

Shamva District FNSC Best Practices



REACH

ACCELERATING THE SCALE-UP OF FOOD AND NUTRITION ACTIONS



ZIMBABWE

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

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

- ❑ With the assistance of SOS the district managed to acquire an incubator for **chicken project** (chicken hatching in Chevakadzi Ward 15.
- ❑ The second one was child protection we able to **resuscitate child protection committees** which consisted of 25 members in each committee representing each ward in the 10 wards under the family strengthening programme (ward 17,21,19,27,15,5,9,6,8 .
- ❑ The district through the programme of community development we were able to train some community member on **income generating programmes** such as soap making .
- ❑ Educational support 5 schools in the district were supported with solar powered boreholes for **Nutrition garden**

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

- ❑ Through WHH several **boreholes were drilled** in the district addressing the issues of wash
- ❑ Through the Committee Strict **Policies were put in place to monitor and reduce early pregnancies and childhood marriages** which in turn will result in a food insecure family since the mother will be immature to take care of the family.
- ❑ Through SOS projects are being conducted such as **cash flows** to assist young women since they are the ones responsible for feeding the family . SOS also conducted a programme called **family strengthening programme** which involved 5 main activities which includes 1)water and sanitation they **drilled almost 7 boreholes** and **distributed detergents** to 20 schools . They also installed **tip tapes** in the 20 schools

Introduction

Nutrition Specific Interventions

- Distribution of **micronutrient powders** through Village Health Workers
- SOS distributed **food hampers** in 4 wards targeting 1800 house holds wards(18,20,23 and 24) during the past year.
- Africare also distributed **food hampers** targeting 45741 beneficiaries that is 9496 house holds of grain to the

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

- **Active screening** of malnutrition was being conducted every month in the community by Village Health Workers
- Through support groups **cooking demonstrations** were being conducted at village level

