



National Common Narrative on Nutrition for Zimbabwe



Nutrition 10.0

Feed . Nourish . Develop



unicef 
for every child

Acknowledgements

The Food and nutrition Council would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the various government ministries and academia and development partners who contributed their time, expertise, and support in bringing the National Common Narrative on Nutrition to life. Their expertise, insights, and active participation in the process have played a vital role in ensuring the comprehensiveness and relevance of this transformative initiative. We would like to acknowledge financial support from UNICEF.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Acronyms	iv
Foreword	v
Executive summary	1
The State of Nutrition in Zimbabwe Today	3
The triple burden of malnutrition	3
What are the Gaps?	3
Vision, Goal and Objectives	6
Vision	6
Goal	6
Objectives	6
Conceptual Framework	8
Nutrition 10.0	8
Linkage between Nutrition 10.0 and the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework	9
Linkage between Nutrition 10.0 and the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy	10
PILLAR 1: HEALTH AND NUTRITION	12
Rationale	12
Actions	12
Summary	13
PILLAR 2: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS	14
Rationale	14
Actions	14
Summary	16
PILLAR 3: FINANCE	17
Rationale	17
Actions	17
Summary	19

PILLAR 4: LABOUR, INDUSTRY AND TRADE	20
Rationale	20
Actions	20
Summary	21
PILLAR 5: GOVERNANCE	22
Rationale	22
Actions	22
Summary	24
PILLAR 6: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	25
Rationale	25
Actions	25
Summary	27
PILLAR 7: SOCIAL PROTECTION	28
Rationale	28
Actions	28
Summary	30
PILLAR 8: WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE	31
Rationale	31
Actions	31
Summary	31
PILLAR 9: ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION	32
Rationale	32
Actions	32
Summary	33
PILLAR 10: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION	34
Rationale	34
Actions	34
Summary	36
Conclusion	37
Annexes	38

Acronyms

HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
GNR	Global Nutrition Report
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
MoPSLSW	Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare
NCD	Non-communicable disease
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
RUSF	Ready to Use Supplementary Food
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change and Communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SUN	Scaling-Up Nutrition
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

Foreword

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of responsibility that I present this National Common Narrative on Nutrition for Zimbabwe. I am honored to underscore the significance of this collaborative effort and its potential to transform the landscape of nutrition in our country. Zimbabwe has undoubtedly made remarkable strides in recent years in addressing the challenges related to food and nutrition security. Our collective dedication, as demonstrated by the unwavering commitment of various stakeholders, has laid a strong foundation for progress. However, we recognize that much work remains to be done to achieve optimal nutrition outcomes for all Zimbabweans.

The National Common Narrative on Nutrition represents a pivotal milestone in this ongoing journey towards achievement of *Vision 2030* with a healthier, food and nutrition secure Zimbabwe, and *leaving no one and no place behind* in this journey. The narrative serves as a testament to our collective vision, shared goals, and the power of multisectoral collaboration. By engaging diverse stakeholders from government agencies, civil society, academia, and development partners, we have fostered an inclusive dialogue that has led to the alignment of efforts and the establishment of common priorities. This narrative provides a comprehensive framework that guides us in addressing the complex challenges that hinder optimal nutrition outcomes. It enables the country to harmonize its actions, allocate resources judiciously, and implement evidence-based interventions that will have a tangible and sustainable impact. By adopting a unified approach, we are better positioned to leverage the strengths and expertise of each stakeholder, ensuring that our efforts are coordinated, efficient, and impactful.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the individuals and organizations that have contributed their time, expertise, and resources to the development of this National Common Narrative. Your dedication and commitment to improving the nutrition landscape in Zimbabwe are commendable. I would also like to express my gratitude to the technical teams, researchers, and experts who have provided invaluable insights and guidance throughout this process.

As we embark on the implementation phase, I urge all stakeholders to embrace this narrative as a guiding document, a compass that directs our actions and reinforces our shared commitment. Let us work together tirelessly, leveraging our collective strengths, to ensure that every Zimbabwean has access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. By doing so, we will create a healthier and more prosperous nation, where nutrition is not a privilege but a fundamental right for all.

I am confident that with the unwavering dedication and collective determination of all sectors and stakeholders, we will make significant strides towards achieving our nutrition goals. Together, let us chart a new course, united in our pursuit of enhanced food security, improved nutrition, and better health outcomes for all Zimbabweans.

Executive summary

This executive summary encapsulates the essence of the National Common Narrative, highlighting its key components, objectives, and strategic focus areas. The current state of nutrition in Zimbabwe is a critical determinant of the overall well-being and development of our nation. Amid commendable efforts and progress in recent years, significant challenges remain, necessitating a comprehensive situation analysis that informs the initiatives presented in this Common Narrative.

The purpose (vision) of this narrative is to create a unified and coordinated approach to improve food and nutrition outcomes across the country. The implementation of this narrative is guided by the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (MFNSS). In addition, this narrative provides an opportunity to enhance collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to address the gaps and challenges of malnutrition comprehensively. The objectives of the narrative are sixfold:

- To foster multisectoral collaboration.
- To advocate for policy alignment and unlock domestic financing for nutrition.
- To enhance data and evidence-based programming and decision making.
- To improve access to nutritious food.
- To enhance nutrition education and behavior change.
- To strengthen health systems and services.

The narrative acknowledges the role of every sector in solving nutrition challenges and ultimately eradicating the triple burden of malnutrition in the country. It is premised on the fact that there is no silver bullet to solving nutrition challenges, hence, it embraces holistic, interdisciplinary and multisectoral approaches in its design and implementation. The narrative is built around 10 pillars, which are nutrition and health, agriculture and food systems, finance, industry, labour and trade, governance, human capital development, social protection, water, sanitation and health, advocacy and communication, and research development and innovation.

These 10 pillars are interlinked and complement each other and are embedded within the conceptual framework of food and nutrition security which presents a holistic understanding of the interconnected elements necessary for achieving optimal food and nutrition outcomes. Understanding the interlinkages between these pillars and the food and nutrition security conceptual framework gives insight into how they collectively contribute to addressing the multifaceted food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe. The rationale and actions to consider in operationalizing the pillars are explained in detail in this document.

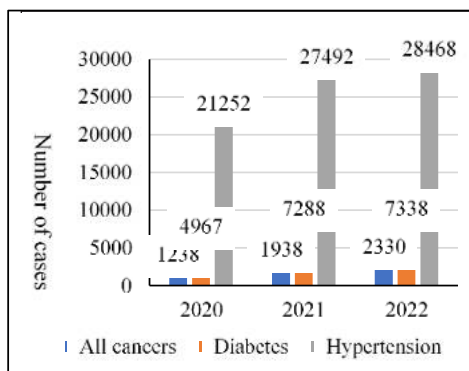
The State of Nutrition in Zimbabwe Today

The current state of nutrition in Zimbabwe is a critical determinant of the overall well-being and development of our nation. Amid commendable efforts and progress in recent years, significant challenges remain, necessitating a comprehensive situation analysis that inform the initiatives presented in this Common Narrative. This chapter provides a holistic overview of the current state of nutrition in Zimbabwe.

