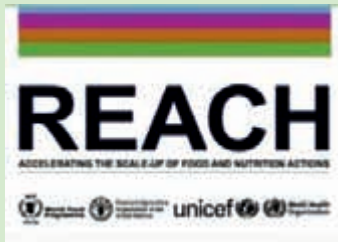


Inter-District Learning Report: 4 DFNSC's in Zimbabwe

2021



ZIMBABWE



Inter District Learning and Documentation of Lessons Learnt Workshop
Report 18-22 January 2021

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1. Introduction

The Food and Nutrition Council with support from REACH coordinated inter-district learning, in order to enhance knowledge sharing between the districts that are piloting the Multi -sectoral Community Based Approach towards Stunting Reduction project. This activity facilitated the documentation and sharing of best practices that are meant to inform the scaling up of community-based stunting reduction approach. A team of 6 officers from each district of the 4 selected districts and 3 Provincial Officers attended a virtual Learning Event from 18 – 22 January 2021. Selection Criteria for the identified district was based on the fact that Mt Darwin and Tsholotsho are amongst the 15 scale up districts and at a higher functional level and can inspire Shamva and Gwanda. The objective of the activity was to strengthen FNCS performance through interactive discussions. During the virtual workshop teams conducted DFNSC functionality assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses of their fellow DFNSCs. This was done through administering the FNCS functionality assessment tool developed in 2018.

1.1 Development of Framework for Documentation by NFNSC

Given the current lockdown restrictions, FNC conducted consultative virtual meetings with members of the National Food and Nutrition Security Committee to seek guidance on how best these activities can be rolled out without putting subnational members at risk. During these NFNSC meetings a documentation framework to be used for the inter-district learning was agreed upon and tools were finalised for circulation to the 4 DFNSCs.

1.2 Virtual Standardisation Workshop (14-15 January 2021)

A week prior to the Inter District Learning Virtual Workshop, a team of 4 NFNSC members from Ministry of Labor and Social Services, Local Government, Ministry of Health & Child Care, and Food and Nutrition Council, committed a half day to meet with the four districts' core teams. The primary intention was to orient committees to the approach and tools that were going to guide inter district learning workshop and the functionality assessment. The sensitization meetings were necessary to also ensure a uniform presentation during the workshop. Time was awarded to objectively walk district teams through the tool. The NFNSC emphasized on the need to justify scores awarded to committees to make the process as objective as possible. The DFNSC teams were also given guidance on how to prepare lessons learnt and best practices presentations. Furthermore, a template was given for them to prepare a detailed Knowledge Asset.

2. Objectives for the Virtual Inter-District Learning and Documentation

The purpose of the virtual workshop was:

- ☐ To Identify key lessons and innovations from the Food and Nutrition Security Committees experience to improve the future of their work;
- ☐ Conduct inter-district FNSC functionality assessments;
- ☐ To introduce a documentation framework at national and subnational level and support cross-district learning and foster a culture of reflective practice;
- ☐ To standardise the inter-district learning during the COVID-19 context; and
- ☐ To produce 4 knowledge assets and inter-district learning reports documenting key lessons from the DFNSCs and to support uptake of lessons and innovations.

3. Methodology

The virtual workshop (18-22 January 2021) was preceded by a consultative process with NFNSC and a standardisation meeting (14 January 2020) with the 4 DFNSCs. The virtual workshop was attended by 9 NFNSC members, 6 PFNSC members (Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Mashonaland Central) and 24 DFNSC members (Tsholotsho, Gwanda, Mount Darwin & Shamva). The participants were drawn from various sectors. The sectors represented were agriculture, health, local government, social services, education, environment, women affairs and youth (see Annex 2).

The virtual workshop was conducted on the Zoom® Platform. Two breakaway rooms were created for the functionality assessment with 2 DFNSCs in each. Gwanda was paired with Tsholotsho and Mt Darwin with Shamva. The rest of the workshop was conducted in one zoom meeting room using PowerPoint presentations and Plenary sessions. Each session was at most 2 hours long (see program). To ensure that everyone's voice was heard Mentimeter® was used to create formative assessments, spark discussions and test knowledge. Electronic registration was done daily using Google® Forms whilst workshop evaluation was done using JotForm® survey platform.