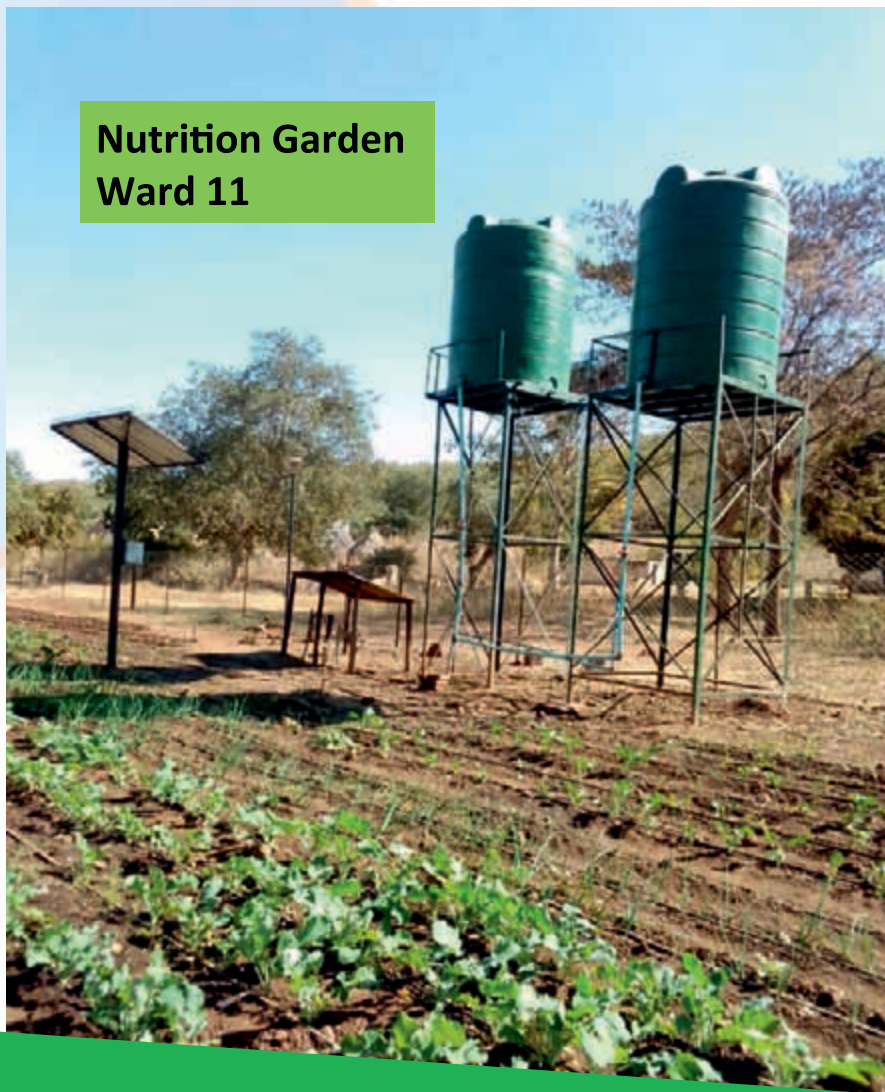
Best Practices

Thematic areas	Details
Functionality of communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 49 water point committees were established during the whole of 2020 through the assistance of WHH. ❑ During 2020 almost 30 health clubs/support groups were functional . ❑ During food distributions the admission committee was formed including representatives from the wards .the committee was responsible for the identification and mobilization of beneficiaries
Planning together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ During the past year 2020 the committee managed to conduct meetings at least once per quarter due to the COVID-19 conditions .

