population overweight/obese; increased proportion of children 0–2 years receiving immunization services; and improved early childhood development index.

Budgetary Allocations for FNS Activities

There is little value in integrating FNS activities into MTDPs if corresponding funding is not allocated or is allocated but insufficient. Findings from our assessment showed an eight-fold increase in minimum budgetary allocations for FNS actions between the 2018–2021 and the 2022–2025 MTDPs. The maximum budgetary allocations for FNS actions increased similarly, while the mean budgetary allocation for FNS actions more than tripled (table 13).

Table 8: Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions in the MTDPs

Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions	MTDP	
	2018–2021	2022–2025
Minimum	114,930.00	96,8271.90
Maximum	45,795,000.00	177,486,225.00
Mean (SD)	9,041,530.00 (±1,000.20)	29,227,231.48 (±5,000.00)

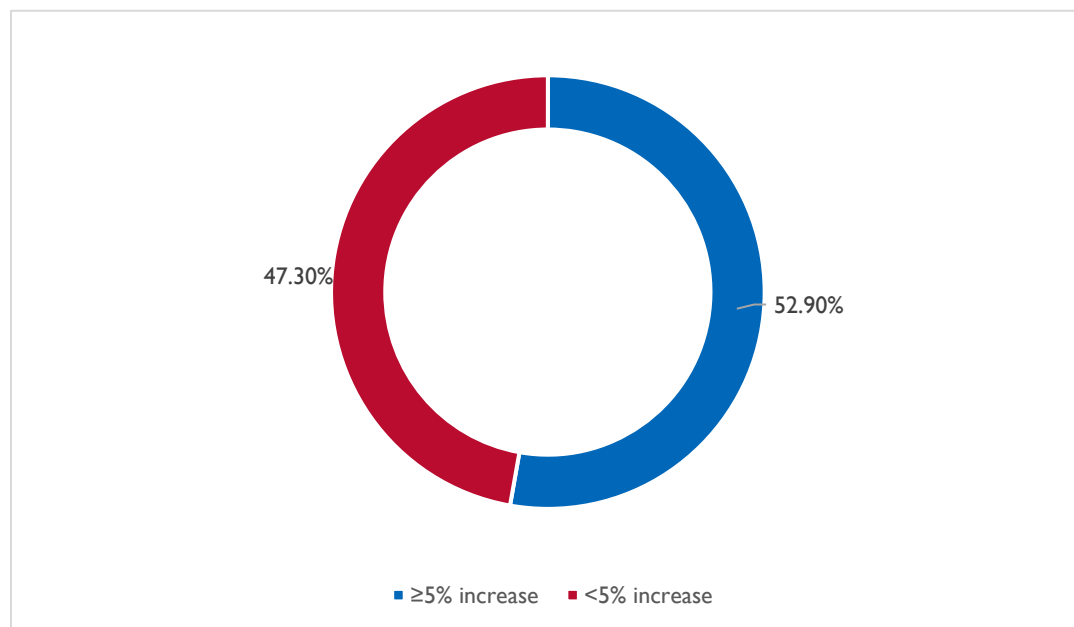
Budgetary allocations for FNS activities in the 2022–2025 MTDPs increased from the 2018–2021 MTDPs in 10 of the project districts (58.8 percent). Seven districts decreased their budgetary allocations for FNS activities (table 14).

Table 9: Change in Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions between the 2018–2021 and the 2022–2025 MTDPs

Changes in Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions	Districts	
	Number	%
Increase	10	58.8
Decrease	7	41.2

Further analysis showed that nine of the 17 districts increased their budgetary allocations to FNS by at least five percent in the 2022–2025 MTDPs compared with the 2018–2021 MTDPs, as shown in figure 1.

Figure 1: Percentage Increase in Budgetary Allocations for FNS Actions Between the 2018-2021 MTDPs and the 2022-2025 MTDPs



The above findings show that the 2022–2025 MTDPs recorded significant increases in the minimum, maximum, and mean budgetary allocations for FNS actions. However, in terms of the district-level change of budgetary allocations for FNS actions, improvement was limited to some districts. This means that efforts to get districts to increase budgetary allocations for FNS in the MTDPs are still needed.

