

Tsholotsho 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

Key District Food and Nutrition Interventions

Nutrition Specific Interventions

- ☐ Management of malnutrition – rehabilitation
- ☐ Supplementary feeding
- ☐ Vitamin A supplementation
- ☐ Vaccinations
- ☐ Iron folate supplementation
- ☐ Infant and young child feeding – Social behaviour change communication
- ☐ Community integrated outreaches – active screening for malnutrition

Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

- ☐ Crop production
- ☐ Livestock production
- ☐ Nutrition gardens
- ☐ Small livestock production
- ☐ Bee keeping
- ☐ Wash activities
- ☐ Village lending and savings
- ☐ Drought relief
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Women empowerment

Best Practices

Thematic areas	Details
Functionality of communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly and quarterly meetings and reporting done.<input type="checkbox"/> Feed back and reports dissemination meetings done.
Planning together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Planning meetings done regularly.<input type="checkbox"/> Ward and target beneficiaries selection is done as a committee effort.
Implementation of planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring visits, beneficiary targeting, food and seed fairs, commemorations-(Breastfeeding ,WASH ,AIDS day etc)
Documentation and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Meeting minutes, quarterly reports , documentation of success stories

Success stories

1. Promotion of small grain production in conservation agriculture 2019/2020 season



2. Nutrition garden in ward 13



3. Model Home



Success Stories

4. Joint monitoring of a nutrition garden by the DFNSC



5. DFNSC members during a meeting



Challenges

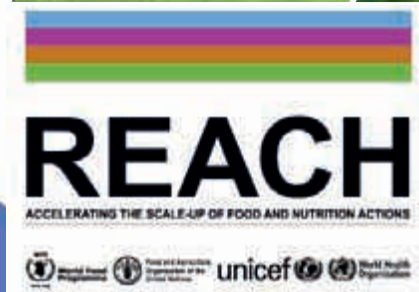
- ❑ Not all committee members were trained in the food and nutrition (DFNSC) module.
- ❑ Staff turnover, this leaves a gap in the continuity of the committee activities- These affect meeting attendance as new staff members will need training and might appreciate the committee.
- ❑ Resource limitations –Stationary, fuel, lunch allowances, communication allowances –These affect monitoring of ward committees and their functionality.

