FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

2018 Feed the Future IP Meeting:

RING Project Presentation on Sustainability

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Photo credit: Clarissa Heger/Global Communities RING

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Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) Project

RING Goals & Objectives

- Poverty and malnutrition reduction
  - *20% reduction in anemia, underweight, stunting, and wasting*
  - *80% of households increase income by 100%*
- Direct funding & implementation through GOG partners, focusing on strengthening existing systems for sustainable results
  - *17 MMDAs*
  - *7 Departments of the NRCC*

Addressing Factors that Affect Sustainability

- **Stakeholders**
  - Regular feedback solicited & incorporated
  - Flexible programming, adaptable to shifting needs
  - *Substantive* engagement of GOG as decision-makers
- **Building on Existing Structures**
  - Includes existing structures within GOG, as well as past USAID or other DP programming
  - Appreciative inquiry approach
  - Institutional memory required (GOG and USAID)

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Addressing Factors that Affect Sustainability

- **Host Country Policies**
  - Make use of complementary GOG frameworks and priority areas
  - Ensure programming is flexible to adapt to shifting priorities

- **External Factors**
  - Acknowledge political & environmental constraints & plan for them from the beginning
  - Frequent engagement w/ political leadership
  - Varied programming that is not solely dependent on weather/changing environments

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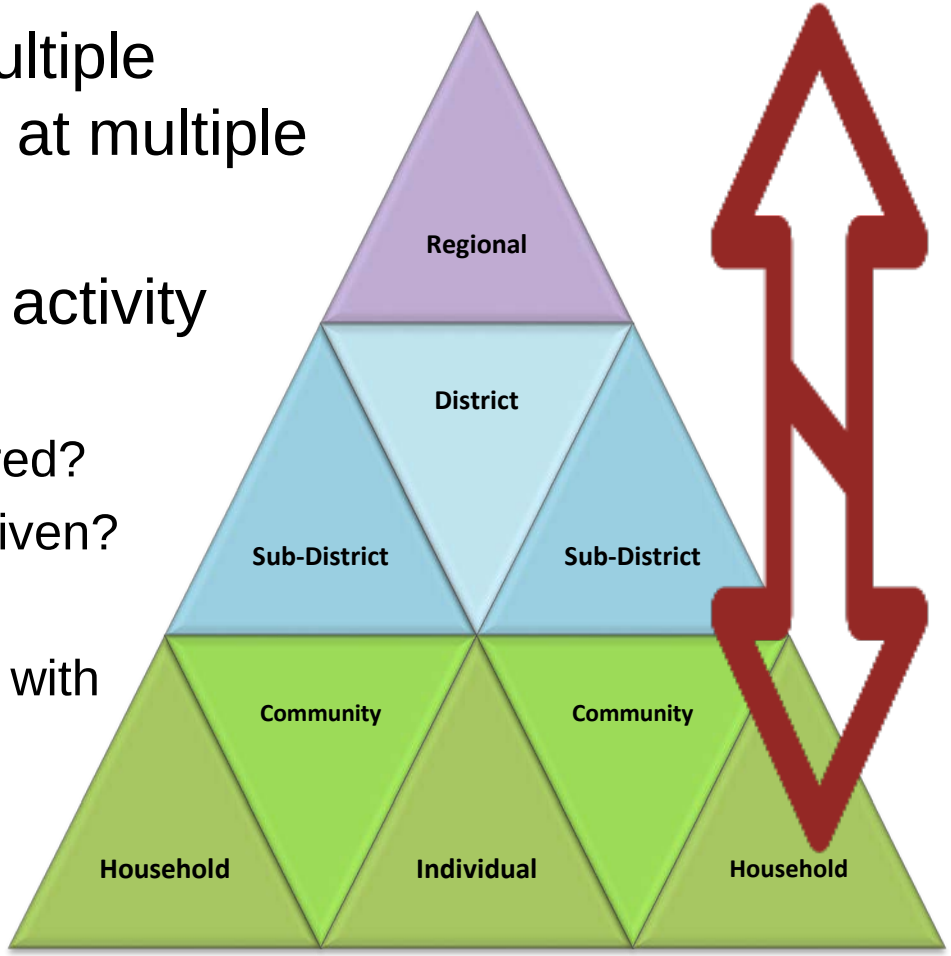
RING Implementation Approach

- RING activities operate at multiple levels = sustainability occurs at multiple levels
- Critical factors to examine in activity implementation:
  - What level of coordination required?
  - Is the activity truly beneficiary-driven?
  - Does it align with GOG policy?
  - Can the activity be implemented with high quality?



