



Food and Nutrition Council

Detailed Annual Report

January - December 2016



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Foreword

The Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) is a department in the Office of the President and Cabinet whose functionality includes the catalytic role towards promoting food and nutrition security in the context of economic growth and development. Thus the work carried out by FNC in 2016 was guided by the Government's blue-print (ZimASSET) and the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy's seven commitments. All these seven commitments feed towards the Government's goal of *promoting and ensuring adequate food and nutrition security for all people at all times in Zimbabwe, particularly amongst the most vulnerable and in line with our cultural norms and values and the concept of rebuilding and maintaining family dignity*. This report highlights activities undertaken by FNC from January to December 2016 through its 6 technical units as well as through collaboration with key stakeholders. In fulfilment of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, FNC undertook several food and nutrition assessments which informed key policy pronouncements by the Government such as the Declaration of the State of Drought Disaster as well as resource mobilisation for the implementation of life saving programmes for vulnerable households. In addition, this information also contributed towards the compilation and updating of regional resource mobilisation strategies.

The year 2016 also saw the coordination of several Multi-Stakeholder Food and Nutrition Consultative Meetings at both policy and programme implementation levels. These meetings provided strategic direction for the mobilisation of resources and ensured cohesive implementation of responses to mitigate the impact of the El Niño induced drought on households. FNC also enhanced its Advocacy and Communication efforts through the compilation and dissemination of several food and nutrition documents. These include assessment reports, meeting reports, bulletins, newsletters and other Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Through participation in both regional and global food and nutrition initiatives, FNC facilitated Zimbabwe's participation and contribution to the formulation of regional and global strategies to combat food and nutrition insecurity.

These achievements will go a long way in helping FNC achieve its vision of *Every Zimbabwean Free from Hunger and Malnutrition!*

George D. Kembo
Director

Acknowledgements

FNC would like to acknowledge the tremendous support received from the following Government Ministries and Departments as well as Development Partners:

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- SIRDC
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing
- Ministry of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Heritage
- Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)
- The European Union (EU)
- The Department for International Development (DFID)
- UNICEF
- United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Our sincere gratitude also goes to the following multi-sectoral committees:

- The Cabinet Committee on Food and Nutrition Security
- The Working Party of Permanent Secretaries
- The Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security
- The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)
- The Food and Nutrition Security Advisory Group (FNSAG) and;
- The National, Provincial and District Food and Nutrition Security Committees (FNSCs).

Acronyms

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CBM | Community Based Model for Addressing Food and Nutrition Insecurity to Reduce Stunting |
| DFNSCs | District Food and Nutrition Security Committees |
| FNC | Food and Nutrition Council |
| FNSCs | Food and Nutrition Security Committees |
| FNSP | Food and Nutrition Security Policy |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| NRTM | Near Real Time monitoring |
| SUN | Scaling up Nutrition |
| NFNSC | National Food and Nutrition Security Committee |
| OPC | Office of the President and Cabinet |
| PFNSCs | Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees |
| RLA | Rural Livelihoods Assessment |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| ZimASSET | Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation |
| ZimVAC | Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee |

1. Introduction

1.1. Vision

The vision of FNC is to promote multi-sectoral response to food insecurity and nutrition problems to ensure that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and malnutrition

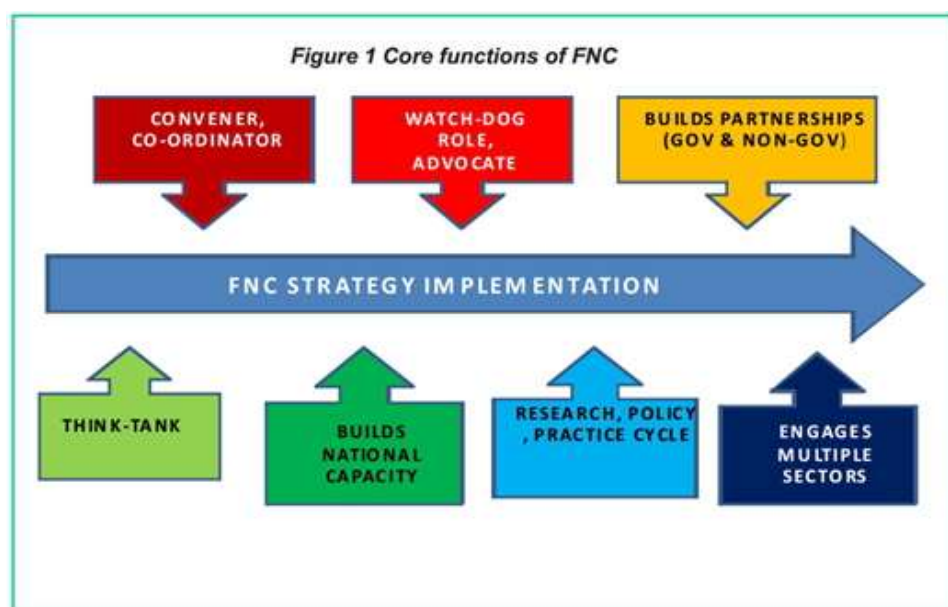
1.2. Mandate

In line with the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (ZimASSET, Food Security and Nutrition Cluster) and the Food and Nutrition Security Policy), FNC is mandated to “*promote a cohesive national response to the prevailing household food insecurity and malnutrition through co-ordinated multi-sectoral action*”. The guiding vision of ZimASSET is “*Towards an empowered society and a growing economy*” and FNC plays an important role in the achievement of this vision by convening and coordinating food and nutrition security issues in the country for multi-sectoral action.

1.3. Core Business and Functions of FNC

FNC recognizes that persistent problems of malnutrition and food insecurity that exist in Zimbabwe cannot be addressed by narrow technical interventions but rather by broad based approaches that promote multi sectoral engagement and collaboration across sectors.

The core functions of FNC are summarized below.



- FNC is the Convener and coordinator of national food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe.
- Charts a practical way forward for fulfilling legal and existing policy commitments in food and nutrition security.
- Advises Government on strategic directions in food and nutrition security.
- Undertakes a “watch dog role” and supports and facilitates action to ensure commitments in food and nutrition are kept on track by different sectors; through a number of core functions:
 - o Undertakes food and nutrition assessments, analysis and research.
 - o Conducts advocacy and communication on food and nutrition security issues.
 - o Provides strategic policy analysis and advice.
 - o Promotes multi-sectoral and innovative approaches for addressing food and nutrition insecurity.
 - o Supports and builds national capacity for food and nutrition security including at sub-national levels.

1.4. Principles Underpinning FNC'S Approach

Principle 1: Drives a multi-sectoral and broad-based approach for analysis and action necessary to ensure food and nutrition security and is informed by a conceptual framework.

Principle 2: Formulates policy and advice that is relevant to the changing socio-economic context in Zimbabwe.

Principle 3: Promotes fora and mechanisms for dialogue and consensus for analysis and action across sectors and partners engaged in food and nutrition security.

Principle 4: Strengthens and reinforces national capacity for food and nutrition security.

Principle 5: Reinforces a dynamic, evidence-based and accountable approach to policy development and implementation

1.5. Goal

The overall goal of FNC's work is to contribute to improved food and nutrition security in Zimbabwe. FNC achieves this specifically through strengthening food and nutrition security assessments, early warning and analysis, promotion of cohesive and integrated multi-sectoral responses for food and nutrition security, policy development, implementation and analysis; advocacy and communication and ensuring compliance with food standards and innovation.

2. Annual Reports

This section presents a summary of the work and achievements by FNC in the calendar year 2016 as well as the challenges the Council encountered and dealt with in the year. The report is organised around FNC's operational units.

2.1. ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION UNIT

Through the Assessment, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, FNC Co-ordinates food and nutrition security information and analysis, within the context of a national food and nutrition information system that is credible, transparent, scientific, relevant and timely and that informs multi-sectoral actions that address food and nutrition security.

2.1.1. ZimVAC 2016 Lean Season Monitoring

FNC, through the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC), undertook a rapid assessment focused on updating the ZimVAC May 2015 Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) results. This was in response to the advent of the El Nino phenomena which had resulted in the country experiencing long dry spells during the first half of the 2015/16 cropping season. The monitoring which focused on relevant food and nutrition security parameters followed a 3 pronged approach which included a review of existing food and nutrition secondary data, qualitative district Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and a quantitative household survey.

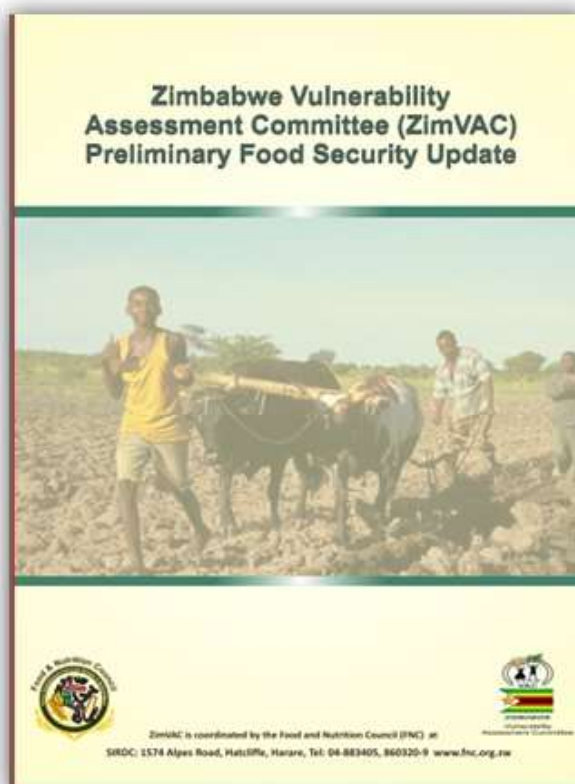
The main objective of the monitoring exercise was to assess the prevailing food and nutrition security situation. Specifically, the assessment aimed:

1. To assess how the food and nutrition situation had evolved since the last assessment (focusing on food availability, access, stability and utilization)
2. To assess the performance of the 2015/16 agriculture season
3. To assess the performance of food and nutrition interventions
4. To assess households' coping mechanisms
5. To determine levels of acute and chronic malnutrition in children 6 to 59 months of age
6. To update the May 2015 ZimVAC food security results in line with the behaviour of indicators used for the scenario building.

FGDs were undertaken in each of the 60 rural districts of Zimbabwe with members of the District Food and Nutrition Security Committees (DFNSCs) (where they have been established) or members of the District Drought Relief Committees (DDRCs). The household survey on the other hand collected data on, among other indicators, food assistance interventions coverage, meal frequency, food consumption and dietary diversity scores, household coping strategies and coping capacity as well as child nutrition. Information collected from the FGDs included rainfall season quality, 2015/16 agricultural assistance, crop growth stage and condition, livestock condition, food and livestock markets, casual labour, household income sources and livelihoods strategies, domestic and production water situation, food assistance and gender based violence. Data collection was followed by data cleaning, analysis and report writing.

