

The Implementation Model of the Realigning Agriculture to Improve Nutrition (RAIN) Project in Mumbwa District, Zambia

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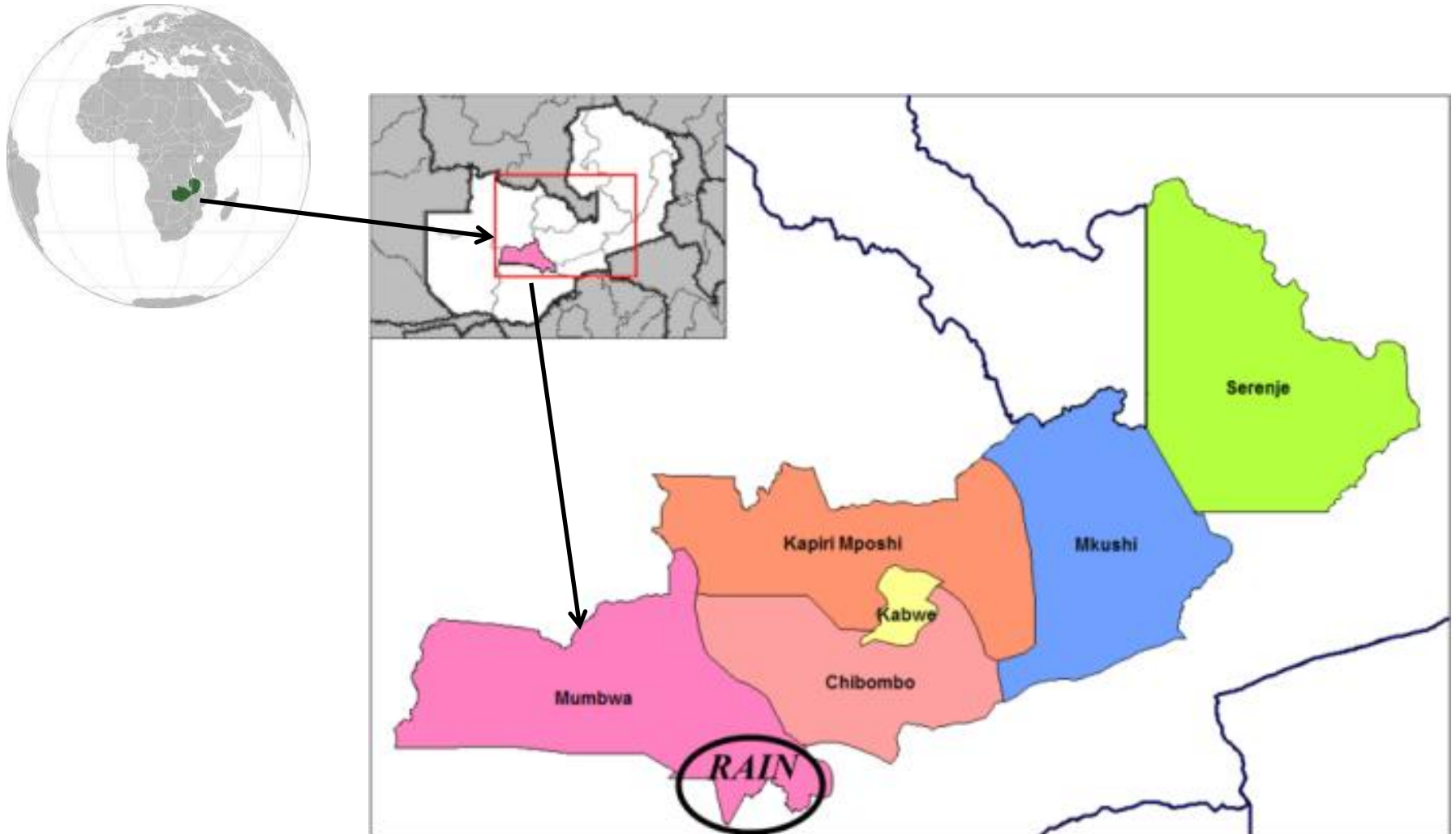
Outline



- ❖ Zambian context
- ❖ RAIN project model
- ❖ Cross-sectoral coordination process
- ❖ Lessons learned
- ❖ Tips for practitioners