Relevance of FNS Actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs

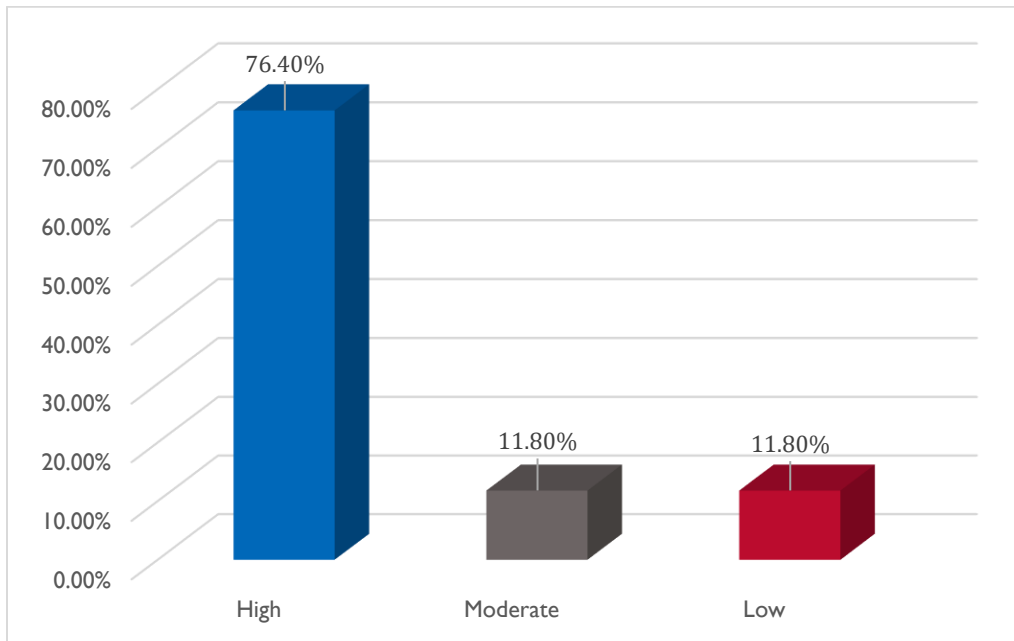
Whilst integrating FNS actions into an MTDP may be desirable, it is best if these actions are relevant and can therefore help the district to achieve its development objectives, particularly in improving FNS. The second objective for this study was, thus, to assess the extent to which the 2022–2025 MTDPs contain actions that can help to tackle the FNS issues outlined in the plan. To achieve this, we first examined the FNS actions contained in each of the 17 plans to determine if they were relevant. We consider an FNS action relevant if it is linked to any of the prioritized FNS issues in the MTDP. In other words, it is intended to address at least one of the FNS issues that have been included in the district’s prioritized development issues. We then classified the 17 MTDPs as having high, moderate or low percentage of relevant FNS actions, as defined below:

- High: ≥ 70 percent of the FNS actions in the MTDP are linked to at least one of the prioritized FNS issues.
- Moderate: 50–69 percent of the FNS actions in the MTDP are linked to at least one of the prioritized FNS issues
- Low: < 50 percent of the FNS actions in the MTDP are linked to at least one of the prioritized FNS issues.

We found that 13 of the 2022–2025 MTDPs (representing 76.4%) contained a high percentage of relevant FNS actions, whilst the other four MTDPs had either moderate (2) or low (2) percentage of relevant FNS actions, as shown in figure 3. This means that all 17 districts have included in their 2022–2025 MTDPs actions that can help them to address their prioritized FNS issues and, if implemented as required, the districts could make some progress in FNS. However, the 13 districts stand a better

chance. The other four, especially the two with the low percentage, will need to make some modifications to some of their planned FNS activities to ensure that those actions also help to tackle the FNS issues that they have prioritized.