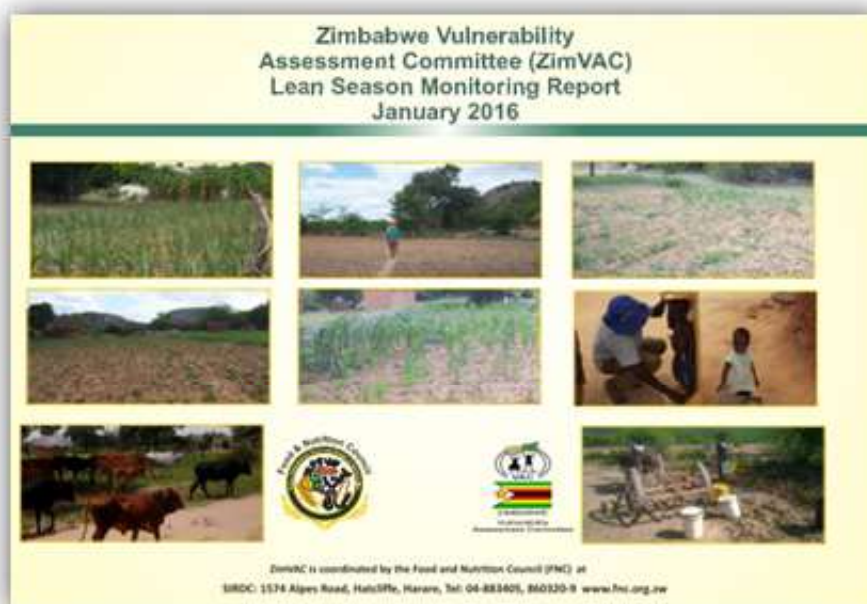
A consolidated *2016 Lean Season Monitoring Report* was compiled and below is a summary of the key conclusions and recommendations from the monitoring:

- a) There was need to monitor the evolution of the season and its implication on the food security situation between this assessment and the May Rural Livelihoods Assessments using secondary data being gathered and analysed by different institutions.
- b) Support emergency rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure in areas where minimum, rapid interventions can mitigate the effects of the current drought.
- c) Livestock support programmes should be intensified to ensure that all critical facets (food, water and drugs) were adequately covered.
- d) There was an urgent need to strengthen and expand current livestock support programmes to prevent further deterioration of livestock condition and deaths. These included community feedlot facilities, support to farmers with hay cutting and baling



- equipment at subsidised prices, subsidised feed sales and sale points close to farmers.
- e) Although all the districts in the country benefitted from food assistance interventions, these were not covering all the people in need and often the level of assistance was not completely covering the food gap at household level. It was therefore recommended that the coverage and adequacy of food assistance programmes be scaled up in accordance with revised food insecurity projections.
 - f) Active case-finding (screening) efforts should be scaled up to ensure early detection and referral of malnourished children for treatment and referral facilities and referral systems should be capacitated with skills for management of acute malnutrition.

Following the finalisation of the Lean Season Monitoring report, it was disseminated to both national and sub-national key decision makers. The target for the sharing of the report



included Food and Nutrition Security Policy implementation structures, ZimASSET structures, the UN and heads of NGOs and the Donor community. The sub-national dissemination was conducted from the 29th of February to the 4th of March in all 8 rural provinces and 60 rural districts of Zimbabwe.

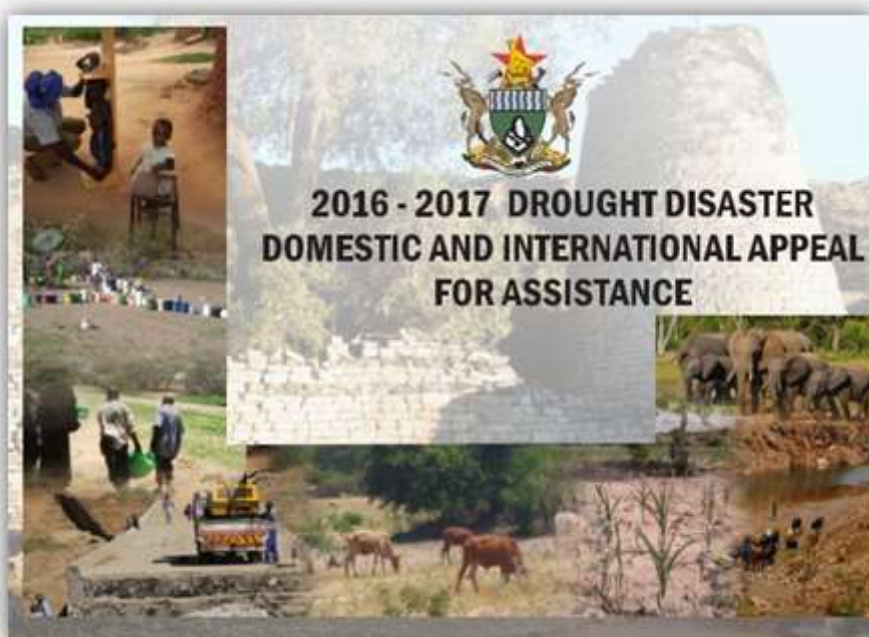
In response to a recommendation in the Lean Season Monitoring report which emphasised the need to monitor the evolution of the season and its implication on the food and nutrition situation during the period until the 2016 May Rural Livelihoods Assessment, ZimVAC shared a Monitoring Tool which was used by the DFNSCs and DDRCs to gather secondary data from the different institutions on critical food and nutrition security indicators.

This data was consolidated by FNC and analysed to keep Government and Development Partners updated as the season evolved.

2.1.2. Compilation of the 2016-2017 Drought Disaster Domestic and International Appeal for Assistance Document

The results from the Lean Season Monitoring, through providing the updated food and nutrition status of the country, contributed to the Government's declaration of the State of Drought Disaster. Following the declaration of the drought by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Cde R. G. Mugabe on the 4th of February, FNC was engaged in the finalisation and dissemination of the *2016-2017 Drought Disaster Domestic and International Appeal for Assistance* document. The Appeal document was a key resource mobilisation tool which ensured that interventions were in place to save lives.

A significant amount of funding was raised by both domestic and international partners in response to the appeal. In order to strategically align with Government emergency needs and priorities, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners (informed by the findings from the Lean Season assessment) revised the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to facilitate scaling up the drought response. The HRP covered the period April 2016 to March 2017 and its focus was on life saving and protecting critical livelihoods of 2.8 million people (30% of the total rural population) with a total requirement of USD360 million in the sectors of Food Assistance and Agriculture, Health and Nutrition, Protection, Education and Water and Sanitation.



2.1.3. ZimVAC 2016 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

FNC coordinated the multi-stakeholder ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment in all 60 rural districts of Zimbabwe and provided strategic and technical leadership throughout the assessment process. This assessment is part of a comprehensive information system that informs Government and its development partners on programming necessary for saving lives and strengthening rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

The ZimVAC 2016 rural livelihoods assessment aimed at:

- Monitoring the progress made towards the attainment of ZimASSET set targets for food and nutrition security.
- Update information on Zimbabwe's rural livelihoods with a particular focus on rural households' vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity.
- Identify constraints to improving community resilience and rural livelihoods including opportunities and pathways of addressing them.

Specifically, the objectives were:

1. To estimate the rural population likely to be food insecure in the 2016/17 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity;
2. To assess the nutrition status of children of 6–59 months;
3. To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, gender, access to basic services (education and water and sanitation facilities), income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies;
4. To determine livelihood coping strategies used by rural communities
5. To determine the coverage of formal and informal social protection interventions;
6. To identify constraints including shocks and hazards to improving community resilience and rural livelihoods including opportunities and pathways of addressing them; and
7. To assess the diversity of livelihood options in the 2016/17 consumption year.

The findings and recommendations of the report were based on a comprehensive review and analysis of relevant secondary data and primary data collected from 14,434 rural households, 19,057 children and 1,095 key informants' group interviews from all the country's 60 rural districts in the eight rural provinces.

The sample for the households was done such that key assessment variables were statistically representative at district, provincial and national levels. The assessment process was from 20 April to 13 June 2016. The draft report was presented to and reviewed by a multi-sectoral committee comprised of senior officials drawn from Government and Development Partners chaired by Mr. O.E.M Hove, Senior Principal Director in the Office of the President and Cabinet and Chairperson of the Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security. Recommendations from this meeting were used to refine and finalise the report. Two versions of the 2016 RLA report, a summary and detailed report were produced.

Below are the findings and recommendations from the assessment:

- a) About 15% of children of school-going age were not in school in May 2016 in the rural areas. The proportion has ranged between 14 and 24% during the same time in the past four years. The major reasons reported by the households with such children have not changed much in the past four years. They were;
 - i. Schools being too expensive and parents/guardians having no money;
 - ii. Children considered too young to be in school by parents/guardians; and
 - iii. Schools being too far for children to walk to.
- b) The order of the most important sources of household cash income (starting with the most common) was casual labour, crop production, remittances, vegetable production and livestock production for the period 2012 -2015. This was disrupted in 2016 when remittances were the second most important source of cash followed by vegetable sales, livestock sales and crop production. This is expected given the very poor crop production most rural households experienced in the 2016 harvest. Consequently, the demand for remittances to make up for the lost crop production income was high.
- c) With the exception of maize, tobacco and cotton, the proportion of households that grew the major food and cash crops in 2015 increased significantly compared to those that did in 2014. However, the poorer rainfall season experienced in the 2015/16 agricultural season resulted in reduced household crop harvests in all districts and rural provinces.
- d) Rural Communities continued to face challenges in accessing markets for agricultural inputs and outputs as well as for food. Most rural communities were generally far from markets and had poor road and communication infrastructure connecting them. There was need to strengthen District Development Fund (DDF) with capacity enhancement and financial resources for maintenance of rural feeder roads.

- e) There was a notable decline in the proportion of households consuming acceptable diets and an increase in households having poor food consumption which showed deterioration in household food security in May 2016 compared to same time last year. Furthermore, the consumption based coping strategies were highest in 2016 compared to the past three years.
- f) WASH practices continued to be of concern across all provinces. Matabeleland North was the worse-off province for all WASH indicators. In-depth research was required to understand the causal factors of the relatively high prevalence of open defecation across the country, particularly in Matabeleland North province.
- g) The national prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition was 4.4%, with boys more affected than girls. The GAM rate was lower than 5.7% observed in January (ZimVAC 2016). The national prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was 1.9%, with boys more affected than girls. This SAM rate is lower than 2.1% observed during the peak of the hunger season and just below the WHO 2% emergency threshold.
- g) Rural food insecurity prevalence in June 2016 was estimated at 6% and was projected to reach 42% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2017). This was the highest rural food insecurity prevalence estimated since 2009. It was 40% higher than that for the 2015/16 year (30%) during the peak hunger period. This food insecurity prevalence translated to about 4.1million rural people compared to 3million people for the previous consumption year.

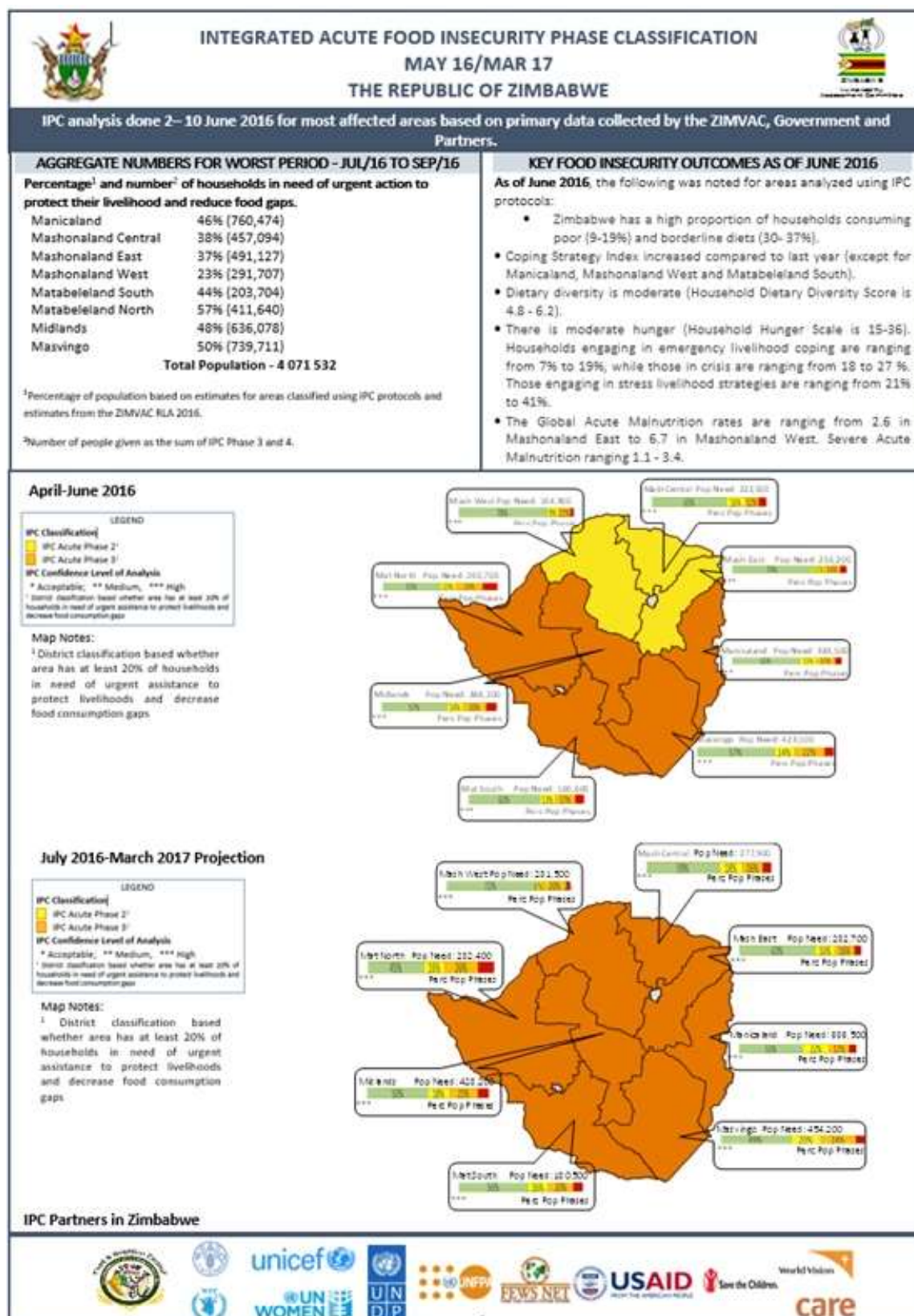
2.1.4. Integration of the IPC Acute Analysis into the RLA



The 2016 RLA also included the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute analysis.