The triple burden of malnutrition

Zimbabwe is on course to meet three Global Nutrition targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) but is still facing the triple burden of malnutrition. That is;

- 1 in 3 children are stunted.
- 28.9 % of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia
- Only 41.9% of children are exclusively breastfed, and less than 5% of children receive a Minimum Acceptable diet (MAD).
- More so, routine health information indicates that there is a rise in the number of new cases of diet related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which reflect on the quality of diets and consumer behaviour.



What are the Gaps?

- The multisystem nature of nutrition requires **a strong governance** framework of policy coordination, public financing through dedicated budget lines across multiple sectors and horizontal and vertical accountability frameworks that recognize nutrition as marker of national economic growth and development.

- **Agriculture and food systems** are not adequately nutrition oriented. The food system significantly influences all nutrition outcomes, and not just undernutrition. The focus has largely been on improving food security and feeding practices, however, there is a need to strengthen food system programming to address micronutrient deficiencies as well as improve agrifood systems in provision of healthier food options for the prevention of overweight and obesity.

Poor diets. Diets of the Zimbabwean population are monotonous, and of poor quality, that is, characterised by high cereal consumption, high sugar and salt consumption and extremely low consumption of protein rich foods. In children, this manifest as child food poverty as shown by the unacceptably low proportion (7%) of children receiving a minimum acceptable diet. In middle age children, adolescence, and adulthood the poor diets contribute to the increasing rates of diet related NCDs and ultimately increased morbidity and mortality

- **The primary healthcare system.** The primary healthcare system must provide integrated healthcare services, including water, sanitation, and hygiene, to effectively treat and prevent all forms of malnutrition and associated co-morbidities.
- **Social protection systems** do not have defined food system and health system pathways to addressing nutrition vulnerability, especially for women and children with severe undernutrition.
- **Adolescent pregnancy and early marriage.** **1 in 3** girls in Zimbabwe gets married before the age of 18¹ and at least 17.9% of girls have anaemia². The interconnectedness between reproductive health, maternal education and nutritional status of adolescent girls can contribute to poor birth outcomes and inadequate infant and young child nutrition if not well managed. Pregnant girls are most likely to drop out of school during pregnancy or after delivery: poorly educated mothers are less able to recognise illness and seek treatment for malnourished children.

¹<https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/end-child-marriage-empower-women>

²Mutonhodza et al. (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1002/fsn3.3157>

Young mothers are at greater risk of birth complications (increased vulnerability of the child to disease and malnutrition) and spontaneous abortion (maternal and neonatal death). Adolescent mothers are more likely to give birth to low-birth-weight babies, vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. More so, the children are likely to suffer stunted growth in childhood, leading to mental and physical retardation. This will impact on intellectual capacity in adulthood and ability to work (limited income generation) leading to poverty (low income) and food insecurity (perpetuating the cycle of malnutrition).

- **Gender and nutrition:** Women and girls are hit hardest by malnutrition. Access to good nutrition is a basic human right and a fundamental component of human dignity. However, women and girls are twice as likely to suffer from malnutrition as men and boys, due to a combination of biological, social and cultural reasons³.
- **The poverty-malnutrition cycle:** Children in poor households are predisposed to undernutrition and are more likely to grow up without education, to be illiterate and have less access to reliable income to support themselves or their families. Girls out of school are more vulnerable to early marriage and pregnancy and may be less likely to adopt positive preventive and positive health-seeking behaviours for malnutrition and other conditions for new-borns. This perpetuates the cycle of poor education, reproductive health and negative health and nutrition outcomes for children.
- **Early Childhood Development:** Recognizing children's rights and investing in comprehensive ECD coordination is vital for promoting national development and breaking the cycle of poor nutrition outcomes.

³Nutrition International (2021). <https://www.nutritionintl.org>

Vision, Goal and Objectives

Vision

The vision is to create a unified and coordinated approach to improve food and nutrition outcomes across the country. It envisions a Zimbabwe where every individual has access to nutritious food, optimal health and well-being leading to a thriving and prosperous nation. This vision is guided by the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (MFNSS).

Goal

The goal of the National Common Narrative on Nutrition is to build consensus on the nutrition situation in Zimbabwe and set of actions to address gaps and challenges comprehensively.

Objectives

The narrative supports six objectives for all key sectors and stakeholders.

Objective 1. To foster multisectoral collaboration: Facilitate collaboration and engagement among stakeholders from various sectors, including health, agriculture, education, social welfare, and civil society, to promote a coordinated and integrated approach to improving nutrition outcomes.

Objective 2. To advocate for policy alignment and unlock domestic financing for nutrition: Promote the alignment of national policies, strategies, and programs related to food and nutrition, ensuring a coherent and synergistic approach to addressing malnutrition.

Objective 3. To enhance data and evidence-based programming and decision making: Strengthen data collection, research, innovation, monitoring and evaluation systems to provide accurate and up-to-date information enabling evidence-based decision making and targeted interventions.

Objective 4. To improve access to nutritious food: Work towards increasing access to diverse and nutritious food for all Zimbabweans, particularly vulnerable populations.

Objective 5. To enhance nutrition education and behavior change: Promote nutrition education and behavior change communication programs to raise awareness about topical issues in nutrition.

Objective 6. To strengthen health systems and services: Improve the capacity of health systems to deliver effective and high-quality nutrition services, including screening, diagnosis, treatment, and preventive interventions for malnutrition and related health conditions.

Conceptual Framework

Nutrition 10.0

The name 'Nutrition 10.0' aptly represents the 10 pillars encompasses in the National Common Narrative on Nutrition for Zimbabwe. It represents the holistic, interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach of this narrative. The '10.0' designation represents a revamped focus and an upgraded vision that recognizes the need for a transformative shift in the way nutrition is approached and prioritized across sectors. *Figure 1* presents the visual illustration of the components of the current common narrative. The narrative is premised on the fact that there is no silver bullet to solving nutrition challenges, hence the holistic approach in which the nutrition challenges are tackled from different angles in a multisectoral way. The narrative acknowledges the role of every sector in solving nutrition challenges and ultimately eradicating the triple burden of malnutrition in the country.

