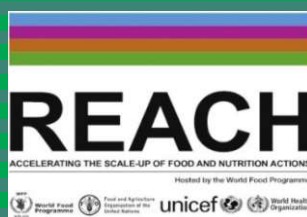




# **REPORT ON THE INTER-DISTRICT LEARNING WORKSHOP**

**8 August 2017  
Holiday Inn, Mutare**



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## Acronyms

<b>BFHI</b>	Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
<b>BVIPs</b>	Blair Ventilated Improved Pit-Latrine
<b>CBGM</b>	Community Based Growth Monitoring
<b>DDF</b>	District Development Fund
<b>DLPD</b>	Division of Livestock Production and Development
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Programme on Immunization
<b>FNC</b>	Food and Nutrition Council
<b>FNCSs</b>	Food and Nutrition Security Committees
<b>MAM</b>	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
<b>MEPIP</b>	Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion
<b>MOHCC</b>	Ministry of Health and Child Care
<b>MOPSE</b>	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
<b>MOPSLSW</b>	Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare
<b>MOWACD</b>	Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development
<b>MRDPPNCH</b>	Ministry of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Heritage
<b>MSCBM</b>	Multi-Sectoral Community Based Model to Food and Nutrition Security for Stunting Reduction
<b>MSMECD</b>	Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development
<b>MYIEE</b>	Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment
<b>NFNSC TWG</b>	National Food and Nutrition Security Committee Technical Working Group
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NRTM</b>	Near Real Time Monitoring
<b>PLW</b>	Pregnant and Lactating Women
<b>REACH</b>	Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Malnutrition
<b>SUN</b>	Scaling Up Nutrition
<b>VHWs</b>	Village Health Workers
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### 1. Introduction

The National Food and Nutrition Security Committee (NFNSC) continues to strive to improve the performance of sub-national level committees. Whilst substantial investments have been made towards establishing and building the capacity of FNSCs, there is need to further enhance functionality of the teams. The Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Malnutrition (REACH) programme will provide support towards this effort. REACH is a country-led approach to scale-up proven and effective interventions addressing child undernutrition through the partnership and coordinated action of UN agencies, civil society, donors and the private sector, under the leadership of national governments. The country implementation plan aims to achieve amongst other outcomes, an increased awareness on the causes of malnutrition and potential solution. Under this outcome, one of the key outputs is the establishment of a functional knowledge sharing mechanism. Support to inter-district knowledge sharing and learning is a key activity.

Inter District learning has been identified as a cost effective capacity building approach that provides the most relevant technical support through the sharing of on-the-ground experiences among Food and Nutrition Security Committees (FNSCs) at all levels.

### 2. Objectives of Inter District learning and Exchange Visits

- To facilitate FNSCs to learn from each other through visits, open exchange of ideas, knowledge, plans, experiences and best practices, in order to improve their performance and scale up food and nutrition actions towards stunting reduction.

This particular Inter-district learning workshop aimed to:

- Facilitate Inter- district sharing
- Sensitize participants to on REACH
- Develop tools to assess DFNSC functionality

### 3. The DFNSC Inter District Learning Approach

The workshop marked the initial effort in facilitating inter-district learning. It brought together the four pilot Multi-Sectoral Community Based Model to Food and Nutrition Security for Stunting Reduction (MSCBM) districts to learn from each other's experience through visual/pictorial presentations of their actions. The four districts were requested to showcase what they are doing as FNSCs in terms of their eight core functions. A standard presentation template which had been shared earlier guided the presentations which focused on outlining areas of weakness and strengths. The intention was to provide a platform for DFNSCs to learn from each other through marketing their DFNSC best practices.

It was very clear from the presentations that much is being done by these four districts in terms of addressing context specific food and nutrition issues. A summary of DFNSC key areas of strengths around the four thematic areas (functionality of committees, planning together, implementation of planned activities, documentation and reporting) and areas of improvement across the four districts is shown below. the identified areas of strengths and areas of improvement will assist in identifying districts that will be 'centers of excellence' for the next step which includes on site intra and inter district exchange visits.