Following the compilation of the RLA report, members undertook the IPC analysis and this culminated in the production of the IPC Acute Communication Template. Overleaf is the summary of the analysis.

ZimVAC RLA 2016 report writing workshop



FNC led the process of disseminating the 2016 RLA results to key stakeholders in order to inform policy, resource mobilisation, response and programming. The results were shared with the Cabinet, the Working Party of Permanent Secretaries, Permanent Secretaries and Provincial Administrators as well as delegates at the 2016 Regional SADC Dissemination Forum. At the regional level, these results informed the SADC Regional Appeal document, a tool for mobilising resources to support households that were affected by the El Niño induced drought within the region. The results (including the IPC Acute communication template) were also shared at provincial and district level. The objectives of the sub-national dissemination exercise were to share the ZimVAC RLA results, to document district and provincial level feedback and to highlight issues from the report requiring further interrogation and analysis.

Key issues emerging from the dissemination were as follows:

Social Protection: The Government-led grain distribution programme was being affected by transport challenges resulting in communities having to pay for the transportation of their grain by private transporters.

Child School Feeding Programme: The implementation of the child school feeding programme was faced with serious resource challenges as schools were being provided with grain only yet they were expected to provide a nutritionally balanced meal.

Access to Agriculture Extension Services: Access to extension services by farmers remained low in the majority of the provinces. This was largely attributed to lack of mobility by extension staff and high farmer to extension worker ratios.

Livestock Production: In order to respond to drought and diseases which were the largest contributors to livestock losses by the majority of households in the last agricultural season, stakeholders recommended the implementation of robust livestock mitigation programmes.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: In spite of a number of on-going Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions, the prevalence of open defecation was high, particularly in Matabeleland North (68%). There was agreement on the need for concerted multi-stakeholder efforts and increased community participation in sanitation programmes.

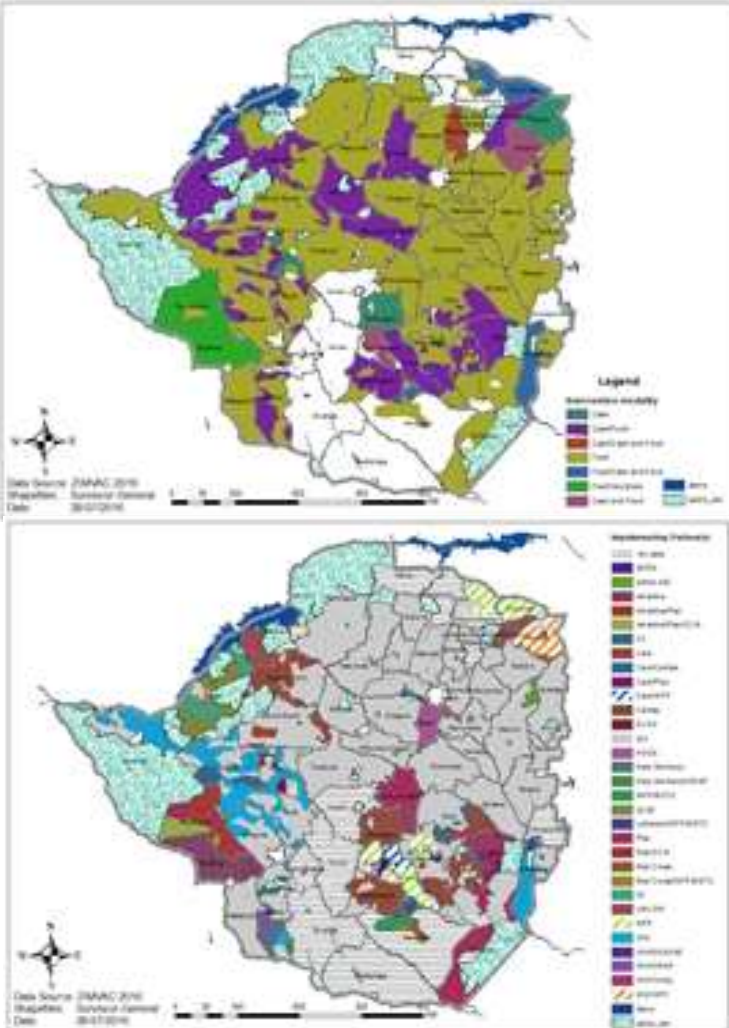
Child Nutrition: There was need for further investigation into why boys were more affected by Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and stunting than girls.

Household Food Security Situation: In light of the worsening food security situation, stakeholders called for increased coordination by stakeholders in the food and nutrition sectors. It was also noted that food insecurity levels of urban households were rising. This

negatively impacted on the livelihoods of a significant proportion of rural households which depended on remittances (both cash and in-kind) from relatives within urban areas. A detailed report highlighting the issues and recommendations from the provinces and districts was compiled.

2.1.5. Consolidation of the Response to the Prevailing Food and Nutrition Insecurity (3 W Matrix)

Following the dissemination of the RLA results, FNC coordinated a meeting to facilitate the consolidation of the response to the prevailing food and nutrition insecurity aimed at monitoring and improving coordination. The main objective was to map out *who* is doing *what* and *where* with regards to food and nutrition security interventions highlighting the programmes in place, their geographical coverage, the number of beneficiaries, timeframes and budgets among other parameters.



Maps reflecting the coverage of food and nutrition security interventions

The consolidated matrix is a tool for strengthening coordination of food and nutrition responses. Specifically, it helps to ensure that the available limited resources are efficiently deployed, helps avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, monitors coverage and adequacy of responses and enhances sharing of lessons among implementing partners. FNC is spearheading the updating of this information.

2.1.6. The 2016 Urban Livelihoods Assessment

The FNC, as the chair of the ZimVAC, was requested to undertake an Urban Livelihoods Assessment following a Cabinet decision made during a Cabinet sitting on the 24th of May 2016. Since its constitution in 2002, ZimVAC had undertaken 15 annual Rural Livelihoods Assessments that have been widely used to inform programming and response plans to the socio-economic challenges that confronted our country in the intervening period. On the contrary, urban livelihoods assessments have been irregular and much fewer over the same period. This has been partly due to the reality that a smaller proportion of our people live in the urban areas and the socio-economic challenges in this sector have been relatively lesser compared to those in the rural areas. The first comprehensive ZimVAC Urban Livelihoods Assessment was conducted in 2003. The subsequent ones were done in 2006, 2009 and 2011. Thus, it was almost five years since the last urban assessment and yet significant socio-economic developments had taken place in our country with expected profound impacts on people's livelihoods; the urban population included.

Assessment Purpose, Objectives and Methodology

The assessment aimed to provide an update on the socio-economic circumstances of the urban households residing in the medium-density, high density, and peri-urban areas of Zimbabwe. The assessment covered Urban Council Areas (UCAs)¹, Administrative Centres (ACs)², Growth Points (GPs)³ and Other Urban Areas. While the assessment used the household as a unit of analysis, it was able to disaggregate its analysis by gender and other key demographic characteristics.

The specific objectives of the assessment were;

1. To describe the socio-economic profiles of urban households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns, hygiene practices and consumption coping strategies.

¹The sector consists of designated areas comprising of usually 2500 households or more with compact settlement pattern and at least 50 percent of the employed persons are engaged in non-agricultural occupations.

²The sector consists of designated areas in each district where the District Administrator's offices are located. There are usually less than 2500 households and the settlement pattern is semi-urban.

³Growth Points and Other Urban Areas are service centres developed to decongest major urban areas by allowing them to grow their own industries and housing estates.

2. To determine the prevalence of food insecurity and its severity amongst households in the urban areas.
3. To assess the nutrition status of children 6-59 months in urban households.
4. To identify shocks and challenges (including the burden of HIV and AIDS and other chronic diseases) to food security in urban areas.
5. To describe the ways and means food insecure households were employing to earn a living and how they were coping with the food insecurity they were experiencing.
6. To outline and determine the level of contribution of urban agriculture (crops and livestock) to urban households' food and income.
7. To assess level of and quality of water, electricity provision and refuse collection, in high density and peri-urban areas.
8. To identify development challenges and development priorities for urban communities in all urban provinces of the country.
9. To provide recommendations on immediate, medium and long term interventions to address food insecurity and other socio-economic challenges in urban areas of Zimbabwe.

The assessment collected multi-sectoral data from individual households and communities in a manner such that child nutritional status results were representative at each of the ten urban provinces of Zimbabwe and household food security status results were representative at both provincial level as well as at selected urban centres with a 95% level of confidence. The total sample size was 9586 households interviewed and 4868 children measured.

The 2016 Urban Livelihoods Assessment covered and provided updates on pertinent urban household livelihoods issues such as demographics, housing, education, hygiene, water and sanitation, energy, social protection, food consumption patterns, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, debts, urban agriculture, coping strategies, food security, health, child nutrition, shocks and hazards as well as gender-based violence.

In addition to paying particular focus on and putting households at the centre of its analysis, the Urban Livelihoods Assessment also collected and recorded urban communities' views on their access to social services and livelihoods challenges as well as their development needs. The assessment process started on 13 August and was completed with report writing on 21 October 2016.

Main Assessment Findings and Recommendations

- a) A significant proportion of people aged 14 to 17 years were reported to be married, implying early child marriages. There was need to step-up and ensure implementation of statutory instruments and programmes that protected children against early marriages
- b) Social protection in the form of social assistance was generally very low in the urban communities. There was need to scale up social assistance programmes to urban households especially for elderly headed households, orphans, child headed households and households headed by the chronically ill and persons with disabilities.
- c) Financial constraints and illness were the major reasons why children were not attending school. Recognizing that 17% of the children were not going to school due to illness, there was need for the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) to coordinate with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE) in implementing a school screening and treatment programme.
- d) Households were living in arrears of all kinds from rentals to school fees.
- e) Given that the majority of the households' most important income source was salaries and wages, it was recommended that efforts should be made to create more stable and quality jobs.
- f) A high proportion of urban households were not satisfied with the quality of drinking water provided by the local authorities and received water supply from the tap for less than five days per week. There was need for the local authorities to improve the quality of water supply to the households as well as restore residents' confidence in the quality of services.
- g) The urban households that were most affected by food insecurity were the elderly headed, child headed, households housing chronically ill members and households burdened by arrears particularly rates and utilities. There was need to consider social protection measures that helped to improve the lives of these vulnerable households.
- h) At least 10 domains had food insecurity prevalence above the national average (31%). These were as follows: Redcliff (46.3%; 17,356), Hwange (45.5%; 8,945), Rusape (43.7%; 12,916), Kwekwe (41.1%; 42,557), Mutare (36.1%; 67,077), Chiredzi (35.1%; 8,786), Gokwe (34.9%; 8,680), Zvishavane (33.2%; 13,884), Bindura (32.8%; 15,803) and Kadoma (31.8%; 32,227).
- i) Accommodation, employment creation, education and electricity provision were the major development priorities for the urban communities identified by this assessment.

