Sierra Leone Experience
Nutrition Targets
and Commitments to Action

Country Presentation
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- Nutrition for Growth Compact signed in 2012
- Operationalization of SUN secretariat; located in the Office of the Vice President (high level commitment and visibility) to improve, strengthen, coordinate and bring synergy among SUN stakeholders
- Multi-sector food and nutrition security implementation plan (2013-2017) – Costed, validated and launched by Vice President
- Functional SUN focal points in the line ministries, Mainstreaming food and nutrition into government policies – In 2014, budget lines to MoHS and MAFFS
Developing National Nutrition Targets

• REACH Initiative - Four UN REACH partner agencies (2010 – 2012) (FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) provided technical support to the government to bring line ministries and partners together (MSP)

• Led to the development of a national Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan and multi-sectoral coordination approach of key stakeholders.

• Global advocacy – a driving force

• Processes in developing the plan (Common Result Framework)
  – *Situation analysis*
  – *References (survey reports, Global reports and targets)*
  – *Developed a DASH board – list of Indicators*
  – *Mapping exercises – Partners, Interventions*
  – *Follow up consultative/ Review/awareness raising meetings – agreed on realistic targets(%) to be achieved on yearly basis by intervention area*
  – *Establishment of Nutrition Working Group, Technical and Coordination Committees*

• MoHS and MAFFS leading the processes.

• A Multi-sectoral document (FNSIP) – Enhances capacity of SUN Movement and contributing to effective coordination and collaboration
# National Nutrition Targets;
Key Indicators in the FNS Implementation Plan: 2013 - 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline 2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in Prevalence of Wasting</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>4.7% (SLNS)</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in Prevalence of Stunting</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>28.8% (SLNS)</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in Prevalence of Underweight</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>12.9% (SLNS)</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in Exclusive breastfeeding rates</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>58.8% (SLNS)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in Anaemia in children</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
<td>76.3% (SLMS)</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in Anaemia in women</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
<td>44.8% (SLMS)</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of low birth weight</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>7% (DHS)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of children with timely initiation of semi/solid foods at 6 months</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>63% (DHS)</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Children 6-23 months old with minimum acceptable diet</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>13% (SLMS)</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation of Key Indicators

• *Multisectoral strategic plan / Common Results Framework*

  Five year costed muti-sectoral plan with targets and indictors

• *Lessons learnt*

  ✓ Government leadership is very key with high level commitments for continued advocacy for sustained nutrition visibility

  ✓ Partners involvement is an integral part from planning through implementation

  ✓ Plans focussed on evidence based interventions for both nutrition sensitive and specific
Commitment to Action (Best Practices)

- **The Free Health Care Initiative** – It caters for all pregnant, lactating and children under five. This is to ensure reduction of maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality and for increased accessibility for all.

- **The 6 Month Contact Point Package** – It is an initiative which is geared towards increasing uptake of Vitamin A supplementation, Family Planning and Complementary Feeding at **6 months** which has been integrated into the health facility routine services.

- **Mother Support Groups** – This community structure has been one of our driving force for improved infant and young child feeding & care practices hence reducing malnutrition; and enables women’s empowerment including Health/Nutrition/Education/Agriculture/Social Protection) etc

- **Human Resources** – Increased advocacy for human resource for nutrition. As a result of this every district now have a public health nutritionist and clinical nutritionists in all government hospitals

- The government in the drive to increase nutrition visibility has ensured increased presence of nutrition personnel both at national and district levels.
Together, government and supporting partners will promote early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding and timely complementary feeding practices for children under five years by 2017. (See table below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Baseline 2013</th>
<th>Target 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator</strong></td>
<td>Percent of Infants 0-5 months exclusively breastfed</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage</td>
<td>Pregnant and lactating women reached with EBF promotion</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target group</td>
<td>Pregnant and lactating women, husbands, grandmothers</td>
<td>≥50%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target group</td>
<td>Pregnant and lactating women, husbands, caretakers, grandmothers</td>
<td>≥50%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges

• Inadequate knowledge on importance of nutrition to national development
• Finance – Inadequate Government / donor funding and timely release of funds
• Accountability of partners
• Engaging the Private sector -
• Quality of service delivery including logistics support
• Reporting and timely mitigation system (Monitoring and evaluation)