

Gwanda District FNSC Best Practices



ZIMBABWE



REACH

ACCELERATING THE SCALE-UP OF FOOD AND NUTRITION ACTIONS



Introduction

The Food and Nutrition Council with support from REACH coordinated inter-district learning, to enhance knowledge sharing between some four districts that are implementing the Multi-Sectoral Community Based Approach towards Stunting Reduction project. REACH has been supporting inter-district learning in the 38 MCBM districts and towards the end of 2020, committed support for four districts to be able to conduct these learning visits, though the apparent challenge to the learning visits were the travel restrictions due to COVID -19 lockdown regulations. An innovative approach using a virtual workshop was adopted however to ensure all the targeted districts are engaged

The four districts that participated in the documentation of lessons learnt were selected based on the years they have been implementing the MCBM approach as well as their functional capacity of the team. Mt Darwin and Tsholotsho are amongst the 15 scale-up districts and at a higher functional level than Shamva and Gwanda. The Mt Darwin and Tsholotsho teams have been very cohesive in terms of multi-sector teamwork and are model teams from which the Gwanda and Shamva DFNSC could learn from. This presentation shows the highlights of best practices and lessons learnt from one of the districts that participated in the workshop.

Objectives

The purpose of this presentation is to

- ☐ showcase overall FNSC activities,
- ☐ highlighting the subjective success stories,
- ☐ identify the areas of weaknesses, and
- ☐ learn from other committee to improve on in future

Introduction

Nutrition Specific Interventions

- **Family Led MUAC** – Care Givers are able to identify malnutrition using MUAC on their own

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

- **Climate Proofed Input scheme (Pfumvudza/Intwasa)** – Farmers are provided with inputs and adopt climate smart agriculture
- **Food Aid** – CRS and Social Services
- **Climate Smart Agriculture** – promotion of the use of renewable energy, good agriculture practices (World Vision, Practical Action, Hand in Hand, BICC)
- **WASH activities** – CRS, Practical Action, ADRA

Best Practices

Thematic areas	Details
Functionality of communities	They have not yet trained WFNSCs.
Planning together	Meetings
Implementation of planned activities	Reports
Documentation and reporting	Quarterly Reports

Challenges

- ☐ Conducting meetings in view of COVID-19 pandemic has been quite hectic.
- ☐ Coordination from ward level to district level is poor due to lack of WFNSC
- ☐ Limited resources to implement planned activities