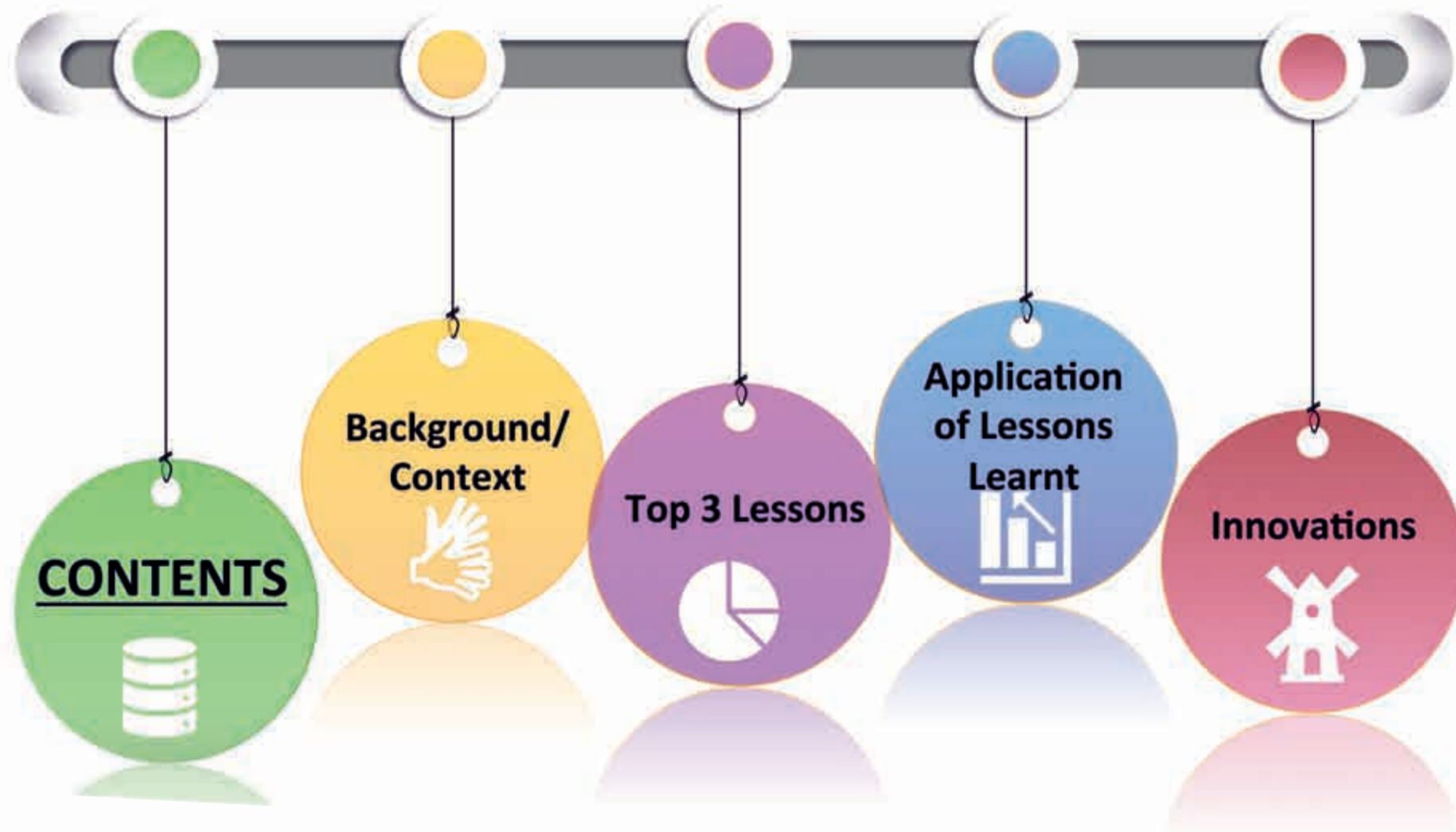
Areas of Improvement

- ☐ Refresher trainings for DFNSC members are required as the majority are not trained. This will possibly encourage meeting attendance.
- ☐ Train all wards on MCBM for uniformity and progress.
- ☐ Resource mobilization for the DFNSC- fuel for monitoring trained MSCBM wards.
- ☐ Resuscitation of Ward committees.



Tsholotsho DFNSC Summary of Lessons Learnt





Overview and Context of Lessons

- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a number of lessons to the committee in 2020. The year came with restrictions that saw most activities being put on hold so as to curb the spread of covid 19.
- Activities affected included food distribution, in schools feeding, community gatherings for trainings , livelihood sources like trade, remittances , informal market.
- The normal way of living and working was disrupted in 2020, All these activities were negatively affected. No face to face meetings , no training gatherings, no community kitchens for our under 5 children , no schooling , no community active screening gatherings for our under-five , no mass vaccination campaigns , no community support groups gathering for infant and young child feeding, no commemorations done .

Description of Lessons

- ☐ The DFNSC learned that even when activities are disrupted, adoption of alternative working methods are crucial.
- ☐ Capacitated community cadres are a valuable asset. WFNSCs, VFNSCs, Village health workers, LEAD Farmers are crucial links for communities to access information and key services..
- ☐ Face to face interactions are not the only way to communicate there are other platforms that can be used e.g. Rapid pro SMS systems, Radio messaging, WhatsApp, Zoom, Toll free numbers these are very useful in crisis times.
- ☐ Integration is key, several sectors came together with different activities serving the community. For example food distribution points were a platform for COVID-19 messaging and other messages, screening, vaccination, PPC distribution, mosquito net distribution etc..

Description of Lessons

What Worked Well

- ☐ Monitoring of different sector activities can be done at once by sectors as a committee
- ☐ Integration, combining planning and implementing of activities as a committee.
- ☐ Efficient use of resources, and beneficiary targeting
- ☐ Online Quarterly reporting

What Didn't Work Well

- ☐ Meetings were not conducted as planned.
- ☐ Meeting attendance was normally poor.

Application and Integration of Lessons Learnt

- Activity integration, planning and implementing together.
- Adapting to use of technology and other communication platforms to facilitate meetings and reporting.
- Capacitation of community cadres is essential both knowledge and resources.

Innovation

- ☐ Rapid Pro SMS Reporting system for reporting active screening, malnutrition cases, stock status and Vit A supplementation malnutrition by community and facility health workers was very effective in monitoring the community nutrition situation in real time.
- ☐ Family led MUAC- screening for malnutrition at home led to an increase in children assessed for Malnutrition. Also Vitamin A task sharing (i.e. Health facilities giving their village health workers vitamin A tablets for them to administer to children) with VHWs to supplement children at home allowed for increased coverages in Vitamin A supplementation.
- ☐ Integrated outreach activities to rehabilitate malnutrition and vaccinate children in their villages-mobile clinic.
- ☐ Farmer field schools and Lead farmers to support farming activities.
- ☐ Encouraging backyard gardens and small livestock keeping to diversify diets.
- ☐ Organise small groups of beneficiaries in food distribution points.
- ☐ Giving dry ration instead of wet rations for in schools supplementary feeding for caregivers to cook for children at home.

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES



FNC is housed at SIRDC: 1574 Alpes Road, Hatcliffe, Harare
Tel: +263-242-862586/ +263-242-862025. Website: www.fnc.org.zw. Email: info@fnc.org.zw.
Twitter: @FNCZimbabwe. Instagram: fnc_zim. Facebook: @FNCZimbabwe

Supported by

