



# **IMPROVING NUTRITION THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY, OWNERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**SUCCESSSES IN COUNTRY LEADERSHIP AND OWNERSHIP  
IN ADDRESSING NUTRITION CHALLENGES IN ZAMBIA**

**BRUSSELS DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING**  
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# Zambia: Context and Nutrition Situation



## Nutrition indicators

Indicator	2007	2013-2014
Stunting U5 (%)	45	40
Wasting U5 (%)	5	6
Adolescent birth rate <sup>1</sup>	147	141
Maternal Mortality Ratio <sup>2</sup>	591	398
Neonatal Mortality Rate <sup>3</sup>	34	24
Infant Mortality Rate	70	45
U5 Mortality Rate <sup>3</sup>	119	75

(1) Per 1000 (2) Per 100,000 live births (3) Per 1,000 live births  
Source: Zambia Demographic Household Survey 2007& 2013-2014

# Zambia National Strategies and Policies on Nutrition and related sectors – Setting the Stage



## Nutrition governance and legislation



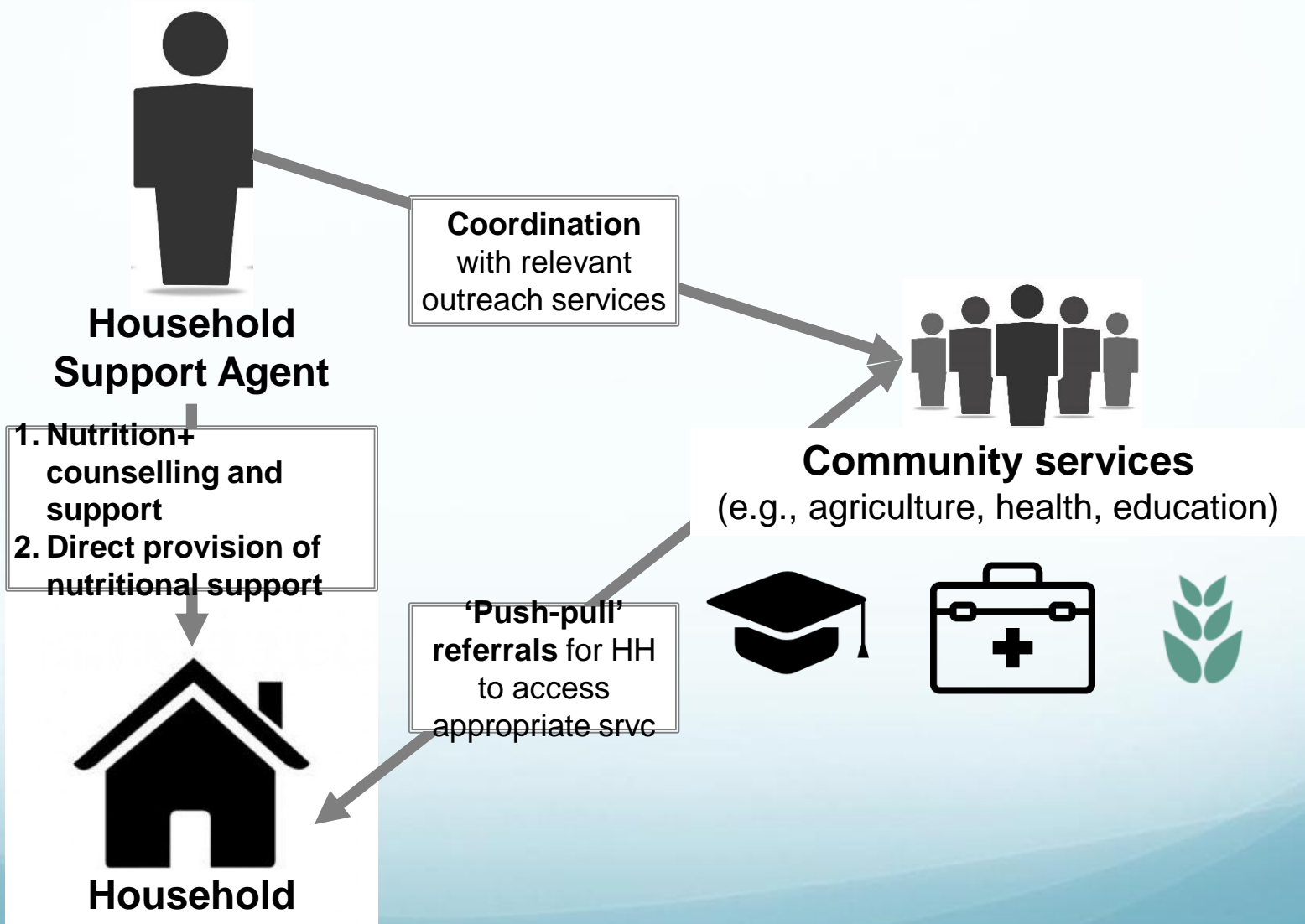
- **National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC)** under the Ministry of Health responsible for nutrition established by Act of 1967
- **Nutrition specific legislation<sup>1</sup>:**
  - National Food and Nutrition Policy (2006)
  - Sixth National Development Plan (2011-2016): Food and Nutrition considered a critical cross-cutting development outcome
  - National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan for Zambia (NFNSP 2011-2015), first multi-sectoral response to combat malnutrition in Zambia
  - First **1000** Most Critical Days Programme (MCDP) (2013-2015), key strategy for reducing stunting
- **Other sector policies and strategies that mention nutrition** include Poverty Reduction Strategy, National Health Strategic Plan (2011-2015), National Agriculture Investment Plan (2014-2018) and the National Social Protection Policy (December, 2014)

# NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF MULTI-SECTORAL PLANNING:

## THE 1000 Most Critical Days Programme

Priority Nutrition Intervention of the MCDP	Intervention	Beneficiary category
<b>A. Improved Nutrition During Pregnancy</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iron &amp; Folic Acid Supplementation</li> <li>• Multiple Micronutrients</li> </ul>	Micronutrients: Iron & Folic acid supplement	Pregnant Mothers
<b>B. Improved Nutrition During the First 6 months of Infancy</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion Of Breastfeeding</li> <li>• Growth Monitoring And Promotion</li> <li>• Expanding Integrated Management Of Acute Malnutrition</li> </ul>	Promotion of Breast feeding & proper nutrition	Lactating Mothers & infants aged 0-6 months
<b>C. Improved Nutrition in Early Childhood (reduced levels of micro nutrient deficiency among lactating mothers and children 6-23 months )</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Micronutrient Powders</li> <li>• Zinc Provision During Diarrhoea</li> <li>• Vitamin A Supplementation</li> <li>• Promotion Of Complementary Feeding</li> <li>• Deworming</li> </ul>	Micronutrients (Vitamin A, Zinc & Micronutrient Powder) Deworming	Children aged 6 to 23 months
<b>D. Increased access to affordable nutritious food, clean water, sanitation, and social protection</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion Of Diverse Diets For Pregnant And Lactating Mothers</li> <li>• Promotion Of Safe Water And Hygiene And Sanitation</li> <li>• Promotion Of Increased Availability Of Diverse Locally Available And Processed Foods</li> <li>• Nutritional Sensitive Messages In Cash Transfers &amp; Other Programmes</li> </ul>	Household-level : Diet, Hygiene & Sanitation, Cash Transfer	Households with Pregnant and Lactating Mothers

# Optimizing Service Delivery for nutrition specific and sensitive interventions through Multi-Sectoral Approach: Household Support Agents (HSA) concept



# FACTORS FOR SUCCESS:



## 1. HIGH POLITICAL COMMITMENT

- National Nutrition Forum held in 2011, officiated by the President of Zambia, directed that country needed a national comprehensive strategy to reduce malnutrition.
- High Political representation at N4G summit, June 2013
- Zambia endorsed the N4G Compact making commitments to reduce stunting.
- N4G Commitments:
  - ✓ Resolving human resource gaps in 5 key line Ministries
  - ✓ Increasing financial allocations to nutrition budget lines – by at least 20 percent annually, to reach US\$30 per child under two as recommended by the World Bank.
  - ✓ Gradually matching increased donor contributions to nutrition.
  - ✓ Progressively encouraging private sector engagement in local production of nutritious complementary foods.
  - ✓ Increasing governance of the nutrition sector by establishing higher level oversight of the nutrition sector and strengthening the National Food and Nutrition Commission.
- ❖ The NFNC Act 1967 is under review to make it more responsive to the current needs in the sector and to give NFNC political clout.