### **District Highlights**

#### **Functionality of Committees**

All the four districts had formed ward FNSCs which are at different levels of functionality. Chiredzi had 27 functional WFNSC although most are failing to meet every month. Mutasa has all WFNSCs conducting monthly meetings and the ward committees are submitting their monthly reports. The district also managed to develop multi-sectoral work plans which are being implemented with various sectors. Support visits are being done at all levels although not regular. In Mwenezi district, all ward committees formed from ward 1 to 18 are functional and meeting on a monthly basis. The multi-sectoral work plans are reviewed and submitted to district level. Communities in ward 3 sourced their own funds, labour and food during the construction of Muzezegwa dam, an indication of ownership and initiatives supported by the communities.

#### **Planning Together**

All committees have a multi-sectoral plan. Chipinge last held a food and seed fair 2 years ago. The WFNSC in ward 21 and 1 managed to jointly organise, fundraise and execute for the *Food and Seed Fair* this year. The event managed to draw participants from other wards, DFNSCs as well as the province and national committees. In Mutasa the existence of the multi-sectoral work plans fostered the execution of joint monitoring visits to ward level committees. The scale up implementation of both nutrition specific and sensitive interventions targeting households could have triggered the reduction of stunting levels from 40.1% to 31% in 2016. Chiredzi district holds periodic review meetings with the WFNSC, DFNSC and PFNSC. Review meetings help in reviewing work plans and updates on emerging issues that require the committees input. Similar meetings were also held in Mwenezi ward 2 and 3 as a platform for coordination, planning and support of subnational structures

#### **Implementation of Planned Activities**

Chipinge managed to participate in the Agricultural shows, and organised field days through a multi-sectoral approach. Exhibition ranged from value addition of farm produce to apiculture. Capacity development trainings also took place through a multi-sectoral approach thereby enhancing the skills required by sectors in improving food and nutrition security initiatives in the district. In Mutasa, district cooking demonstrations were conducted in 21 wards totalling to 2138.

In a way to promote safe delivery and provision of adequate pre and post maternal health support, waiting mothers' shelters were constructed in some clinics. Farmers also received training on diversification in nutrition gardens, conservation agriculture and small grains in the district, as well as drip irrigation as a water saving technique. In turn gardens were established. In order to improve on the coverage of vitamin A supplementation, Mutasa district Village Health Workers (VHWs) are administering Vitamin A capsules at village level. As nutrition outcomes are affected by the WASH environment, in Mutasa district, 128 Blair Ventilated Improved Pit-Latrines (BVIPs) constructed, 31 water sources were protected and 38 boreholes were rehabilitated (during the first and second quarter of 2017). Access to basic commodities and services can affect the nutritional and broader livelihoods of communities hence the infrastructure development of a footbridge in ward 24. The district also managed to form 1290 ISAL projects across the district.

In Chiredzi district, communities in Ward 22 and 5 managed to construct hand washing facilities and are using their own resources to transport health personnel for Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) programmes. This helps in bringing services closer to the communities averting preventable childhood illnesses. A food fair was also organised and held in ward 3. Mwenesi district managed to hold field days in wards 1 to 17 where the communities have established nutrition gardens. Ward 13 communities mobilized resources in form of materials and labour in the construction of a waiting mothers shelter at Chingwizi clinic. Capacity buildings on low cost technologies were also held in the district, these include the training on silage and tsotso stove, urea treatment in ward 1 and improved strictures for goats and poultry for 247 framers. To diversify on diets and improve on livelihoods, ward 3 is running fish production activities and Village Savings and Lendings (VSLs) in wards 1 to 12. WASH interventions have been shown to improve on nutrition and health outcomes. The district managed to construct latrines ward 1-18, water quality monitoring in wards 1 to 18.



*Mrs Tagwireyi, National REACH Facilitator speaking during plenary*

### **Documentation and Reporting**

Chipinge district is currently conducting outcome monitoring on impact of nutritional programmes in the district although with minimal involvement of the DFNSC. Chiredzi district with support from the national team managed to organise for video documentation in ward 22 and village 3 focusing on the NRTM.

