

Assessing Supportive Policy Environments

Accelerating the use of evidence to address nutrition and WASH inequities among poor urban children and adolescents in East Africa



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USAID'S HEALTH EVALUATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (HEARD) PROJECT



African Population and Health Research Center



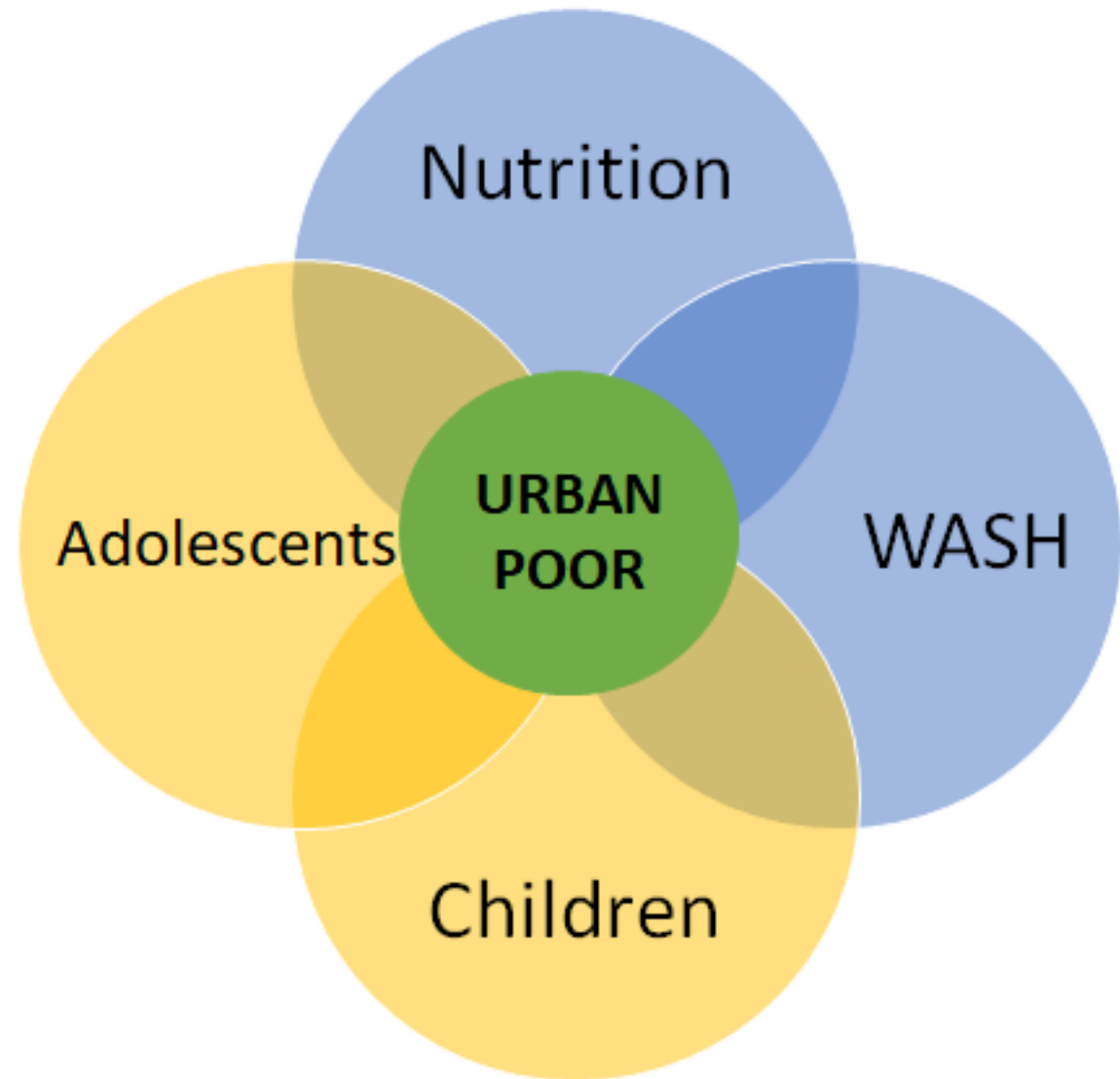


Policy Review

- Methods: desk review and stakeholder engagement to identify relevant policies and:
 - Assess current policy environment and whether it is supportive of our target population
 - Identify gaps and opportunities



Does the policy environment address inequities facing our target population?