Figure 2: 2022–2025 MTDPs with High, Moderate, or Low Percentage of FNS Actions Considered Relevant



Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in the 2022–2025 MTDPs

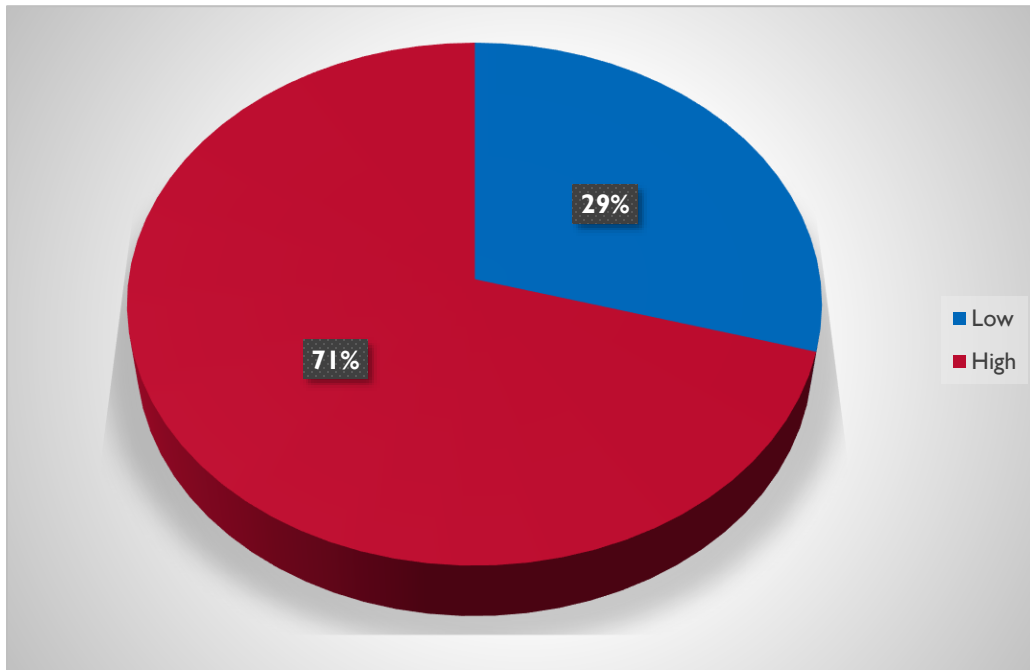
To achieve the third study objective, we examined how the 2022–2025 MTDPs demonstrate multi-sectoral collaboration towards improving FNS. The determinants of malnutrition are multifaceted. This includes individual health status, access to safe, nutritious and diverse food, water, sanitation and hygiene and feeding and care practices. Consequently, multiple interventions from multiple sectors – e.g., agriculture, health, economic growth and livelihoods, education and sanitation – are required to effectively address malnutrition. USAID Advancing Nutrition Ghana had therefore oriented the various sectors at the district level on the need to collaborate in planning and implementing nutrition-specific and -sensitive interventions to improve FNS.

To establish how, in their 2022–2025 MTDPs, the districts demonstrate their intention to promote multisectoral FNS collaboration, we reviewed the plans to identify the extent to which they contained FNS actions with multiple sectors listed as responsible for implementation. Depending on the percentage of these FNS actions in an MTDP, we classified the plan as demonstrating either high or low multi-sectoral FNS collaboration, as defined below:

- High: ≥ 50 percent of the FNS actions in the plan have multiple sectors listed as responsible for implementation.
- Low: <50 percent of the FNS actions in the plan have multiple sectors listed as responsible for implementation

The analysis showed that 12 (71 percent) of the 17 MTDPs had at least 50 percent of the FNS actions with multiple sectors listed as responsible for implementation, as shown in figure 8.

Figure 3: Percentage of 2022–2025 MTDPs’ that Demonstrate High or Low Multi-Sectoral FNS Collaboration



Factors that Influenced the Integration of FNS into the 2022–2025 MTDPs

We conducted KIIs and FGDs with regional and district officials to reflect on their experiences in preparing the 2022–2025 MTDPs and then establish the factors or processes that helped the 17 districts in planning and integrating FNS into those plans. Knowledge of these factors will enhance understanding of government, development partners, and civil society on what is needed to improve planning and allocation of funding to FNS at the local government level. They identified a number of factors, as discussed below.

