



**Overview**

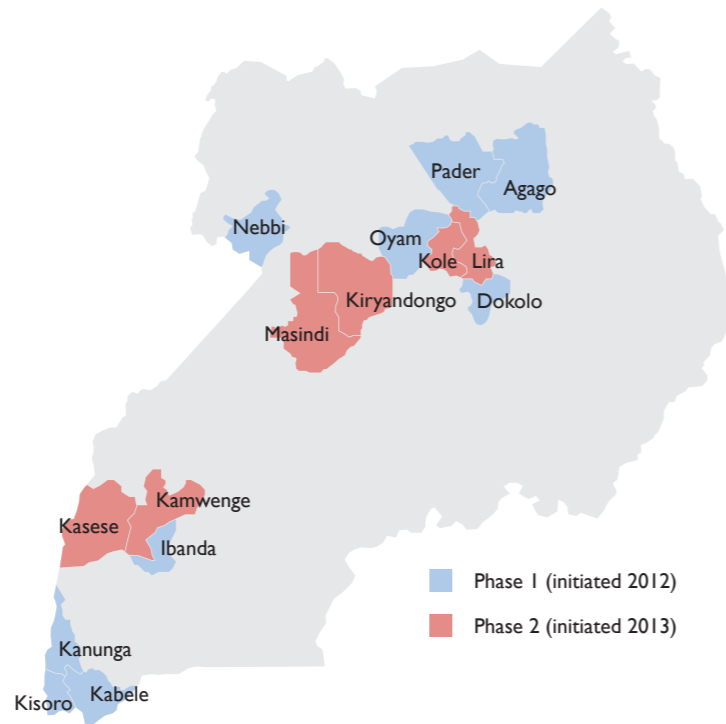
Prepared for USAID/Uganda by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Program implemented by The QED Group, LLC via AidWorks

Community Connector (CC) - a five year Activity beginning in January 2012 – was designed to contribute to reducing poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, and gender disparity through integrated community-level nutrition and livelihood interventions. USAID's Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) approach is a key feature of CC implementation.

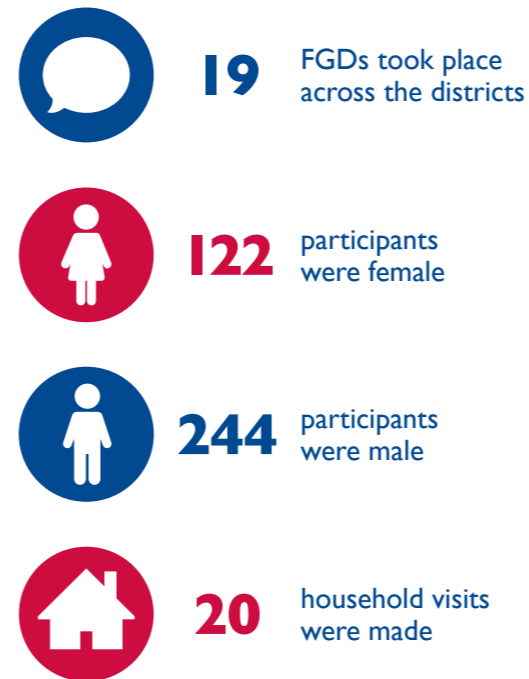
The purpose of this learning review was to document evidence and examples of program success, lessons learned, operational challenges and linkages to broader development goals. It supported the understanding the 'how' and 'why' that can inform USAID/Uganda's integrated program design and management efforts.

Data was collected through 19 FGDs, 20 household visits and key informant interviews with implementing partners. One-third of learning review participants were female. This infographic summarizes the learning review's key findings and lessons learned.

