

IMPROVING NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS THROUGH A LINKED AGRICULTURAL NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS
IN NIGERIA: THE GINA STRATEGY. V.O. AMUWAH. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Asaba Delta State, Nigeria.

Abstract

The goal of the GINA (Gender Informed Nutrition Agriculture) project is to improve the nutritional outcomes, using agricultural-based approaches that explicitly link the work of agriculturist with that of nutritionist. Overall progress towards this goal was tracked by monitoring changes in "weight for age" of the target population, particularly children under five years of age. The project was designed to deliver these interventions directly to vulnerable, food insecure populations through field-based activities that build the capacity of community members to better address and manage their nutritional needs. The PAPNA (Participatory Action Planning for Nutrition and Agriculture) model was used to ensure community participation throughout the process of problem identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. GINA was concentrated on field-based implementation of core priority nutrition and agriculture activities such as the GMP, ENA and PD Hearth sessions, formation of production groups and provision of new varieties of seeds for both dry and raining season farming in selected communities in Nigeria. Key achievements amongst others includes: Conducted CBGMP, ENA and PD Hearth sessions. Strengthened capacity of members of the Project Implementation Committee and Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation Committee on project implementation. Enhanced capacity of mothers to ensure the survival of their children. Provided Improved varieties of some Agricultural inputs. The result showed an average percentage reduction in malnutrition in all project community to be 6%.

Introduction: The Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture (GINA) Project directly supports USAID's multi-sectoral response to combating hunger in sub-Saharan Africa, officially titled "The Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) which is designed to coordinate the US government's response to the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG): to cut hunger in half by the year 2015. The GINA project was designed to deliver these interventions directly to vulnerable, food-insecure populations through field based activities that build the capacity of community members to better manage their nutritional needs.

Objectives: The primary objective of the Initiative is to rapidly and sustainably increase agricultural growth and rural incomes in sub-Saharan Africa

Methods: Baseline surveys were carried out in all the GINA communities. Key components of the survey include; anthropometric assessment of U5 children disaggregated by gender, socio economic analysis of the major agricultural inputs, food processing facilities and micro credit situation in the communities and the analysis of GMP data. Also, volunteers were trained on CBGMP and PD/Hearth in all the GINA States which led to the conduct of the CBGMP and PD Hearth on a monthly basis. Other key interventions were carried out based on the result of the CBGMP analyzed.

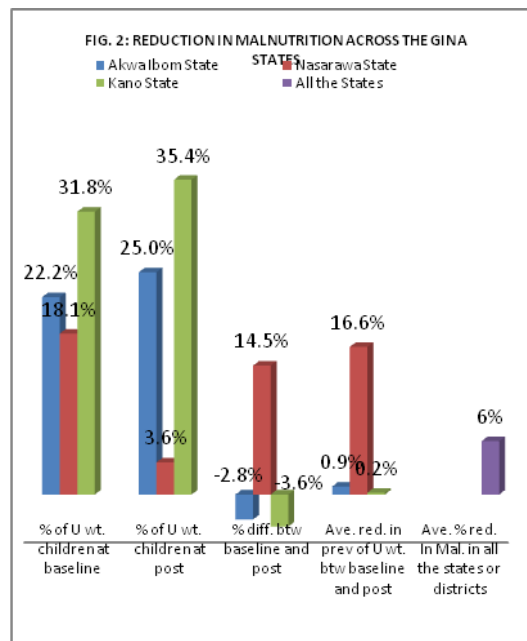
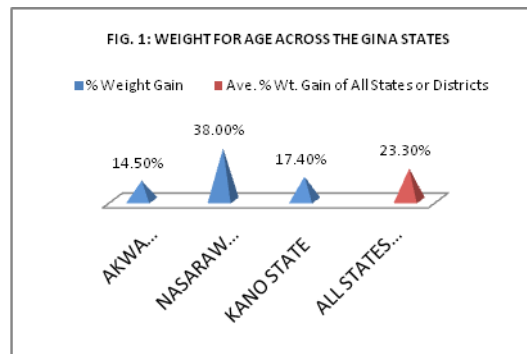


FIG3: MINI WATER FACILITY



Results: Achievements

AKWA IBOM STATE	NASARAWA STATE	KANO STATE
Construction of one water borehole facility in each GINA community	Construction/Repair of hand pump water borehole facility	Construction of wells/ hand pump fitted water borehole
Micro-credit for income generation for women	Micro-credit for income generation for women	Micro-credit for income generation for women
Micro-credit for agric input	Micro-credit for agric input	Micro-credit for agric input
CBGMP and PD Hearth sessions	CBGMP and PD Hearth sessions	CBGMP and PD Hearth sessions
Construction of one food processing facility (cassava and palm oil)	Construction of two groundnut processing facilities	-
Built capacity of members of the PIC on project implementation	Built capacity of members of the PIC on project implementation	Built capacity of members of the PIC on project implementation
Built capacity of women in community project planning and implementation	Built capacity of women in community project planning and implementation	Built capacity of women in community project planning and implementation
Enhanced capacity of mothers to ensure the survival of their children	Enhanced capacity of mothers to ensure the survival of their children	Enhanced capacity of mothers to ensure the survival of their children

Conclusion:

The GINA project irrespective of the challenges/constraints ranging from initial suspicion/inertia from community members to bureaucratic delays, was able to record some level of success and created opportunities for multi sectoral and inter agency collaboration. The building and strengthening of capacity of community members and local institutions respectively was a formidable base for project sustainability

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