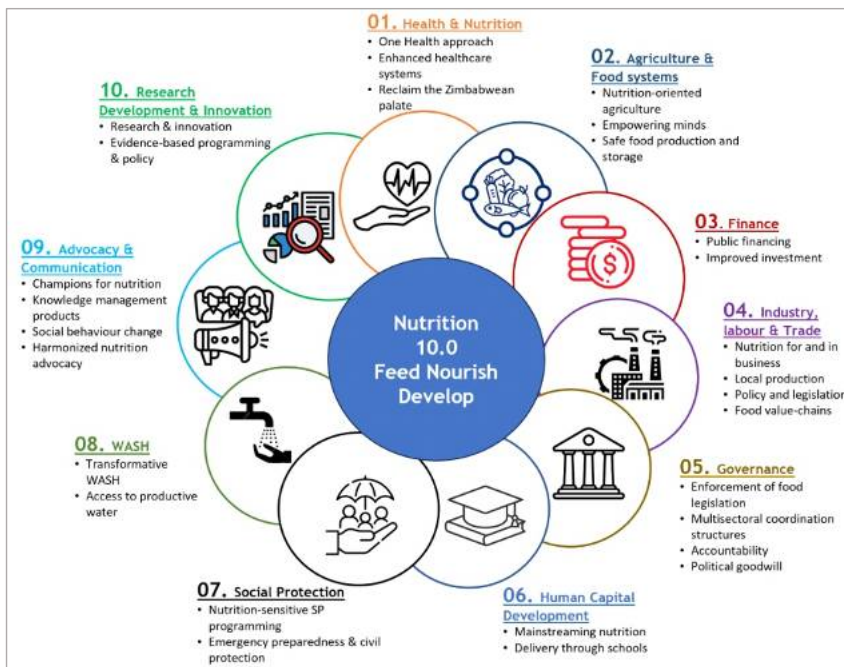


Figure 1: Nutrition 10.0 Infographic

The 10 pillars, through which the narrative is built around are nutrition and health, agriculture and food systems, finance, industry, labour and trade, governance, human capital development, social protection, water, sanitation and health, advocacy and communication, and research development and innovation. These pillars are interlinked and complement each other.

Linkage between Nutrition 10.0 and the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework

The pillars of Nutrition 10.0 are embedded within the conceptual framework of food and nutrition security which presents a holistic understanding of the interconnected elements necessary for achieving optimal food and nutrition outcomes. *Error! Reference source not found.*

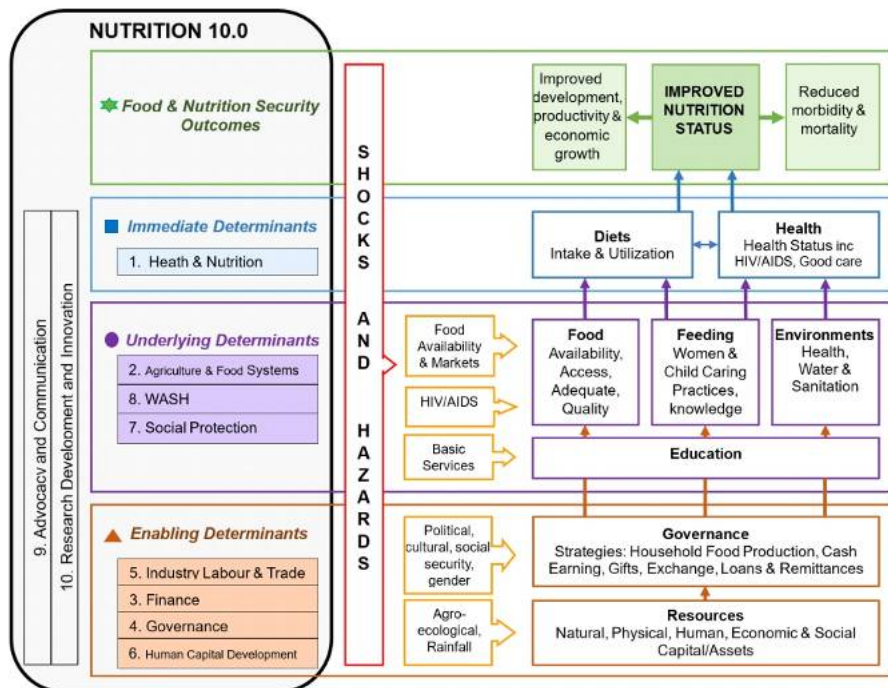


Figure 2: The linkage between Nutrition 10.0 narrative and the Food & Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework (FNC, 2023)

puts into context the positioning of the ten pillars which are highlighted in this narrative document. Understanding the interlinkages between these pillars and the FNS conceptual framework gives insight into how they collectively contribute to addressing the multifaceted food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe.

Enabling determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Governance pillar aligns with the framework's acknowledgment of the importance of effective governance in achieving food and nutrition security. ▲ Finance pillar corresponds to the framework's recognition of the need for financial resources to support food and nutrition security efforts. ▲ Industry, labour and trade pillar connects with the framework's recognition of the role of a sturdy workforce, industrial capacity to produce nutritious food in achieving food and nutrition security.
Underlying determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agriculture and food systems pillar connects with the conceptual framework's focus on food production, availability, and access. ● Water sanitation and hygiene pillar highlights the critical role of WASH in ensuring food safety, preventing diseases, and promoting optimal nutrition outcomes. ● Social protection pillar aligns with the framework's appreciation of the importance of addressing vulnerabilities and ensuring equitable access to food and nutrition. ● Human capital development pillar aligns with the framework's recognition of the importance of education in contributing to nutrition outcomes.
Immediate determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health and nutrition pillar aligns directly with the fundamental aspect of the conceptual framework, emphasizing the importance of improving nutrition status and health outcomes.
Cross-cutting determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy and communication pillar emphasizes on raising awareness, promoting behavior change, and fostering social mobilization. - Research development and innovation pillar recognizes the importance of evidence-based approaches and continuous learning in achieving food and nutrition security.

Linkage between Nutrition 10.0 and the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy

The National Common Narrative on Nutrition is well supported by different policies and strategies, the main one being the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security strategy. The MFNSS, with inputs from key Government sectors, operationalizes the Government of Zimbabwe's (GoZ) commitment to achievement of food and nutrition security for all as articulated under Priority Area 2, in the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) 2021-2025, and the Food and Nutrition Security Policy of 2012. The MFNSS seeks to reduce the food insecurity from 59% to less than 10% by 2025, improve food self-

sufficiency from 45% to 100%, reduce the national prevalence of under-five stunting from 23.5% to 17% and reduce the prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia in women of childbearing age from 27% to 13% over the same period, similar to the objectives of this narrative. The MFNSS has seven (7) Key Result Areas (KRAs) aligned to the FNSP, and these also interlink and complement the pillars on this narrative (Annex 1).

PILLAR 1: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

One health for better nutrition, Save one Save all

Rationale

An effective healthcare system is vital for addressing all forms of malnutrition, subsequently, integrating nutrition is a critical step in building comprehensive preventive and curative healthcare. As nutrition services are embedded in other programmes in the healthcare system, strengthening comprehensive integrated health services using the primary healthcare approach is paramount and should cater for nutrition along the lifecycle.