2.1.7. The Near-Real Time Monitoring System (NRTM)

FNC continues to spearhead the implementation of the Community Based Model for Addressing Food and Nutrition Insecurity to Reduce Stunting (CBM) pilot in 4 districts. In 2016, the unit undertook a number of activities aimed at building the capacity and improving the functionality of the District and Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees (FNSCs).

Data Management and Report Writing: The CBM's Near Real Time Data component is centred on the functionality of Food and Nutrition Security Committees from village right up to national level with all levels responsible for the collection, compilation, analysis and synthesis of data. This component also takes into consideration data utilisation and citizen accountability as key to improving food and nutrition security challenges.

FNC recognizes the need to strengthen the capacity of FNSCs to enable the functionality of an integrated National Food and Nutrition Security Information System. The ARME unit led the development of a data management and report writing training module with support from the NFNSC. A Data management and report writing training was held for 5 members from each Province and 5 members from the District Food and Nutrition Security Committees from 4 to 8 April 2016 in the provincial capitals. The outputs of the training were district second quarter reports.

CBM Ward Level Data Utilisation Trainings: From the 1st to the 5th of August, FNC led the multi-sectoral NFNSC in undertaking data utilisation trainings for ward FNSCs from the 4 CBM pilot districts. The trainings were aimed at ensuring that committees can interpret, analyse and utilize data from electronic dashboards in the drawing up of ward and village community action plans as well as monitoring and reviewing them. FNC also utilised the trainings to distribute equipment and materials for use by the district and sub-district level FNSCs. These included tablets, printer toner cartridges, bond paper and feature phones for the social accountability programme.

Social Accountability Trainings: Social Accountability trainings were held for participants from selected CBM villages from 22 to 27 August. During training, participants were introduced to the concept of Social Accountability, its aims and were trained on how to operationalise it using feature phones. Once the system is fully functional, it will among other things, allow FNC to track if policy commitments and programme actions are in line with community needs allowing for dialogue with stakeholders and enable sectors to learn about community needs and the adequacy of their responses, thereby facilitating relevant programme adjustments.

National and District Review Meetings: National and district reviews were done for the CBM programme. These meetings went a long way in redirecting the implementation of the programme in the four learning districts. From the 16th to the 18th of February, a review workshop was held. The overall objective of the workshop was to review the first pilot phase of implementation of the Community Based Food and Nutrition Security Programme with specific focus on:

- a) Learning and documenting the dynamics and various experiences that the wards, districts and provinces had in the implementation of CBM
- b) Documenting lessons learnt from both successes and challenges faced during implementation of the pilot phase
- c) Reviewing the performance of the Near Real Time Data Monitoring System

This review meeting recommended the programme to first concentrate the model in 5 learning wards in each district. This meeting also redirected the redistribution of the tablets for data entry. A report for the review workshop was compiled and was critical in informing the planned scaling up of the CBM approach to more wards in the same districts.

A national review meeting was held on the 28th of November which;

- Facilitated review of the 2016 annual performance of the whole pilot CBM programme and identification of implementation issues and challenges; and
- Identified lessons learnt and best practices and allowed representatives of the pilot CBM PFNSCs and DFNSCs to present and review their 2017 action plans.



Some of the delegates who attended the National Review Meeting

It was pleasing to note that the 4 pilot districts managed to achieve a significant number of milestones in spite of the numerous challenges they faced. Notably, the programme has ignited a sense of unity of purpose among stakeholders in the fight against malnutrition. In addition, the programme had also provided opportunities for the wards to own information which is critical for programming purposes. Some of the identified challenges included limited resources for the districts to undertake support, supervision and monitoring of the wards as well as competing sectoral activities. A consolidated report of the review documenting these key issues was compiled.

Regional CBM Review Meeting: FNC led the Zimbabwean delegation that comprised of representatives from UNICEF, Ministry of Health and Child Care and Plan International which participated in the regional CBM Review Meeting that was held in Swaziland. The meeting reviewed the status of implementation and results achieved during the implementation phase of the programme. A key lesson learnt at the workshop was the importance of documentation of the key elements of the community based approach in the pilot districts so as to better inform its replication.

2.1.8. Strengthening the ZimVAC Process

In recognition of the crucial role which ZimVAC plays in informing Government and Development Partners on livelihoods and vulnerability issues in the country, FNC coordinated a multi-stakeholder consultation process to facilitate the strengthening of the ZimVAC assessment process. The consultation started with convening of a *Strengthening ZimVAC* meeting on the 30th of March. The meeting was attended by members of the Food and Nutrition Security Management Team as well as the ZimVAC technical committee members. The meeting deliberated on enhancing and continuous strengthening of the rural livelihoods assessments. Key recommendations from the meeting were on strengthening the ZimVAC 2016 RLA objectives, methodology, the food security analytical framework and communicating the assessment results.

The second part of the *Strengthening ZimVAC* process consisted of a review undertaken with financial and technical support from the European Union (EU) through the Joint Research Centre (JRC). From the 11th to the 14th of April, the EU-JRC delegation carried out technical consultations and meetings with different stakeholders who included Donors, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, ZIMSTAT, FEWSNET, UN agencies such as World Food Programme, FAO, UNICEF and WHO and UNDP among others. The purpose of the consultations was to initiate dialogue among food and nutrition stakeholders on how ZimVAC assessments can be

improved with regards to process and technical aspects. The process culminated with a presentation of the findings at a feedback meeting held on the 15th of April 2016 which was chaired by the chairperson of the Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security and Senior Principal Director in the Office of the President and Cabinet Mr O. E. M Hove. A report of the feedback meeting was compiled and shared.



Delegates at the Feedback meeting for the presentation of findings from the EU-funded ZimVAC review process

2.1.9. Establishment of an Integrated National Food and Nutrition Security Information System (FNSIS)

FNC developed an integrated Food and Nutrition Security Information system (FNSIS) which comprises of three components; a document management system and two data management systems. The system was developed through the work of two consultancies; one which developed an electronic structure of the FNSIS and the other one which initiated the collection of secondary data on Food and Nutrition Security in Zimbabwe and assembling it into one repository. Amongst its key capabilities are document search, editing history and security. The data management system is able to archive data aggregates, analyse them and present analysis outputs in selected dashboards. Multiple data entry channels are available and they include direct manual data entry, electronic data importation and near-real time data capture via tablets and mobile phones. The dashboards are versatile and can be customised to present graphs, charts, pictures, maps and/or videos.

2.1.10. The 2016 Market Assessment

The Market assessment is a critical component of the FNSIS which provides credible and reliable information to inform programming and policies. ZimVAC undertook the 2016 Market assessment in 51 food insecure rural districts from the 9th to the 18th of November. The purpose of the assessment was to determine and monitor among other issues, the functionality of the food market systems (especially cereals market system) and make recommendations to the Government and Development Partners on the best food transfer modalities for different rural districts in the country. FNC provided technical guidance over the assessment process specifically the review of the data collection tools, secondary data analysis, training of trainers and enumerators, data collection, data analysis and report writing.

The assessment employed both secondary and primary data sources to meet the agreed objectives and to identify suitable markets for the assessment. The secondary data and reports obtained from various sources provided background analysis and strengthened the analysis of primary source data. Training on the use of the methodology and tools was conducted at national level for the national team and at provincial level for the provincial enumerators. A key informant tool was administered to the district stakeholders who provided the district overview and assisted in the selection of the seven markets to be interviewed. These markets were supposed to be the main markets used by vulnerable households to obtain their food. Primary data collection was conducted from the 9th to the 18th of November with the traders' questionnaire being administered to at least 8 traders in each market. Seven markets were covered in each district. Data collection was followed by data cleaning and report writing from the 29th of November to the 3rd of December. A draft report is in place which provides clear recommendations on the appropriate response food assistance transfer modalities. The report will be finalised and shared in 2017.

2.1.11. SADC Regional Vulnerability, Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Meetings

Representatives from FNC, as Chair for the ZimVAC, attended several SADC RVAC meetings during the course of the year. The meetings were convened around different thematic areas and working groups.

Outcomes Review, Training Workshop: The Workshop focused on introducing the Outcomes Review and training Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) focal points to the Outcomes Review Support Pack. The specific objectives of the training workshop were:

1. To introduce the Outcomes Review

2. To introduce M&E focal points to the Outcomes Review Support Pack containing the following
 - a. An overview of the objectives and approach and
 - b. To train M&E focal points on the Outcomes Review
3. To start the customisation of Outcomes Review Pack so that it reflects each NVAC's programme
4. To set and finalise Outcomes Review timeline

Following the training, M&E focal points trained on RVAA Outcomes Review Pack were tasked to undertake Outcomes Reviews in their member states. The process culminated in the undertaking of Outcomes Reviews by member states. Zimbabwe undertook the outcomes review and the results of this process indicated that:

1. ZimVAC outputs have contributed significantly to the formulation of food and nutrition security interventions in Zimbabwe;
2. These outputs have informed policy pronouncements such as the declaration of the State of Drought Disaster on 4 February 2016; and,
3. Various stakeholders were accessing and using the VAA outputs from Zimbabwe.

SADC Annual Dissemination Meeting: FNC representing ZimVAC attended the SADC Annual Dissemination meeting which was held from 6 to 8 June 2016. The main objective of the Technical meeting was to prepare and endorse the Regional Annual Assessment Report for SADC. Specifically, the meeting aimed at receiving SADC member states' VACs findings and presentations, facilitate discussion and improve clarity on the prevailing status of the drought and food security situation in the SADC Region. This meeting was followed by a high level meeting attended by the ZimVAC Chair, the Principal Director in the Office of the President and Cabinet; and the Permanent Secretary for Local Government, Public Works and National Housing. This meeting mostly focused on endorsing the SADC Annual Assessment Regional report and also compiled the SADC Humanitarian Regional Appeal.

SADC Annual Organisation Meeting: Representatives from the ZimVAC attended the Annual Organisation Meeting AOM where national Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs), the Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) had an opportunity to share lessons learnt, collectively find solutions to challenges and advance good practices among Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) practitioners in the region. Key outcomes from the meeting included:

1. The review of the Programme Phase 2012-2016, its outcomes and achievements

2. Sharing of success stories and best practices
3. Sharing of innovations for improving the implementation of VAA activities in member states and at the regional level, and
4. Discussion of NVAC and RVAC work plans for April 2017 to March 2018

Through participation in other regional meetings convened by the SADC RVAA, FNC also contributed towards:

1. The compilation and updating of key documents such as the SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal, the SADC RVAA 2017 – 2021 Programme Process and the 2012 – 2016 SADC RVAA Programme phase closure process
2. Development of the Knowledge Management portal process,
3. The dialogue on the integration of the IPC into the VAA process,
4. Updating of guidance documents and strategies for (i) the Urban Vulnerability, Assessment and Analysis and (ii) Integration of Nutrition HIV and Gender Technical Working Groups (TWGs), and
5. Development of the RVAC post 2016 strategic and funding document.

2.2. MULTI-SECTORAL COORDINATION UNIT (MCU)

Through the Multi-sectoral Coordination Unit, FNC Promotes multi-sectoral approaches to addressing food and nutrition insecurity through strengthening national systems and structures at all levels (National, Provincial and District) and through promotion of multi-sectoral programme innovation and best practice.

2.2.1. Enhancing Functionality of Food and Nutrition Security Committees

FNC continues to recognize and strengthen the capacity to address food and nutrition insecurity through the multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Structures at National, Provincial, District, Ward and Village levels.

