



Scaling Up  
**NUTRITION**

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SUN is a unique Movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food & good nutrition.

**SUN Movement**  
**25<sup>th</sup> SUN Country**  
**Network Meetings –**  
Information systems for  
nutrition: data collection,  
analysis and reporting

**ZAMBIA**



# Coordination on data and accountability for nutrition

- The National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) has clear a mandate by Act of parliament to coordinate all nutrition work in Zambia.
- NFNC (SUN Focal Point) is widely recognized by government and both local and international partners as key nutrition body in Zambia.
- NFNC receives technical and financial support from DFID, Irish Aid, SIDA, USAID, the UN and the World Bank, among others.
- Its positioning in Ministry of Health is however, seen by many as a barrier to effective coordination and is said to lack cross-Ministerial authority (\*EU NIPN feasibility study)

# Coordination mechanisms

- National Level;
  - Special Committee of Permanent Secretaries on Nutrition comprising 10 line ministries including six ministries implementing nutrition programmes. Committee is chaired by Secretary to Cabinet.
  - Multistakeholder Forum comprising all line ministries implementing nutrition programmes, civil society, academia, business, media and cooperating partners.
  - Thematic Technical Working Groups.
  - Networks (Academia, Business, Civil Society, Government and Cooperating Partner networks)
- Sub-national level:
  - Provincial Nutrition Coordinating committees, District **Nutrition** Coordinating Committees and Sub-district coordinating committees

# Ensure initial alignment across actors along the data value chain

- Zambia, led by NFNC is carrying out a scoping exercise to inform the development of Zambia Nutrition Information System (ZamNIS).
- ZamNIS will be framed around the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan (NFNSP) and 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 MCDP.
- The NFNSP, including the M&E framework was developed following broad consultations with and participation of key stakeholders including govt., civil society, academia, private sector, UN and donors.

# Ensure initial alignment across actors along the data value chain (ctd)

- ZamNIS objectives are:
  - To create a system for monitoring of nutrition programmes and projects against set targets.
  - To inform the Zambian government on a regular basis about the nutrition status of the population.
  - To create a central repository for up to date food and nutrition data and information.



# Ensure initial alignment across actors along the data value chain (ctd)

- Scoping for ZamNIS involves:
  - Reaching consensus on what data to collect and where data will be collected from the lower source and frequency of data collection;
  - Reaching agreement on how data will be collected into a central repository;
  - Agreement on where data will be entered, who will have access and who will provide statistical analysis;
  - Defined automated outputs/ products that the system should provide;
  - Development of a framework that makes it possible to develop ZamNIS and make it functional; and
  - Determining the requirements (financial, technical skills, human resource, infrastructure and equipment) for making ZamNIS operational

# Ensure initial alignment across actors along the data value chain (ctd)

## Process for gaining consensus around ZamNIS:

- Several workshops and meetings planned for steering committee on gaining consensus around scoping and defining questions that ZamNIS analyses could answer (involving Government line ministries, WHO, WFP, FAO, UNZA, EU, CARE, NFNC, IAPRI, DFID and Civil Society) on:
  - Data elements and indicators;
  - User and technical requirements and establishing requirements for data presentation;
  - Surveillance and supervision protocols for the system;
  - Review of system recommendations, selecting the final MIS and identifying data security risks; and
  - Finalizing the project implementation framework.
- The Multistakeholder Forum and Committee of Permanent Secretaries to finally endorse/ approve the scoping recommendations.

# Proposed sources of data for ZamNIS

- Programme/ Project data (target groups, coverage, quality of delivery) e.g
  - 1000 MCDP
  - Other programmes/ projects
- Non-programme data about levels of malnutrition (stunting, wasting, low birthweight, maternal anemia, overweight and obesity among children and women of reproductive age, micronutrient deficiencies, dietary diversity, access to safe water and sanitation e.t.c)
  - Demographic and Health survey
  - Living conditions monitoring survey
  - Nutrition Surveillance
  - Sectoral Information systems (health, agriculture, water and sanitation, social protection e.t.c)
  - Other national surveys
- Research data



# Challenges and solutions

- Various data collection tools exist within districts,
  - Harmonise data collection tools
- Lack /inadequate data collection tools at all levels,
  - provide data collection tools to all levels of implementation .
- Sectoral management information systems are at different levels of development.
  - Need for deliberate effort to contribute to building these MIS
- HMIS does not collect indicators that are disaggregated by age as required by programme needs (which is largely under 2 years),
  - need to follow the recommended disaggregation

# Challenge and solutions Cont'd

- Indicators not reported due to overlapping mandates. (ex. MoH does demonstrations on diverse diets and MOA also does this, so they don't know who is responsible for reporting)
  - Harmonise the reporting
- NFNC does not have access to various databases, which are often the primary sources for the district data.
  - need to access the available databases

# Recommendations

- Consultative process must be thorough to gain consensus and validation of the process.
- Access to various databases by the lead actor essential since they are primary sources of data.
- Develop mechanisms for re-enforcing national and sub-national information systems.
- Develop mechanisms of further analysis of data and disseminating data and other information, including best practices and lessons learned.
- *Understanding that such a system must be a collaborative, team effort with clearly identified roles and responsibilities of different players\**

# Recommendations

- *Examples of collaborative effort:*
  - *Multistakeholder forum secures alignment, dissemination, discuss the answers from analyses and reach agreement on actions.*
  - *Central Statistical Office to provide data management expertise (collation, cleaning, triangulation).*
  - *Academic and research bodies to undertake analyses*
  - *Civil society to provide advocacy leverage.*

*(Recommendations from NIPN consultation study)*

## Country priorities in 2017

- Develop and install Zambia Management Nutrition Information System.
- Develop a database to track, manage and coordinate nutrition investments.
- Develop a Common Results Framework to ensure government and partners account for their actions in nutrition.

**THANK YOU**