

George Kembo, Director of the Food and Nutrition Council Zimbabwe SUN Government Focal Point

There are a number of benefits that we have driven from engaging within the SUN, visibility of issues, and also sharing experiences with a number of countries, and also borrowing better issues or lessons learned from other countries, incorporating them in our framework, so these are some of the benefits. They're all issues to ensure that the next generation is free from stunting. So our approach is if all work and effort is done now, the future of the upcoming children will become brighter, and there is also full cognition of the importance of nutrition as it contributes to economic development and growth.

So our approach is that we have packaged our intervention to look at the incoming generation in terms of economic growth, addressing nutrition-related issues, taking in...cognizant that all sectors that brings money into treasury is out of productivity, productivity is a consequence of having a balanced diet, a healthy nation. So by so doing, by so addressing nutrition, we increase productivity, it means the economy will boost. We believe the future of our country is better, especially for the next generation.

## What is the main advantage of your engagement with SUN?

The SUN initiative brings everyone together and to address the nutrition-related activities, in a multi-sectoral approach that recognized nutrition cannot be addressed from a lone ministry. It requires different players, it requires the policy coordination. Secondly, there was also an advantage of being able to bring the UN community together, to work towards government's effort, within the SUN framework, and it encourages cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement as we address food and nutrition insecurity.

## Since joining the SUN Movement, what progress has been made on Scaling Up Nutrition in Zimbabwe?

With our engagement with the different donors we realized that the first step is to set up the legal framework, which will guide each stakeholder in terms of the way to respond to nutrition-related issues. This year on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, the government of Zimbabwe approved a food and nutrition security policy, which was the multi-stakeholder driven process, coordinated by government with support from all the UN family, WHO, UNICEF, WFP and FAO, all these foreign agents were working with government to support them to develop a food and nutrition security policy.

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