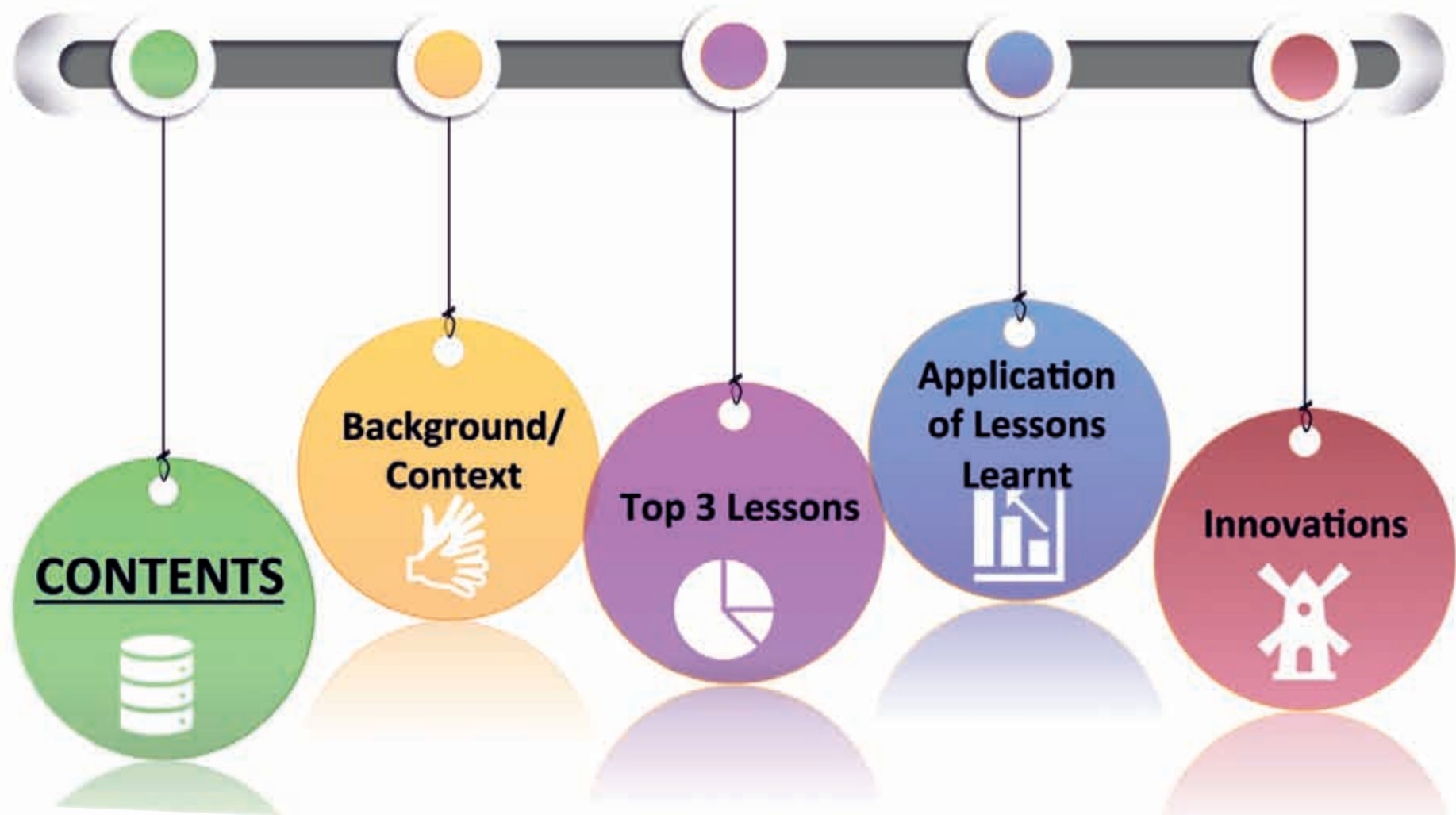
Areas of Improvement

- ☐ Update of reports fortnightly on digital platform



Gwanda DFNSC Summary of Lessons Learnt





Overview and Context of Lessons

- ☐ Managed to document a food security programme at an irrigation scheme in Ward 24 .
- ☐ Irrigation schemes continued to produce their products despite the COVID-19 and observing IPC protocols.
- ☐ Attended DFNC mentorship meeting through digital platform.
- ☐ Attended Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction through digital platform.
- ☐ There is shared responsibilities among developmental partners working in the district.