4. Summary of Proceedings

The workshop took 5 days with each daily session lasting 2-3 hours. The first two days focused on functionality assessment and sharing of best practices. The third and fourth day were dedicated to discussing lessons learnt from each district. The fifth day was dedicated to mapping the way forward.

4.1 Highlights from the DFNSC Functionality Assessment

The attending DFNSCs were paired into two teams and allocated a breakaway room platform so that they could objectively conduct the functionality assessment. Using a standard assessment tool, the four teams were each provided an opportunity to evaluate the functionality of the other DFNSC. The results are shown below:

Table 1 Functionality Scores (%)

Core Function	Tsholotsho	Gwanda	Shamva	Mt Darwin	Average Score
Coordination of Food and Nutrition Stakeholders at all levels	93	40	33	100	66.5
Liaise with sub-national development committees and national level structures on food and nutrition security	100	87	100	100	96.8
Facilitate prioritization and planning of programmes	93	67	67	100	81.8
Advocate and Communicate	80	100	80	80	85.0
Monitor and Evaluate effectiveness of programme interventions	100	70	80	80	82.5
Facilitate and participate in food and nutrition security assessments, surveillance and early warning activities	70	80	90	100	85.0
Facilitate learning and capacity Development	50	80	30	90	62.5
Ensure that important cross cutting issues are monitored and integrated into food and nutrition security analysis and programming	100	50	100	80	82.5
DFNSC Innovativeness	70	0	60	100	57.5

The major recommendation from this process was strengthening coordination through facilitation of virtual interaction for meetings, reports and messaging. The support required includes airtime, bundles, software and hardware. Furthermore, intra-district integration and collaboration was noted as a key to resource mobilization. The PFNSCs need to support DFNSCs through continuous supervision and capacity building initiatives in collaboration with mentors from NFNSC.

4.2 Sharing of DFNSC Best Practices

The four DFNSCs presented best practises from their districts (Table 2). This was evidence that multi sectoral efforts are effective in addressing district specific food and nutrition challenges as well as improving coordination. The following were discussed as attributes of a best practice:

- ☐ **Credibility.** Documented, sound evidence/results that have been advocated by respected persons or institutions
- ☐ **Observability.** Potential users can see the results in practice, e.g. pilot/experimental or demonstration sites
- ☐ **Relevance.** Addresses a persistent/sharply felt problem
- ☐ **Relative advantage.** New practice offers a benefit/gain over existing practices so that potential users are convinced that the costs of implementation are warranted by the benefits
- ☐ **Easy to install and understand.** Process of scaling up the practice is simple rather than complex and complicated
- ☐ **Compatibility.** The practice fits well with the practices of the national programme and with the potential users' established values, norms and facilities
- ☐ **Testability.** The practice can be tried out incrementally on a small pilot scale before large-scale adoption

Table 2 Summary of thematic areas

Thematic areas	Details
Functionality of communities	Holding regular meetings where possible even virtually.
Planning together	Multisectoral development of workplans
Implementation of planned activities	Various nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions
Documentation and reporting	Holding media tours Preparation of quarterly reports and compiling success stories

4.3 Lessons from Tsholotsho, Shamva, Mt Darwin & Gwanda

The Districts highlighted their lessons learnt (Table 3) with most agreeing that the use of social media channels like WhatsApp have allowed them to continue meeting and discussing issues even during the lockdown period. It was noted that even though more capacity building will be

needed for the secretariat focal points in these committees to be able to distinguish and articulate lessons learnt from achievements and best practices.