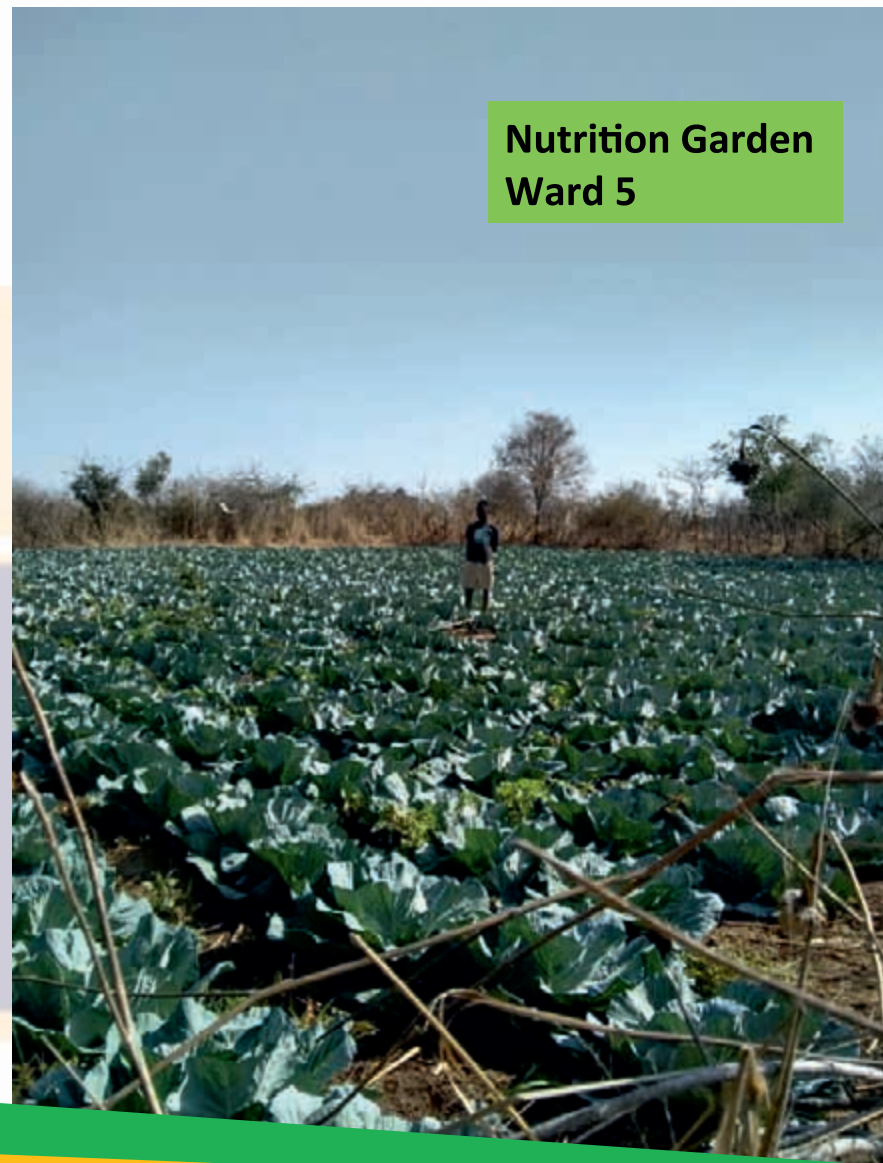
Best Practices

Thematic areas	Details
Implementation of planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> After food distributions the team conducts a briefing or feedback meeting to share success and areas of improvement. <input type="checkbox"/> During the beginning of the month under the programme of pfumvudza the committee was targeting 40000 household but managed to cover 30000 house holds which was above half. This is a success since it was the programme was still new . <input type="checkbox"/> Through village health workers the district planned to cover 75% of the total population on active screening but due to COVID-19 only 30% was achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> During the start of the year the committee intended to establish 10 Nutrition garden in the district but as of now ,8 solar powered nutrition garden have been established in 2020.
Documentation and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings were done and reports were filed on every projects that were conducted

**Nutrition Garden
Ward 11**



**Nutrition Garden
Ward 5**



SOS Family Strengthening



**Nutrition Garden
Ward 13**



Challenges

- The DFNSC is trying its level best to integrate and to work well as a team. However, the district is yet to cascade these structures to ward level. At district level support is a bit easy to get but at ward level structure it can be a big problem..
- With the current lockdown setup, ward level operations have become very difficult, because of the added cost of data bundles required by committee members to conduct meetings online.

