Zimbabwe

Joined: June 2011

Highlights

- A comprehensive and unique National Food and Nutrition Security Information System is being developed across sectors, to inform programming and decision-making. Decentralised levels will collect data and benefit from a feedback analysis mechanism from the information system.

- Technical and financial partners are aligning resources behind the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and raising additional resources through pool funding mechanisms. Business committed resources to implement the Food Fortification Strategy.

- The media working with the SUN Civil Society Network (ZCSOSUNA) have been trained on their role in strengthening nutrition, and create more stories about nutrition and the SUN Movement.

Under five stunting: 27.6%
Low-birth weight: -
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: 41.0%
Under five wasting: 3.3%
Under five overweight: 3.6%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 28.4%

*data sources detailed in Annex 1

Country Progress 2014 - 2015

2015 Scores*
The National Nutrition Strategy (2014-2018), which is the Common Results Framework (CRF), was drawn from the wider NFNSP and its implementation matrix. It has been under development since 2013 and was finalised and launched by the Vice-President in April 2015. The Strategy is guiding the implementation of nutrition specific and sensitive interventions around six key result areas, clearly mentioning targets, activities and implementers. Provincial and District FNSCs are to develop annual work plans aligned to NFNSP, ZimASSET and NNS, detailing actions they will undertake in food and nutrition.

To implement these, a multi-sectoral community-based model program for addressing stunting has started in vulnerable districts and key actors are aligning large-scale programmes which implement direct and indirect nutrition interventions to this model. This includes the Amalima project (2014-2019), the Livelihoods and Food Security Program 2014-2018 (LFSP) and Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE) programs (2014-2019).

The NNS has a monitoring and evaluation framework which includes baseline values, impact indicators and targets, for each expected result and the data sources. These are to be embedded within the National Food and Nutrition Security Information System which is currently under design, to ensure a consistent and harmonised approach to reporting.

Sustained and increased financial commitments by all actors including the private sector are aligned to the NFNSP and a pooled donor fund is helping to strengthen the effectiveness of nutrition interventions.

The Right to Food is ensured in the 2013 Constitution. Nutrition legislation includes the Infant and Young Child Feeding policy and the Food Fortification strategy, both adopted in 2015. The Office of the President’s lead on nutrition policy analysis has led to nutrition-sensitive strategies being included in national development (ZimASSET), Agriculture (ZAIP) and Social protection (Social protection framework validated in 2015).

The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) launched in May 2013 is being disseminated at provincial and district levels.

Zimbabwe is also finalising a Nutrition Communication for Development Strategy.

The Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) is the national agency mandated to lead the coordination, analysis and promotion of a multi-sectoral response to food and nutrition insecurity. It engages multiple ministries, United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society and the business sector. The FNC also convenes and coordinates the National Food and Nutrition Security Committee (NFNSC) and the newly formed High Level Food and Nutrition Security Advisory Group (FNSAG) which had its first meeting in March 2015. Ministries of Gender, Social Welfare and Youth recently joined these coordination structures and a draft roadmap for SUN has been developed to chart the way forward for all the members in the platform.

In order to effectively decentralise efforts of the FNC, Food and Nutrition Security Council’s (FNSC’s) have been established in all ten Provinces of Zimbabwe. Below this, 26 out of 60 Districts have FNSC’s.

Municipal wards are the lowest administrative unit, and a pilot project is currently establishing FNSC’s at this level. If successful, this will be scaled up by the end of 2015.

The Zimbabwe Civil Society Network (ZCSOSUNA) has raised its constituency from 21 to 100 members and established five regional offices in just one year. Their latest activities were focused on engaging with parliamentarians and the media to highlight their role in strengthening nutrition. The Donor and UN Networks are drafting Terms of Reference and they have respectively nominated the European Union and UNICEF/FAO as conveners.

Finally, a breakfast meeting was organised with support from all SUN Networks to demonstrate the importance of nutrition to business. It led to the identification of a private sector focal point who has so far gathered interest from 32 food companies to join national efforts for nutrition.