Zambia

Joined: December 2010
Population: 17.04 million

Institutional transformations in 2017-2018

Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The national Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) continues to expand, adding new ministry departments as well as the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. Terms of reference have been established for national, provincial, district and ward level coordinating committees. 10 additional District Nutrition Coordinating Committees were set up during this period, raising the total to 34. An Academia and Research Network has been established but is not very active; all other Networks are active. The Vice President and some traditional Chiefs serve as nutrition advocates.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Progress remains slow in finalising Bills, such as the Food and Nutrition Bill, Food Safety Bill and the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. During the National Food and Nutrition Summit in April 2018, the Government adopted a Consensus Statement, committing the National Food and Nutrition Commission to the development of a roadmap for implementing measurable, multisectoral actions on nutrition. Nutrition implementation guidelines for the Ministry of Community Development were finalised and disseminated to sub-national ministerial structures.

Aligning actions around common results

There is a National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2021, and although no Common Results Framework has been established, monitoring mechanisms are partially in place via a Joint Annual Assessment and quarterly multisector activity report forms. 6 line Ministers signed up to the '1st 1,000 Most Critical Days Programme' (MCDP) Phase II (2019-2021), which builds on MCDP Phase I and aims to reduce stunting. Based on a review of MCDP I and a mapping and gap analysis undertaken in 80 districts, MCDP II focuses expanded efforts on 5 strategic objectives and 14 key result areas.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The Government collects information on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive budget lines in 9 line ministries. However, the size of the actual funding gap for nutrition remains unclear. This must be established and then used to develop a resource mobilisation strategy. Following advocacy efforts by the UN and donor networks, the Special Committee of Permanent Secretaries on Nutrition—comprised of 10 Ministers—succeeded in increasing nutrition investments for the 2019-2021 government budget cycle. Six ministries and Nutrition Cooperating Partners have signed a Joint Financing Arrangement.

2018–2019 PRIORITIES

- Mobilise support to facilitate the accelerated implementation of the MCDP II;
- Build consensus on the Common Results Framework in 2018 and update the monitoring and evaluation system;
- Advocate for increased government funding to nutrition;
- Seek high-level follow up to ensure the Food and Nutrition Bill reaches Parliament;
- Strengthen budget tracking mechanisms.