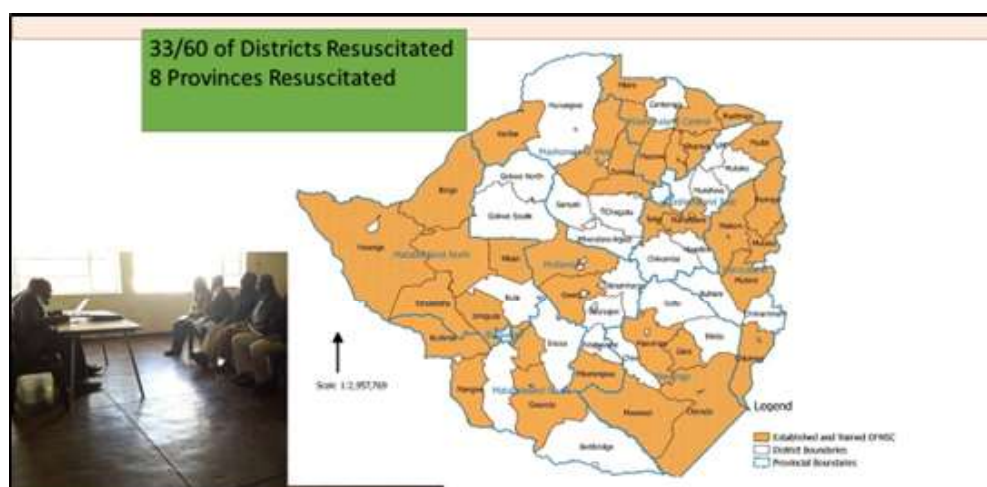
The following high-level committees met consistently throughout 2016 to deliberate on food and nutrition security issues:

- Cabinet Committee on Food and Nutrition Security
- Working Party of Permanent Secretaries
- Expanded Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security

National Food and Nutrition Security Committee: An NFNSC meeting was held on the 1st of November at FNC. The purpose of the meeting was to provide members with updates on action points from previous meetings whilst taking stock of progress in the food and nutrition security arena. The meeting also aimed to create a shared vision of the priority activities for the NFNSC in the final quarter of 2017. Members were updated on activities which had taken place in the Food Safety sector, the progress made in the Cost of Hunger in Zimbabwe study as well as the outcomes of the CBM review meeting. A key outcome from this meeting was the convening of a sub-committee meeting to develop a detailed programme of works defining the way forward for the CBM for onward submission to the chair of the Expanded Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security.

Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees: To date FNC has facilitated the establishment/resuscitation and capacitation of Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees in 8 out of the 10 provinces in the country. Because of the declaration of the drought as a state of Disaster in February 2016, the PFNSCs were meeting regularly as a bigger fora Drought Relief Committees. However, more support and a constraint removal budget are required to facilitate for the PFNSC to produce working documents.

District Food and Nutrition Security Committees: To date FNC has facilitated the establishment/resuscitation and capacitation of 33 out of 60 District Food and Nutrition Security Committees to be able to monitor and document the prevailing Food and Nutrition Security issues as a means towards improved national and sub national coordination of food and nutrition security interventions in the country. Twelve districts managed to submit their updated 2016 membership database. In each quarter, about 50% of the districts managed to submit, though late, their quarterly updates.



Functional Food and Nutrition Security Committees

Ward and Village Food and Nutrition Security Committees: Mwenezi, Chipinge, Mutasa and Chiredzi DFNSCs were supported to establish Ward Food and Nutrition Security Structures. In each District, 5 selected Wards were to further establish Village Food and Nutrition Security Committees.

2.2.2. Monitoring and Support Visits

European Union Delegation Visit: FNC coordinated review and learning visits with an EU delegation in April 2016 to selected DFNSCs. During the visits, the Mangwe District Food and Nutrition Security Committee in Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committee had an opportunity to interact with the representatives of the delegation and shared their strategies, achievements and challenges in multi-sectoral coordination and action. The Matabeleland North PFNSC highlighted how they were engaged in the monitoring of the EU supported projects in the province with regular support visits being conducted to districts implementing the projects. They also highlighted a few challenges that they were facing as a committee in terms of regular meetings and constant attendance by committee members. The Mangwe DFNSC highlighted how the EU project had been instrumental in the development of their district and how they had managed to meet and discuss the implementation of the project as a committee. They also highlighted the need for a small budget to be availed to committees as a means of constraint removal.

FNC/ FAO Project Evaluation: The project *“Support to the Roll Out and Implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy through the Strengthening of the Food and Nutrition Council”* was being implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through FNC. The other project partners were UNICEF, WFP, WHO, the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Ministry of Agriculture. The target groups were the FNC technical team as well as multi-stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Committees at national, provincial and district levels. Thus, the project, which was funded by the EU, was implemented at national level but also operated in eight (8) rural provinces and fifteen (15) rural districts.

The districts that were visited were Bulilima, Mangwe, Bindura, Mberengwa, Mazowe, Shamva, Seke, Zvimba, Umguza and Masvingo. The overall purpose of the evaluation was to assess the processes and achievements made to capture effectively lessons learnt and provide information on the nature, extent and where possible, the effect of the capacity building project to the FNSCs. The evaluation also drew lessons to assist in understanding

what had and what had not worked (also enquiring, under which circumstances) to inform future similar intervention.

Key recommendations from these visits were as follows:

1. A constraint removal budget should be availed to all Provinces and Districts
2. An operational activity based budget should be provided to support specific FNSC activities as per work plans.
3. Technical resources should be circulated to FNSCs through multiple channels, and in particular the FNC website.
4. Sectors represented in the NFNSC need to follow up with their sub-national offices to ensure that they are providing their input into the reports. This could be cross-checked with submission of sector based reports to the NFNSC.
5. FNSCs should be encouraged to adopt innovative ways of providing feedback through communication platforms such as social media.

Ward Functionality Enhancement: While ward FNSCs were trained on the use of three monthly reporting tools, i.e. Meetings Reporting Template; the Microplan Review Template and the Functionality Tool, none of these tools were being utilised. In that regard, the NFNSC went to the 4 districts to observe the November WFNSC monthly meetings to understand the challenges they faced in completing these reporting tools. The scheduling and coordination of meetings was facilitated by the DFNSC core team (comprised of members from the ministries responsible for agriculture, labour and social welfare and rural development) and was supported by other various committee members.

The following recommendations were made from these visits:

1. Strengthen WFNSCs on drafting of plans and recording of minutes.
2. Drafting a code of conduct that minimises personalisation of Android tablets being used for data collection.
3. The social accountability and citizen engagement module needed to be finalised.
4. Sectoral cascading of CBM concept was required.
5. DFNSCs to create a clear roaster for Ward monitoring visits in order to equitably cover the district.
6. Provision of stationery (particularly pens) and refreshments support to WFNSCs is necessary.
7. There is need to foster ownership of CBM among national and provincial heads.

2.2.3. Capacity Building of Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Committees

FNC coordinated efforts to ensure that the capacity of Food and Nutrition Security Committees is enhanced by strengthening competences and skills such as planning, data management and utilisation, and social accountability. National TOTs were held followed by District TOTs Mwenezi, Chipinge, Mutasa and Chiredzi. These Districts proceeded to train their WFNSCs with support from NFNSC.



Members of the NFNSC with Ward FNSC Members from Mutasa ward 20 (top) and ward 5 (bottom)

2.3. ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Through the Advocacy and Communications Unit, FNC Increases visibility, advocates on issues related to food and nutrition security and informs perceptions and understanding of these issues among multiple stakeholders (including senior Government authorities and the general public) through advocacy, information and communication.

2.3.1. Exhibitions

2.3.1.1. European Union Day Commemorations

In an effort to continue raising awareness of the FNC mandate, FNC exhibited during the European Union (EU) day commemorations held at the EU Ambassador's residence on 5 May 2016. On display were FNC publications which included Food and Nutrition Newsletters, reports and bulletins. The exhibition created an opportunity to widen the

coordination scope for FNC in the food and nutrition security realm as it provided room to engage new stakeholders. This engagement helped FNC in updating its stakeholder database.



FNC/FAO Desk at the exhibition

2.3.1.2. Harare Agricultural Show

From the 22nd to the 27th of August, FNC exhibited at the 2016 edition of the Harare Agricultural Show under the auspices of the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) which presented a coordinated approach to addressing climate change issues.

FNC exhibited under the sub-theme of *Information and Climate Change Responses* which focussed on the provision of targeted and timely dissemination of information to facilitate appropriate actions and evidence based strategies which empower communities to deal with shocks and hazards. FNC displayed several promotional materials which included ZimVAC Assessment reports, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, the Food and Nutrition Security

Policy Implementation Matrix, Food and Nutrition Security Policy Summary, the Healthy Harvest Manual, the National Nutrition Strategy document, bulletins, newsletters and fliers. Branded CDs containing electronic copies of these key documents as well as other information education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed. The Harare Agricultural Show provided a unique opportunity for FNC to meaningfully engage with its clientele and stakeholders. Key amongst the recommendations coming from visitors was that FNC must hold an all-inclusive Food and Nutrition Summit where stakeholders at all levels can engage and share information on food and nutrition security.

*Chief Secretary
(OPC), Dr. M.J.M.
Sibanda (centre) at
the FNC display table*



2.3.2. Media Engagement

FNC continues to make use of a variety of innovative communication strategies to increase stakeholder awareness on food and nutrition security issues as well as to strengthen relations with the media. In conjunction with UNICEF, FNC coordinated 2 media visits to selected food insecure districts (Umzingwane, Kariba, Mwenezi and Mbire) to facilitate the documentation of the impact of the El Niño induced drought on households' food and nutrition security. From the 4th to the 8th of April, a team which comprised of UNICEF, Ministry of Health and Child Care, FNC as well as print and electronic media journalists visited Kariba and Umzingwane districts. The team also visited Mwenezi (11th to 15th April) and Mbire (21st to 24th of June). Media articles on the food and nutrition security situation emanating from these visits were published in several newspapers which included the following:

- **Daily News:** *Mat south children suffer malnutrition*
<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2016/04/23/mat-south-children-suffer-malnutrition>,

- *Daily News: Hunger stalks ordinary folk*
<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2016/05/01/hunger-stalks-ordinary-folk>;
- **The Zimbabwean:** <http://www.thezimbabwean.co/2016/05/hunger-as-el-nino-scorches-farmlands/>
- **The Standard:** *2016, year of disaster: The grim face of starvation in Mwenezi*
<http://www.thestandard.co.zw/2016/02/07/2016-year-of-disaster-the-grim-face-of-starvation-in-mwenezi/>
- **The Zimbabwean:** <http://www.thezimbabwean.co/2016/05/hunger-as-el-nino-scorches-farmlands/>

A number of electronic productions were also generated from these visits. They include a video production aired on television by SABC on the Gache Gache community and several stories broadcast on ZBC's *Spot FM* radio station. Documentary videos were produced from the Mwenezi and Mbire visits and these can be accessed from both FNC and UNICEF websites. These outputs were a key resource in informing stakeholder awareness and response to the prevailing food and nutrition insecurity. In addition, FNC utilised these visits to strengthen relations with the media who are key partners in the dissemination of food and nutrition information.

2.3.3. Enhancement of the FNC Brand

In an effort to enhance the organisation's image and brand, the unit re-designed the FNC website. The process involved the incorporation of new visual and audio aspects. The website's functionality and ease of access by the organisation's stakeholders were also enhanced through the inclusion of several new functionality tools. Branded document folders for FNSCs were printed and shared with all committees. Lastly, a branded exhibition booth was procured and has served well in enhancing the visibility of the FNC brand during exhibitions.

2.3.4. Food and Nutrition Issues High on the Development Agenda

In 2016, various Food and Nutrition Security Structures met to deliberate on food and nutrition security issues.

2.3.4.1. Cabinet Committee on Food and Nutrition Security

The committee, which is chaired by the Vice President, ensured that food and nutrition security issues remained high on the development agenda. Notably, the committee ensured the timely approval and adoption of the Lean Season Monitoring report, 2016-2017 Drought Disaster Domestic and International Appeal for Assistance document and RLA reports to facilitate their use for programming and planning purposes by Government and Development Partners in the implementation of life saving response programmes.

2.3.4.2. Working Party of Permanent Secretaries

The Working Party of Permanent Secretaries, which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary in the Office of the President and Cabinet, met regularly during the year to deliberate on various food and nutrition issues and provided key updates to the Cabinet Committee on Food and Nutrition Security. They also provided technical support and guidance to FNC, ensuring that it effectively carries out its mandate.