Photo: Likumbi M., Kaeiya village, Zambia
Credits: Gareth Bentley

Zambia ⇒ Mumbwa District ⇒ RAIN Project Area





Zambian Context: Food Security

Bumper harvests in last 2 years:
surplus maize production but limited crop diversification



Photos: Maize field and harvest in Mumbwa District, Zambia
Credits: Christine Hadekel and Gudrun Stallkamp

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Zambian Context: Nutrition Security

	Stunting	Wasting
Globally	34	13
Zambia	45	8
RAIN project area	43	4



Photo on left: Children from Steven Village, Mumbwa District
Credits: Christine Hadekel

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Zambian Context: Sectoral Agendas

Ministry of
Agriculture
& Livestock

Cash crop production (maize/cotton),
input distribution (seeds, fertilisers)
"Food Security = Maize Security"

Ministry of
Health

Treatment of acute
malnutrition, control of
micronutrient deficiencies,
infant and young child
feeding

Ministry of
Community
Development
and Mother and
Child Health

??

NEW

National
Food and
Nutrition
Commission

National level coordination, SUN,
policy/ strategy development and guidance
New National Food & Nutrition Strategic Plan includes
prevention of stunting (official launch in June 2012)

Realigning Agriculture to Improve Nutrition (RAIN) Project Objectives

To **develop a sustainable model that integrates & realigns agricultural and nutrition/ health interventions** [...and] that can be replicated and brought to scale.

1. To **reduce chronic malnutrition** in children <2 years and improve nutritional status of pregnant/ lactating women.

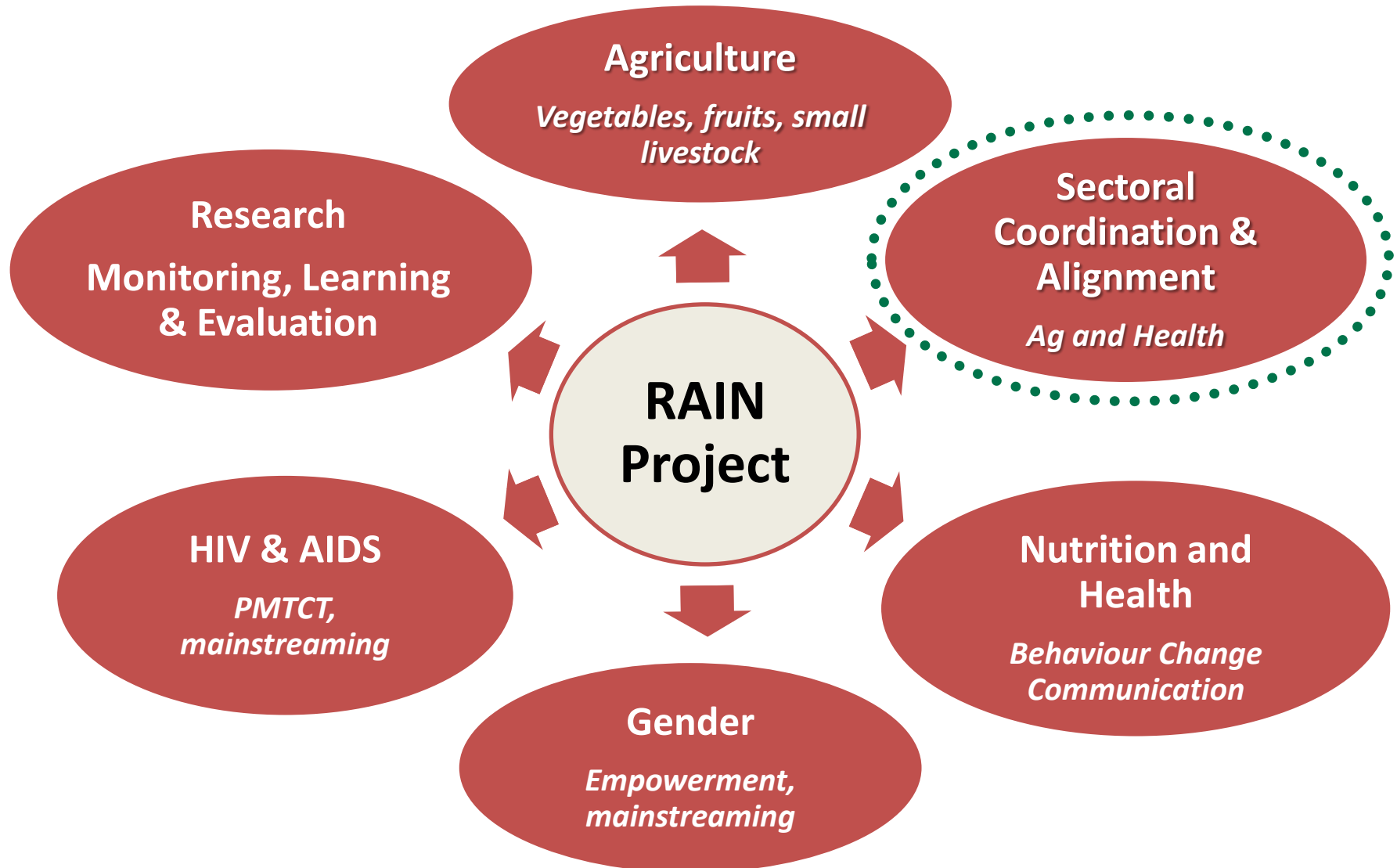
2. To **realign and integrate activities and mechanisms:**
Agriculture and Health Ministries