Table 3 Summary of Key Lessons Learnt

Thematic area	Discussion points
Adaptation to the COVID context of Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Functionality of committees particularly holding of meetings was greatly affected. However, Tsholotsho, Mt Darwin reported to have adopted use of social media and virtual meetings to coordinate activities
Resource mobilization and funding of DFNSCs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Advocacy and Communication capacities are key in resource mobilization and funding for DFNSC activities. The Mt Darwin Team has managed to establish good working relationship with development partners through advocacy.
Capacity needs and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Staff Attrition and rotation requires continuous refresher trainings of DFNSCs in their mandate and how they ought to operate.
The Challenge of limited ICT equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ All the four districts highlighted the need to be supported with ICT equipment like laptops and printers for their committees. Mt Darwin also indicated the need for digital cameras so that they can capture quality pictures in their documentation efforts.
The need for actual inter district visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Even though the virtual inter-district meetings were successful there was an expressed interest by districts to have the actual visits which will be un-interrupted by network challenges and will enhance the whole experience and make it hands on.
Key areas and topics for future learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Fundraising for DFNSCs as well as the documentation skills were highlighted as key areas for learning by committees in the future.
Quality of outputs from district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Writing and Documentation, Trainings required. The products were good but DFNSCs were struggling to distinguish between lessons learnt and best practices.
Key innovation noted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Use of community groups like care groups enhances the effectiveness in reaching more mothers and children. □ Virtual platforms have allowed the continuation of DFNSC business as member can easily communicate via WhatsApp and other online platforms.

5. Recommendations

5.1 There is need to consistently conduct the lessons learnt documentation activity so that district committees take it as a routine practice they can do on their own, such that their innovations and best practices are easily shared broadly for others to learn.

5.2 DFNSCs with partners are encouraged to actively involve these partners so that they can be supported with WIFI connected venues for virtual meetings, support with transport as well as refreshments for meetings. If partners prioritise these activities, they will end up even including an allocation to support these activities.

5.3 More innovative and sustainable ways are needed to support District committees in the COVID-19 Context by the national and provincial level committees.

5.1 Way Forward

1. Conduct a writing workshop for DFNSCs to capacitate them on how to document best practices and lessons learnt.

2. Consolidate outputs from the workshop and publish:

- ☐ Booklets of presentation
- ☐ Knowledge Assets document
- ☐ Document of Best Practices

Annex 1 Programme for the Virtual Inter-District Learning Workshop 18 January – 22 January 2020

Day 1 - Monday – 18 January, 2020		
Time	Activity	Responsible/Presenter
08.50-09.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Participant's registration	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.20 – 09.30	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop opening remarks	<input type="checkbox"/> REACH Facilitator
	<input type="checkbox"/> Purpose and objectives of the workshop	
09.10 – 09.20	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome and Official Opening Remarks by NFNSC	<input type="checkbox"/> NFNSC
09.30 - 09.40	<input type="checkbox"/> Mood monitoring Mentimeter	<input type="checkbox"/> All, FNC
09.40 - 09.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure of the workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC (Mirriam Banda)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of the learning approach	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC (Alfa Ndlovu)
09.50 - 10:20	<input type="checkbox"/> Functionality Assessment Session 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Darwin, Shamva, Tsholotsho Gwanda
	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakaway & Plenary	
10.20 - 10:45	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentimeter (Having conducted the functionality assessment session, what have you learned? What have you found most useful? Surprising? Could you apply this lesson in your context? How is it/could it be useful in your context? How could you build on this lesson?)	<input type="checkbox"/> All
10.45 – 11.00	Tea/Coffee break	<input type="checkbox"/> All
11.00 – 11.30	<input type="checkbox"/> Functionality Assessment Session 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Darwin, Shamva, Tsholotsho Gwanda
	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakaway & Plenary	
11.30 – 11.55	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentimeter (Having conducted the functionality assessment session, what have you learned? What have you found most useful? Surprising? Could you apply this lesson in your context? How is it/could it be useful in your context? How could you build on this lesson?)	<input type="checkbox"/> All
11.55-12.05	<input type="checkbox"/> Announcements/Close of Day 1	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
Day 2 – Tuesday – 19 January, 2020		
09.00 – 09.05	<input type="checkbox"/> Mood monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.05 – 09.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Recap of Day 1/Announcements	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 Rapporteurs
09.10 - 09.30	<input type="checkbox"/> Best Practices from Mt Darwin	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Darwin
09.30 - 09.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Best Practices from Gwanda	<input type="checkbox"/> Gwanda

