



FOOD AND NUTRITION COUNCIL

Detailed Annual Report

January- December 2021

Promoting Food and Nutrition Security in the Context of
Economic Growth and Development

Table of Contents

Food and Nutrition Council Corporate Profile	3
Food and Nutrition Council Board of Directors	4
Professional Advisors	5
Food and Nutrition Council Staff	6
Foreword	8
Executive Summary	9
KRA 1: Assessment, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (ARME)	12
KRA 2: Multi-sectoral Coordination Unit	28
KRA 3: Nutrition	36
KRA 6: Knowledge Management	48
FNC Strategic Engagements	53
Challenges	62
Conclusion	62

Food and Nutrition Council Corporate Profile

The Food and Nutrition Council is the lead agency under the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), tasked by Government with the responsibility of coordination, analysis and promotion of a cohesive national response by multiple sectors and stakeholders to food and nutrition insecurity in Zimbabwe.

VISION: Every Zimbabwean Free from Hunger and all Forms of Malnutrition.

MISSION: The Food and Nutrition Council seeks to establish functional multisectoral food and nutrition systems and structures, monitor and evaluate prevailing food and nutrition situation in Zimbabwe and work towards a coordinated national response in addressing food and nutrition insecurity.

MANDATE: To promote a cohesive national response to the prevailing household food insecurity and malnutrition through coordinated multi-sectoral action.

CORE FUNCTIONS:

- FNC is the convener and coordinator of national food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe.
- FNC charts a practical way forward for fulfilling legal and existing policy commitments in food and nutrition security.
- FNC advises Government on strategic directions in food and nutrition security.
- FNC undertakes a “watch dog role” and supports and facilitates action to ensure commitments in food and nutrition are kept on track by different sectors. This is done by way of food and nutrition assessments, data analysis and research, advocacy, strategic policy analysis and advice, multi-sectoral initiatives, and building national and sub-national capacity for food and nutrition.

Food and Nutrition Council Board of Directors



Dr Ngaite Nkomo-Mgeni
Board Chairperson



Dr Stephen Chipika
Vice Board Chairperson



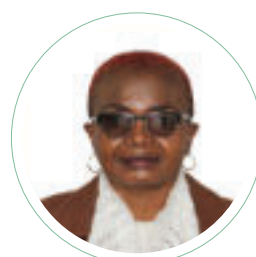
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Innocent Mangwirio	Data Manager
Siboniso Chigova	Nutrition Officer
Honest Mahlatini	Analyst
Alfa Ndlovu	Policy Officer
Tatenda Mafunga	Principal Officer
Rangarirai Mureya	Food Safety and Standards Officer
Sere Phiri	Finance and Administration Officer
Caroline Mukanduri	Administration Officer
Mary Chikosi	Secretary
Svinurai Jaya	Driver
Aaron Maziya	Driver
Lilian Maramwidze	Office Assistant

Acronyms

ARME	Assessment, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DDRCs	District Drought Relief Committees
DFNSC	District Food and Nutrition Security Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FNC	Food and Nutrition Council
FNSC	Food and Nutrition Security Committee
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
IAPRI	Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MCU	Multi-sectoral Coordination Unit
MCBM	Multi-Sectoral Community Based Model for addressing stunting
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
NFNSC	National Food and Nutrition Security Committee
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
PFNSC	Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committee
REACH	Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Under-nutrition
RLA	Rural Livelihoods Assessment
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SUN	Scaling up Nutrition
ULA	Urban Livelihoods Assessment
VHWs	Village Health Workers
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFNSCs	Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees
ZCSOSUNA	Zimbabwe Civil Society Organisations for Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Foreword



Dr Ngaite Nkomo-Mgeni
Board Chairperson

The Government of Zimbabwe's aspiration to develop into an upper-middle income economy is propagated into a number of focus areas. One of the key focus areas as aligned in the country's National Development Strategy 1 is food and nutrition security. The Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) plays an integral role in Zimbabwe's endeavour to address people's livelihood issues, more-so on food and nutrition security issues. This role is emphasised in the FNC mandate, which is 'to promote a cohesive national response to the prevailing household food insecurity and malnutrition through coordinated multi-sectoral action'. The vision then put emphasis on ensuring that 'Every Zimbabwean Free from Hunger and all Forms of

Malnutrition'. Through its contribution to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods for Zimbabwe, the FNC continues to promote household food and nutrition security through coordinating a multi-sectoral response to the prevailing food and nutrition security challenges.

