



# Food Security COVID-19 Learning Event

Navigating new possibilities in a rapidly changing world

June 21 – 24, 2021 | Online

## Adapting Child Nutrition Screening & Adaptations to Strengthen Communities and Health Systems during COVID-19

### Lominito Lomoru

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Food Security and Nutrition Technical Advisor  
AVSI Foundation  
Graduating to Resilience, Uganda

## Everyone must select a language!

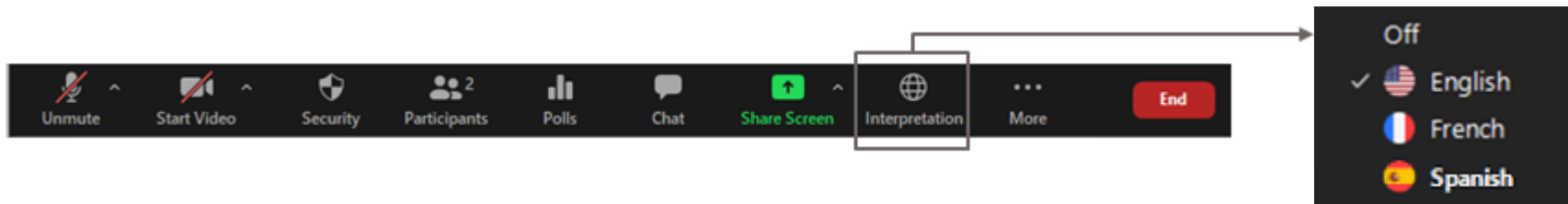
- Click "interpretation" at the bottom of your Zoom window and select English, French, or Spanish.

## Chacun doit choisir une langue !

- Cliquez sur « interprétation » au bas de votre écran Zoom et sélectionnez anglais ou français.

## ¡Todos deben seleccionar un idioma!

- Haga clic en "interpretación" en la parte inferior de la ventana de Zoom y seleccione inglés, francés o español.





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## COVID-19 Adaptations to Strengthen Communities and Health Systems in Kenya

**Lominito Lomoru**

Health Systems Strengthening Advisor- USAID Nawiri Project

# Overview



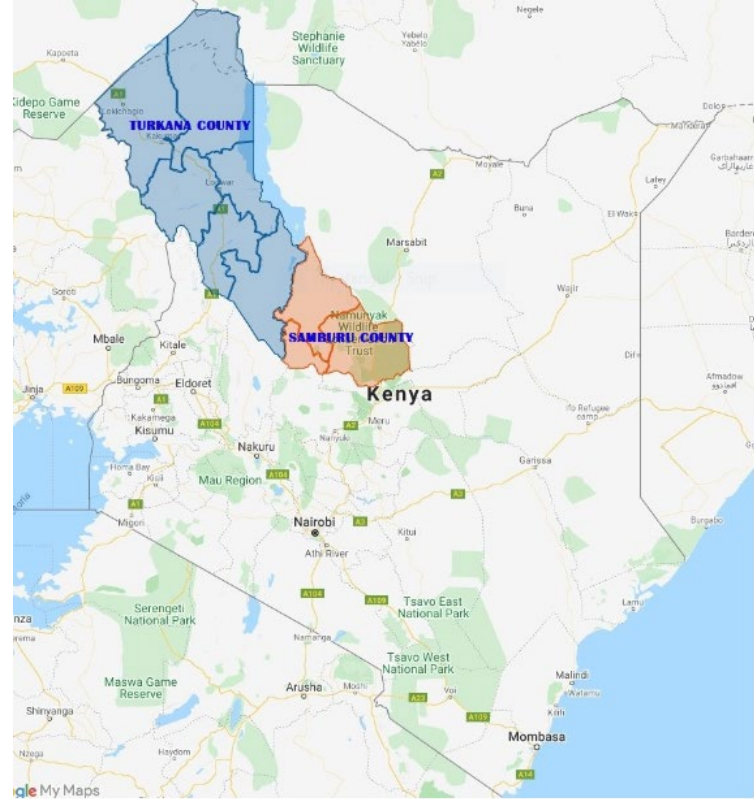
## **Agency:**

The USAID Nawiri activity focuses on sustainably reducing persistent acute malnutrition in children under five years in ***Turkana*** and ***Samburu*** counties of Kenya.

# Overview

## ***Context:***

COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures of social distancing, and low demand for health and nutrition Services for fear COVID-19 at perceived health facilities led to reduced nutrition screening of children and women. Equally, health facilities capacities was overstretched.