Formation of DNCCs

Regional and district officials identified the formation of the DNCCs in the project districts as one of the main factors that contributed to increased integration of FNS issues, objectives and actions into the 2022-2025 MTDPs. They were of the view that the composition of the DNCCs, with representation from the relevant sectors similar to the composition of the plan preparation team, helped members to learn from one another and better understand nutrition issues. They said the plan preparation teams worked closely with the DNCCs in preparing the 2022–2025 MTDPs, with some members serving on both committees. According to them, the DNCCs provided a good understanding of the FNS issues in their districts and this helped to make the integration of FNS into the plans easier.

“The DNCC was also formed to have members from all the key departments in the district, similar to what we have in the plan preparation team, working together to improve the FNS situation in the district. In fact, some members of the DNCC are also members of the plan preparation team. This has helped members from all these departments to have good

appreciation of the role of nutrition and the need for us to work together to address the FNS issues in the district to promote development.” (FGD participant, Bawku West)

“Because the DNCC was formed earlier and have been working, they had a good understanding of the FNS issues and the district and so working with them in the preparation of the 2022-2025 MTDPs made it easier for us to identify some of the FNS issues for inclusion into the plan.” (FGD participant, Gushegu)

“The DNCC was involved in the preparation of the 2022-2025 MTDP and they helped us to identify and harmonize the FNS issues and actions which were then integrated into the plan.” (FGD participant, Karaga)

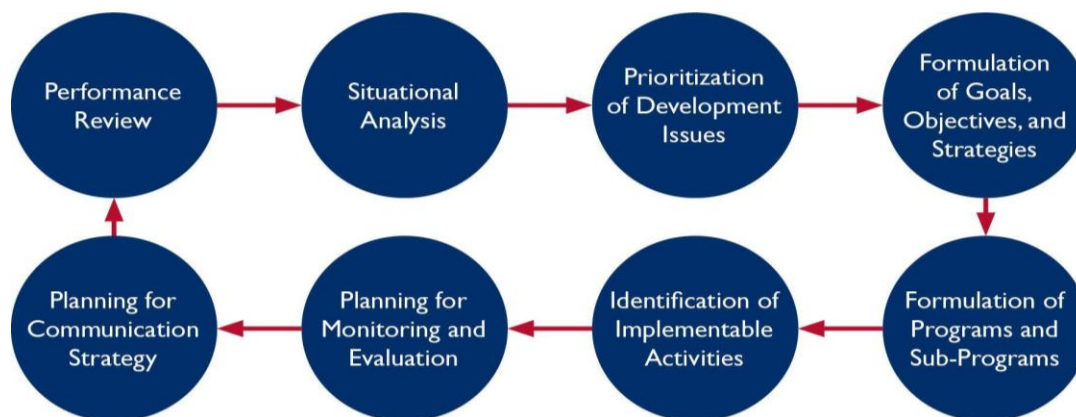
FNS Planning Guidelines

Regional and district officials said FNS planning guidelines, developed by the NDPC with support from USAID Advancing Nutrition, also facilitated the integration of FNS into their MTDPs. According to them, they were trained on how to plan for and mainstream FNS into their MTDPs based on the guidelines. The guidelines outline how to integrate FNS at various stages of the planning process, including situational analysis, prioritization of development needs, formulation of goals, objectives and strategies, as shown in figure 9. This helped them better appreciate the critical role of nutrition in promoting development from the district to the national level and the need for a multi-sectoral approach to do so. This led them to approach preparation of the 2022–2025 MTDPs highly conscious of nutrition at every stage of the process and use various processes to integrate FNS issues and actions.

“Another thing that helped us to integrate FNS issues more this time round in our MTDP is the guideline on the FNS integration, which the NDPC developed and shared to guide us.” (FGD participant, Bawku West).