RING Sustainability Strategies – Guidance For GOG Partners

- Identify what:
  - Is working
  - GOG partners have truly prioritized
  - Communities have truly prioritized
- Regional support to districts should also be based on MMDA priorities

RING Sustainability Strategies – Guidance For GOG Partners

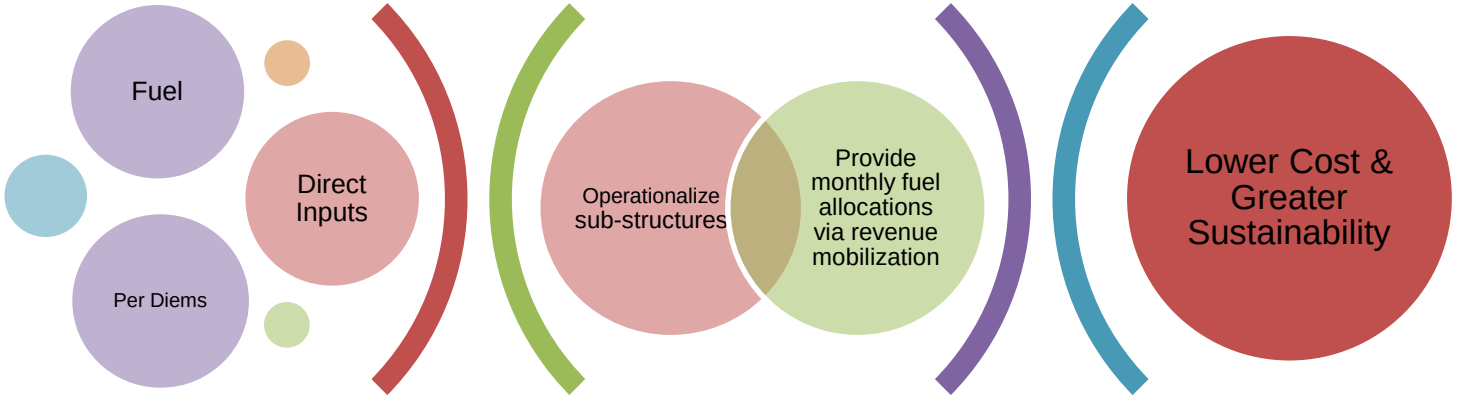
- Within this overlapping area:
  - What is financially feasible?

If not feasible, what can GOG do to make it *more* financially feasible?

  - Can the implementation methodology or level of inputs be reduced?

RING Sustainability Strategies – Guidance For GOG Partners

- Identify cost drivers and determine how best to reduce them



- Be practical about what can be achieved with funding available
- More engagement/oversight by district and regional management required

Strengths

- GOG priority areas – likelihood that many activities (or aspects) will be sustained if….
- Streamlined programming; easier to maintain
- Invigorated MMDAs
- Scale has been achieved in many activities (true impact)

Cheshegu CHPS health worker during ANC, Kumbungu District

Weaknesses

- …funding is available
- Short duration of program to change long-term systemic challenges
- Balancing ownership and GOG engagement with the required results of a TA contractor

Expectation

- Activities will be maintained as they are (particular expectation by donors)
- Capacity building is a worthwhile investment
- That progress and successes can be maintained at a pace that is achieved under development projects

Reality

- *Some* aspects can be maintained, but level of funding required may be difficult for GOG to sustain
- Turnover and transfers is a killer
- Heavy bureaucracy, strict hierarchy can limit creativity and prevent motivated officers from taking ownership over the implementation of activities

Expectation	Reality
• IPs will 'engage effectively with GOG partners'	• 'Engagement' may be more perfunctory in some cases; also a challenge with limited time and number of GOG staff
• Progress under RING is going to effect true (widespread) change	• Long-term, systemic change is required, especially when working with government partners
• Programming is integrated and it's working, so it will be maintained	• Technical offices tend to work in siloes; integration often project/ donor driven, though increase in GOG promotion on the rise

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