

Zambia



Joined Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement: December 2010

National multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition: National Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP)

SUN government focal point/country coordinator: Mr. Musonda Mofu, Acting Executive Director

COUNTRY NUTRITION STATUS

→ Annual country nutrition indicators from the Global Nutrition Report:

<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/eastern-africa/zambia>

● National multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)

● MSP annual action plan exists

National Food and Nutrition Sector Strategic Plan 2017–2021 (soft copy available)

● Subnational nutrition coordination mechanism

● Subnational MSPs exist

● Subnational MSPs have annual action plans

● National nutrition plan

2017–2021 – Zambia National Multisectoral Nutrition Common Results Framework (CRF) Goal –

<https://scalingupnutrition.org/resource-library/national-nutrition-plan-zambia>

● Advocacy and communications framework/plan

SUN networks in-country presence

● SUN Civil Society Network

● SUN Business Network

● UN Nutrition

● SUN Academia Network

● SUN Donor Network

● Others: e.g. youth, parliamentarian, media

Finance for nutrition

● Resource mobilization strategy exists

● Budget tracking exercise done this year

● Funding gaps identified this year

● Domestic expenditures on nutrition tracked

● Yes ● In process ● No ● Costed ● M&E framework

COUNTRY PRIORITIES 2022

→ Continuing with the roll out of the second phase of the First 1000 Most Critical Days Programme (MCDP II) to ensure the implementation of nutrition-specific and -sensitive interventions in at least 60 districts.

→ Conducting data analysis, report writing and the dissemination of the Food Consumption and Micronutrient Status Survey findings.

→ Continuing with the roll out/scale-up of the healthy diet campaign and the Good Food Logo.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUN 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

→ SO.1 Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments

The signing of the Food and Nutrition Act (Commencement) Order necessitated the drafting of several statutory instruments for its operationalization, including one to legitimize coordination structures at the national and subnational levels. Food and nutrition issues have been incorporated into the draft Eighth National Development Plan, as well as in other sectors' policies and strategies, such as the National Health Strategic Plan, National Agriculture Policy and Social Protection Policy. The launch of the National Food and Nutrition Policy has not yet been initiated. The development of the new advocacy strategy is ongoing with the support of nutrition cooperating partners.

→ SO.2 Develop and align shared country priorities for action

The 2018 Health Demographic Survey Report and Zambia Statistics Agency projections indicate that Zambia is not on track to achieve its stunting target of 25 per cent by 2026, down from the 2018 baseline of 35 per cent. Poor funding and changing donor priorities have negatively affected the roll-out of interventions to all districts, demonstrating a need for more funding for food and nutrition programmes. The new Government committed to increasing the Community Development Fund, which will go to each parliamentary constituency's local authorities in 2022 budget estimates. This will provide an opportunity to roll out the MCDP II to more districts as part of decentralization.

→ SO.3 Build and strengthen country capacity

Zambia made significant progress in ensuring that nutrition is mainstreamed in sectors through its nutrition planning and budgeting guidelines. However, it has not been possible to determine the actual allocation to the nutrition budget. There is a need to develop a robust and sustainable financing tracking mechanism to monitor nutrition budgets and expenditures at the national and subnational levels. In addition, the Common Result Framework is to be implemented to strengthen the evidence generation systems of line ministries and other stakeholders.

→ SO.4 Ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all SUN Movement stakeholders behind country priorities and strengthens 360 mutual accountability

The function of the MSP is to oversee the implementation of SUN initiatives in the country and ensure alignment of the national development framework, sector policies and strategies, including the National Food and Nutrition Strategy. Accordingly, the MSP's revised terms of reference specify that the role of the Special Committee of Permanent Secretaries on Nutrition is supported by law. The same structure applies to the subnational level and is already in place through Provincial Nutrition Coordinating Committees and Zonal Nutrition Coordinating Committees, which are crucial for creating mutual accountability.