### **Multi-sectoral Interventions and Challenges**

The districts presented on the complementarity of both the nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions. It was noted that the district efforts reflected the interconnectedness of sectors and interventions covering the multifaceted nature of food and nutrition security issues. In their presentation districts highlighted areas of improvement, where they felt they can perfect on with little or external assistance. In as much as the DFNSCs are functioning, they are still faced with challenges that hinder the scale up of interventions or achieving expected outputs.

Table 1 summarises the nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions implemented, areas of improvement and challenges highlighted by the four districts.

	Mutasa	Chipinge	Chiredzi	Mwenezi
<b>Nutrition interventions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Specific</b></li> <li><b>sensitive</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food fair held every year</li> <li>Field days and shows for livestock and crops</li> <li>Establishing nutrition gardens</li> <li>Grain distribution</li> <li>Command agriculture</li> <li>Water and sanitation activities (PHHE, borehole toilet rehabilitation, construction etc)</li> <li>Infant and young child feeding counselling</li> <li>Construction of waiting mothers, homes</li> <li>Vitamin A supplementation</li> <li>Treatment of severe acute malnutrition</li> <li>Supplementary feeding programs</li> <li>Iron and folate supplementation for pregnant mothers</li> <li>Mass drug administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MAM treatment PLAN International</li> <li>Supplementary feeding for PLW and children under 2 yrs</li> <li>Nutritional gardens, community, school and keyhole gardens Goal Christian Care, DOMCCP.</li> <li>Micro Irrigations-Ensure</li> <li>Women Income Nutrition programme-Goal</li> <li>Poultry bushveld program - Ensure and Goal</li> <li>Diary revitalization programme ward 9 and 12</li> <li>Apiculture ward 2, 7, 12 and 8</li> <li>Aquaculture ward 9 and 7</li> <li>Mushroom project ward 1 urban 7, and 12</li> <li>Nutrition Impact Positive practices- Tongogara Refugee Camp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation of seven irrigation schemes i.e. wards 1,2,7,11,15,20</li> <li>Ten solar powered nutrition gardens i.e. wards 4,6,7,9,10,11,14,16,15,24</li> <li>Eight feedlots i.e. wards 6,10,14,16</li> <li>Indigenous poultry production 243 farmers in wards Promoting growing of small grains the whole district</li> <li>Low cost water harvesting 24 households i.e. wards 6,9,10,11,14,15</li> <li>School feeding program targeting 14 schools by Malilangwe trust wards i.e. 6,7,8,3,4,5,22</li> <li>Twenty VSL groups throughout the district</li> <li>Twelve ISOP (integrated skills outreach programmes) groups (129 males and 169 females) ie wards 3,4,5,8,9,10,21</li> <li>Maternal micro nutrient supplementation i.e. iron and folate supplementation during pregnancy at all health centres</li> <li>Vitamin A supplementation for children 6-59 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pen fattening- Chizumba ward 7, Manyuchi ward 4 and Gwamatenga ward 6.</li> <li>School projects: - 3 for crops (Masogwe Pry, Rata pry and Zvirikure) and 1 for poultry (Machena, Boterere)</li> <li>School child feeding programme: - 25 primary schools in wards 2,3,5,7,8,10,11,12)</li> <li>Fishery project: - wards 3,7 and 8</li> <li>Dam construction: - ward 3</li> <li>Homemade stock feeds: - Urea and Silage in wards 1-12</li> <li>Commercial poultry production Bushveld: - ward 1-12</li> <li>Improved goat pen structures: - ward 1-12</li> <li>VSL projects: - wards 1-18</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth monitoring and promotion in all wards</li> <li>• Active screening for malnutrition by all VHWs. Malnourished children and adults are taken to clinic and hospitals</li> <li>• Management of diarrhoea in children using zinc sulphate</li> <li>• Breast feeding promotion BFHI concepts at hospitals, i.e. Chiredzi Hospital.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and sanitation activities: - latrine construction, water quality monitoring, borehole rehabilitation, PHHE trainings (ward 1-18)</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobility to reach out to every ward for joint visits</li> <li>• Competing activities</li> <li>• Poor stakeholder attendance at coordination meetings</li> <li>• Lack of resources –</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some development partners are using their financial muscles when implementing their programs without engaging the DFNSC.</li> <li>• How to motivate our VHWs.</li> <li>• How to work on a resources constrained environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor coordination WFNSC due to poor geographical location</li> <li>• Poor network coverage affecting timely data flow and communication</li> <li>• Some wards are inaccessible during the rainy season e.g. ward 6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,24</li> <li>• Few VHWs in the wards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of activities</li> <li>• Coordination of activities</li> <li>• Resources mobilization (resources for meetings and monitoring activities)</li> <li>• How to motivate VHWs in the district</li> </ul>
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of activities</li> <li>• Sourcing funds at committee level</li> <li>• Conducting regular monitoring visits</li> <li>• Holding quarterly review meetings</li> <li>• Partner coordination on FNS activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to improve on <b>Data quality</b> by training the data collectors</li> <li>• improving on <b>timeous reporting</b></li> <li>• <b>Stakeholder coordination:</b> Coordination of partners was challenge as issues of who leads district level activities and ownership of success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of activities</li> <li>• Conducting support and mentoring visits to the wards that are struggling / behind with implementation</li> <li>• Producing and adhering to monthly meeting schedule so that every member will plan other activities with that date in mind.</li> <li>• More refresher meetings /workshops with WFNSC</li> <li>• Exchange visits between the wards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of activities</li> <li>• Coordination of activities</li> <li>• Resource mobilization</li> <li>• Exchange visits (inter wards visits)</li> </ul>

