

Policy Issues for the Prime Minister's Response

1. Increase Domestic Financing for Nutrition Interventions

- Allocate more resources to nutrition programs, including the procurement of commodities to treat severe acute malnutrition and reduce child food poverty.

2. Integrate Nutrition into Social Protection Systems

- Incorporate nutrition-sensitive interventions into programs like the Uganda Women Empowerment Program (UWE) and Senior Citizen Grant (SAGE) to address food poverty among vulnerable populations.

3. Address Regional Disparities in Nutrition

- Prioritize regions like Karamoja, which have the highest rates of stunting (44%), wasting, and underweight children, and ensure equitable access to nutrition interventions across all regions.

4. Combat Anemia Among Children and Women

- Implement targeted interventions to reduce anemia, which affects 33% of children under five and 17% of women of reproductive age, with a focus on improving dietary diversity and micronutrient intake.

5. Transform Food Systems and Improve Food Security

- Promote the production, accessibility, and affordability of diverse and healthy foods while regulating the food and beverage industry to protect children from unhealthy food marketing. Address food insecurity, especially in vulnerable regions like Karamoja.

6. Strengthen Data Systems for Evidence-Based Decision-Making

- Invest in multi-sectoral national nutrition information systems, including the National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPIN), to ensure timely and accurate data informs policy-making and interventions.

7. Expand Access to Improved Water and Sanitation

- Prioritize rural areas and regions with poor access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities to reduce the impact of poor hygiene on nutrition outcomes.

8. Scale Up Interventions to Address Malnutrition

- Focus on reducing anemia (30.4% in children under five), improving dietary diversity (only 28.4% of children meet the minimum), and increasing meal frequency for households and children.

9. Strengthen Multi-Sectoral Collaboration and Accountability

- Foster partnerships across sectors (health, education, agriculture, and social protection) to address malnutrition holistically. Ensure full accountability for resources spent on nutrition programs by government and development partners.

10. Promote Breastfeeding and Address Gender Disparities in Nutrition

- Build on progress in breastfeeding (74% of newborns breastfed within the first hour) and address the higher prevalence of overweight and obesity among women (26.4%) compared to men (9.2%).