# Overview



## ***Approach:***

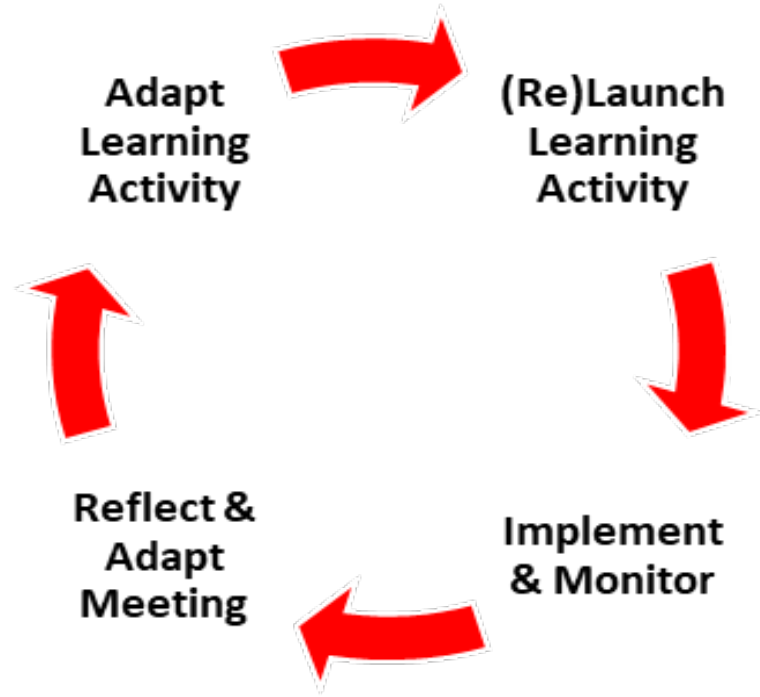
Nawiri responded by adapting and designing multi-level systems strengthening interventions to mitigate COVID-19 transmission while building health systems' adaptive capacity in the longer term.

# County level engagement

In **collaboration** with community, government, and other implementing partners, the team designed interventions aimed to respond to COVID-19 at:

- *Health facility,*
- *Community, and*
- *Household level.*

Designed **Learning sprint approach** to guide activity implementation, monitoring, reflecting, learning and adapting.





# Health facilities approach and adaptations

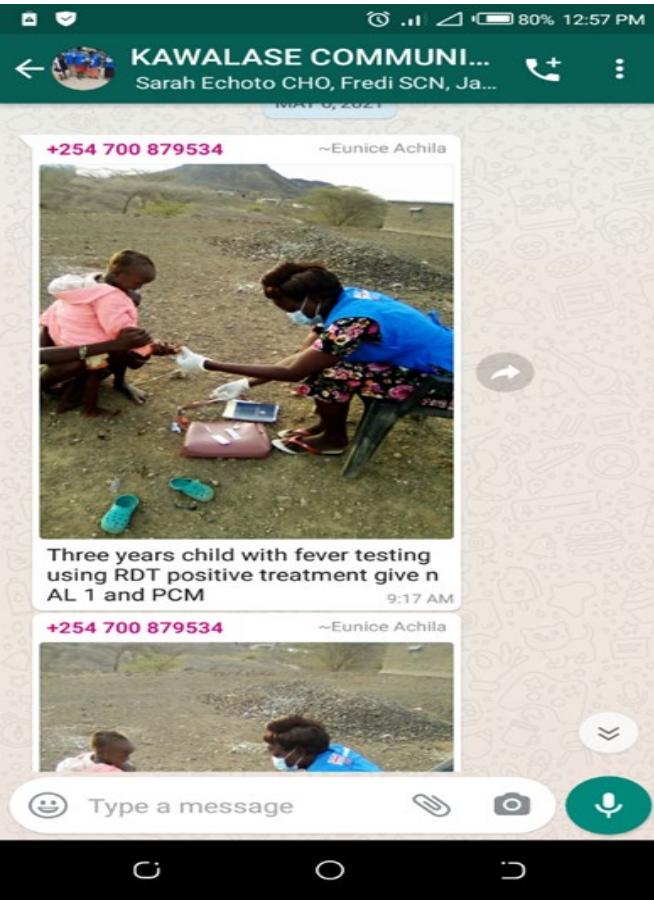


- Scaled up health facility capacity to respond to COVID 19 using the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Surge Model.
- Coaching/mentoring Health Care Workers on data collection, analysis, decision-making to health facilities on the adaptation of the IMAM Surge Model at the facility level.