2.3.4.3. Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security

The Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security provided support to FNC and provided food and nutrition updates and reports to the Working Party of Permanent Secretaries. In order to facilitate the process of reviewing progress on key food and nutrition programmes, the committee was expanded to incorporate members of the Food and Nutrition Security Advisory Group (FNSAG) Heads of Agencies, Development Partners as well as technical officers from the NFNSC. This *Expanded Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security* held 2 Meetings in 2016. The first meeting was held on the 3rd of October to review the pilot phase of the CBM. The meeting identified the successes as well as challenges experienced during the implementation of the pilot. These outcomes were documented and informed follow up activities by the NFNSC.

The second Expanded Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security meeting was held on the 13th of December 2016. The meeting was convened to facilitate multi-sectoral engagement on food and nutrition issues with particular focus on reviewing progress made in selected food and nutrition security programmes being undertaken in Zimbabwe. The meeting received updates from the Aflatoxin study by ZVITAMBO, the CBM pilot, the ZimVAC 2016 Market Assessment, Government and humanitarian food assistance programmes, WASH, the multi-sectoral nutrition and health programme in 15 districts of Zimbabwe led by UNICEF and functionality of Food and Nutrition Security Committees. The meeting highlighted the importance of food safety issues in the country and a key recommendation on the development of a Food Safety Act was made. The meeting also re-directed the implementation of the proposed scale-up of the CBM programme to an additional 15 districts.



Some of the delegates who attended the second Expanded Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security meeting

2.3.4.4. Joint Technical Review Committee Meetings

At least 4 joint Technical Review Committee Meetings comprising members from the Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security, the FNSAG and the NFNSC were convened in 2016. The meetings were chaired by the Chairperson of the Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security Mr O.E.M. Hove. The first meeting was convened to review the findings from the ZimVAC 2016 Lean Season Monitoring assessment in February. Also present at this meeting were Provincial and District Administrators from the 8 rural provinces. The meeting provided critical recommendations for the report and also secured stakeholder ownership of the report. The 2nd meeting held from the 24th to the 25th of February reviewed and validated the National and Provincial Accelerated Action Plans for SDG2.

The 3rd meeting was held in April to review the findings from consultants who had been undertaking the Strengthening ZimVAC Process. The meeting was critical in clarifying a number of technical and conceptual issues and gave re-direction for the finalisation of the consultancy report. The 4th joint Technical Review Committee meeting was convened to review the findings from the 2016 Urban Livelihoods assessment. The review provided guidance for further analysis in a number of thematic areas.



Provincial delegates at the Joint Technical Review Meeting

2.3.4.5. High Level Multi-Stakeholder Food and Nutrition Consultative Meetings

The Government and the UN system in Zimbabwe jointly coordinated 4 Multi-Stakeholder Food and Nutrition Consultative meetings in 2016. These were held in January, March, July and November 2016. The meetings were jointly convened by the Office of the President and Cabinet and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and were co-chaired by Rtd. Col. Christian Katsande, Deputy Chief Secretary in the OPC and Mr Bishow Parajuli, the UN Resident Coordinator to Zimbabwe and co-facilitated by FNC and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office.

The meetings brought together Permanent Secretaries, Principal Directors, Directors, Heads of Agencies and technical officers from several Ministries and Departments, UN Agencies, NGOs, academia, civil society and the private sector, among others to deliberate on the coordination of responses to the prevailing El Nino induced drought. At these meetings, updates were given on key thematic areas which included the crop and livestock situation, the health and nutrition situation, the status of Government grain procurement and distribution efforts, rainfall season and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) situation among others. Deliberations also focussed on progress made in each sector, sectoral priority needs, operational gaps and challenges and solutions to these. The first meeting held on the 15th of January focused on assessing the impact of the *El Nino*-induced drought in the country and to urgently prepare a coordinated response to the likely humanitarian needs.

The second meeting was held on the 23rd of March and it took stock of the progress made in the drought response efforts by the Government and the humanitarian assistance community and addressed coordination and implementation issues around the multi-sectoral drought response efforts. The 3rd meeting held on the 7th of July was a continuation and follow-up to the preceding meetings held on the 15th of January and the 23rd of March 2016. The meetings provided updates on progress made since the March meeting by the different sectors on key action points agreed in the preceding meeting, the findings of the 2016 RLA and on-going sectoral responses.



From left: The Deputy Chief Secretary in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Mr. J.H. Mupamhanga; the UN Resident Coordinator to Zimbabwe, Mr. Bishow Parajuli and the Deputy Chief Secretary in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Rtd. Col. Christian Katsande

The 4th and final meeting for 2016 was held on the 17th of November. Key activities included updates from the different thematic areas and presentation of the preliminary findings and recommendations from the ZimVAC 2016 Urban Livelihoods assessment.

The outcomes from these 4 meetings contributed towards the strengthening of multi-stakeholder coordination, strengthening of monitoring mechanisms, strengthening of feedback mechanisms and facilitated resource mobilisation for the implementation of the response to the El Nino induced drought. FNC utilised these multi-sectoral platforms to harness technical inputs into the finalisation of the Rural and the Urban Livelihoods Assessment reports. Several key recommendations were made at these fora which contributed towards the enrichment and finalisation of the reports.

2.3.4.6. Provincial Drought Response Consultative Meetings

FNC participated in 2 provincial Drought Response Consultative Meetings. The meetings were a follow-up on a recommendation from the 3rd Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting on the need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms at all levels. The first meeting was held in Bulawayo from the 29th to the 30th of September and brought together stakeholders from Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands and Bulawayo Metropolitan Provinces.



Some of the delegates attending the first Provincial Drought Response Consultative Meeting held in Bulawayo

The 2nd meeting was held in Harare on the 4th of November and brought together stakeholders from Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Manicaland, Masvingo and Harare Metropolitan provinces.

The meetings placed emphasis on the need for:

1. An on-going harmonised and holistic multi-sectoral approach in programme implementation
2. Strengthening of communication systems at all levels
3. Reporting of implementation challenges to the Command Centre
4. Enhancement of current short term programmes to focus on the medium term and the long term to ensure a continuation of the responses after the peak hunger period
5. Mainstreaming of protection issues into responses,

6. Enhancing the role of the Private Sector in the implementation of the response
7. Implementation of interventions for urban households
8. Strengthening of coordination platforms at the various levels

2.3.4.7. Nutrition Issues on the Global Arena

As the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Convener for Zimbabwe, FNC facilitated the presentation of nutrition issues at the UN General Assembly meetings and the Scaling Up Nutrition Global Gathering held in Rome.

2.4. POLICY ANALYSIS AND ADVICE

Through the Policy Analysis and Advice Unit, FNC Promotes food and nutrition security on the broader national economic and development agenda through strategic policy analysis and advice, co-ordinates implementation of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and ensures that Zimbabwe is informed by and is informing global and regional policy networks and initiatives.

2.4.1. Review and Consolidation of Food and Nutrition Security Policy Documents

FNC engaged the services of consultants to facilitate the analysis of food and nutrition security policy documents, research studies and assessments developed by FNC and other relevant Government Ministries. The consultants collated the relevant documents from the different sectoral ministries, reviewed and analysed them to produce policy briefs and papers useful for policy planning and development.

The following were the key outputs from this consultancy:

- (i) Chronological assessment of Government positions and policies on Food and Nutrition security issues since 2005.
- (ii) Food and Nutrition studies in Zimbabwe- Strengths, Gaps and Areas that need strengthening.
- (iii) Alignment of Food and Nutrition Security Policies to Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) targets and the Food and Nutrition Security Policy.
- (iv) Food and Nutrition Security response to El-Nino in Zimbabwe – 2016 and Beyond.

2.4.2. Development of the Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) for the Second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG2) for Zimbabwe

As a continuation of the work towards the development of the AAP for SDG 2 which started in 2015, FNC coordinated the hosting of an AAP validation workshop which brought together stakeholders from the national level as well as Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees.

The multi-stakeholder meeting was convened from the 24th to the 25th of February to review and validate the draft AAP document. The workshop was attended by senior officials from the Office of the President and Cabinet, Provincial Administrators from the 8 rural provinces, selected members from the 8 Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees as well as national stakeholders from Government Ministries, Departments and Development Partners. Key outputs from this workshop were the 8 provincial AAP plans and a consolidated National Plan. The draft AAP document is now in place awaiting launch and dissemination.

2.5. FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION STANDARDS UNIT

Through the Food Safety and Nutrition Standards Unit, FNC strengthens multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral adherence to national and international food safety standards, including through promoting innovative approaches to locally produced food products.

2.5.1. Coordination of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Teleconferences

In order to ensure that the country is contributing to the global SUN agenda, FNC coordinated three conference calls in 2016. The SUN teleconferences were organised by the Global SUN Network and continued to be an opportunity for SUN countries to share experiences, challenges and updates on progress in Scaling Up Nutrition according to the various thematic areas of focus. The first one was held on the 25th of January and it focused on national nutrition targets and commitment to action.

The objectives were to determine:

- The country's method of establishing national nutrition targets
- The kind of commitments to actions which were triggered following the agreement on the national nutrition targets; and,
- How the targets and commitments linked to the national planning and budget cycle for nutrition

FNC, as the coordinator of SUN in the country, was given an opportunity to make a presentation that demonstrated high level commitment to national nutrition priorities. Zimbabwe reported that there was high level commitment to nutrition issues with SUN being coordinated within the Office of the President and Cabinet. Zimbabwe has also developed a costed National Nutrition Strategy that has set targets for both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive indicators. Through this National Nutrition Strategy, Zimbabwe is also piloting a multi-sectoral CBM that aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of a holistic approach towards stunting reduction. The second conference call was held on Tuesday the 10th of May and the focus of the call was on building and sustaining political commitment.

Specifically, the teleconference aimed to determine:

- The key success factors in securing and sustaining political commitment for nutrition
- The political circumstances and key steps taken which led to this commitment
- The key decision makers engaged, how they were identified and what tools (such as advocacy tools)/ methods (such as media or champions) were used to influence their commitment
- The stakeholders who were integral to the effort and how they were working to sustain the commitment to nutrition nationally.

In this thematic area, Zimbabwe was focusing on fostering more political commitment towards nutrition through engaging Parliamentarians to invest time and effort towards championing nutrition issues. A Parliamentarian, Mrs T Khumalo, has been identified as a nutrition champion and has since begun to advocate for the sharing of nutrition reports during Parliament sessions. There is need to further support this advocacy initiative so that nutrition continues to be on the agenda of the Parliament.