Actions

1. Enhanced healthcare systems for improved nutrition outcomes
 - a) *Comprehensive integrated health services*- This is an approach to strengthen people-centered health systems through the promotion of the comprehensive delivery of quality services packages across the life-cycle. There should be special focus on capacitating health institutions with skilled personnel as well as commodities to provide clinical nutrition services in light of the rise in new cases of diet-related NCDs.
2. *Reclaiming the Zimbabwean palate*
 - a) *Promotion of consumption of diversified wholesome foods*- Our food choices are largely influenced by the western culture, there is need to reintroduce and encourage consumption of diversified locally available healthy food options. Influencing healthy food choices is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) alone, there is need to capacitate multiple stakeholders to be able to promote healthy food consumption in their respective programmes. A multipronged approach to communication for behaviour change requires utilization of various methods and platforms for consumer education and awareness. This allows for wider reach and better impact of this intervention.
 - b) *Active lifestyles*- The MoHCC has a significant role to play in promoting active lifestyles among the Zimbabwean population through advocating for legislation compelling employers to implement wellness programmes, that comprehensively include nutrition, for employees.

3. One Health approach for improved nutrition

The One Health concept articulates that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked. It encompasses food safety, sustainable food production, and environmental stewardship taking into cognisance of climate change by bringing together interdisciplinary teams to work towards ensuring safe food and better nutrition. It is therefore imperative to mainstream nutrition-sensitive interventions into the one health approach.

- a) *Safe Food equals Safe Diets*- Safety and quality of food are essential components of a healthy diet. Government of Zimbabwe through all MDAs should enforce compliance to food safety standards along the food value chain. There is also need to strengthen joint animal disease surveillance programmes.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Health & Nutrition	Enhanced healthcare systems for improved nutrition outcomes	Comprehensive integrated health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen a comprehensive implementation of the health care package with equal priority to all components Capacitate health institutions with skilled personnel and commodities to provide clinical nutrition and dietetic services 	Ministry responsible for Health Ministry responsible for finance and investment promotion Ministry responsible for higher and tertiary education, SUNRAP Ministry responsible for Health, MoPSE, Public Service, Information, Justice and parliamentary affairs, Agriculture, ICT, Local government FNC ZIMSTAT Development partners SUN Networks Consumer protection commission
	Reclaiming the Zimbabwean palate	Promotion of consumption of diversified and wholesome foods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacitate multi-stakeholders to promote healthy food consumption Utilize various methods and platforms for consumer education and awareness 	
		Active lifestyles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for legislation that compels employers to implement wellness programmes for employees 	
	One Health Approach for Improved Nutrition	Mainstream nutrition-sensitive interventions into the one health approach	
		Strengthen joint human, animal & environment disease surveillance programmes	
		Safe food equals good diets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcing compliance to food safety standards along the food value chain 	

PILLAR 2: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Feeding and nourishing the nation

Rationale

Nutrition security being one of the key result areas in the NDS 1 and the implementation of the Rural Development 8.0 strategy by GoZ through MoLAFWRD has seen a lot of outcome-based and impact-oriented nutrition-sensitive agricultural initiatives designed to transform communities and lift them out of poverty. This therefore makes it critical to intensify these nutrition-sensitive interventions for the improvement of nutritional outcomes. Furthermore, nutrition education is essential for informed farmer production choices, consumer purchasing decisions, and household food preparation and distribution. Food safety is also crucial in Zimbabwe's food supply chains as most vegetables and fruits pass through informal market systems, disposing them to improper food safety issues.

Actions

The agriculture and food systems will contribute to improvements in nutrition in the following ways:

1. Nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems
 - a) *Increase emphasis on crop and livestock diversity.* Following the implementation of the Rural Development 8.0, development of village business units, irrigation business units and school business units are underway. In the gardens that will be components of these units' emphasis should be to have rainbow gardens with diversified nutritious crops and enterprises for both consumption and for the market. This will encompass mandatory setting up of keyhole gardens at homesteads and promoting diversity in production. Whilst complementing government efforts of promoting crop and livestock diversity, emphasis will be on targeting climate smart/ resilient, agro-ecological suitable crops and livestock, that is agro-ecological matching in crop and livestock production.

2. Empowering minds and nourishing the body

- a) *Empower households/consumers nutrition education:* As much as there has been nutrition education to communities, extension staff need to upscale nutrition mainstreaming in all their activities. The integration of nutrition education in all extension activities will increase farmers cropping and consumption decisions hence the influence in nutritional outcomes. Increased nutrition education and promotion of healthy foods will generate demand that can also drive production.
- b) *Increase households/ consumer awareness:* Knowledge of one's rights is a right on its own. There is a need to upscale household/ consumer awareness on food safety, food labelling and consumer rights for informed decisions.

3. Safe food production and production

- a) *Promote good agricultural practices:* Whilst much effort has been put in training farmers on good agricultural practices, more emphasis needs to be put in enforcing the observation of withdrawal periods after applying chemicals or giving animals drugs, using clean and safe water in the production and processing. This will go a long way in preventing the issue of residual chemicals in agricultural produce. Use of appropriate machinery will also prevent physical damage to produce that may affect the quality of produce.
- b) *Intensify post-harvest management:* Poor post-harvest management can lead to a reduction in quality and quantity of produce. Therefore, there is need to intensify post-harvest management to conserve the gains from the various initiatives and programmes.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Agriculture and food systems	Nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems	Increase emphasis on crop and livestock diversity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of crop and livestock diversity and consumption Increase emphasis on the diversity in nutrition gardens (dark green, orange fleshed, white fleshed vegetables and pulses) 	MLAFWRD
	Empowering minds to nourish the body	Empower households/ consumers with nutrition education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming nutrition into extension work Increased nutrition education and promotion of healthy and nutritious foods to generate demand that drives production 	MLAFWRD, MoHCC local leadership
		Increase consumer awareness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer awareness of food safety and food labeling including front of pack labeling Increased awareness on consumer rights 	CCZ, MoCC, MLAFWRD, media
	Safe food production and storage	Promote good agriculture practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote observance of withdrawal periods after applying chemicals or giving livestock medicines Upscale training in good agricultural practices e.g., not using banned chemicals and drugs. Promote use of appropriate machinery in processing to preserve value. 	MLAFWRD, agro dealers, agro chemical companies,
		Intensify post-harvest management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for farmers on food preservation and processing /value addition e.g., drying so that produce is available off season. Post-harvest management training for small holder farmers to reduce postharvest loss (weevils) and contamination with aflatoxins 	MLAFWRD, agro dealers, agro chemical companies, machinery companies

PILLAR 3: FINANCE

*Invest in Nutrition, Invest in National Development:
\$1 invested in nutrition gives an economic return of \$16*

Rationale

Improved nutrition is a marker of progress in key sectors such as health, education, employment, women empowerment and inequality reduction, all of which are outcomes of national development. With stunting being often utilized globally as a marker of inequity, financial commitment towards nutrition in Zimbabwe needs to be scaled up in all sectors that are implementing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes. The cost of inaction towards nutrition can be summarized as losses to human capital development and increased health burden in later life which has a significant economic and national impact on the country. Planning for nutrition must evolve and critical actions must be taken to generate more money for multi-systems programming for nutrition.