# Responsive community health systems



Community Health Volunteers/workers undertake critical role in helping households understand and correctly implement COVID-19 prevention measures and access health and nutrition services. Nawiri supported capacity building of community health volunteers by:

- *Training on: Integrated community case management of childhood illnesses (iCCM) Community Management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), Use of family-led Mid-upper arm circumference strap (MUAC), and COVID 19 prevention.*
- *Enabling Use of WhatsApp messaging, and*
- *facilitating Community mini-dialogue sessions*





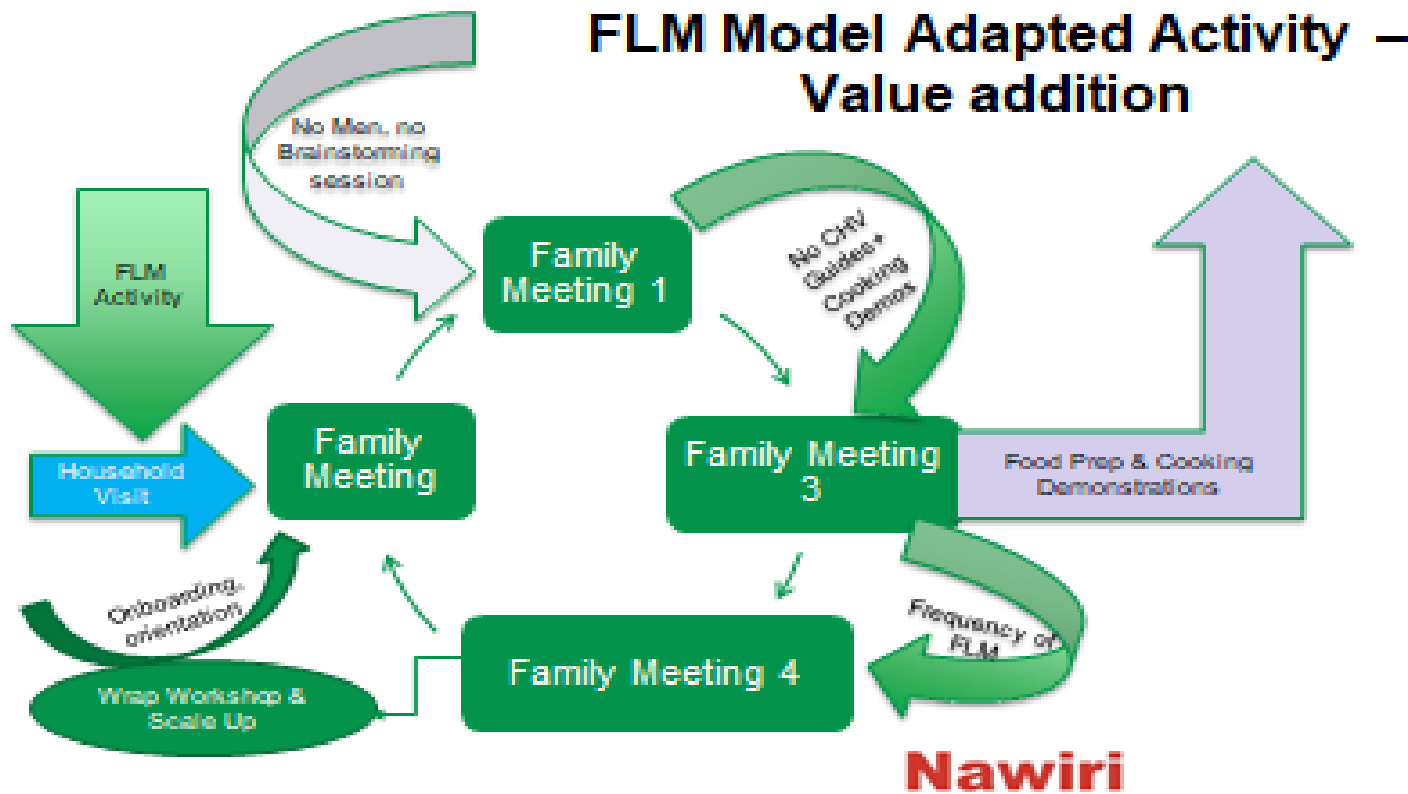
# Household level approach



- Use of family-led Mid-upper arm circumference strap (MUAC) at household: (Family-led MUAC).
- Family-level meetings including fathers and men