Generally, the main challenge that was echoed across all districts was partner coordination. All the DFNSCs highlighted documentation of activities as a key area for improvement. The NFNSC recommends a capacity building exercise targeting areas on documentation of best practices, data quality management to facilitate inter district learning.

#### 4. Inter/Intra District Learning Follow up Actions

Issues Raised during the discussion

##### **Mutasa and Chipinge Presentations**

- DFNSCs were requested to take up their coordination role and provide guidance and direction to partners working in their districts.
- DFNSC should document and submit to the FNC the drivers of Stunting identified in the baseline assessments conducted at community level prior to the implementation of the MSCBM Programme as well actions currently being implemented
- Districts should explore other more sustainable ways of incentivising VHWs which include non-monetary incentives e.g. T-shirts, as well as learn from other districts that have identified creative ways of incentivising their volunteers such as Mwenezi
- There was need for the Ministry of Rural Development to orient partners with respect to their relationship with and accountability to the DFNSC.

##### **Chiredzi and Mwenezi Presentations**

- Chiredzi District was requested to share how they are managing to run a community Growth Monitoring Programme so that others can adopt.
- All districts were requested to document and share their programme implementation challenges as these assist us to improve programme effectiveness
- Districts were requested to document all best practices as evidence of all the great work being done. A central best practice repository for the four districts should be created so that anyone can see what is being done within a district.
- Districts should establish and maintain an updated database of who is doing, what and where, the planned mapping exercise under REACH programme should facilitate this process.
- It was stated that the DFNSCs should plan together and implement separately and share what the sectors are doing. All should be documented and shared.
- In future DFNSCs inter learning reports should reflect activities being done by all sectors to show the multifaceted nature of food and nutrition issues

#### 5. DFNSC Functionality Assessment Tool

During this session, FNSCs were oriented to the tool that will be used to objectively assess the functionality of districts. The tool was developed by the NFNSC Technical Working Group and is expected to be used to identify best performing districts as well as those that may need

support. Participants reviewed and adopted the tool. (Annex 1). When finalized with comments received from the participants, it will be used to objectively assess FNSCs functionality in terms of their eight core functions. The participants discussed and agreed on scoring and preliminary weighting of the core functions. Plenary presentations scored the eight core functions as below

