



SCOPE CODA in UGANDA

A Data Revolution in Addressing Malnutrition

BACKGROUND

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Health and with support from WFP and UNICEF, has been implementing the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) in the Karamoja region.

The major principles of IMAM are:

- **Maximise coverage** by making health services accessible to the malnourished;
- **Identify and treat** malnourished cases **early** before they present medical complications;
- Provide **feasible and adequate care** to the malnourished with the available resources;
- Beneficiaries **remain in the program** until they are cured.

The burden of acute malnutrition among children aged under five in Karamoja has remained, on average, around the alert threshold (10%)—based on findings from the WFP/UNICEF biannual food security and nutrition assessments.

The IMAM programme is faced with unique challenges such as low cure rates, long stays in the program, and difficulties in tracking assistance and in monitoring results. In addition, to this day, IMAM does not have a centralised system to manage care and enable better decision-making. These challenges affect programme management, efficiency and accountability, ultimately undermining any solution for long-term impact on the lives of the people of Karamoja.

To address them, WFP and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, will pilot the digitisation of the IMAM processes using SCOPE Conditional On-Demand Assistance solution (SCOPE CODA) beginning in March 2018 in the Moroto district.

SCOPE CODA

DEVELOPMENT & FUNCTIONALITY

SCOPE CODA builds upon WFP's existing beneficiary management system, SCOPE, by providing a unified platform for registering clients and monitoring their performance. This solution will enable information sharing across multiple social protection initiatives while improving beneficiary eligibility assessment.

SCOPE CODA follows the IMAM treatment protocol, allowing frontline workers to record information; track an individual's nutrition and health status; identify when a person has recovered; and indicate whether the treatment has been successful. The process involves an electronic database and a personal smartcard, given to each beneficiary upon enrolment, that holds treatment details required for follow up.

SCOPE CODA allows reliable, accurate, and timely transmission of records to a cloud-based server even where there is low bandwidth and poor connectivity. This information can be accessed online by programme implementers and decision makers in the Government, WFP, UNICEF and NGO partners, to improve programmes in near real time.



A DATA REVOLUTION IN ADDRESSING MALNUTRITION

Given that SCOPE CODA provides a unified platform for all IMAM stakeholders, it has the potential to improve coordination and facilitate the development of harmonised and evidence-based strategies to address malnutrition.

SCOPE CODA will allow for timeliness and quality of information flow through near real time reporting and eventually feeding into the existing health management information systems

The individual data collected in SCOPE CODA will be linked to other relevant database to eliminate double dipping from programmes and partners with similar interventions. The use of a single database presents a possibility of exploring the interaction between household-based programmes and nutrition programmes. Household characteristics and individual nutrition can also be easily explored.



THE WAY FORWARD

SCOPE CODA will be piloted in the Moroto district at Nadunget, Rupa and the St. Pius Health Centre III within the inception phase of the UKaid-supported Karamoja Nutrition Programme 2017-2021, while linking to the existing Karamoja Single Registry Modeling, where registration of individuals through WFP SCOPE has been completed in three districts (Moroto, Napak, Kabong) out of seven.

The solution will support stronger identification processes by applying a strict eligibility criteria that reduces the risks of inefficiencies in targeting, enhancing the efficiency and accountability of nutrition programmes.

At a later stage of implementation, SCOPE CODA will be complemented with biometric functionality. This will strengthen the IMAM beneficiary identification and management processes.



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