“The specific guidelines developed by the NDPC with the support of USAID Advancing Nutrition helped the districts to properly integrate FNS issues and actions into the 2022-2025 MTDPs more than they did in previous plan.” (Key informant, Tamale)

Figure 4: Steps for 2022–2025 District Medium-Term Development Planning



FNS Situational Analyses

According to district officials, USAID Advancing Nutrition supported them to conduct FNS situational analyses and this helped them to identify the key FNS issues in their respective districts, which they included in their plans. As part of the analyses, they reviewed their district profiles with a focus on FNS, e.g., population demographics and the availability of arable lands. The various district departments (e.g., health, education, agriculture, environmental health and community development) also provided data on

the performance of FNS indicators under their sectors. For example, food production levels, anemia in women and children, rate of exclusive breastfeeding, stunting, access to potable water, and status of open defecation. These were consolidated and validated at a meeting to arrive at the FNS situation in each district, highlighting the main challenges with FNS.

“Initially, we had to do food and nutrition situational analysis of the district prior to the medium-term plan operation. So, this gave us an overview of the status of the FNS situation in the district and helped us identify some FNS issues to include in the plan.” (FGD participant, Wa East)

Joint Planning Sessions

Regional and district officials said that joint planning sessions on FNS, which USAID Advancing Nutrition supported, also contributed significantly to the inclusion of FNS issues and strategies in their 2022–2025 MTDPs. They said the plan preparation teams and the DNCCs were brought together to jointly plan for FNS, as part of the MTDP process. These joint planning sessions were used to formulate FNS goals, objectives and strategies, which were then integrated into their MTDPs.

“...they [USAID Advancing Nutrition] organized another meeting with all the key departments being present in Yendi. Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, Agric, Community Development, Budget, Planning, even the coordinating director himself was invited and it was specifically on how to mainstream nutrition activities into the 2022–2025 MTDP.” (FGD participant, Gushegu)

Engagement with Community Members

District officials also mentioned that while validating development needs, members of the DNCCs took the opportunity to educate community members on the importance of FNS and how FNS affects health, growth, and development. They felt that this helped in getting the community members to prioritize FNS issues. They explained that community members even included additional FNS issues to the list of priority development issues and these were integrated into their MTDPs.

“Members of the DNCC helped to educate and sensitize community members on food and nutrition issues before we engaged them on their priority needs, which made them prioritize nutrition issues.” (FGD participant, Nadowli Kaleo)

Involvement of Relevant Stakeholders

Regional and district officials said that members of the district plan preparation teams in planning the FNS components of their 2022–2025 MTDPs.

“First of all, the USAID Advancing Nutrition helped us to form the DNCC, which is made up of officers from different sectors...to work together in addressing FNS issues. So, in preparing the 2022–2025 MTDPs we involved all the sectors [unlike] we did in the past.” (FGD participant, Bawku West East)

“I will add that the strategy that was also used to integrate FNS issues in 2022–2025 MTDP was a multi-sectoral approach. It involved so many stakeholders.” (FGD participant, Karaga)

While some stakeholders were involved in all the stages of the planning process, others were involved in some. The planning, budgeting, and finance units, and the various departments (Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of Community Development and Social Welfare, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Ghana Enterprise Agency, and the National Disaster Management Organization) were involved in all the stages of the planning process.

Development partners, mostly local non-governmental organizations working in the districts, were also involved in the planning process to provide logistical and technical support. At the community level, assembly members, unit committee members (area councils), traditional authorities, opinion leaders,

women’s groups, Persons with Disability associations, artisan groups, traders, and community members were involved in the planning process. They helped to identify, validate, and prioritize FNS issues during the public hearing workshops.

“Various departments, community groups and members were involved in the preparation of the 2022–2025 MTDPs of the assemblies which helped to get more FNS issues and actions integrated into the plans as all the stakeholders had different FNS issues affecting them and their sectors.” (Key informant, Wa)

However, district officers mentioned that bringing on board various sectors was sometimes challenging due to different work schedules. Some meetings had to be postponed and this delayed the process of getting FNS integrated into plans.