3. To **use and share evidence to influence** the local, national and international **policy agenda** to prevent stunting.

RAIN Project

- **5 year project:** 2011-2015
- **Partnership** between Concern, IFPRI, Government Ministries, partner NGOs
- **Working with 3500 households** that have pregnant/lactating women and children under 2 yrs.
- **Research design** to produce and share robust evidence:
 - 1 control area
 - 2 intervention areas:
 - Agriculture activities only
 - Agriculture and nutrition/health activities

Implementation Model



Sectoral Coordination and Alignment

National

(Advocacy: sharing learning from district and community levels)



District

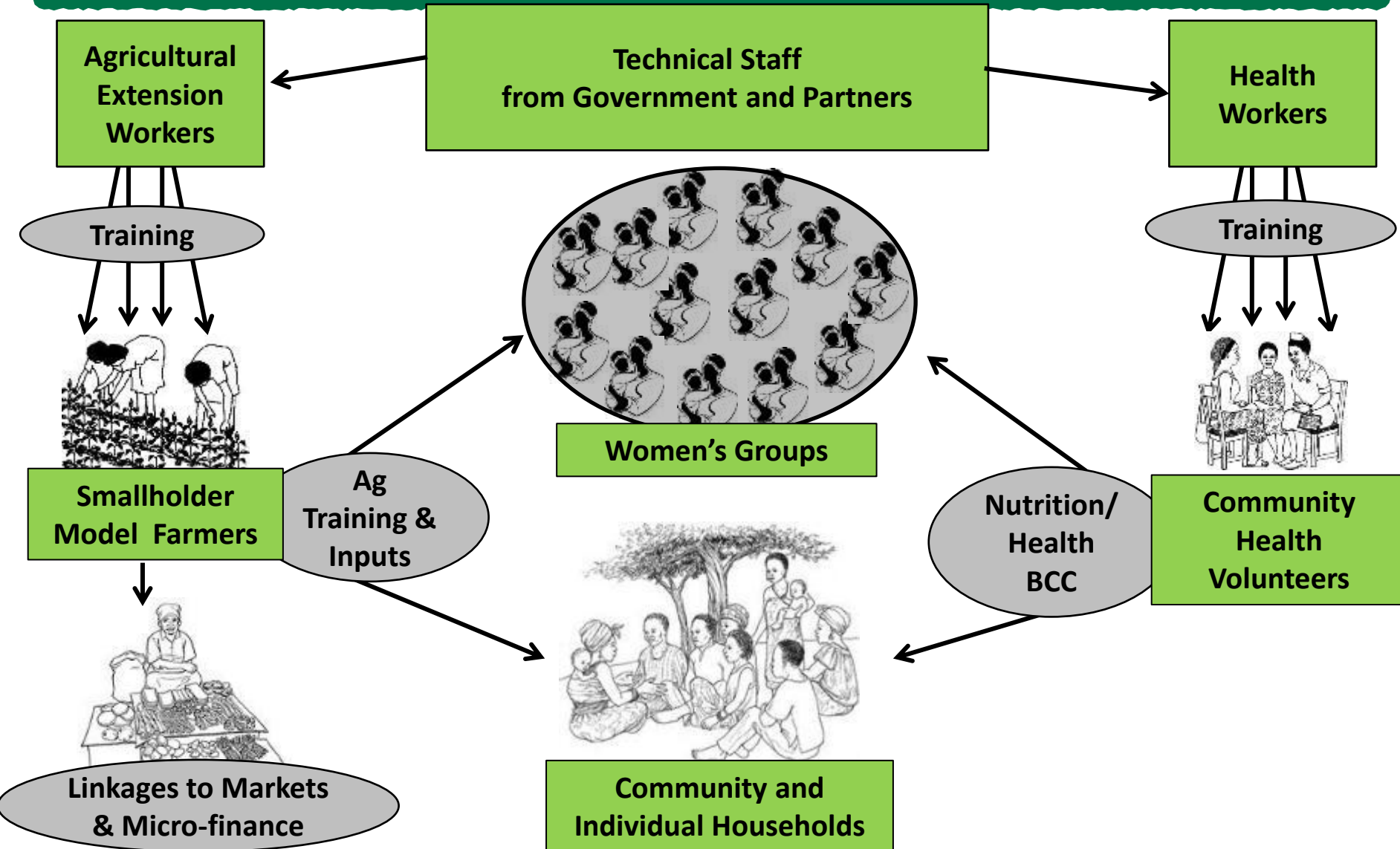
(Coordinated planning, budgeting, training, supervision, monitoring)