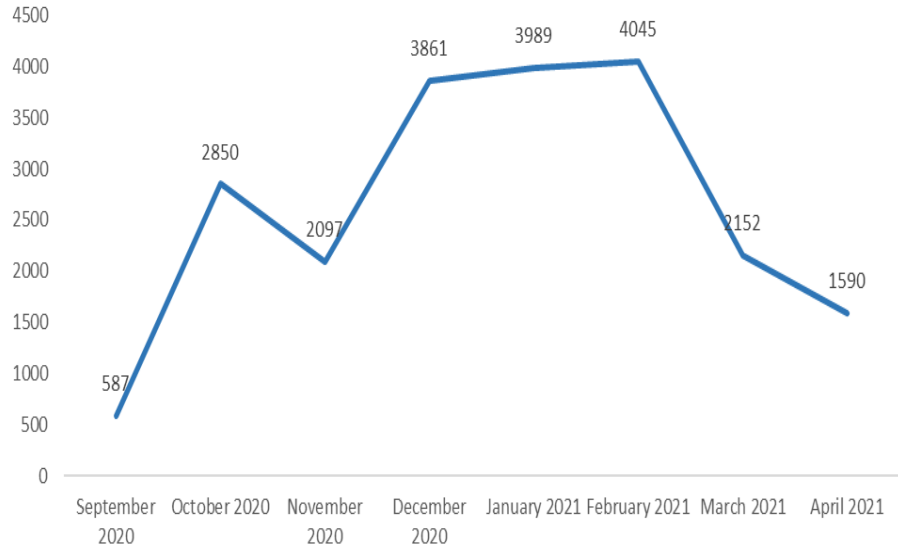


# Family meeting as adaptation for Family Led MUAC

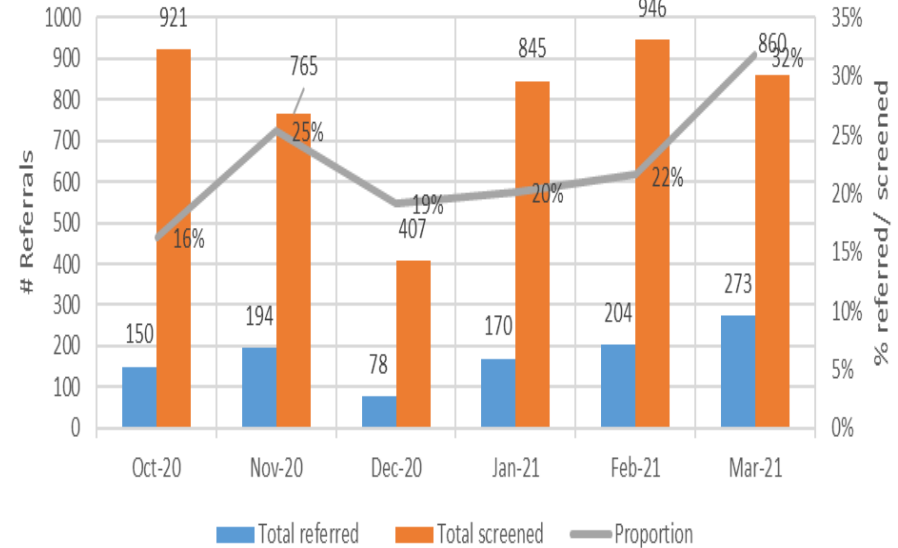


# RESULTS

### Turkana Referrals trend (Sep 20 - Apr 21)



### Samburu county Referrals Trend (Oct 20 - Mar 21)





# Key Lessons



1. While responding to shocks such as COVID 19, it is key to **develop interventions that will address not only short-term effects of the pandemic but also long-term mitigation interventions** that will impact populations health, nutrition and livelihood status.
2. During implementation of response activities there is a need to **continuously assess** the situation, **reflect, learn** and **adapt**. Learning sprints mechanisms and multi-disciplinary committees will be useful.