Conclusion

From the review of the 17 MTDPs, it is evident that there has been appreciable increases in the number of FNS issues, objectives, and actions in the 2022–2025 MTDPs of the 17 districts compared to the 2018–2021 of the same districts. However, increases in numbers does not necessarily assure the quality or effectiveness of implementation. Future research will need to assess the impact of these changes on key FNS outcome indicators. Also, there were increases in budgetary allocations for FNS, but this was limited to 10 districts. Therefore, efforts to get districts to increase budgetary allocations for FNS are still needed.

Twelve (12) of the plans demonstrated high multi-sectoral collaboration towards improving FNS, as most of the FNS actions in those plans had multiple sectors listed as responsible for implementation. Relevant stakeholders from the community to district levels were identified and involved in the planning of the FNS components of the 2022-2025 MTDPs. We also saw that over 70 percent of the FNS actions contained in 13 of the plans were relevant and thus could help those districts to achieve their FNS objectives, if well implemented. The other four districts will need to modify some of their planned FNS activities to ensure that those actions also help to tackle the FNS issues that they have prioritized.

The integration of performance measures, both output and outcome indicators, was not commensurate with the increase in the number of FNS actions. This could affect the success of the FNS activities due to the failure to track and ensure that the activities are being implemented as required and that the expected results are being achieved. It could also affect decision making as to which areas require further support or not.

Regional and district officials identified the formation of the DNCCs; the development of the FNS planning guidelines and training of key stakeholders on the use and application of the guidelines; the support provided to the districts to conduct FNS situational analysis; and the facilitation of joint planning meetings on FNS involving all sectors as the main contributing factors to the integration of FNS in the 2022–2025 MTPDs of the 17 districts. Consequently, the technical and financial support provided to the 17 districts by USAID Advancing Nutrition, NDPC, and RCCs during the planning process played a key role in helping the districts to plan for and integrate FNS into their 2022–2025 MTPDs.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, we recommend that—

- DNCCs and DPCUs keep track of the implementation of the FNS activities included in their district MTDPs by discussing updates on these activities during their quarterly meetings and expanding their field monitoring activities to cover FNS activities.

- The DPCU, especially leadership of the districts, ensure that funds allocated to FNS activities are released when funds are available.
- USAID Advancing Nutrition implements a robust sustainability plan to help sustain and improve the gains made in the integration of FNS issues, objectives, and actions into the MTDPs. This may include working with the districts to properly integrate the DNCCs into the assembly's structures or align their work with any existing structure.
- The NDPC and USAID Advancing Nutrition create platforms to facilitate the sharing of learning amongst the 17 districts and with other districts on how to strengthen multi-sectoral planning and coordination of FNS.
- Further studies are conducted to examine what other factors influences how FNS is integrated or prioritized in the MTDPs.

References

- IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute). 2016. *Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030*. Washington, DC: IFPRI.
- NDPC (National Development Planning Commission). 2021. *Ghana Multi-Sector Food and Nutrition Security Planning Guidelines*. Accra, Ghana: NDPC.
- NDPC (National Development Planning Commission). 2020. *Guidelines for Preparing Sector and Districts Medium-Term Development Plan-2022–2025 Planning Cycle*. Accra, Ghana: NDPC.
- Ruel, M.T. and H. Alderman. 2013. “Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions and Programmes: How Can They Help to Accelerate Progress in Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition?” *The Lancet* 382: 536–51. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(13\)60843-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(13)60843-0)
- University of Ghana, GroundWork, University of Wisconsin-Madison, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust, UNICEF. 2017. *Ghana Micronutrient Survey 2017*. Accra, Ghana: 2017.
- Wüstefeld, Marzella. 2013. Presentation on Food and Nutrition Security at the UNSCN Meeting of the Minds – Nutrition impact of Food Systems; 25 – 28 March 2013. United Nations System – Standing Committee on Nutrition.