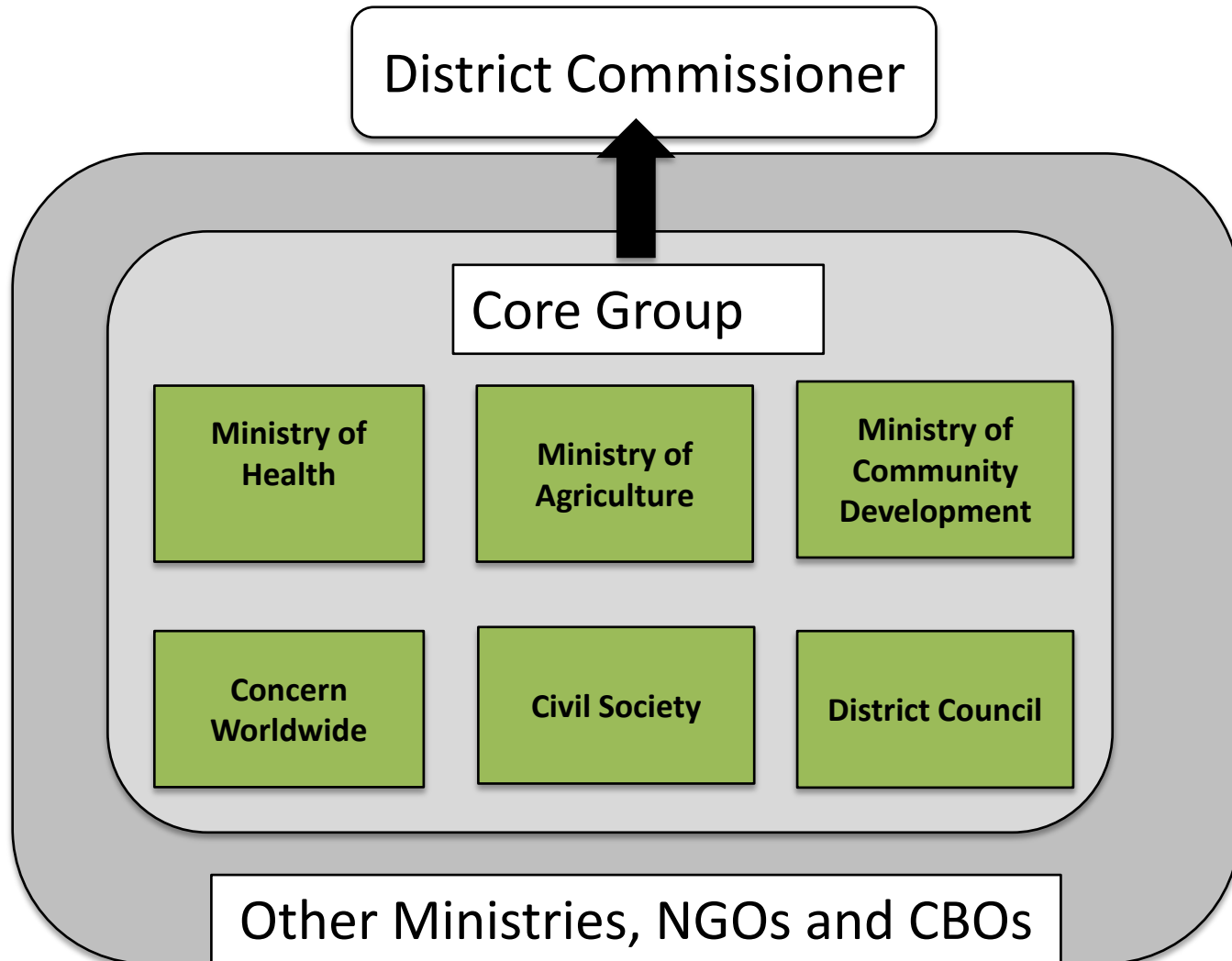
Extension/Community

(Joint trainings and implementation of community-level activities)

Coordination at Community Level



Coordination at District Level



Nutrition: Inherently A Cross-Sectoral Issue

- Nutritional security requires **coordinated cross-sectoral action**.
- Should not minimize challenges inherent to cross-sectoral coordination:
 - Government **administration** and **funding frameworks** are sectoral.
 - **Relationships** between ministries and agencies are often competitive rather than complementary and coordinated.
 - **Criteria** used to evaluate effectiveness of government actions does not emphasize cross-sectoral collaboration.

Requirements for Effective Coordination

- ✓ **The right enabling environment:** a supportive national policy framework that mandates coordination
- ✓ A **clear understanding** of sectoral priorities by all stakeholders
- ✓ A **clear strategy** to guide the coordination process
- ✓ A **key coordination function** to ensure the provision and proper distribution of resources made available to address nutrition
- ✓ A genuine commitment to fostering coordination at **all levels** (national – district -- extension/community)

Lessons Learned I

- Nutrition viewed as 'non-emergency' issue => not prioritized by overcommitted Government staff
 - Need to emphasize the **critical urgency** of addressing malnutrition
- Rationale for coordination is intuitive to stakeholders
 - Still need to continuously highlight **added value** of working together
- Individual personalities play significant role in determining success of coordination efforts