Description of Lessons

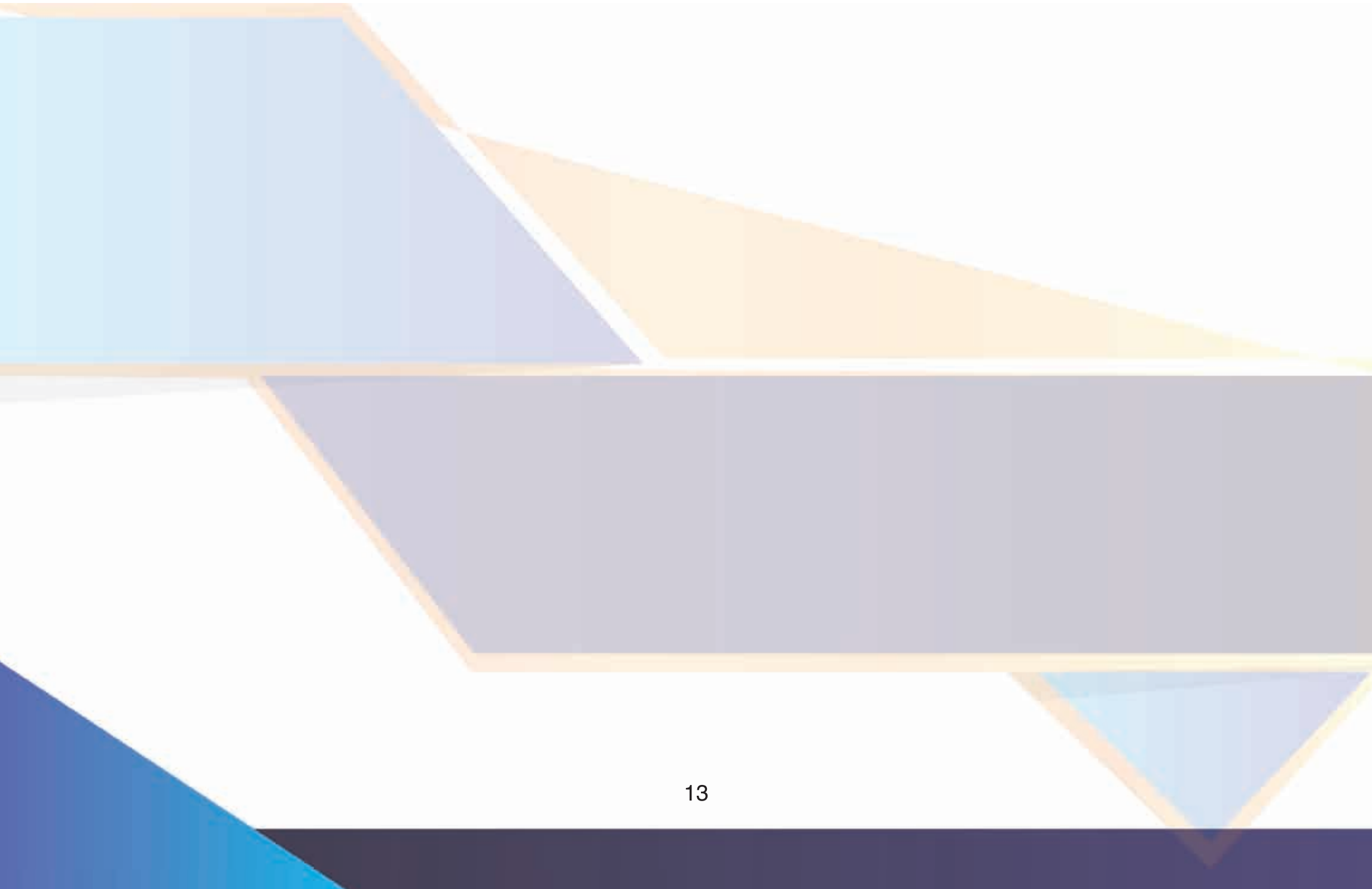
- ☐ Ward 24 irrigation scheme managed to harvest maize as grain, sold butternuts and now selling groundnuts. Some produce was used for household consumption.
- ☐ Members who attended CBDRR workshop were awarded certificates upon completion of the course
- ☐ Despite the shared responsibilities some community members did not benefit due to limited resources
- ☐ Lean season support from development partners should have time frame that is suitable to pullout i.e pullout when there is harvest.
- ☐ Planning as a team makes programmes successful and be able to fill the gaps
- ☐ That harmonised food assistance registers are important as they help to avoid duplication. This goes with targeting as well.
- ☐ There is need for ward FNSCs and these are important in so far as they help in targeting and mobilization for food distribution

Application and Integration of Lessons Learnt

- ☐ It allows for good planning and implementation
- ☐ Human Interest Stories allows other farmers to copy and improve their food security situation
- ☐ Knowledge acquired helps in disaster management in the community i.e Risk Reduction plans

Innovation

- ❑ Farmers were given exemption letters during Covid-19 lockdown to access inputs and output markets
- ❑ IVotsha system by CRS allows the communities to buy their basic commodities within their villages/wards therefore reducing Covid 19 infections and also promoting the local economy.
- ❑ Food distribution was localized to village level to cut distances and reduce covid 19 infections



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