Annex I. Review Checklist

Review of Food and Nutrition Security Components of the 2018–2021 and 2022–2025 MTDPs

REVIEW CHECKLIST

Question	Response
District name	
Region name	
Reviewer number	
Type of MTDP	1. 2018–2021 MTDP 2. 2022–2025 MTDP

QN	Question	Response	
	FNS prioritized development (NOTE: See the “prioritized development issues” section of chapter 2 of the MTDP.)		
1.	Are there nutrition-specific issues mentioned in the “prioritized development issues” section of the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 4
2.	How many nutrition-specific issues are mentioned in the “prioritized development issues” section of the plan?		
3.	List the nutrition-specific issues mentioned in the “prioritized development issues” section of the plan.		
4.	Are there nutrition-sensitive issues mentioned in the “prioritized development issues” section of the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 7
5.	How many nutrition-specific issues are mentioned in the “prioritized development issues” section of the plan?		
6.	List the nutrition-specific issues mentioned in the “prioritized development issues” section of the plan.		
7.	Comments:		
	FNS goals and objectives (NOTE: See the “goals” and “objectives” sections in chapter 3 of the MTDP.)		
8.	Are there any nutrition-specific objectives in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 11

QN	Question	Response	
9.	How many nutrition-specific objectives are there in the plan?		
10.	List the nutrition-specific objectives in the plan		
11.	Are there any nutrition-sensitive objectives in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 14
12.	How many nutrition-sensitive objectives are there in the plan?		
13.	List the nutrition-sensitive objectives in the plan		
14.	Comments:		
<p>FNS Strategies (NOTE: See the “strategies” section in chapter 3 of the MTDP.)</p>			
15.	Are there any nutrition-specific strategies included in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 20
16.	How many nutrition-specific strategies are included in the plan?		
17.	List the nutrition-specific strategies included in the plan		
18.	Are the nutrition-specific strategies in the plan linked to the FNS “prioritized development issues” found in chapter 2 of the MTDP?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 20
19.	How many of the nutrition-specific strategies in the plan are linked to a FNS “prioritized development issue” in chapter 2 of the MTDP?		
20.	Are there any nutrition-sensitive strategies included in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 25
21.	How many nutrition-sensitive strategies are included in the plan?		
22.	List the nutrition-sensitive strategies included in the plan		
23.	Are the nutrition-sensitive strategies in the plan linked to the FNS “prioritized development issues” found in chapter 2 of the MTDP?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 25
24.	How many of the nutrition-sensitive strategies in the plan are linked to a FNS “prioritized development issue” in chapter 2 of the MTDP?		
25	Comments:		

QN	Question	Response	
	FNS Action, Activities, and Interventions Budgeted (NOTE: See the “actions, activities, and interventions” section in chapter 4 of the MTDP.)		
26.	Have the nutrition-specific actions, activities, and interventions been budgeted?	Yes	No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 29
27.	How many of the nutrition-specific actions, activities, and interventions have been budgeted?		
28.	State the budget for each of the nutrition-specific actions, activities, and interventions in the plan.	activity/ action 28a1. 28a2. 28a3. 28a4 28a5.	Budget 28b1 28b2. 28b3. 28b4. 28b5.
29.	State the total budget for all actions, activities, and interventions in the plan.		
30.	Are there any nutrition-specific actions, activities, and interventions with more than one sector identified as responsible for implementation?	Yes	No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 32
31.	How many of the nutrition-specific actions, activities, and interventions are there with more than one sector identified as responsible for implementation?		
32.	Have the nutrition-sensitive actions, activities, and interventions been budgeted?	Yes	No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 35
33.	How many of the nutrition-sensitive actions, activities, and interventions have been budgeted?		
34.	State the budget for each of the nutrition-specific actions, activities, and interventions in the plan.	Activity/ action 34a1. 34a2. 34a3. 34a4 34a5.	Budget 34b1 34b2. 34b3. 34b4. 34b5.
35.	Are there nutrition-sensitive actions, activities, and interventions with more than one sector identified as responsible for implementation?	Yes	No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 37
36.	How many of the nutrition-sensitive actions, activities, and interventions are there with more than one sector identified as responsible for implementation?		

