Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

A budget tracking exercise tracking resource allocations for nutrition-specific and sensitive programmes was conducted in 2015-2016 with support from civil society. The findings, which included the need for institutionalising the reporting obligation, were shared with various key stakeholders, such as the Special Permanent Secretaries’ Committee on Nutrition. The SUN Donor Network has advocated for an increased number of donors to fund nutrition via the in-country SUN fund mechanism, resulting in more donors supporting SUN priority interventions.

Institutional Transformations in 2015 - 16

**Bringing people together into a shared space for action**

In Zambia, the national Multi-Stakeholder Platform has been strengthened, with the designation of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health as Chair by the Special Committee of Permanent Secretaries in November 2015. The District Nutrition Coordinating Committees (DNCC) are being expanded to new districts beyond the current 14, and ad hoc Provincial Nutrition Coordinating Committees are also in place. To sustain these structures, there is need to formalise coordination structures at the subnational level and further internalise the multi-sectoral approach within ministries.

**Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework**

A draft Food and Nutrition Bill has been developed after a series of consultations with stakeholders. It has been approved by the Cabinet and awaits approval by the Parliament. The current Food and Nutrition Policy was adopted in 2006 and is earmarked for review in 2016, alongside the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The active engagement of politicians, especially at the parliamentary level, has helped raise the profile of nutrition.

**Aligning actions around a common results framework**

Components of the common results framework are in place as per the First 1,000 Most Critical Days Programme and the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan 2011-2015. However, the accountability component is yet to be developed. A Joint Annual Review was undertaken in October 2015 by nutrition development partners and the Government, focusing on 14 districts although it needs to be expanded to all districts with nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. From the joint supportive visits carried out in November 2015 by multi-sectoral technical teams, good practices emerged that need to be documented.

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**2016-17 PRIORITIES**

- Strategic planning to define actions to be included in the common results framework
- Develop guidelines to organise and manage the CRF at the sub-national level
- Support better management of data at all levels
- Improved cost estimates for actions at the national and/or sub-national level
- Build a national nutrition investment case, supported by data and evidence.