**Table 1: Suggested weighting for the Core Function Score Sheet**

FNSC Core Function	Chipinge	Mutasa	Chiredzi	Mwenezi
Coordination of Food and Nutrition Stakeholders at all levels	20	16	30	30
Liaise with sub-national development committees and national level structures on food and nutrition security	10	10	15	15
Facilitate prioritization and planning of programmes	10	15	10	14
Advocate and Communicate	5	10	10	12
Monitor and Evaluate effectiveness of programme interventions	10	15	10	10
Facilitate and participate in food and nutrition security assessments ,surveillance and early warning activities	10	14	10	8
Facilitate learning and capacity Development	20	10	5	6
Ensure that important cross cutting issues are monitored and integrated into food and nutrition security analysis and programming	15	10	10	5

Generally, there was shared agreement in the scoring of the core functions across the four districts, with Coordination of Food and Nutrition Stakeholders being awarded more weight than the other seven. A team from the NFNSC will use this guide to assign weights to each of the core functions. The final tool with weighting will be available for adoption by end of August.

## 6. Conclusion and Way Forward

As part of way forward, it was agreed that:

- The reported interventions should be informed by the drivers of stunting that were identified during the baseline survey. Therefore, districts are to come up with the drivers of stunting as guided by the data from the baseline surveys.
- The DFNSCs are to take stock of who, is doing what and where with regards to the implementation of food and nutrition interventions. The subsequent meetings will be to get updates on the impact of what they are doing with regards to the identified drivers of stunting. The meeting agreed to submit the district level dates and outputs by the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2017.
- FNC and the Ministry of Rural Development will follow up on the partner coordination challenges to help avert the challenges raised by the districts. all communications will be done copying the PAs office.

- Reporting of success stories should cover all sectors as success stories for other sectors was not coming out well, e.g. the women empowerment, education sector etc.
- Prospects of a sub-national Food and Nutrition magazine that will incorporate the stories shared at these meeting was agreed upon. The magazine will help in the documentation and dissemination of achievements to stakeholders. It will also act as a historical document that will inform future technical members on their roles they could play.

## Annex 1: Draft Functionality Assessment Tool

Core Function	Key Functionality Area	Response- Tick as appropriate		Insert Score as per Guide	Guide for Scoring	Comment
1. Coordination of food and nutrition security stakeholders at all levels		Yes	No	Score		
	<i>All Sectors Represented</i>				5= All 17 Sectors represented ,4 =16-14 Sectors,3= 13 -10 sectors,2=9-5, 1= < 5	
	<i>Mobilized Local Resources to hold coordination Meeting</i>				5= Financial and Material Resources from other sectors ,4 = Either Financial or Material Support , 0= no support mobilized	
	<i>Influenced convergence of sectors, NGOs in Ward, Villages</i>				5= Convergence Villages/Wards Exist, 4 =	
	<i>Map of 3Ws available</i>				5= Updated 3ws Map or Document available , 4= Draft but incomplete 3ws available, 0= 3Ws not available	
	<i>Map shows no duplication of Efforts in Wards</i>				5= Map with no duplication of Efforts available,0= Map does not exist	
	<i>Evidence of Public - Private partnership for FNS</i>				5= Proof of Private/Public Commitment towards FNSC work,0= Proof not available	
2. Liaise with sub - national development committees and national level structures on food and nutrition security	Subnational FNSC provided feedback				5= Proof of Feedback to subnational Level available, 0= No evidence of Feedback to subnational level	
	identify relevant decisions required by Provincial and District Development Committees to facilitate action.				5= Evidence of sharing of Identified decisions exists, 0= No sharing of decisions with PDC or DDC	
	Submission of the workplans and progress reports on achievements of the FNSCs to appropriate level				10= Submitted all plans and reports to next level, 5=Reports available for collection at time of assessment 0= Reports not available or not complete	

