

Mount Darwin 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
- ☐ Identify areas for improvement in the future

Introduction

- Mt Darwin district first constituted its District Food and Nutrition Security Committee in 2013 following the training of 15 district stakeholders by the FNC.
- The follow-on activities from the training was to facilitate the establishment of the district level, ward and village level structures to coordinate the multi sectoral implementation of the food and nutrition security programmes in the district.

Introduction

Nutrition Specific Interventions

- ❑ Implementing **IMAM program** in all the 22 health facilities in the District and all cases are being managed using plumpy nut (RUTF) .
- ❑ **Distribution of Micronutrient Powders MNPs** to all children of 6 -59 months.
- ❑ **Active Screening training (Mother Led MUAC) to 398 VHWs** and screening of the children under the of 5 by their caregivers.
- ❑ **IMAM training** 35 health workers were trained.
- ❑ **IYCF training** 35 health workers trained and 401 VHWs were trained on cIYCF.
- ❑ **Community dialogues on Covid 19** and nutrition education 298 people.
- ❑ Training on recipes and **cooking demonstrations** 98 sessions.

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

- ❑ **Farmer training** on crop healthy post-harvest management and marketing -68 048 HH.
- ❑ Wheat farmer training-15 Farmers.
- ❑ **Pfumvudza Training**-21 290.
- ❑ **Pre-Season Farmer Training and COVID awareness meetings**-101 741HH.
- ❑ **Agricultural shows**-5.
- ❑ **Livestock Dipping Services** 107 700 cattles were dipped in 2020.
- ❑ **Food Preservation and Processing training** with women in ISALs 68 321 people reached.
- ❑ **Food assistance**-22 865

Best Practices

Thematic areas	Details
Functionality of communities	The committee is very functional. District team meet every month.
Planning together	The DFNSC team plans together as a team through regular meetings and other online platforms. Monthly meeting are done and quarterly reviews of progress.
Implementation of planned activities	Team have managed to implement most of the planned activities except a few which were affected by COVID-19 and the issue of limited resources.
Documentation and reporting	In 2020 the district managed to document three success stories with support from FNC/REACH. The national broadcaster ZBC also managed to document best practices from the district through a short documentary and the documentary was broadcast on national television.

Challenges

- ❑ Limited resources resulted in less monitoring and support visits.
- ❑ Lack of continuity due to staff turnover within the public service has been a problem.
- ❑ The committee doesn't have a motor vehicle, printer cameras and video cameras for the district.