## 2. Nutrition Budget & Expenditure

### Nutrition funding

- **Funding to nutrition spread across Ministries** of Health, Community Development, Mother & Child Health (MCDMCH), Agriculture & Livestock, Education, Local Government & Housing. For 2014:
  - US **\$1.15M** allocated to NFNC<sup>1</sup> under **MoH**<sup>2</sup>
  - US **\$174,155** allocated under **MCDMCH**
- In 2015, nutrition spending represents **0.1% share of National Budget**
- **No single comprehensive mechanism to track financial flows for nutrition**

### Target groups

- In 2014, spending on **nutrition specific interventions per child** under two totalled to US **\$0.36** and is projected to increase to \$0.58 in 2015



### Funding gaps

- Total is **inadequate to implement MCDP** programme
- Funding per child under two falls short of US **\$30 per child per year** pledged during Nutrition for Growth Summit



(1) National Food and Nutrition Commission (2) Ministry of Health (3) Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (4) Infant and Young Child Feeding (5) Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Source: National Budget Analysis 2014 CSO-SUN Alliance; Harris, Jody; Haddad, Lawrence and Grütz, Silke Seco (2014) Turning Rapid Growth into Meaningful Growth: Sustaining the Commitment to Nutrition in Zambia, Brighton: IDS. All USD amounts calculated based on current rates.

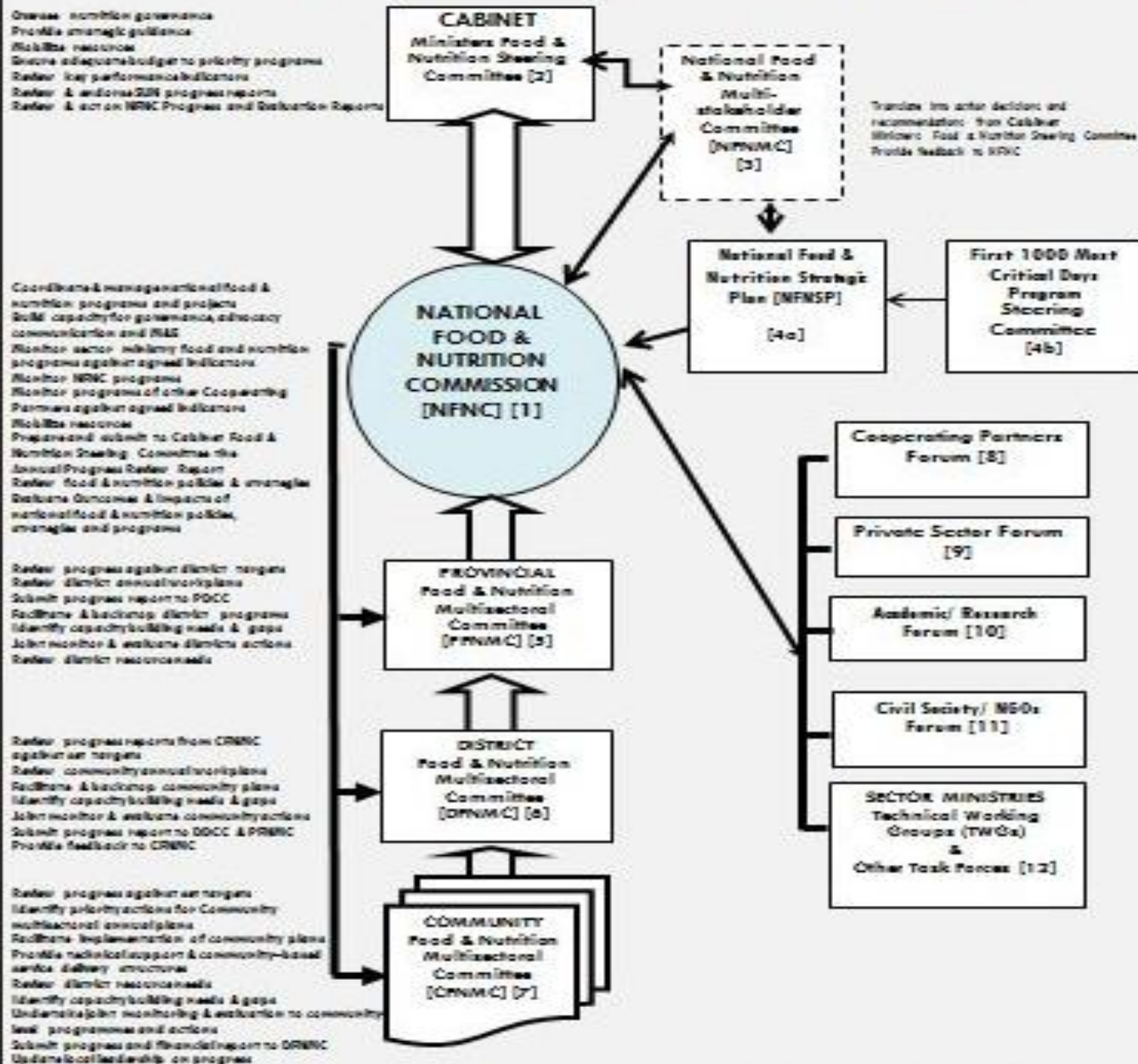
### 3. PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING



- Zambia an early riser in joining the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in 2011, responsible for stimulating commitment to nutrition.
- Based on 1000 MCDP, **coordination framework** has been established with potential to bring all nutrition stakeholders from national and sub-national levels to dialogue. See **Fig. 1** below.
- Government established a special committee of Permanent Secretaries on nutrition chaired by Secretary to Cabinet.
- WFP Zambia CO, with the NFNC & Irish Aid, launched the SUN Business Network in Lusaka with over 160 stakeholders, 30 companies registered (Nov 2014).
- Civil Society Organizations played key role in making the government more accountable: Budget analysis, creating awareness among population groups on need for better nutrition.
- World Bank assisted NFNC to cost nutrition-specific interventions for planning purposes. More work needed to cost nutrition-sensitive interventions.



Figure 1: Institutional Arrangements for Co-ordinating National Food & Nutrition Strategies, Zambia



Source adapted from The Zambian Inter-Sectoral Policy Review Programme 2012-2015. National Food and Nutrition Commission of Zambia, December 2011, pp. 92-101, and National Food and Nutrition Strategy Plan for Zambia 2011-2015.

## 4. ACCOUNTABILITY EFFORTS



- Zambia adopted the Three Ones principle for the 1000 MCDP:
  - ✓ One coordination body,
  - ✓ One implementation Plan and
  - ✓ One Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- There is consensus among stakeholders, in line with above principle, to build & install at the NFNC one Nutrition Information system to serve as a national repository for all nutrition data and information to support decision-making & accountability.
- NFNC is in process of building, with support from partners, an M&E system that will enable it to answer to its coordination and advisory mandate.
- **Project Profile Data form to collect on-going program data covering: programme costs & sources of funding, target beneficiary groups, location and link to NFNSP and 1000 MCDP.**
- **Information will enable us to know who is doing what and where in nutrition in the country and to strengthen nutrition coordination.**



## 4. ACCOUNTABILITY EFFORTS

- Working closely with the help of SUN Movement to develop a tool for tracking financial commitments to nutrition.
- Nutrition data exist from:
  - ✓ periodic national surveys,
  - ✓ MIS of line Ministries and
  - ✓ Nutrition-related Programs from a host of partners
- What is missing is in-depth nutrition policy-oriented analysis of most of these existing nutrition-related data.
- Main reason is inadequate institutional capacity for serious analysis to answer pressing questions related to nutrition.

# SUMMARY:



## KEY CHALLENGES & WAY FORWARD

- Difficult in quantifying and tracking investment in nutrition re: nutrition specific versus nutrition sensitive investments.
  - Need to accelerate work with the World Bank and SUN Movement in costing and budget tracking.
- Nutrition governance bodies are not yet fully functional.
  - There is need to institutionalize the co-ordination mechanisms complete with institutional and human capacities.
- Currently, there is no functioning multi-sectoral nutrition management information system to facilitate investment tracking and decision-making.
  - On-going work to develop such a system must be accelerated together with support in institutional capacity building aimed at institutionalizing skills for in-depth and policy-oriented analysis of existing nutrition-related data.

**THANK YOU**