The 3rd teleconference on the El Nino response by SUN countries was held on the 14th of July. It provided an opportunity for Governments and their partners dealing with the impact of the El Niño induced drought to exchange experiences on how they were mobilising stakeholders across sectors to ensure nutritional needs were being met. Specifically, the teleconference aimed to determine:

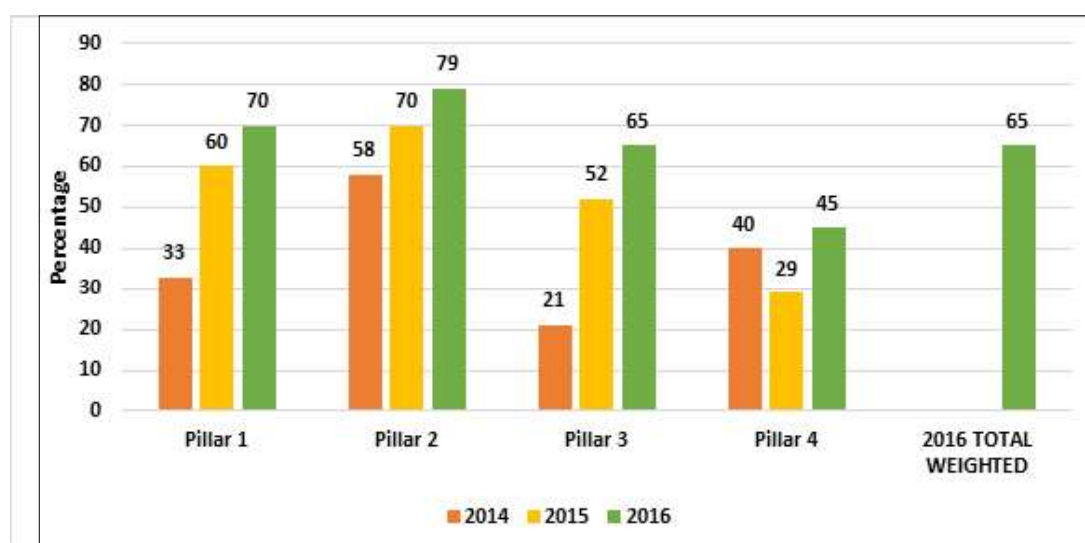
- What steps the Government was taking to manage the response to El Niño
- What warning systems and what plans had been activated, and how they were being resourced
- How the goal of ensuring access to adequate nutrition was being integrated across sectors or ministries and in plans (for response, preparedness, disaster risk reduction)
- What coordination mechanisms were in place and how those responsible for nutrition were involved
- How governments and partners were adapting 'normal' ways of working to an emergency setting
- How partners from civil society, the UN System, donors and businesses were involved in this response, and what more could be done by global actors to support
- How learning from previous crises was being applied

Zimbabwe shared that FNC coordinates Multi-Stakeholder Consultative meetings that bring together Government, the United Nations (UN), humanitarian partners, donors, the private sector and development partners, among others, to deliberate on the coordination of responses to the prevailing drought. The meetings succeeded in providing a comprehensive overview of humanitarian needs, current interventions, gaps and challenges in the 2015/16 drought response and initiated multi-sectoral planning for the 2016/17 agricultural season. FNC utilised this opportunity to advocate and seek for more resources towards nutrition highlighting that the country had put across various documents to appeal for assistance towards nutrition, however resources continued to be a challenge. FNC appealed to SUN to assist in resource mobilisation for Zimbabwe as there were expectations of an increase in severe acute malnutrition cases.

2.5.2. Scaling Up Nutrition Joint Assessment Exercise

On the 22nd of June, FNC coordinated a joint assessment workshop to deliberate on the progress made by the Zimbabwe SUN movement between April 2015 to April 2016. Individual networks had an opportunity to meet and discuss their networks' progress reports and contribution to the various thematic areas. FNC facilitated the collation of the contributions from individual networks into a joint report which was submitted to the Global Secretariat during the first week of July. The results shown below indicate that Zimbabwe had a total weight of 65% in all the SUN pillars. The summary of the progress made in the four pillars is shown and explained below:

2.5.2.1. Zimbabwe SUN Movement Institutional Transformations in 2015-16



The SUN Movement progress, 2016

Pillar 1: Bringing people together into a shared space for action- Multi-Stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Committees (FNSCs) are functioning from the national to the district level. The FNSCs have enabled 8 Provincial FNSCs in the establishment of district committees in 33 out of 60 districts. The CBM has ensured the establishment of 118 Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees. SUN networks have been established and function well, with a need to further engage the academic and research community and formalise a business network.

Pillar 2: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework- The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, launched in 2013, is the overarching framework for nutrition in Zimbabwe. Efforts to further engage parliamentarians to ensure the Government honours its commitments, as per this Policy, have been made. The Zimbabwe Civil Society Alliance (ZCSOSUNA) helps ensure that the voices of local communities are taken into account in national and global financial, legal, programmatic and political commitment to scale up nutrition. More work is needed to ensure proper follow up to implement existing national policies.

Pillar 3: Aligning actions around a common results framework-In April 2015 the National Nutrition Strategy – the SUN common results framework – was launched. The tracking of the implementation of the common results framework is ongoing through the Committees. A comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Information System has been developed to track progress of indicators and the Multi-Stakeholder Platform intends to conduct a joint mapping exercise and develop a database of *who is doing what and where*. Networks generally align actions to national priorities outlined in policies and strategies.

Pillar 4: Financing tracking and resource mobilisation-The National Nutrition Strategy is costed and estimates the financial resources needed to address the six key thematic areas during the period 2014-2018. Mapping of current spending still requires substantial analysis to identify both nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions which contribute to specific key result areas and national nutrition commitments. There is need to strengthen resource mobilisation for the Government and development partners, to address financial shortfalls in the nutrition sector.

The Joint Assessment exercise also allowed for identification of the priorities for 2016-17. The priorities were:

- High-level engagement, including nutrition champions and parliamentarians, for legislative advocacy, budget allocation for nutrition and public outreach

- Building national investment cases, supported by data and evidence, to drive nutrition advocacy through initiatives such as the Cost of Hunger
- Strengthening of skills of multi-stakeholder platform members including Food and Nutrition Security Committees and SUN Networks
- Support with strengthening capacity of individual networks including the Donor, CSA, Business and UN Networks.

The detailed and the summary reports were shared at multi-stakeholder meetings and are also available on the SUN website.

2.5.3. Participation in SUN Regional Activities

FNC was part of the team that represented the country at the SUN African workshop on 'Public Financing and Managing Results for Nutrition' held in Kenya from 22-25 August 2016. The aim of the workshop was to accelerate efforts of the African countries in the SUN Movement to increase dialogue and alignment among sectors by reporting on nutrition budgets and cost of nutrition plans. The country shared the existence of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, its Implementation Matrix, National Nutrition Strategy and the ZimASSET as some of the costed nutrition documents. In addition, it was highlighted that as a country Zimbabwe had allowed for Monitoring and Evaluation Systems to be a central part of the implementation and tracking of results. These systems include the Food and Nutrition Security Information System, routine assessments and other sectoral information systems.

2.5.4. Integration of Nutrition Indicators into ZimVAC Livelihoods Assessments

The integration of nutrition into livelihoods assessments is important for nutrition as it provides information critical for evidence based programming. It also enhances the inclusion of nutrition indicators at decision and policy making fora. The unit facilitated the integration of nutrition indicators into the Lean Sean Monitoring and the Rural and Urban Livelihoods Assessments. The inclusion of height and weight measurements for children aged 6-59 months was done and analysed at district level and provincial levels for the RLA and the urban livelihoods assessment, respectively. The inclusion of nutrition anthropometric measurements resulted in the increase in time taken for the assessment due to the increase of sample size and data quality checks.

There was however need for further nutrition analysis to cross relate nutrition indicators and other household indicators collected during the assessments, together with further interrogation of some findings emerging from recent surveys which reflected that boys were consistently more malnourished than girls.

2.5.5. Participation in Regional Initiatives on Mainstreaming Nutrition into Agriculture Investment Plans

FNC participated in a workshop that was held in Accra Ghana from the 14th to the 15th of May 2016. The main objective of the workshop was to provide updates on how far countries had gone in terms of incorporating nutrition issues into their Agriculture Investment Plans. Specifically, the workshop aimed:

- To update the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the nutrition situation in their respective sub-regions;
- To dialogue on how Regional Economic Communities (RECs) could support countries on their commitments to improving nutrition outcomes of their population through efficient nutrition sensitive food and agriculture systems under the CAADP process;
- To take stock of lessons learned from the RECs on their efforts to integrate nutrition in their regional agricultural strategies and to support countries in mainstreaming nutrition into NAFSIPs and discuss challenges and opportunities;
- To deliberate on how Regional institutions including African Union, NEPAD, FAO, IFPRI, IFAD and others could support RECs to effectively support countries to deliver results;
- To discuss modalities of establishment of sub regional task forces for follow-up actions.

Zimbabwe presented on the ongoing work on developing a Food and Nutrition Security Knowledge Management system, a process which was still in its initial stages. The presentation highlighted the various information systems that would be integrated into one information system that will be housed at FNC. Zimbabwe also benefited from the workshop as it was a space for sensitization, dialogue and sharing of experiences on how to better integrate the linkages between agriculture, food systems and nutrition into the regional food and nutrition security investment strategies. The workshop also provided coherent support to countries for accountability on their commitment to nutrition under the CAADP process, Malabo Declarations, the 2nd International conference on Nutrition (ICN-2) Rome declaration and the SUN movement.

2.5.6. Zimbabwe Country Meeting on Bio Fortified Beans Project

The Pan African Bean Research Alliance is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture's Crop Breeding Institute (CBI) to promote the production, marketing and consumption of bio fortified bean varieties. FNC is partnering with CBI to lead the nutrition component of the project and providing overall technical guidance. FNC attended a planning meeting hosted by CBI to develop a work plan for the nutrition outcome and kick-start activities under this outcome. The meeting agreed on a number of key activities for the year which would inform interventions that are to be carried out under the nutrition outcome.

The meeting also agreed that the nutrition activities needed to take place in collaboration with other activities under the bean project meaning that the districts to be selected for intervention need to be districts where CBI is already promoting bean production.

2.5.7. Participation in the CODEX Bio Fortification Working Group

The 36th session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) agreed to initiate new work on a definition for bio fortification and agreed to establish an electronic working group, led by Zimbabwe and South Africa. The committee was to recommend the development of a Codex definition and/or Bio fortified foods as new work. Zimbabwe and South Africa were given the task to co-chair the electronic working group (eWG) to craft the definition of Bio fortification. As a sum up to the process, a meeting was organised in June 2016 where the final comments were incorporated to come up with the draft definition which was shared at the 38th CCNFSDU in December 2016.

2.5.8. Second East, Central, and Southern Africa (ECSA) Regional Workshop on Building Human Capacity Building to Monitor Nutritious and Fortified Foods

From the 21st to the 22nd of March, a representative from FNC attended the 2nd ECSA Regional Workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The goals and objectives of the workshop were:

1. To strengthen collaboration and coordination among countries and development partners in the areas of food safety and quality control, enforcement and inspection, and consumption monitoring.
2. To strengthen collaboration of the ECSA Health Community and other regional organizations to spearhead capacity building and monitoring activities.
3. To harmonize training and experiential learning activities/platforms with development partners and countries to build the capacity of local professionals.
4. To strengthen the industry quality control practices, government inspection and laboratory practices for monitoring safety and quality of fortified and nutritious foods, and the introduction of consumption monitoring practices.

The activities of the workshop were built on the priorities identified in the first workshop and key outputs from the meeting included draft work plans and actionable tasks at regional and national level and the establishment of knowledge sharing platforms around key thematic areas.

2.5.9. Development of the Zimbabwe Cost of Hunger Strategy

The Government of Zimbabwe, through FNC, initiated the development of an evidence based Cost of Hunger Study (COHA) for Zimbabwe. The COHA is a model that is used to estimate the additional causes of morbidities, mortalities, school repetitions, school dropouts and reduced physical capacity that can be directly associated to a person's undernutrition before the age of five and the associated costs to an economy. Through the Cost of Hunger, an investment case towards nutrition will be made and it will be used as an advocacy tool to have more resources channelled towards nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive initiatives.

A consultant was engaged to facilitate this work and to date, the following activities have been undertaken:

- **Training of Trainers Workshop:** Training was conducted by project regional technical experts in Mozambique in June 2016. Three officials from Zimbabwe (data analysts from WFP, ZIMSTAT and FNC) were trained on the COHA methodology.
- **Stakeholder Sensitisation:** FNC sensitised members of the Food and Nutrition Technical Committee to the Cost of Hunger Process in August. Members were taken through the project process and were made aware of the project expectations and stakeholders' roles in the process. The meeting also facilitated the nomination of members for the National Implementation Team (NIT) which comprises of officers with research and data analysis skills.
- **Capacity Building of the National Implementation Team:** Following the formalisation of the nominations, a training workshop for members of the NIT was undertaken on the cost of hunger methodology from the 29th of August to the 2nd of September.



Members of the NIT at the COHA Methodology Training Workshop

- **Data collection:** The process commenced in October 2016 and data was collected from the health, education sectors, economic indicators and demographics. While most of the information was secondary data from official Government reports, primary data was collected for some of the health and education sector indicators. The process was completed on December 9. The data is being reviewed and certified by WFP technical experts for completeness.

In 2017, the areas of focus will be:

- Data Analysis
- Data Validation
- Report Writing
- Communication Tool development
- Report Launch and
- Development of a Response Plan

2.5.10. Food Safety Issues

Two high level meetings on food safety sensitisation were convened in 2016. The two meetings disseminated the findings of the ZVITAMBO study on Mycotoxin exposure which was initiated in the country to investigate the effects of mycotoxin contamination on maternal health, child growth and development. Similar studies showed that 17 % of mothers had detectable aflatoxin levels in body fluids and that children in households where mothers had higher aflatoxin exposure were more likely to be stunted.