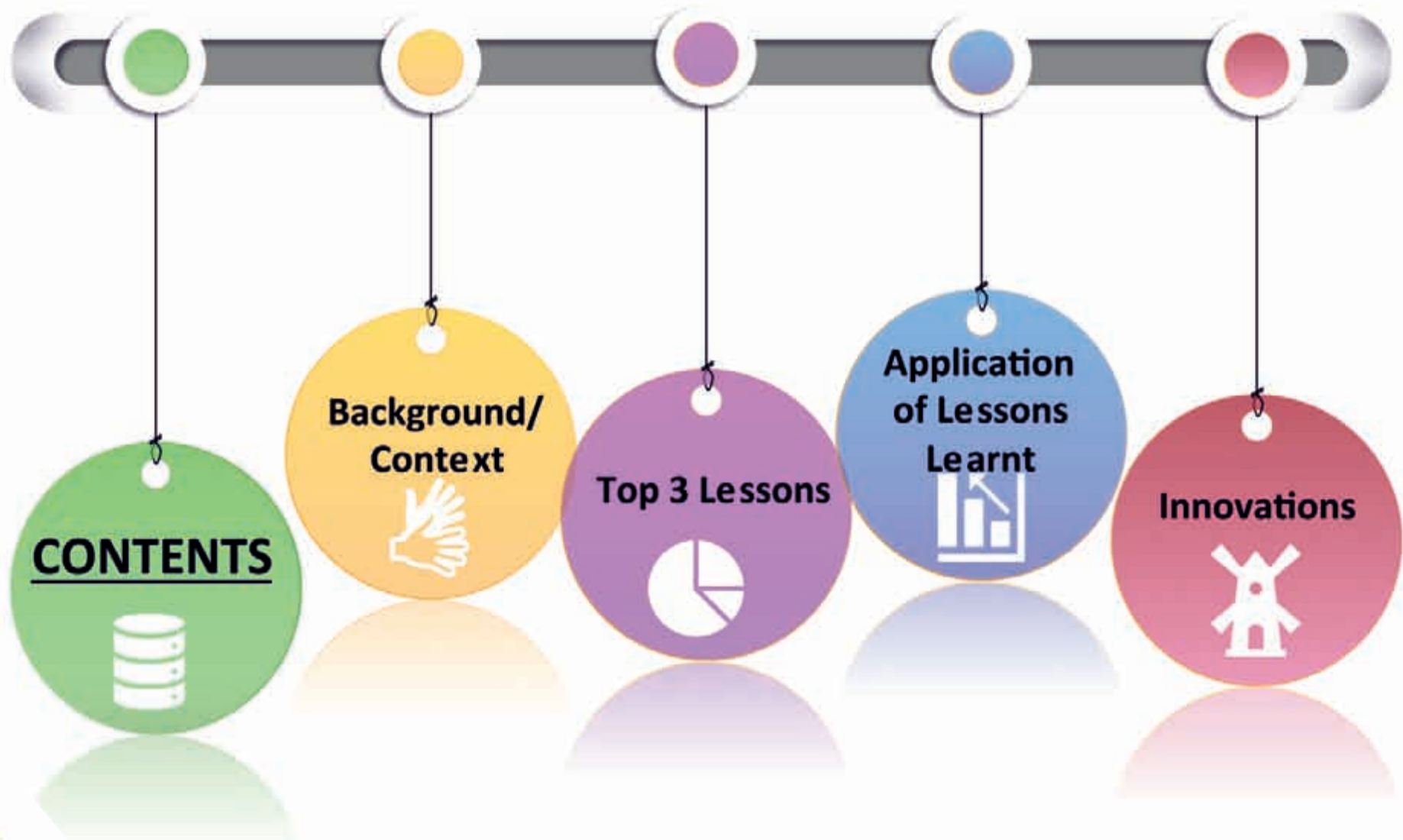
Areas of Improvement

- ☐ The team would want to improve on resource mobilization from their district local partners and private sector.
- ☐ On continuity there is need to ensure staff turnover do not disrupt activities, so seconding two or three permanent DFNSC members from each ministry can help in that respect.
- ☐ The committee requires motor vehicle for effective field outreach, printer cameras and video cameras for the district.



Mount Darwin DFNSC Summary of Lessons Learnt





Overview and Context of Lessons

- The year 2020 started on a brighter note with the district with support of the national food and security council filming a documentary aired on national television showcasing the key programmes and interventions being spearhead by the DFNSC in the district.
- The key highlights in the documentary were the nutrition behaviour change communication model using the care group model, the household keyhole gardens and the community nutritional gardens and Mutondwe irrigation schemes .
- The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the control and mitigation measures put in place to combat the pandemic significantly curtailed the work of the district food and nutrition security committee.

Description of Lessons

The Care group model (CGM)

- Using the CGM a community based nutrition behavior change communication model the district was able to significantly improve the sanitation coverage and reduce mal nutrition rates .
- Using the model the district managed to reach out the targeted populations while integrating theory and practice (eg cooking demonstrations, food fairs, continuous production of vegetables through keyhole household and community nutrition gardens).
- With the Care group model, nutrition component was integrated with agriculture and a significant proportion of Care group participants growing and consuming bio fortified crops.
- CGM managed to penetrate the hard to reach Apostolic Faith churches in Mt Darwin allowing meaningful promotion of EBF and other promoted nutrition behaviors, as well as accessing essential health services such as growth monitoring, Vitamin A supplementation, Micronutrient powders through NWGs.
- CGs and NWGs were used as effective platforms to raise awareness on COVID-19 while also emphasizing the importance of a four star diet.

Description of Lessons

Conservation Agriculture - PFUMVUDZA

- ☐ The district recorded an increased number of farmers adopting and practising conservation agriculture popularly known as Pfumvudza targeting all households in the district with up to 89% of household in the programme.
- ☐ Training and distribution of free inputs for farmers in the programme made the programme hugely popular and a success in the community.
- ☐ Need for timeous distributions of inputs to ensure that all farmers manage to plant their crops within the recommended times.

Description of Lessons

Community Nutritional Gardens & Irrigation Schemes

- The DFNSC facilitated the establishment and strengthening of community nutritional gardens, irrigation schemes to facilitate access to a wide range of nutritious foods.
- Support from partner organisation World Vision and Enterprize

Application and Integration of Lessons Learnt

- The DFNC is now using the care group model to facilitate the dissemination of information to community by all stakeholders in the district.

Innovation

- Made use of the community level structures spearheaded by the local leadership to identify the key drivers of stunting and malnutrition and they have come up with their possible solutions including home hygiene and sanitation every household to have a hand washing facility (chigubhu gear) and to have a toilet at every households again.

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