Actions

1. Public Financing for Nutrition

- a) Increased public investment and political will underpinned by strong leadership and accountability. Unlock the potential of domestic financing for effective and sustainable food and nutrition response when and where needed. This can be done through creating the much-needed political leadership and demand to increase nutrition investment across sectors and align it to common budgeting tools and processes. A dedicated allocation for nutrition within the health system to cater for nutrition specific actions and tagged nutrition budget lines within other sector budgets is needed. Zimbabwe will also produce a Nutrition Budget Analysis report on an annual basis
- b) Strengthen existing sources of financing and deploy them more effectively for better nutrition outcomes. There is need to ensure nutrition is included in broader resource mobilization efforts across key sectors such as health, food, and social protection systems. It is also imperative to deploy development finance tools to facilitate private sector engagement in nutrition.

The public-finance-for-nutrition framework can be put to use to guide translating commitments into measurable nutrition impact. The targets will provide guidance for cross-sectoral allocation of resources, which in turn determine how resources were spent and how the spending translates into measurable results for nutrition.

2. Improved Investment for Nutrition

- a) *Innovative financing solutions.* Against a background of limited fiscal space for nutrition, there is need to harness new sources of financing, including climate adaptation and mitigation finance, and expand innovative financing tools for nutrition. This include mobilize financing commitments at the intersection of climate and health and identify a pathway to engage with Zimbabwe friendly Developmental Countries/Agencies. Additionally, it has become increasingly important to consider alternative financing solutions that include taxation, and incentivization for international and local investment. Zimbabwe has a community share ownership programme, which can be utilized to access nutrition investment at local level.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Finance	Public Financing for Nutrition	<p>Increased public investment and political will underpinned by strong leadership & accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen existing sources of financing and deploy them more effectively Create a dedicated allocation for nutrition within the health system for nutrition specific initiatives Establish a tagged nutrition budget within the national budget. Develop and deploy development finance tools to facilitate private sector engagement in nutrition Consider implementing a minimum 3% budget allocation to nutrition through the national budget 	Ministry responsible for Health Consumer protection commission
	Improved Financial Investment	<p>Innovative financing solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harness new sources of financing like the climate adaptation and mitigation financing Explore taxation and incentivization for international and local investment. Utilize the community share ownership programme to access nutrition investment at local level. 	Ministry responsible for Finance Ministry responsible for Industry and Trade

PILLAR 4: LABOUR, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Good nutrition, strong workforce, a prosperous nation

Rationale

Investing in nutrition could increase a country's overall economic productivity by 11 %, as measured by GDP per capita (GNR, 2017). The provision of an enabling environment and supportive workplace culture are low-cost interventions that can contribute to improved breastfeeding, job productivity and employee retention. Additionally, investment in research on advanced technologies and innovative ways of food production that are in line with international standards is key for industry to nourish the nation. This will ensure local and international competitiveness of Zimbabwean products. The government and its partners spend a large amount of funds importing nutrition specialized foods. Commitment of resources and technology for local production of therapeutic foods will present significant benefits.

Actions

1. **Nutrition for and in business (nutrition-oriented businesses).**
 - a) *Promote Employee workplace nutrition programmes and enabling environment.* The business sector, whilst making marginable profit, should invest in workplace wellness programmes for their employees. Ensuring workplace meals are nutritious and well-balanced at the least will also enhance a healthier and more productive workforce that will grow the business and vice versa. A pro-nutrition workplace environment through establishment of breastfeeding rooms will also support breastfeeding employees have a safe and clean space to express breastmilk.
2. **Local production of nutrition products.**
 - a) *Local production of specialized nutritious and therapeutic foods.* Investment in research on advanced technologies and innovative means of specialized nutrition food production that is in line with international standards will allow for domestic production while allowing for the financial resources that are currently being used for importation of these to be redirected to other critical areas in the country.

b) *Operationalize of the National Food Fortification Strategy.* Operationalize and support the industrial food fortification of the most common food vehicles.

3. Enhancing food value chains.

a) *Nutrition-sensitive Farm-to-Fork.* There is need to enhance the farm-to-fork concept of ensuring the food value-chain from production to consumption is nutrition-sensitive and safe.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Labour, Industry & Trade	Nutrition for and in business (nutrition-oriented businesses)	Promote workplace nutrition programmes and enabling environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support employee wellness programmes Advocate for subsidized nutritious meals at workplaces. Align with Amendment Act, Act 11 2023 and establish workplace breastfeeding rooms 	Ministry responsible for industry and commerce Ministry responsible for labour Ministry responsible for higher and tertiary education, Ministry responsible for
	Localized production of nutrition products	Localized production of nutrition products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacitate and support local production of specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) eg RUTF, RUSF, CSB, Super Cereals Support industrial food fortification programme 	Local government Standards Association of Zimbabwe Ministry responsible for Information and Broadcasting Ministry responsible for
	Enhancing food value chains	Nutrition-sensitive farm-to-fork <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition smart farm-to-fork practices (production, processing, preservation, preparation) Promote and enforce food safety standards in both formal and informal food markets to protect consumers. 	Ministry responsible for Information and Communications Technology Ministry responsible for Higher and Tertiary Education Ministry responsible for Health Research Institutions FNC

PILLAR 5: GOVERNANCE

From Policy to Practice

Rationale

Governance for nutrition entails efficiency, accountability, transparency, and participation at all levels. Addressing all forms of malnutrition requires a strong focus on governance because of its multiple determinants (biological, social, cultural, and economic), limited understanding of its impact on national development and the difficulty in measuring improved nutrition or attributing impact to isolated policy decisions or actions. Nutrition is a catalyst for national economic development and has been proven to be a marker and maker of economic development in the quest to achieve the upper middle-income society by 2030.

Actions

1. *Enabling Environment: Policies, Strategies and Legislation for Nutrition*

- a) *Enforcement of food legislation to protect health.* Accelerate legislation for control of unhealthy foods and diets by introduction of excise tax for control of high sugar, high salt and high fat foods. Furthermore, elevate legislation for consumer rights and consumer protection including adoption of appropriate, updated food labelling and increasing consumer awareness and protection.
- b) *Nutrition focused policies legislation and strategies.* There is need to strengthen policy coordination and harmonization to foster greater cohesion and alignment across multiple systems working for and with nutrition. The policy landscape and enabling environment for nutrition should be strengthened through continuous policy review and analysis.

2. *Nutrition Coordination Structures within the Devolution Agenda*

- a) *Multisectoral Coordination of Nutrition.* There is need for increased investment to establish and support functionality of the multisectoral food and nutrition security coordination platforms and continued capacity enhancement linked to core policy mandates for multisectoral planning, implementation, advocacy, analysis, and reporting. A clear financing strategy and budget allocation for the decentralized structures is required.