09.50 - 1015	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentimeter (Having listened to the best practices, what have you learned? What have you found most useful? Surprising? Could you apply this lesson in your context? How is it/could it be useful in your context? How could you build on this lesson?)	<input type="checkbox"/> All
10.15 – 10.30	Tea/Coffee break	<input type="checkbox"/> All
10.30 – 10.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Best Practices from Shamva	<input type="checkbox"/> Shamva
10.50 - 11.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Best Practices from Tsholotsho	<input type="checkbox"/> Tsholotsho
11.10 – 11.30	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentimeter (Having listened to the lessons, what have you learned? What have you found most useful? Surprising? Could you apply this lesson in your context? How is it/could it be useful in your context? How could you build on this lesson?)	<input type="checkbox"/> All
11.30 – 11.40	<input type="checkbox"/> Announcements/Close of Day 2	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
Day 3– Wednesday 20 January, 2020		
09.00 – 09.05	<input type="checkbox"/> Mood monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.00 – 09.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Recap of Day 2/Announcements	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.10 – 09.55	<input type="checkbox"/> Lessons from Tsholotsho	<input type="checkbox"/> Tsholotsho
9.55 – 10.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Tea/Coffee break	<input type="checkbox"/> All
10.10 – 10:55	<input type="checkbox"/> Lessons from Shamva	<input type="checkbox"/> Shamva
10.55 - 1110	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentimeter (Having listened to the lessons, what have you learned? What have you found most useful? Surprising? Could you apply this lesson in your context? How is it/could it be useful in your context? How could you build on this lesson?)	<input type="checkbox"/> All
11.10-11.20	<input type="checkbox"/> Announcements/Close of Day 3	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
Day 4– Thursday 21 January, 2020		
09.00 – 09.05	<input type="checkbox"/> Mood monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.00 – 09.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Recap of Day 3/Announcements	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.10 – 09.55	<input type="checkbox"/> Lessons from Mt Darwin	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Darwin
9.55 – 10.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Tea/Coffee break	<input type="checkbox"/> All
10.10 – 10:55	<input type="checkbox"/> Lessons from Gwanda	<input type="checkbox"/> Gwanda
10.55 - 1110	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentimeter	<input type="checkbox"/> All

11.10-11.20	<input type="checkbox"/> Announcements/Close of Day 4	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
Day 5– Thursday 21 January, 2020		
09.00 – 09.05	<input type="checkbox"/> Mood monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.00 – 09.10	<input type="checkbox"/> Recap of Day 2/Announcements	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
09.10 – 09.40	<input type="checkbox"/> Collective reflection on areas of improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> All
09.40-10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans for 2021	<input type="checkbox"/> All
10.00-10.30	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-district learning opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> All
10.30-10.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Participant Feedback on Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> FNC
10.50 - 1100	<input type="checkbox"/> Official Closing by NFNSC	<input type="checkbox"/> NFNSC