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# Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

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## Adapting Child Nutrition Screening During COVID-19 Lockdown

### Graduating to Resilience

Robinah Nannungi

Food Security and Nutrition Technical Advisor

AVSI Foundation

Graduating to Resilience, Uganda

# About Graduating to Resilience

- **Goal:** Extremely poor refugee and Ugandan households in Kamwenge district graduate from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self reliance and resilience
- **Budget:** \$36.7 million from USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
- **Implementer:** AVSI Foundation with Trickle UP and IMPAQ International
- **Period:** October 01, 2017 to September 30, 2024
  - Two cohorts and two refinement periods
- **Target:** 13,200 HHs (50% host / 50% refugee)
  - **Cohort 1 Target:** 6,629 participants and 37,585 members

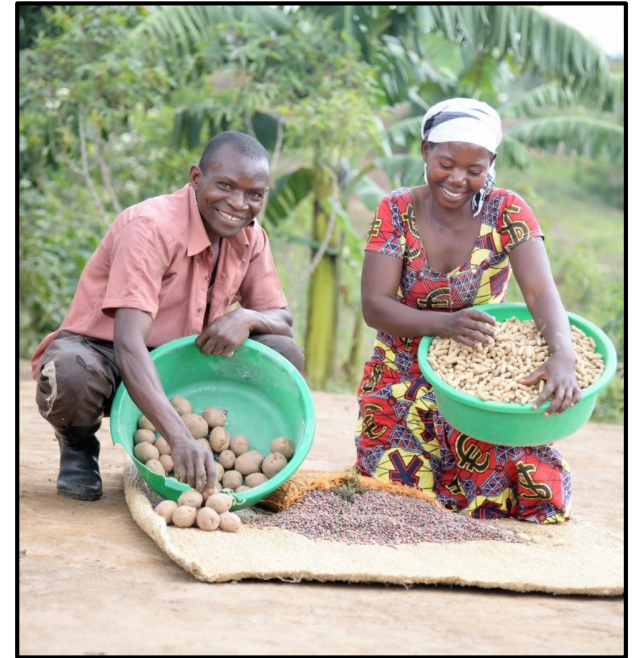
# COVID-19 Regulations

- COVID-19 regulations, like the closure of non-essential shops and transportation limitations, threatened the food security and nutrition status of participants.



# Context Assessment

- 88% of households took steps to prepare for COVID-19
- Of those, 98% said they did so by storing food



# Remote Nutrition Screening



# Collaboration

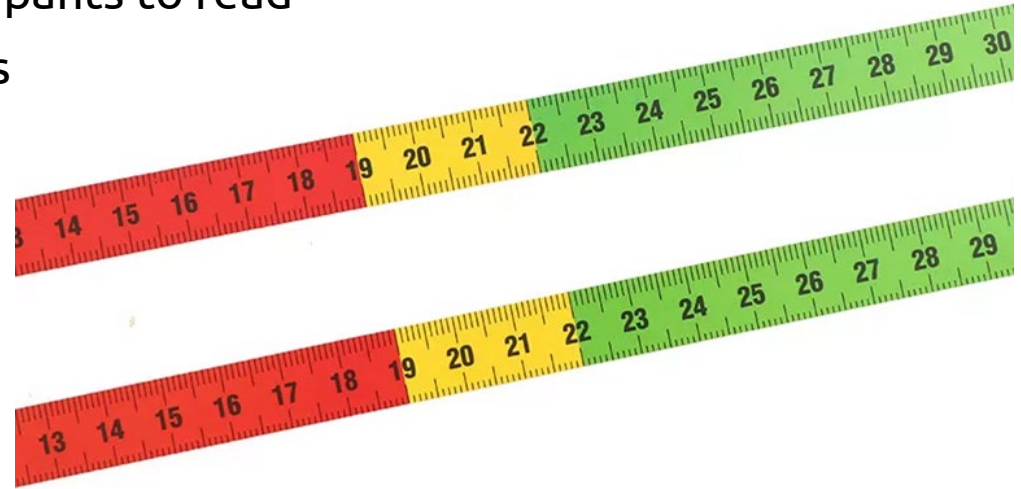
- Medical Teams International (MTI) trained Graduating to Resilience Program Officers
- Program Officers trained activity coaches and Government of Uganda Village Health Teams (VHTs)
- District Health Officer approved and supported the acquisition of over 4,600 MUAC tapes free of charge

# Implementing Family MUAC



# Challenges

- COVID-19 regulations limited movement of staff
- Teaching participants to read the MUAC tapes





# Mindset



# Successes

- 30% reduction in SAM and MAM
- 94% of participants reported “extremely well” in meeting food security and nutrition needs
- No participants reduced meal portions for children six months to five years of age
- Participants continue monitor their children’s nutrition status





**Achieving and sustaining  
any development  
outcome depends on the  
contributions of multiple  
interconnected actors.  
- *USAID Local Systems  
Framework***

# Thank you!

To learn more, contact

Robinah Nannungi: [robinah.nannungi@avsi.org](mailto:robinah.nannungi@avsi.org)

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