3. Strategic Capacity and Accountability for Nutrition

Nutrition accountability framework. Establish and reinforce an accountability framework mechanism that defines responsibilities for supporting, reporting, planning and implementation of policies, interventions, outcome and financial tracking whilst fostering enhanced multisystem engagement, coordination and collaboration. There is also need to develop strategic documents on impact pathways for multisystem nutrition actions will provide critical sector guidance and enable indicator and budget tagging, as well as increased attribution of sector contributions to nutrition.

4. Political Goodwill

- a) *Political commitment.* Nutrition in Zimbabwe is represented in the Office of the President and Cabinet, with the VP championing nutrition. The current political will and commitment towards nutrition needs to be maintained and reflected at all levels of governance. Moreso, strengthening and supporting FNC as the executive coordinating body for multisectoral nutrition in the country should be upheld.
- b) *Traditional Leadership involvement.* The role of local and traditional leaders as gatekeepers for nutrition security needs to be recognized and elevated, as they contribute to local and community ownership aligned with the cultural heritage and values that have a strong influence on nutrition.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Governance	Enabling Environment, Policies, Strategies and Legislation for Nutrition	Enforcement of food legislation to protect health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce excise tax for control of unhealthy food Elevate legislation for consumer rights and consumer protection 	Ministry responsible for Health, Consumer protection commission
		Nutrition focused policies legislation and strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen policy coordination and harmonization Increased relevant policy review and analysis 	Ministry responsible for Health, Ministry responsible Justice and parliamentary affairs, FNC, CPC
	Nutrition Coordination Structures within the Devolution Agenda	Multi-sectoral Coordination of Nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and support decentralized nutrition coordination and governance structures Financing and budget allocation for decentralized multisectoral food and nutrition security committees. 	FNC, Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Local Government, Social Services
	Accountability for Nutrition	Nutrition accountability framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and reinforce an accountability framework for multi-sector nutrition Develop guidance on impact pathways for multisystem nutrition actions 	Ministry responsible for Health, Ministry responsible Justice and parliamentary affairs, FNC
	Political Goodwill	Political commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and sustain political commitment towards nutrition at all levels of governance Guide the engagement and participation of policymakers in nutrition 	Ministry responsible for Health
Nutrition champions and traditional leadership involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the concept of nutrition champions Elevate the role of local and traditional leaders as gatekeepers for nutrition security 			

PILLAR 6: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Culturally appropriate nutrition and health education for a well-nourished and healthy nation

Rationale

Investments in human capital drive national economies, with over 70% of the wealth of high-income countries attributed to human capital compared to 40% in low-income countries (Defeyter et al, 2022). As such, integrating culturally appropriate nutrition and health education into the existing education curriculum can help capacitate the general population and relevant sectors on nutrition and health issues, resulting in a well-nourished and healthy nation. In addition, the food environment has significant influence on dietary choices, and interventions designed to modify the food environment could contribute to the prevention of malnutrition. Healthy and well-nourished schoolchildren learn better, have a greater opportunity to thrive and fulfil their potential as adults, and increase their earning potential.

Actions

1. **Mainstream nutrition in all education and technical institutions**
 - b) *Incorporate nutrition in curricula at all levels.* Co-create relevant nutrition content with qualified nutrition and health professionals and package it into culturally relevant and acceptable teaching materials and plans to ensure engagement and effective learning among the targeted age group.
 - c) *Creative and captivating ways of delivering nutrition education.* Adopt Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) as an example of innovate delivery of education, made possible by advances in technology and online learning environments.
 - d) *In-service training.* Provide ongoing technical professional development on emerging key issues on nutrition for those already in-service. This includes capacitation to providing evidence to translate and communicate local research findings in a format that speaks to policy makers, communities etc.

2. Schools as delivery platforms for nutrition and health services

- a) *School health and nutrition services.* Use the schools to deliver school-age going children health and nutrition services like Vitamin A supplementation (ECD), Anthropometric measurement at entry/exit, deworming, EPI, etc.
- b) *School food environment.* Promote and implement specific school food environment policies that can improve targeted dietary behaviours and physical activity. Collaborate with the agriculture sector to involve local and smallholder farmers in supplying schools for improved diet diversity, quality, and increased local food consumption in schools. There is need for multisector actions that link school meals with nutrition education, family and school community involvement, school gardening, training and technical support to help schools achieve an overall healthier environment. In addition, it will be important to link the provision of healthy school meals in primary education with clear nutrition promotion and education objectives as well as activities to promote healthy eating habits while avoiding the double burden of malnutrition

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Human Capital Development	Mainstream nutrition in all education and technical institutions	Incorporate nutrition in curricula at all levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate nutrition in the curricula at all levels. Co-create relevant culturally acceptable nutrition content with qualified nutrition and health professionals and package it into teaching materials. 	Ministries responsible for Primary and Secondary Education Ministry responsible for Higher and Tertiary Education Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education Zimbabwe School Examinations Council
		Creative and capturing ways of delivering nutrition education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop massive online open courses on nutrition. 	Ministry responsible for Higher and Tertiary Education Food and Nutrition Council Ministry responsible for Health
		In-service training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ongoing continuous professional development on nutrition 	Ministry responsible for Health Food and Nutrition Council
	Schools as delivery platforms for nutrition and health services	School health and nutrition services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer school health and nutrition services like Vitamin A supplementation (ECD), Anthropometric measurement at entry/exit, deworming 	Ministry responsible for Health Ministry responsible for Primary and Secondary education
		School food environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create healthy school food environment characterized by healthy snacks choices, active lifestyle parks/areas, vending around schools' by-laws/control. Through the agriculture sector, involve local farmers in supplying schools for improved diets (quality, diversity, local) 	School development Committees Ministry responsible for Education Ministry responsible for Agriculture

PILLAR 7: SOCIAL PROTECTION

Pro-nutrition social protection interventions for enhanced nutrition outcomes

Rationale

Mainstreaming nutrition in social protection means integrating nutrition considerations into all aspects of social protection programming. This includes ensuring that social protection programs are designed to reach the most vulnerable people, that they provide the right kind of assistance, and that they are implemented in a way that does not marginalize nutrition. The provision of nutritious school meals can help in improving nutrition and health outcomes through schools as delivery platforms. School feeding programs provide students meals conditional on school attendance hence it ultimately has positive impact on school participation, cognition and learning, and nutritional outcomes.