Annex 2: List of Participants

District	Ministry/Sector/Organisation	First Name	Last Name	Cell Number	Email
Gwanda	Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare	Alex	Ushendibaba	263775352550	alexushendibaba@gmail.com
Gwanda	Forestry Commission	Fortunes Felix	Matutu	713886195	matutufelix@gmail.com
Gwanda	Agritex	Geoffrey	Hove	779024408	geofreyjoe@yahoo.com
Gwanda	Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare	Golden Mugove	Mapanga	772245176	gmmapanga@gmail.com
Gwanda	Ministry of Health and Child Care	Jubilent	Jacha	775816616	ndukwanajubie@gmail.com
Gwanda	Women Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development	Sipho	Maposa	773638008	siemapho@gmail.com
Mount Darwin	Forestry Commission	Chrispen	Nyangombe	774042431	chrisnyangombe@gmail.com
Mount Darwin	Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare	Karison	Kambumbu	774110469	kkambumbu@gmail.com
Mount Darwin	Youth Sport Arts and Recreation	Linia	Matare	775347031	liniamatare@gmail.com
Mount Darwin	Ministry of Health and Child Care	Munashe	Kapasura	771694312	munashekapasura@gmail.com
Mount Darwin	Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development	Oscar Jonathan	Manyepwa	773043229	oscarmanyepwa@gmail.com
Mount Darwin	Local Government	Sashar	Zvomuya	772725569	sasharzvomus@gmail.com
Mat North	Local Government	Dhasai	Parenda	774670859	dparenda055@gmail.com
Mat North	Health and Child Care	Elizabeth	Katuruza	779071868	ekaturuza@gmail.com
Mat South	Health and Child Care	Innocent	mazarura	772600880	imazarura@gmail.com
Mat South	Local Government	Nomathemba	Ndlovu	784407793	mdunoma77@gmail.com
Mash Central	Health and Child Care	Shingirai	Mikiri	772580805	mikirishingirai@gmail.com
Mat North	Agritex	Mapira	Charity	772319763	chamapira@gmail.com
Shamva	Agritex	Darlington	Tungwana	774052869	tungwanadarlington@gmail.com
Shamva	Local Government	Gladys	Mapfumo	774273888	mapfumogladys9@gmail.com
Shamva	Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare	Grenia	Chaomba	0713019282 /0774654688	grenchaomba@gmail.com
Shamva	Health and Child Care	Margaret	Mhlanga	774025651	margaretmhlanga@gmail.com

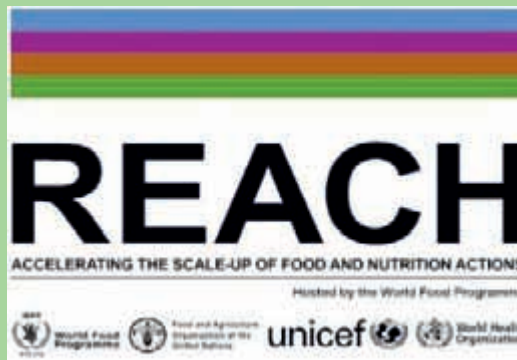
District	Ministry/Sector/Organisation	First Name	Last Name	Cell Number	Email
Shamva	Ministry of women affairs, community, small and medium enterprise development	Simbisai	Ndige	772855252	simbisaindige8@gmail.com
Shamva	Primary and secondary Education	Victor	Mugiya	773434942	mugiyav@gmail.com
Tsholotsho	Tsholotsho RDC	Linnet	Banda	772319962	linnetdebbby47@gmail.com
Tsholotsho	MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE	MBONISI	NCUBE	773494888	mbonisijason084@gmail.com
Tsholotsho	Agriculture	Rachel	Sibanda	772387813	rachiesn@yahoo.com
Tsholotsho	Local Government	Aaron	Gono	774011392	gonoaaron69@gmail.com
Tsholotsho	Health and Child Care	Nomsa Lee	Tauya	775041207	leetauya@gmail.com
Tsholotsho	Department of Social Development	Varaidzo	Mahachi	777670396	mahacheev@gmail.com
National	Food and Nutrition Council	Alfa	Ndlovu	773700866	ndlovualfah@gmail.com
National	FNC	Eulita	Tivafukidze	0772 850980	eulitativa@gmail.com
National	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare	Mary	Takangovada	773385346	
National	Min of Agric	Nester	Gumbo	0772 728 717	gumbonester@gmail.com
National	FNC	Rangarirai	Mureya	779622600	rmureya@gmail.com
National	FNC/REACH	Raymond	Chikomba	772685427	raymondtinash.chikomba@gmail.com
National	FNC	Siboniso	Chigova		chigova.sibo@gmail.com
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