 - Need to cultivate **deep personal commitment** amongst leadership to address malnutrition via coordinated efforts

Lessons Learned II

- Coordination efforts need to be officially driven by a **‘neutral’ body with political authority**
 - Use **rotating system** for leading the process
- Frequent Government staff turnover can lead to lack of institutional memory/ commitment to coordination process
 - **Document** coordination process thoroughly
- Commitment does not always translate to action
 - **Engage in advocacy** efforts at both national and district levels to hold sectoral partners accountable to commitments

Tips for Practitioners

Build in meaningful opportunities for...

- ❖ **Continuous and in-depth dialogue** across sectors (start early!)
- ❖ **Personal leadership development** of key drivers
- ❖ **Ownership** of process and outcomes by stakeholders
- ❖ **Public recognition** of coordination efforts
- ❖ **Regular reflection** on coordination process and subsequent adjustment
- ❖ **Documentation** of successes and learning to share nationally

Final Thought from the Field...



“The benefit of us working together is that we can avoid having separate discussions with and about the same communities.

Coordination helps us to move ahead with solutions more quickly. As government workers, we want the community to work together as a team. But it is only when they first see us working as a team, that they then are also motivated to do so.

By working together, we can solve bigger problems such as malnutrition.”

Photo: Alfred Mwiinga, Environmental Health Technician, Luili Rural Health Centre, Mumbwa District, Zambia

Credits: Patrick Bentley

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