Actions

1. Nutrition sensitive social protection programming

- a) *Multisystem approach to nutrition-sensitive social protection programming.* Strengthening of joint programming and complementary efforts between Government and its development partners is important. There is a need for the involvement and active participation of Nutritionists at all levels of programming so they ensure integration of nutrition in all social protection programmes as outlined in the NDS1, the FDMS and the School Health Policy among other policy instruments. Additionally, linking beneficiaries of social protection programs to nutrition services, such as health clinics and feeding programs is important for easy implementation, referrals and messaging of nutrition and health services.
- b) *Nutrition sensitive social protection transfers (cash, in-kind).* Avail adequate and nutritious food to the food insecure labour-constrained households. More so, there is need to develop and implement nutrition-sensitive social protection programs that target the most vulnerable groups, such as pregnant and lactating women, children under the age of five, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

c) *Institutional feeding programme*. Provide nutrition-sensitive social care for those in institutions. This includes support for pregnant women in maternity waiting homes with homegrown adequate and nutritious food. Development and implement of nutrition-sensitive school feeding menus that are based on the dietary guidelines for school-aged children is also critical.

2. Nutrition-sensitive Emergency preparedness and civil protection

a) *Nutrition sensitive, socially and culturally acceptable emergency response strategies*. Responses should encompass sensitivity, social, cultural acceptability and take cognisant food baskets. This also includes incorporation of key nutrition indicators as part of ongoing rapid response processes.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Social Protection	Nutrition sensitive social protection programming	<p>Multisystem approach to nutrition -sensitive social protection programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avail adequate and nutritious food basket to the food insecure labour-constrained households • Joint programming for efforts that complement each other's between Government and Development partners • Inclusion of SBCC as an integral part of social protection programming. • Active participation of the nutritionists in the FDMS implementing structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry responsible for social protection • Ministry responsible for Health • Food and Nutrition Council
		<p>Nutrition sensitive social protection transfers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement nutrition -sensitive social protection programs that target the most vulnerable groups • Include nutrition indices in the social protection beneficiary identification system at sub-national levels. • Strengthen link for beneficiaries of social protection programs to access nutrition services. • Incorporate clear nutrition objectives and indicators to monitor and assess effectiveness of social protection programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry responsible for Social Protection • Nutrition Sector Group • Food Aid Group
		<p>Institutional feeding programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale-up provision of a nutritious school meals • Integrate nutrition services as part of the HGSFP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry responsible for Primary and Secondary Education • Ministry responsible for Health
	Emergency preparedness and civil protection	<p>Nutrition sensitive, socially and culturally acceptable emergency response strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate nutrition sector emergency preparedness response plans into country strategic humanitarian response plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Civil Protection • Ministry responsible for Health • Food Nutrition Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate key nutrition indicators as part of ongoing rapid response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Civil protection • Food Nutrition Council • Ministry responsible for Health

PILLAR 8: WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Transformative WASH for improved nutrition outcomes

Rationale

Undernutrition is exacerbated by poor WASH resulting in contamination of water and food with pathogens that cause diseases such as diarrhoea. Furthermore, provision of WASH services does not directly translate to their use therefore the focus should go beyond just access to water and sanitation services but also accentuate behaviour change towards good hygienic practices and engineered solutions at source.

Actions

1. Safe food, water and environment for better nutrition

- a) *Transformative WASH.* The Government of Zimbabwe and its development partners are compelled to invest in provision of safely-managed water and sanitation facilities engineered to meet the specific needs and set up of communities. In addition to provision of services, there is greater need to integrate WASH SBCC into multi-sector education and communication packages to improve good hygiene practices.
- b) *Access to safe productive water.* Water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself. Water is also at the heart of adaptation to climate change, serving as the crucial link between society and the environment.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Water Sanitation and Hygiene	Safe food, water and environment for better nutrition	Transformative WASH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in provision of safely-managed water and sanitation facilities engineered to meet the specific needs and set up of the communities • Integrated WASH SBCC into multi-sector education and communication packages 	Ministry responsible for Health, Agriculture, RIDA, Local government, development partners, ZINWA, Ministry responsible for Public Service labour and social welfare

PILLAR 9: ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

Harmonized Multi-sector and Multi-level Communication for Better Nutrition Outcomes

Rationale

Harmonized operationalization of the existing nutrition communication efforts within and across sectors in the country is critical in placing nutrition high on the development agenda. In addition, the integration of communication programmes with strategies in nutrition programmes will also provide policy makers, programmers, communities and households with knowledge, motivation and reinforcement to empower them to address the existing nutrition problems.

Actions

1. Champions for Nutrition

a) *Identify and capacitate nutrition champions at all levels.* The appointment of food and nutrition security champions at all levels (parliament (junior and senior), youth advocates and pacemakers and influential social figures) will contribute towards improved advocacy, planning, resource mobilization and investments in nutrition. In addition, it will enhance multi-sectoral collaboration on nutrition issues.

2. Knowledge Products

a) *Develop and disseminate knowledge products in multiple languages.* In line with the Government of Zimbabwe's thrust of leaving no one and no place behind, the development of nutrition knowledge products in all the 16 national languages will increase the reach of nutrition information.

b) *Innovative Communication Strategies.* The NDS1 places emphasis on Zimbabwe becoming a digitally enabled economy, calling for enhanced investments in and use of innovative ICTs. Harnessing ICTs in the generation and dissemination of nutrition knowledge products will contribute towards improved access to nutrition information at all levels.

3. Social Behavior Change for Nutrition

a) *Strengthened Social Behaviour Change Communication Across all Programmes:* As the causes of nutrition challenges are multi-faceted, the integration of nutrition sensitive SBCC across all related programmes is of paramount importance.

b) *Consumer Rights and Awareness*: Nutrition sensitive consumer education on consumer rights, awareness and legislation needs to be strengthened at all levels.

4. Harmonised Nutrition Advocacy and Communication

a) *Nutrition Information Hub*: Cohesive and coordinated nutrition communication needs to be facilitated through the establishment of the necessary systems and structures in the form of a Nutrition Information Hub. Information generated through the Hub will be cascaded to all levels.

Summary

Theme	Sub-theme	Action	Stakeholders
Advocacy and Communication	Champions for Nutrition	Nutrition champions at all levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and capacitate nutrition champions at all levels 	Ministry responsible for Higher and Tertiary Education, Ministry responsible for Primary and Secondary Education Ministry responsible for Information and Broadcasting Ministry responsible for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry responsible for Agriculture Ministry responsible for Social Welfare Ministry responsible for Local Government Ministry responsible for ICTs Food and Nutrition Council Ministry responsible for Health Scaling Up Nutrition Networks Development Partners ZimSTAT
	Knowledge Products	Develop and disseminate knowledge products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KM products in all 16 national languages Innovative communication strategies 	
		Innovative communication strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of multiple formats (Print, audio Video, Animation) and multiple platforms for increased reach. 	
	Social Behavior Change Communication for nutrition	Social behaviour change for Nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened SBCC across all programmes Strengthen Multisectoral Nutrition sensitive consumer education 	
	Harmonised Nutrition Advocacy and Communication	Multisectoral Nutrition Information Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish information Hub Integrate Nutrition Information into communication packages at all levels 	

PILLAR 10: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

Nutrition Sensitive Research, Development and Innovation for Enhanced Nutrition Evidence Provision

Rationale

Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy highlights that the Government of Zimbabwe is committed to *ensuring a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making*. Moreso, the NDS1 articulates that the country has demonstrated commitment to addressing nutrition insecurity as reflected by the development and implementation of several national policies and strategies. This therefore makes it critical to have a robust information system to track progress towards achievement of set nutrition targets, monitor and evaluate the impact of nutrition programmes and evaluate the efficacy of nutrition interventions and innovations. The country has also launched Education 5.0, under which Zimbabwe's tertiary education institutions are being called upon to invest in research and innovation for sustainable economic development, with a focus on industrialization and problem-solving for value-creation. Strengthening the integration of nutrition into this innovation drive will be pivotal in improving nutrition outcomes.