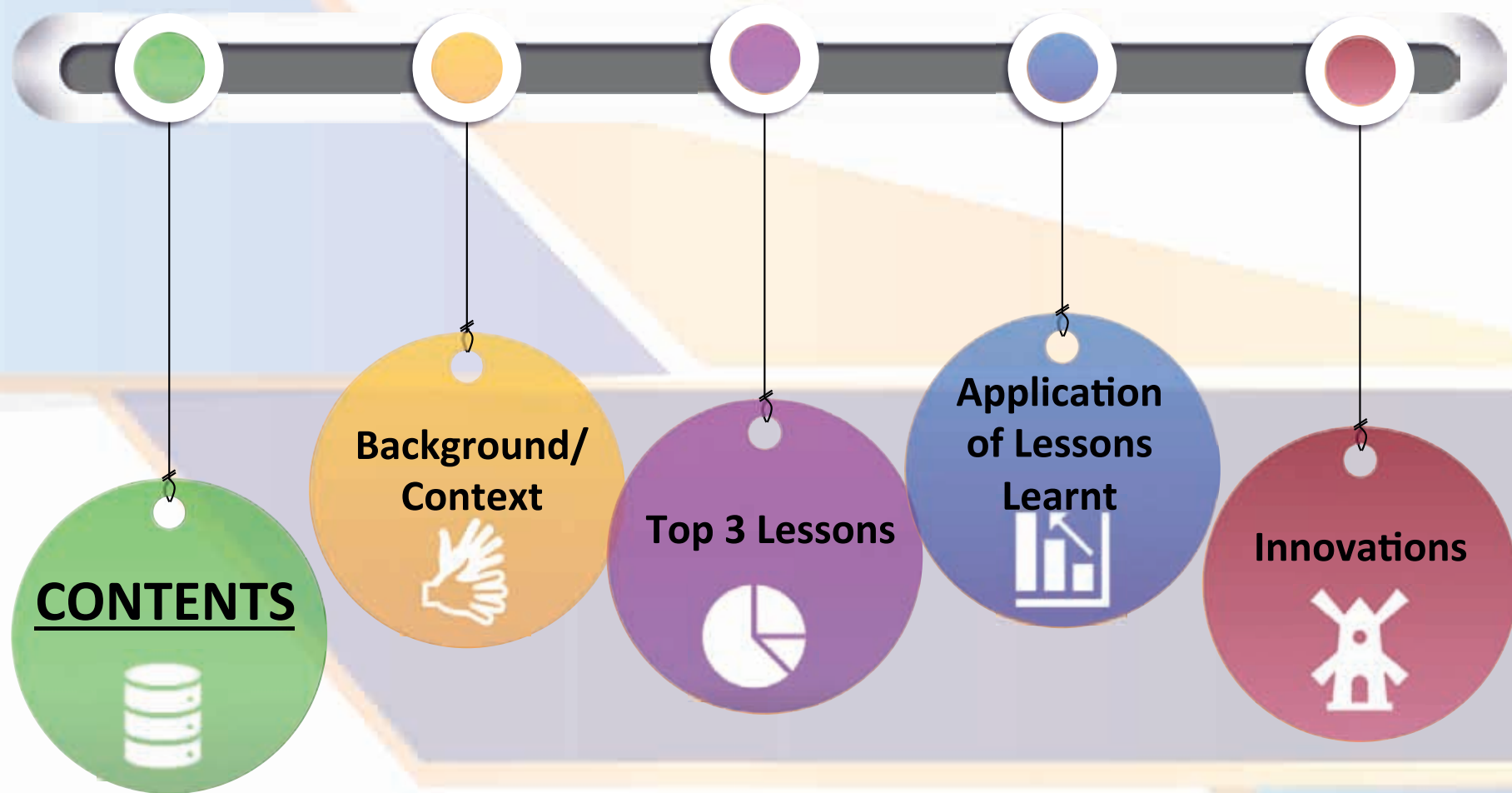
Areas of Improvement

- ☐ Need to improve coordinating of meetings at ward level.
- ☐ Ensure committees in each ward are functional.
- ☐ Find ways to increase our meetings as a district even through ZOOM.
- ☐ Intensify monitoring and evaluation of various projects running within the district.



Shamva DFNSC Summary of Lessons Learnt





Overview and Context of Lessons

- Before the DFNSC was established there was no unity within line Ministries, this was a disadvantage because resources were wasted due to poor coordination .
- 2020 was a very difficult year due to COVID-19 and drought ,and the committee tried as much as possible to adjust to the COVID-19 conditions through innovative ways to operate in these difficult times . The main theme for the year was to reduce malnutrition by ensuring food security through several programs such as ,Pfumvudza for the year 2020 almost 40 000 house holds participated and we anticipate that this year this house holds will be food secure.
- During 2020 many boreholes were drilled and equipped in the district ,Nutrition gardens were established near were boreholes.
- During 2020 many house holds were food secure due to the assistance of food hampers from AFRICARE and SOS.

Description of Lessons

- ☐ Engagement of the community in each and every programme makes programme implementation easy as the community will have ownership.
- ☐ During establishment of boreholes each borehole had water point committees which comprised of individuals from the community . These committees facilitated the building of boundaries and fences at every water point, also ensured that water is not wasted .
- ☐ The community's engagement in sourcing building materials helped in making sure that they feel that the boreholes are theirs and this gave them more responsibility.

Description of Lessons

- During the food distributions the community was greatly engaged especially with Africare. The committee agreed that the community is responsible for identification of the most vulnerable among themselves through making a list according to how they earn.
- This strategy helped a lot in ensuring that assistance goes to the most deserving hence achieving a balance in almost every household.
- As a team we learnt that use of community groups achieves better results ,for example support groups of pregnant and mothers with children less than 5 were useful in cascading health and nutrition messages in the community.
- Health clubs are mainly targeting WASH programs only and some other groups etc. The team realized the clubs are too many such the Village health worker is overwhelmed as they are needed in these many groups resulting in many days one pursuing various clubs hence compromising the quality of results.

Application and Integration of Lessons Learnt

- Whatever program that is of interest which is being led in a particular government line ministry has to first be presented to all stakeholders so that all DFNSC members can give their insight to allow effective implementation without leaving any sector behind.
- During the presentation every department is given an opportunity to air out how they can assist and be part of that particular program, departments can assist whether with human resource or equipment .
- Even during COVID-19 the team continued to operate through the use of social media applications like WHATSAPP to conduct meetings and get updates and organise several activities.

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