QN	Question	Response	
	FNS Indicators NOTE: Review both output and outcome indicators found in chapter 6 of the MTDP.		
37.	Are there any nutrition-specific output indicators in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 39
38.	How many nutrition-specific output indicators are in the plan?		
39.	Are there any nutrition-sensitive output indicators in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 41
40.	How many nutrition-sensitive output indicators are in the plan?		
41.	Are there any nutrition-specific outcome indicators in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 44
42.	How many nutrition-specific outcome indicators are in the plan?		
43.	State the nutrition-specific outcome indicators in the plan.		
44.	Are there any nutrition-sensitive outcome indicators in the plan?	1. Yes	2. No <input type="checkbox"/> skip to 47
45.	How many nutrition-sensitive outcome indicators are in the plan?		
46.	State the nutrition sensitive outcome indicators in the plan.		
47.	Comments:		

Annex 2. FGD Guide

Review of Food and Nutrition Components of 17 Districts Assemblies

FGD GUIDE—for Members of the District Planning Team

1. What process did you go through to develop the 2022–2025 MTDP of the assembly?
2. How different was this process from what was used to develop previous plans?
3. What process did you go through to get FNS issues, strategies and activities integrated into the 2022–2025 MTDP of your assembly?
4. How different was this process from what was used to integrate FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2018–2022 MTDP?
5. Which relevant stakeholders (e.g., district departments, development partners, community members) were involved in the process to get FNS issues, strategies and activities integrated into the 2022–2025 MTDP?
6. What roles did the stakeholders play in the process to get FNS issues, strategies and activities integrated into the 2022–2025 MTDP?
7. How will you describe the level of integration of FNS issues, strategies, and activities into your 2022–2025 MTDP compared to that of the 2018–2021?
8. If the level of integration of FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2022–2025 MTDP has increased or decreased, what factors will you say accounted for that?
9. (If support from USAID is not mentioned, please probe for how the support from the USAID contributed to the increase in the integration of FNS issues into the 2022–2025 MTDP)
10. What role did the district nutrition coordinating committee play in getting FNS issues, strategies, and activities integrated into the 2022–2025 MTDPs?
11. What worked well during the process to integrate FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2022–2025 MTDP?
12. What did not work well and could have been done better?
13. What lessons have you learned from the process of integrating FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2022–2025 MTDP?
14. Based on your experiences and lessons learned, what would you like to see changed (added or removed) in the process of integrating FNS issues, strategies and activities in the MTDPs of assemblies?
15. Do you have any other comments?

Annex 3. KII Guide

Review of Food and Nutrition Components of 17 Districts Assemblies

KII GUIDE—for Regional Economic Planning Officers

1. What processes did the USAID Advancing Nutrition project districts in your region go through to get FNS issues, strategies and activities integrated into their 2022–2025 MTDPs?
2. How different was this process from what was used to integrate FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2018-2022 MTDPs?
3. How will you describe the level of integration of FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2022–2025 MTDPs of those districts compared to that of their 2018–2021 MTDPs?
4. If the level of integration of FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2022–2025 MTDPs has increased or decreased, what factors will you say accounted for that?
5. (If support from USAID is not mentioned, please probe for how the support from the USAID contributed to the increase in the integration of FNS issues into the 2022–2025 MTDP)
6. What lessons have you learned from the process of integrating FNS issues, strategies, and activities into the 2022–2025 MTDPs?
7. Based on your experiences and lessons learned, what would you like to see changed (added or removed) in the process of integrating FNS issues, strategies and activities into the MTDPs of assemblies?
8. Do you have any other comments to make?



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION

Implemented by:
JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.
2733 Crystal Drive
4th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 703-528-7474
Email: info@advancingnutrition.org
Web: advancingnutrition.org

August 2022

USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project, addressing the root causes of malnutrition to save lives and enhance long-term health and development.

This document was produced for the U. S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared under the terms of contract 7200AA18C00070 awarded to JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. The contents are the responsibility of JSI and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.