The FNC's seven Key Result Areas are interlinked through coordination and collaboration of Assessments, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, Multi-sectoral Coordination from national level to ward level, Nutrition Security, Policy Analysis and Advice, Knowledge Management and Food Safety and Standards. The work of the FNC is guided by key strategic frameworks such as the Food and Nutrition Security Policy Framework and the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy.

The FNC carried out food and nutrition assessments aimed at quantification and identification of success and failures of programs and policies at implementation level. The assessments helped in characterizing the food and nutrition problem and identifying its key drivers to facilitate evidence-based decision making and implementation of interventions. The FNC also carried out its key function of multi-sectoral coordination by providing fora for learning and exchange of ideas through high level engagements such as the Expanded Technical Committee meetings, Food and Nutrition Security Committees and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) platforms. The FNC was also represented at various national and regional fora for the enhancement of strategic partnership to broaden its influence in the food and nutrition arena.

The FNC presents its 2021 annual report that highlights its key achievements and challenges encountered. However, the FNC continues on the path to strive for excellence in its drive for success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nkomo-Mgeni'.

Dr Ngaite Nkomo-Mgeni
Board Chairperson

Executive Summary

The Food and Nutrition Council is the leading national agency mandated by Government for the coordination, analysis and promotion of a multi-sectoral response to food and nutrition insecurity in Zimbabwe. The FNC engages multiple sectors and other stakeholders including the UN, NGOs, private sector and Academia, to lead and convene on national food and nutrition security issues. The 2021 FNC Annual report is a reflection of a collective effort of the FNC's seven Key Result Areas that work intrasectorally, whilst also taking cognisance of the important contribution of the other sectors in realising the FNC vision of every Zimbabwean being free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

This report highlights the assessments carried out through the Assessment, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit namely the ZimVAC Rural and Urban Livelihoods Assessments, including the dissemination of these reports facilitated by the Knowledge Management Unit. The Multi-sectoral Coordination Unit, solely responsible for ensuring multi-sectoral, functional systems and structures from National to sub-national level also played a pivotal role in ensuring Food and Nutrition Security Committees are functional, as well as the revision of Operational Manuals and the MCBM Framework. This report also highlights the work that the FNC as the SUN convener carried out in mobilising and coordinating for a SUN-Business Network Indaba and engagement of critical decision makers such as Parliamentarians in efforts to shape the nutrition landscape in the country. The FNC also played a critical role in its involvement during the formulation of food safety and standards guidelines that are also pertinent to food and nutrition security. Through its Knowledge Management Unit, the FNC engaged the media, through various media tours and also managed to produce a few bulletins and newsletters to inform the public and all other critical players in the food and nutrition security arena.

Although there were a few impediments such as the COVID-19 pandemic and its related restrictions, the FNC continued to carry out its mandate and will continue to seek new innovations to ensure that all efforts are harnessed to ensure that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and malnutrition!



George D. Kembo
Director

Acknowledgements

The FNC would like to acknowledge the tremendous support (technical and financial) re-ceived from the following Government Ministries and Departments as well as Development Partners:

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- FNC Board
- SIRDC
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing
- Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)
- The European Union
- The Department for International Development (DFID)
- UNICEF
- United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Food Program (WFP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Our sincere gratitude also goes to the following multi-sectoral committees:

