



NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
SCALING UP NUTRITION

Nutrition is Key

“Take up your role, Act now”

DECLARATION OF THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SCALING UP NUTRITION

Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, 5-6 November 2012

Preamble

1. **Whereas** the National Symposium on Scaling Up Nutrition was organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, in partnership with several partners;
2. **And whereas** various institutions, United Nations agencies, inter-governmental and regional organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, universities, private sector, community-based organizations and county delegates, attended the National Symposium on Scaling Up Nutrition;
3. **With participants coming from** the ministries of Public Health and Sanitation, Education, Livestock Development, Agriculture, Trade, Gender and Children Affairs, State and Special Programmes, and Local Government; international development organizations; regional bodies; the United Nations; donors, civil society, county delegates and the private sector.
4. **Recognizing** that the main goal was to raise the public's awareness of the need to address the high levels of malnutrition in Kenya through a call to action for political commitment, investment and support from all sectors in the country;
5. **In consequence**, participants attending the National Symposium on Scaling Up Nutrition, arrived at conclusions and recommendations spelt out in the following deliberations:

We, the Symposium Participants,

1. **Concerned** that Kenya is experiencing an increase in malnutrition characterised by high stunting rates (35%) and a rise in diet-related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancers, kidney and liver complications;
2. **Concerned** also that the high stunting rates in children under five means that an estimated 2.1 million children will never realize their full physical and mental potential, and that the poor performance of stunted children in school will impact negatively on the future productivity of Kenya's labour force;
3. **Convinced** of the critical role that nutrition plays in the survival and health of the people if Kenya is to achieve *Vision 2030*, to transform the country into a globally competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life;
4. **Convinced** of the urgent need for all stakeholders (national and county governments, civil society, private sector, community-based organizations, donors, media and families) to invest in nutrition in order to improve the nutritional status of women and children in particular, as articulated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 1,2,3,4,5;
5. **Aware** that reducing malnutrition in Kenya is a political choice, driven by political will to implement a well-coordinated, multi-sectoral strategy that can deliver an evidence-based set of high-impact nutrition interventions (HiNis);
6. **Conscious** of the fact that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 recognizes food and nutrition as a basic human right, with Chapter 4 Article 43 (1) (c) stating that, every person has the right to be free from hunger and to adequate food of acceptable quality while Article 53 (1) (c) states that every child has the right to basic nutrition.
7. **Aware** also that communities must be empowered to claim their right to good nutrition and guided to play their role towards realizing this right;
8. **Aware** also that the Kenya Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) provides a comprehensive framework covering the multiple and cross-sectoral dimensions of food security and nutrition improvement; and that strong institutional structures are needed in Government for effective implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the actions set out in the FNSP to scale up nutrition nationally, with devolution to the counties;
9. **Aware** also that the solutions to malnutrition are practical and basic and that the scope of high-impact nutrition interventions should not only be limited to emergencies, but should also address poor nutritional practices;
10. Conscious of the need for long-term commitment and accountability by the Government and partners to support the health system to deliver **high quality essential nutrition interventions**;
11. **Now therefore DO RESOLVE AND CONCLUDE from our deliberations as follows:**

We, the delegates of the National Symposium on Scaling Up Nutrition are committed to supporting the National Nutrition Action Plan, by implementing the priority nutrition areas set out as follow:

1. Improve nutritional status of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) to reduce non-communicable dietary diseases and micronutrient deficiencies and improve birth outcomes.
2. Improve nutritional status of children under five to reduce stunting, wasting, anaemia, obesity, underweight and infant mortality.
3. Reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies in the population.
4. Prevent deterioration of nutritional status and save lives of vulnerable groups in emergencies by addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity and vulnerability of these populations.
5. Improve access to quality curative nutrition services to prevent further deterioration of nutritional status and save lives during illness.
6. Improve prevention, management and control of diet-related non-communicable diseases by addressing all the identified non-communicable conditions in the country.
7. Improve nutrition in schools and other institutions by conducting a situation analysis and reviewing existing guidelines for school/institutional feeding.
8. Improve knowledge, attitudes and practices on optimal nutrition by providing the information needed for the adoption of positive attitudes and practices on optimal nutrition.
9. Strengthen the nutrition surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems for effective reporting and planning.
10. Enhance evidence-based decision-making through operational research in order to strengthen nutrition programme development and service provision.
11. Strengthen coordination and partnerships among key nutrition actors for greater impact of nutrition activities across all stakeholder sectors.

We, the delegates further commit to the development of County Nutrition Action Plans by the next financial year (June 2013), with the support of the SUN Coordinating Team;

We also commit to support the translation of key food and nutrition policies for use by visually challenged people.

**Developed and Concluded this Sixth Day of November 2012,
at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.**