Actions

1. Research & Innovation for Improved Outcomes

- a) *Diversified Nutrition sensitive Innovation Hubs*. Various tertiary institutions have successfully established Innovation Hubs but with limited diversification of nutrition-related innovations. There is need to promote diversification of both the equipment and the products to be developed, with the aim of addressing the various context-specific nutrition challenges which would have been identified through evidence generated from the FNSIS.

b) *Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems.* Through their indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), communities have over the years been producing and consuming various diverse and nutritious foods, in line with their cultural norms and values. There is need for harmonised efforts to document these IKS to complement scientific knowledge and interventions. The FNSIS will also undertake studies into the nutrition composition of the foods, with the aim of verifying and documenting the long perceived nutritional benefits.

2. Evidence Based Programming & Policy

a) *Integrate Nutrition Indicators Within Routine Monitoring and Evaluation.* There is need to integrate nutrition indicators across all sectoral assessments to harmonise evidence generation for nutrition. This will enhance the availability of evidence, enhance comparability and triangulation of evidence on the nutrition situation across sectors to better inform policy and programming.

b) *Commission Context-Specific Nutrition Studies.* Nutrition is a science and hence there is need to evaluate the efficacy of nutrition interventions and innovations over time.

Summary

Theme	Sub theme	Action	Stakeholders
Research, Development and Innovation	Research & Innovation	Nutrition-sensitive innovation hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversified equipment and nutrition-related products 	Ministry responsible for Higher and Tertiary Education Ministry responsible for Information and Broadcasting Ministry responsible for Information and Communications Technology Ministry responsible for Health Food and Nutrition Council Scaling Up Nutrition Networks
		Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document IKS Carry out nutrient profiling of indigenous foods Develop updated food composition tables for Zimbabwe 	Ministry responsible for Information and Broadcasting Ministry responsible for Local Government Ministry responsible for Home Affairs and Cultural heritage Ministry responsible for Information and Communications Technology Food and Nutrition Council Scaling Up Nutrition Networks Media
	Evidence based programming & policy	Integrate nutrition indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate nutrition indication in all sector routine monitoring and evaluation assessments 	Food and Nutrition Council ZimSTAT ZimVAC Ministry responsible for Agriculture Ministry responsible for Public Service Ministry responsible for Health Development Partners Scaling Up Nutrition Networks
		Commission clinical nutrition studies	Ministry responsible for Higher and Tertiary Education Ministry responsible for Health Research and Ethics Boards/Institutions FNC SUN Networks Medical Associations

Conclusion

In conclusion, the National Common Narrative on Nutrition for Zimbabwe represents a significant milestone in the country's efforts to address malnutrition and improve food and nutrition outcomes. This narrative brings together diverse stakeholders from across sectors, presenting a unified and coordinated approach towards achieving a common goal.

By aligning efforts, establishing shared priorities, and fostering multisectoral collaboration, the narrative sets the stage for transformative change in addressing the complex challenges of malnutrition. It recognizes the interconnectivity of sectors such as health, agriculture, education, and social welfare, emphasizing the importance of a holistic and integrated approach. Through this narrative, Zimbabwe commits to advocating for policy alignment, unlocking financing for nutrition, enhancing data and evidence-based decision making, improving access to nutritious food, promoting nutrition education and behavior change, strengthening health systems and services, addressing socioeconomic determinants, and promoting research and innovation.

The Common Narrative sets the stage for a future where every Zimbabwean has access to nutritious food, optimal health, and a brighter future. It is an attestation to the collective commitment of stakeholders to work together towards a common goal, ensuring that no place and no one is left behind in the pursuit of a healthier and more prosperous Zimbabwe.

Annexes

Annex 1. Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Framework

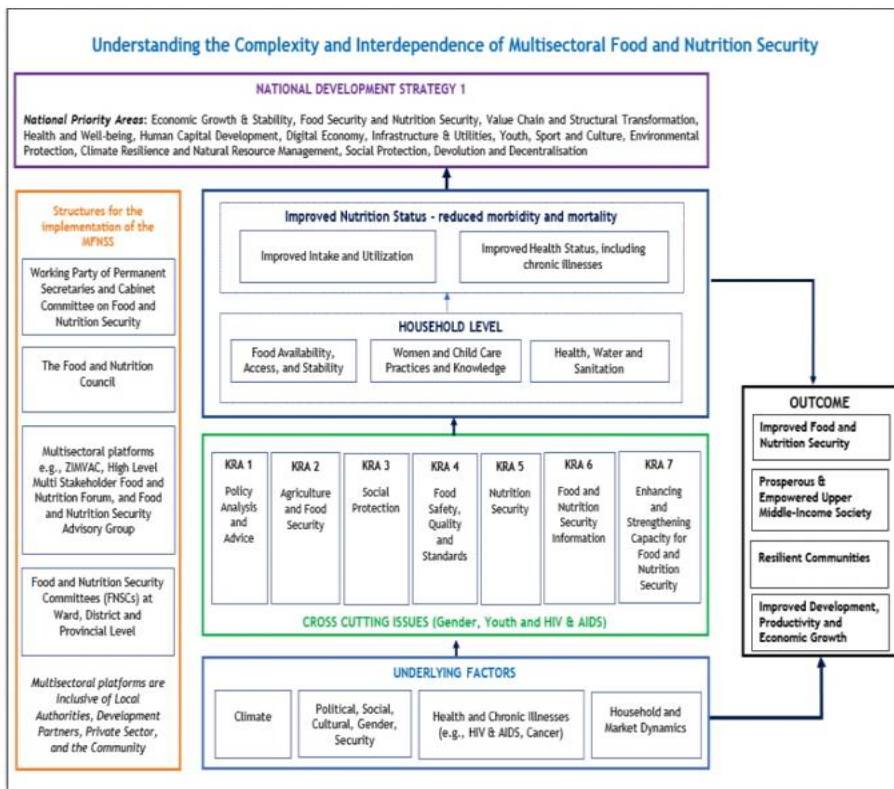


Figure 3: Framework for the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security showing the key pillars (FNC, 2023).

FOOD AND NUTRITION COUNCIL

1574 Alpes Road, Hatcliffe, Harare

Tel: +263-242 862586 /+263 242 862025

Email: info@fnc.org.zw



www.fnc.org.zw



unicef 
for every child