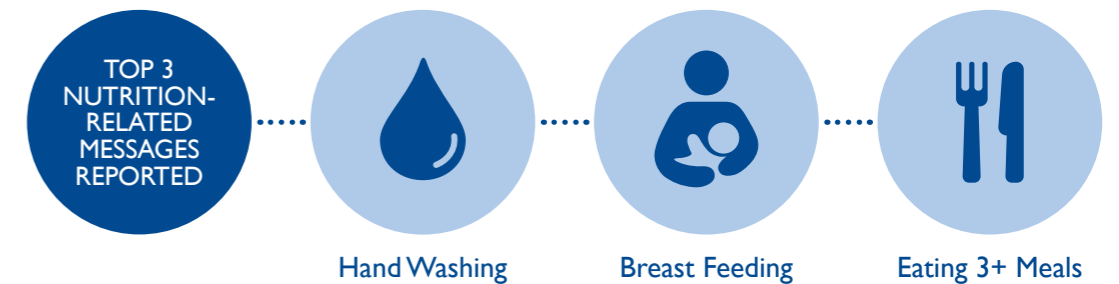
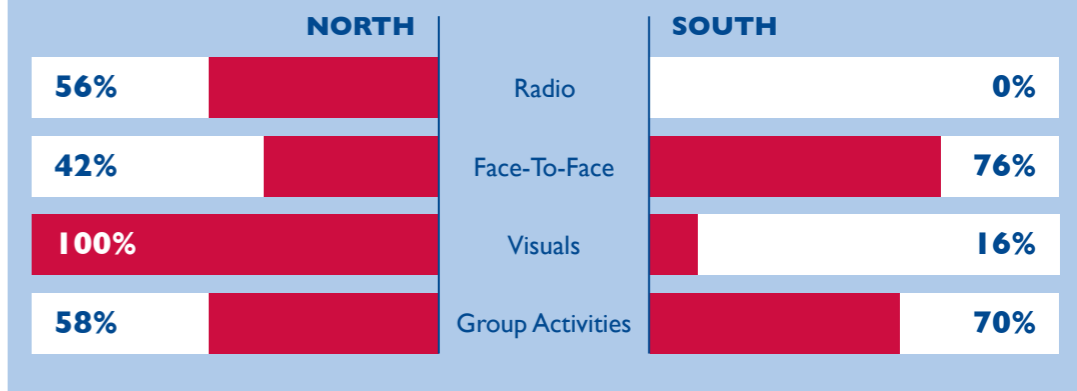
**Map showing CC districts and phase of implementation**



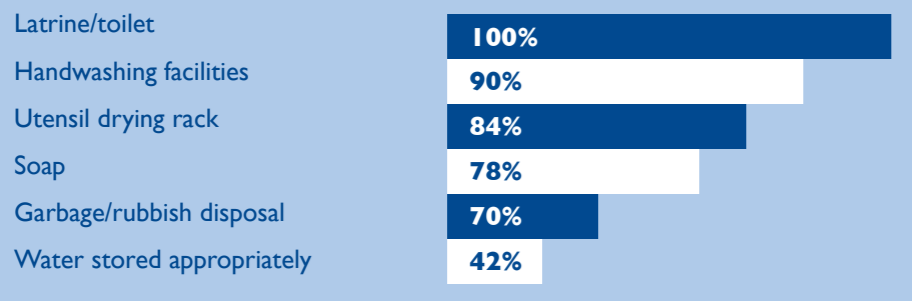
**Summary of data collection**



**Preferred method of learning nutrition messages**



**Households with the following Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Promotion (WASH) facilities**



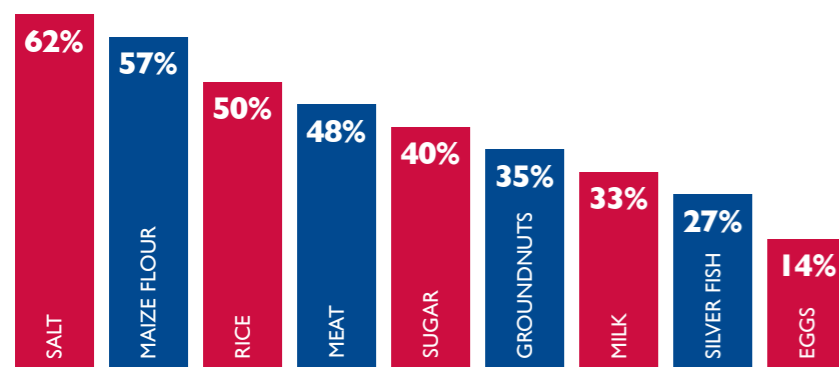
**Top 3 crops and livestock produced for income**



