

23rd Series of Country Network Teleconferences

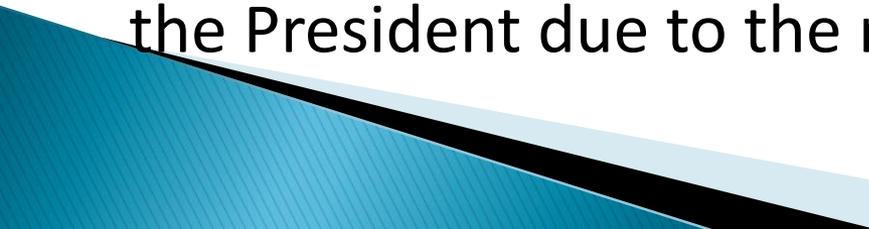
Building and Sustaining Political Commitment for Nutrition Action

The Malawi experience

13TH MAY 2016



SECURING POLITICAL COMMITMENT

- ▶ Malawi placed nutrition on the government development agenda as a key priority area for national development.
 - ▶ The then President, Late Dr. Bingu WaMuthalika made himself Minister responsible for Nutrition
 - ▶ A Permanent Secretary for Nutrition was appointed to ensure that Nutrition is given attention
 - ▶ A directive was made to place nutrition under the Office of the President due to the multifaceted nature of nutrition
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SECURING POLITICAL COMMITMENT CONT...

- ▶ The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) was established in September 2004 in the Office of the President and Cabinet
 - To provide visionary guidance and strategic direction for the implementation of the national response to nutrition disorders, HIV and AIDS in the country.
 - All levels of political influence have been engaged in all the processes
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SUSTAINING POLITICAL COMMITMENT

- ▶ The DNHA has remained a stand-alone department;
 - With clear mandate well defined within the national framework.
 - In July 2012 the DNHA was placed within the Ministry of Health as a reporting ministry
 - The roles and functions of the department have been maintained
 - Its coordination role remains broad and beyond the health sector

SUSTAINING POLITICAL COMMITMENT CONT.

- ▶ The DNHA ably provides oversight functions to all the line Ministries including MoH.
 - **NOTE:** MoH has a nutrition unit under Department of clinical services whose core function is mainly Management and treatment of Malnutrition.
- ▶ There is continuous engagement between the DNHA and Parliamentarians through
 - monitoring of nutrition programs by MPs
 - continuous updates on the nutrition response
 - Policy dialogue, among others.
- ▶ CSONA is continuously engaged

Establish and convene coordinating structures at national level

- ▶ National Nutrition Committee (NNC)
 - ▶ Parliamentary Committee on Nutrition HIV and AIDS
 - ▶ Cabinet Committee
 - ▶ Principal Secretaries Committee
 - ▶ The Government – Development Partners Committee
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Establish and convene coordinating structures at District level

- ▶ District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC)
 - ▶ Area Nutrition Coordination Committee
 - ▶ Village Nutrition Coordination Committee
 - ▶ Community Leaders for action on nutrition groups
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KEY STEPS TO COMMITMENT

Institutionalisation of;

- ▶ The coordinating office (DNHA)
- ▶ The high level multi-sector platforms (Cabinet Committee, Parliamentary committee, Principal secretary committee, Government development partner committee, the National nutrition Committee among others)
- ▶ The structures ensure continued visibility and support for nutrition.
- ▶ The government demonstrates commitment by ensuring that the operations of the DNHA are in place and all the coordination platforms are not disrupted.

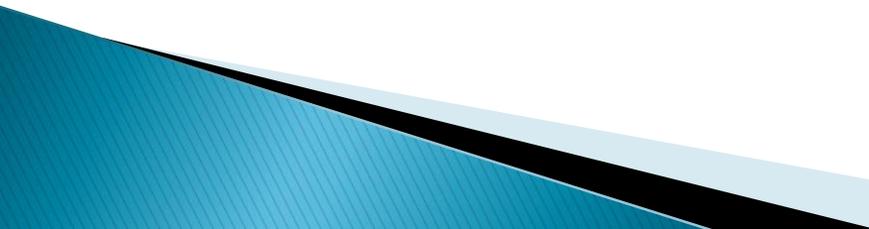
KEY STEPS TO COMMITMENT CONT..

Continued advocacy

- ▶ High-level advocacy meetings using evidence-based information provide understanding on the importance of coordination in nutrition.
 - Such as Cost of Hunger report, SUN movement information
 - Revision of the profiles
 - Development of national advocacy strategy and District specific advocacy plans
- ▶ Gracia Marshall's visit to Malawi increased momentum for ensuring that nutrition is not medicalised; and that coordination should be key.

KEY STEPS TO COMMITMENT CONT..

Policy document

- ▶ The development of the Multi-sectoral National Nutrition Policy provided conducive environment for better understanding of nutrition as a crosscutting issues
 - ▶ Harmonised M&E framework to track progress on implementation
 - ▶ Nutrition Resource Tracking system
 - ▶ It clearly outlined the different roles and responsibility of each sector.
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KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR SUSTAINING COMMITMENT

- ▶ DNHA which worked very closely with CSONA through different platforms.
- ▶ Conducted meetings with economic planning department to ensure the placing of nutrition as priority among priorities in the Development agenda, which is under review.
- ▶ The World Bank provided financial support
 - for strengthening coordination
 - For conducting an institutional assessment to guide coordination and national nutrition response in the governance structure (plans underway).

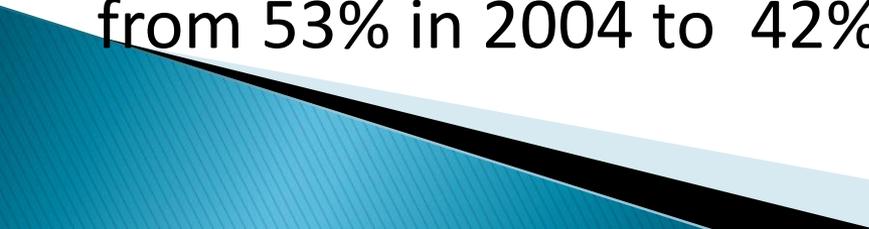
KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR SUSTAINING COMMITMENT

- ▶ Irish aid has also been instrumental in supporting capacity building
- ▶ The United Nations Family has been involved at all levels of implementation

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH DNHA

- ▶ Development of a Multi-sectoral National Nutrition Policy and Strategic plan to guide the implementation of the National Nutrition Response.
- ▶ Nutrition has been integrated in sectors such as Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Education, Gender, Natural Resources Climate change and Energy, Information and Civic Education and Local Government.
- ▶ Establishment of nutrition units within sectors, headed by a senior officer
- ▶ Rolled out the sugar fortification program

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH DNHA CONT..

- ▶ Developed strategies to operationalize the policy
 - Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy
 - Micronutrient
 - IYCF
 - CMAM
 - Drafted Nutrition act among other
 - ▶ Nutrition had a vote in Parliament for the national budget
 - ▶ Reduction in some of the nutrition indicators for the first time after so many years. For instance stunting reduced from 53% in 2004 to 42% in 2014 (MICS)
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Strengthen public sector involvement
 - ▶ Strengthen District coordinating structures
 - ▶ Strengthen CISONA Districts in advocacy
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