Sources of Data Identified

Source of data	Policy review	Stakeholder mapping & community-based data collection*		Literature & database review
Country	Domains of Influence			
	Policies and strategies	Programs and initiatives	Key actors	Formal/informal systems for healthcare and food and environmental factors
Kenya	Policy and strategy documents reviewed [85]	Programs reviewed [67]	Stakeholder mapping [21]	Literature assessed [91] Databases assessed [48]
Tanzania	Policy and strategy documents reviewed [14]	Programs reviewed [10]	Stakeholder mapping [9]	Literature assessed [35] Databases assessed [6]
Uganda	Policy and strategy documents reviewed [10]	Programs reviewed [23]	Stakeholder mapping [16]	Literature assessed [27] Databases assessed [5]

- **Gaps:** Few policies addressing nutrition and WASH among **urban poor** in all three countries
- Lack of policies supporting adolescent nutrition and WASH in general



Example of Policies & Strategies Identified from Uganda

*Ten (10) policies and strategies were identified:
8 for Nutrition
2 for WASH*



CONSTITUTION OF
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
(1995)



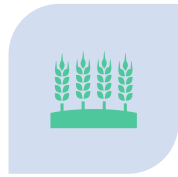
THE NATIONAL WATER
POLICY (1999)



THE SECOND
NATIONAL HEALTH
POLICY (NHPII) 2010



THE UGANDA
NUTRITION ACTION
PLAN (UNAP I) 2011



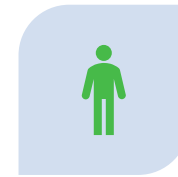
THE NATIONAL
AGRICULTURE POLICY
(NAP) (2013)



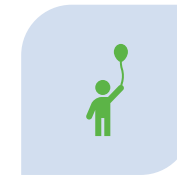
THE NATIONAL POLICY
ON MONITORING AND
EVALUATION 2013



THE SOCIAL
PROTECTION POLICY
(2015)



THE MALE
INVOLVEMENT
STRATEGY (2015)



THE NATIONAL
INTEGRATED EARLY
CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT POLICY
(2016)



THE EDUCATION
SECTOR STRATEGIC
PLAN (ESSP 2017-
2020)



Policy and Strategy Findings

Uganda:

- Commitment to national and international nutrition initiatives manifested by Uganda National Nutrition Policy (UNAP)
- Well-established institutional framework for policy coordination at all levels of government (Parliament, central and local)
- Government finalizing multi-sectoral UNAP II, which addresses causes of malnutrition at all levels

Kenya:

- Strong multi-sectoral collaboration during policy development
- Lack of nutrition policies targeting the needs of adolescents
- Limited policies addressing WASH, over-nutrition, and specific contexts (e.g., urban vs. rural)

Tanzania:

- Absence of urban policies, plans, or statements addressing urban slums except those related to land and settlement
- The National Health Policy, Food and Nutrition Policy don't address nutrition among children and adolescents in urban slums
- New or existing policies should address the health, nutrition and WASH needs of the urban poor population



Informing Action in Uganda

The assessment effort informed action by:

1. Catalyzing policy development in urban health and solid waste management and plans to revise nutrition/WASH policies to reflect the needs of the urban poor
2. Interest from the Ministry of Education on cross-sectoral discussions
3. More openness among practitioners about what policies/organizations are doing and where to avoid duplication of services; greater appreciation for the need for multi-sectoral approaches to health

"This an eye opener especially to us urban planners, we must begin to pay special attention to the urban poor."

Urban Planner
Kampala



Informing Action in Kenya & Tanzania

Tanzania

- Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEG) requested study materials to assist with priority and budget development for 2021
- Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MNAP) 2021-2025 to include needs of the urban poor

Kenya

- Advanced dialogue in the area of adolescent nutrition, school feeding and optimization of WASH in community/schools
- Despite existing nutrition and WASH policies, efforts are needed to strengthen the capacity of institutions to implement



Informing Regional Policy Advocacy

Engaging regional stakeholders throughout—e.g. at the ECSA-HC Best Practices Forum—resulted in a ministerial resolution on governance and equity-oriented policies for urban health.



ECSA/HMC/67/R3: Governance and Equity-Oriented Policies for Urban Health

1. Establish or strengthen formal frameworks for multisectoral engagements to improve delivery of urban health services.
2. Embed implementation research into urban health policy and program to inform ongoing decision making.



Conclusions and Recommendations

Policy environment can be strengthened by:

- Revising the current policies to reflect the needs of the urban poor
- Slum upgrading projects should respond to multidimensional needs of the poor
- Involving urban poor in the policy development
- Reflecting needs of urban poor in WASH/nutrition and agriculture policies
- Focusing on urban poverty and nutritional security
- Orienting policies to advance gender equity