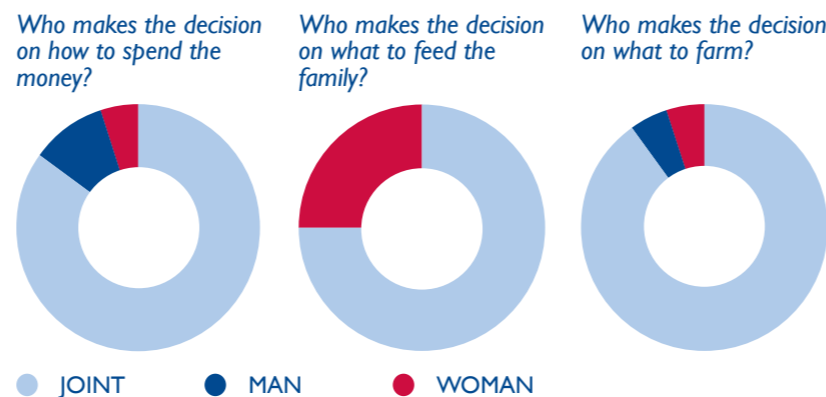
**Top 3 common tools purchased by household**



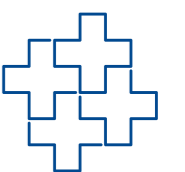
**Types of food bought with extra income at the household level**



**Decision making in the household (all regions)**



Left: Passion fruit growers  
Right: By-products; sim sim & pumpkin seeds





Learning areas	Summary of findings
<b>Overall</b>	<p>The success of CC was due to the integration of nutrition, agriculture and livelihoods.</p> <p>The established groups-called “SWAPs” provided an entry point into communities, and enabled sustainability.</p> <p>CC’s 10 clear benchmarks gave focus to households and communities.</p>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<p>SWAP was an effective entry point for providing behavior change messaging to the community.</p> <p>Nutrition messages were more effective when husband and wife attend the same group.</p>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<p>Poultry was the most successful income generating activity in both areas.</p> <p>Respondents stated that they had improved skills in agricultural practices and animal husbandry.</p>
<b>Livelihoods</b>	<p>The entrepreneur program provided a platform to generate income through different business models for individuals and groups.</p> <p>The Agricultural Service Providers and Community Poultry Vaccinators were sustainable activities in the entrepreneur program.</p> <p>CC has created demand for markets to sell produce.</p>
<b>Broader Development Goals</b>	<p>There were clear examples of how CC contributed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Integrated nature of CC helped increase income of households and therefore purchasing power for assets, financial capacity for diverse household diets, and ability to pay school fees.</p> <p>It was possible to implement a community program without ongoing incentives (the ownership factor).</p>
<b>Gender</b>	<p>Gender sensitivity was core to CC’s success.</p> <p>CC empowered women.</p> <p>Training in family cohesion increased discussion between spouses on income, reduced domestic violence and given we opportunity to discuss family planning.</p>

## Lessons for the future

1. Keep focus on the question of poverty reduction
2. Identify and track the effects of broader development challenges
3. Ensure better complementarity and collaboration vis-à-vis integration
4. Governance processes and governance structures cannot be ignored
5. Gender must be integrated for positive changes to last
6. Regularly test assumptions, update baselines and program context, and validate key interventions
7. Explicitly demonstrate the value of collaborating, learning and adapting