### Draft Functionality Assessment Tool

3. Facilitate prioritization and planning of programmes	Plans and Progress Reports have clear link to i)NFNSP and other relevant policies and strategies				5= All KRA covered, 4= At least 5 of KRAs covered, 0= < 5 KRAs covered	
	Demonstrated best practice				10= Reports on Best Practices available and Shared, 0= No Reports available	
	Up-to-date assessments and information, .				15= FNSC conducted own local assessment to inform programming	
4. Advocate and Communicate	Lobbied and advocated for resources and actions based on evidence				15= Evidence of resources and actions advocated for by FNSC	
	Based on Evidence Intervened where there are significant gaps in the response to food and nutrition				15= Interventions implemented based on evidence	
	Appropriate fora and media to communicate food and nutrition issues to the broader community identified				5= appropriate target audience based media identified, 0= No communication channel identified	
	Documentation and reporting of relevant multi-sectoral activities that address food and nutrition insecurity.				5= Documentation of multi-sector activities being done 0=No documentation being done	
	Recommend to sectoral and national levels the relevant findings and actions to address food and nutrition insecurity issues.				5=Recommendations on actions to address F&N issues shared with national or sectoral level, 0=No recommendations made and shared	
5. Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of programme interventions	Lead, participate in or be made aware of findings from all relevant food and nutrition security monitoring and evaluation activities.				5= All members participate in dissemination activities, 4= 80% of members participated in Dissemination meetings, 3=60%, 2=40%, 1=20%	
	Provide regular reports on food and nutrition security at all levels that provide a profile of who is doing what, where, outputs and impact of activities.				5= Regular reports on F&N provided to all levels, 0=Reports not being shared with all levels	
6.Facilitate and participate in food and nutrition security assessments,	Ensure these findings are shared between stakeholders, within and between provinces and appropriate action taken.				5= Inter/Intra district Sharing done + appropriate action taken, 4= Inter/Intra district Sharing done ,0=nothing done	

### Draft Functionality Assessment Tool

7. Facilitate learning and capacity development	Identify best practice for multi-sectoral action for food and nutrition security and ensure that these lessons learnt are shared and used.				10= Best Practices identified and shared (Inter-District and Intra District), 5= Best Practices identified not yet shared, 4= Best Practices and Lesson Learnt shared and used within District, 3= Best Practices and Lessons Learnt identified and documented but not shared, 0= Nothing Done	
	Identify, facilitate and implement learning and sustained capacity development in technical and managerial competencies				5= Organized Inter/Intra District Learning Visits for FNSC members, 4= Organized trainings to enhance technical and managerial competencies 0= Nothing Done	
8. Ensure that important cross cutting issues are monitored and integrated into food and nutrition security analysis and programming.	Promote the role of those with authority at all levels and recognize the role of traditional leaders in food and nutrition security.				10= Traditional Leaders Involvement evident and are part of FNSC,	
	Recognize HIV and AIDS as a significant potential driver of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity. Nutrition security and ensure that strategies are in place to support them without increasing their burden.				10= Strategies in place sensitive to HIV/AIDS as a driver to F& N insecurity	
	Recognize women's role as central for food and nutrition insecurity				5= Food and Nutrition Programmes are gender sensitive and recognize central role played by women, 0= Programmes not identifying important role played by women	
	Ensure that the most vulnerable – in terms of geographic, economic and biological vulnerability – are consistently identified and prioritized.				5= F& N interventions consistently target and prioritize the most vulnerable	
FNSC Innovativeness	FNSC display innovativeness in executing core functions in terms of originality				15- Evidence of FNSC innovativeness in place	

## ANNEX 2: Participants List

NFNSC					
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## Report on the Inter-District Learning Workshop

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## ANNEX 3: Pictures



*Nutrition garden, Ward 1 Chipinge District*



*Value addition exhibition by farmers in ward 1 and 21 of Chipinge district*



*Neverlate farmer group in ward 18 Mutasa delivers 200 heads of cabbages to Choppies Supermarket in Mutare @50c/head*



*PD Health programme ward 28, Mutasa*



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