Some key contributions that came from the meeting were the need for the development of food safety legislation and engagement of key coordination bodies that enforce and monitor food safety regulations in the country. The need for multi-sectoral effort towards food safety issues and engagement of the private sector to ensure a holistic approach were emphasised.

2.6. Capacity Enhancement Programmes

As a learning and growth orientated organization FNC facilitated and supported its different staff members to attend the following capacity enhancement programmes:

- Short course on *Poverty Measurement and Analysis for Food Security* in Malawi
- *Assessment and Surveillance Course* in Tanzania
- Communications Training for all FNC staff in Harare
- Poverty Measurement and Analysis for Food Security in Malawi
- Cost of Hunger Study Training in Mozambique

- Training in food security and livelihoods in South Africa
- Harmonisation of the 2016 Vulnerability Assessments analysis and report writing in South Africa
- Introductory training on the FNSIS in Harare
- MS Project training for FNC staff in Harare

These capacity building initiatives will go a long way in enhancing FNC's capacity to deliver on its mandate.

2.7 Publications

In 2016, FNC published a number of documents as part of its information dissemination strategy in the food and nutrition security realm, the ultimate result being to increase awareness on food and nutrition security issues in the country among key stakeholders. The increased awareness is expected to enhance coordinated multi-sectoral implementation of nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions in Zimbabwe.

Quarterly Food and Nutrition Security Bulletins: In an effort to generate and disseminate timely, relevant, reliable and credible information on the food and nutrition security situation in the rural and urban areas of Zimbabwe, FNC published three bulletins. The 1st bulletin focussed on the findings from the Lean Season Assessment done in January 2016. The 2nd bulletin summarised the 2016 ZimVAC RLA results and key messages and the 3rd bulletin summarised the findings from the 2016 Market Assessment.

Food and Nutrition Newsletters: Featuring mainly human interest and topical stories around food and nutrition issues, three editions were published and these were in January, March and June carrying the following stories:

- February – *ZimVAC Lean Season Monitoring 2016: The Process*
- March - *The impact of the El Nino induced drought in Buhera District*
- June - *ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) 2016: The Process*

2015 Annual Report: FNC compiled the 2015 Annual Report which is an essential publication articulating how the organisation has fared as it strives to undertake its mandate. The report outlines major activities undertaken by FNC through its 6 operational units as well as in collaboration with other Government Ministries, Departments as well as Development Partners. These various achievements highlight that FNC continues to effectively undertake its mandate in spite of limited resources and other prevailing challenges.

Preliminary Food Security Update and the Lean Season Monitoring Report: Following the undertaking of the Lean Season Monitoring exercise, 2 reports were produced. The *Preliminary Food Security Update* was produced following extensive secondary data analysis on different thematic areas relevant to food and nutrition security. The *Lean Season Monitoring report* was compiled following the completion of primary data collection to update the country's food and nutrition outlook. It also incorporated findings from the *Preliminary Food Security Update* and thus provided a consolidated picture.

ZimVAC 2016 Annual Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report: Two versions of the ZimVAC 2016 RLA report were produced. The Detailed RLA report version provides descriptive analysis on the assessed thematic areas and reflects analysis of the different indicators at both provincial and district level. On the other hand, the summary RLA report is an abridged version of the detailed report and focuses mostly on provincial level analysis.

IPC Acute Communication Template: As part of the data analysis and report writing process for the 2016 RLA, the ZimVAC committee also undertook the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute analysis. An *IPC Acute Communication Template* was published and disseminated together with the 2016 RLA results.



Some of the 2016 Publications

ZimVAC 2016 Urban Livelihoods Assessment Report: Two versions of the ZimVAC 2016 Urban Livelihoods Assessment report were produced. The Detailed report version provides descriptive analysis on the assessed thematic areas and reflects analysis of the different indicators at both provincial and domain level. On the other hand, the summary report is an abridged version of the detailed report and focuses mostly on provincial level analysis.

The 2016-2017 Drought Disaster Domestic and International Appeal for Assistance Document: Following the declaration of the drought by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe on the 4th of February, FNC was engaged in the finalisation and dissemination of the *2016-2017 Drought Disaster Domestic and International Appeal for Assistance* document.

2015 Markets Assessment Report: Following the successful undertaking of the inaugural markets assessment in 50 food insecure districts in 2015, a detailed *Markets Assessment Report* was finalised and disseminated. The report focused on issues that included but were not limited to the identification and mapping of the market structure, assessment of the supply chain and analysis of the current and projected availability of maize grain, mealie meal, sugar beans and cooking oil on local markets. The report also provided recommendations on the most appropriate assistance modalities for each of the 50 districts. It is pleasing to note that this report is being used by Government and Development Partners to inform modalities of on-going food and nutrition security interventions.

Strengthening ZimVAC Consultations Feedback Meeting Report: This report captures the outcomes of the 15 April meeting convened by FNC to facilitate the sharing of key highlights from the findings of the ZimVAC review process which was undertaken by 2 EU consultants.

Reports for the 3rd and 4th Multi-stakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Meetings: These reports document the highlights of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultative meetings, the key outcomes and the agreed way forward. They are an important component of the information system as they enable stakeholders to track the reported progress of the different programmes being implemented in response to the persisting food and nutrition security challenges.

Reports on the 1st and 2nd Expanded Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security Meetings: These reports serve as information repositories as they document the

achievements, challenges and best practices reported in the implementation of food and nutrition programmes. The documentation of lessons learnt in the implementation of the CBM pilot is crucial as these lessons are important in informing the scale-up to additional districts.

2016 RLA Dissemination Report: After the dissemination of the 2016 RLA results to provincial and district level stakeholders, FNC compiled a Dissemination report which consolidates the various issues emerging from the dissemination meetings. The report captures the key outcomes and recommendations from these meetings and will be useful in informing policy, planning and programming at national, provincial and district levels.

Copies of these publications have been shared with stakeholders using various channels which included print, email, CD ROM and the FNC website (www.fnc.org.zw). These documents are available at FNC upon request and electronic copies can also be downloaded from the FNC website.

2.8. Challenges

In 2016, FNC faced a number of challenges which hampered effective undertaking of its mandate. The challenges include:

- 1. Constrained fiscal space:** The constrained fiscal space coupled with financial restrictions resulted in FNC getting limited funding from both Government and Development Partners. As a result, FNC could not fully provide technical leadership as convener and coordinator of food and nutrition issues through all its programme areas.
- 2. Lack of mobility:** FNC experienced transport challenges in undertaking field trips due to lack of all-terrain vehicles. This hindered officers from effectively undertaking their monitoring and coordination roles.
- 3. Lack of a dedicated server and functional internet:** This challenge hampered FNC from fully functioning as the central repository of food and nutrition security information. As a result, stakeholders failed to timeously access food and nutrition information to inform programming.
- 4. Coordination challenges:** A number of planned activities could not be undertaken or were poorly attended due to coordination challenges arising from competing sectoral activities.
- 5. Poor staff retention:** Programme implementation was hampered by departure of

Programme Officers who joined partner organisations. This resulted in a lack of human capacity to accomplish key deliverables.

Conclusion

It is pleasing to note that FNC accomplished many achievements during 2016 in spite of the prevailing challenges. These achievements include:

- The undertaking of several food and nutrition assessments such as the Lean Season Assessment, the Market Assessment and the Annual Rural and Urban Livelihoods Assessments
- The finalisation of the Domestic and International Appeal for Assistance document
- The implementation of the Near Real Time Monitoring System for the CBM
- Monitoring and implementation of capacity strengthening programmes for decentralised food and nutrition security structures
- Establishment of the Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Information System
- Dissemination of food and nutrition information through exhibitions and media engagement
- Coordination of high-level multi-sectoral structures to deliberate on food and nutrition issues; and,
- Compilation and dissemination of various food and nutrition reports, bulletins and newsletters.

These successes are attributable to a number of factors that include;

- Team work across the different FNC units as well as the strategic leadership of the FNC Directorate and unwavering support and guidance from OPC; and
- The support and goodwill from the multi-stakeholder forums FNC has come to regard as the extension of its organisational structure.

FNC does not take these key resources for granted, yet it draws its inspiration and courage to face the future from these.

PICTURE GALLERY



Left, Co-chairperson Mr Peter De Vries and right, Chairperson Mr O.E.M. Hove at the CBM Review meeting



Delegates at the CBM Review meeting



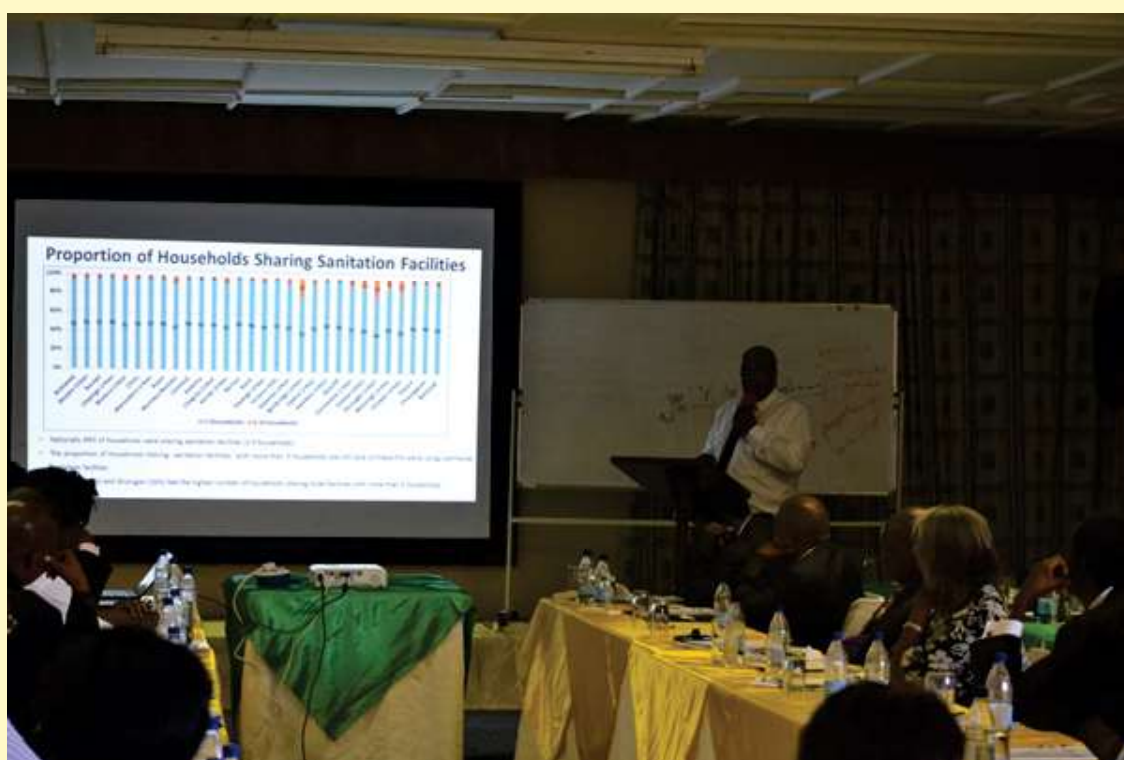
Blessing Butaumocho, FNC Head of Programmes delivering a presentation at the CBM Review meeting



FNC staff undergoing communications training



Some of the senior Government officials who attended the Technical Review workshop for the 2016 Urban Livelihoods Assessment



Dr. Themba Nduna (USAID) presenting a section of the preliminary Urban Livelihoods Assessment findings to the Technical Review Committee



Alfa Ndlovu (FNC) presenting at the 2nd Expanded Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security



Some of the delegates who attended the 2nd Expanded Technical Committee on Food and Nutrition Security meeting



Miriam Banda (MoHCC) demonstrating how to take accurate MUAC measurements during the ZimVAC 2016 RLA supervisor's standardisation training



Lloyd Chadzingwa (FNC) manning the FNC stand at the Harare Agricultural Show

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