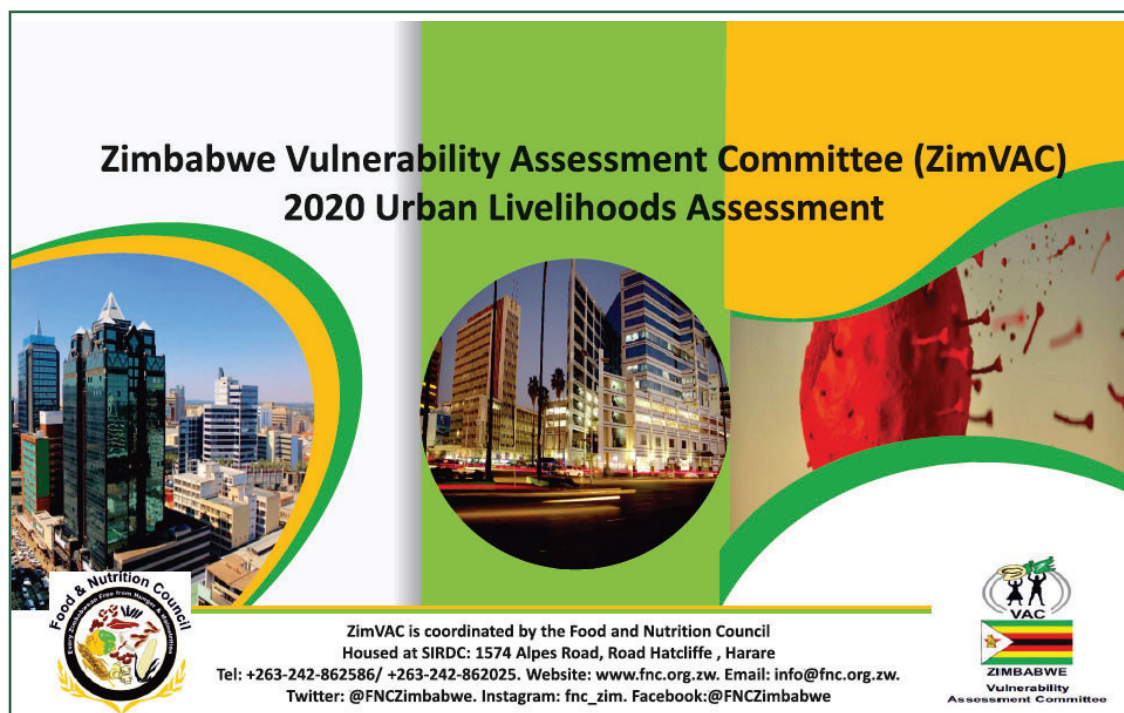
- The Cabinet Committee on Food and Nutrition Security
- The Working Party of Permanent Secretaries
- The Expanded Technical Committee for Food and Nutrition Security
- The Multi-stakeholder Food and Nutrition Forum
- The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)
- The SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (SADC-RVAA)
- The Food and Nutrition Security Advisory Group (FNSAG)
- Food and Nutrition Management Team (FNMT)
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Scaling Up Nutrition Networks
- The National, Provincial, District and Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees (FN-SCs), and;
- District Drought Relief Committees (DDRCs)

KRA 1: Assessment, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (ARME)

The activities of the ARME unit are guided by Commitment VI of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP). The unit has the overall responsibility of coordinating food and nutrition security information and analysis within the context of a national Food and Nutrition Security Information System (FNSIS), that is credible, transparent, scientific, relevant, and timely so as to inform multi-sectorial actions that address food and nutrition insecurity. During the period January to December 2021, the unit achieved the following:

I. Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) – 2020 Urban Livelihoods Assessment Report Writing- 19 to 28 January 2021

The overall purpose of the assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's urban areas, for the purposes of informing policy formulation, programming and appropriate response interventions. The data collection for ZimVAC 2020 Urban Livelihoods Assessment was conducted in December 2020. The specific objectives of the assessment were:



- To estimate the population that was likely to be food insecure in the 2020/21 consumption year, their geographic distribution, and the severity of their food insecurity
- To assess impact and severity of COVID 19 on urban livelihoods.
- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of and urban households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, urban agriculture, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
- To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions.
- To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
- To document opportunities for enhanced urban livelihoods.

Data cleaning, analysis and report writing were conducted from the 19th to the 28th of January 2021.

Findings

Household Demographics - The results indicated that approximately 49% of the household heads were unemployed compared to 29% from the 2019 survey. The increase in the proportion of unemployed people depicts the severity of the economic hardships that were being faced by the households as well as the negative impacts of COVID-19 and its associated lockdown restrictions. It was recommended that Government mobilises and avails resources in order to cushion or create sustainable livelihoods against such adversities.

Social Protection - Relatives provided the highest sources of social support (29.4%) to urban households in 2020. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on income, the disruption in the social capital required cushioning for urban livelihoods for them to withstand shocks and build resilience.

Education - Only 19% of the children in the urban areas were accessing online schooling during the nationwide lockdown in 2020. The disparity in access to education services were projected to lead to future inequalities in the education sector. The Ministry responsible for Education was recommended to take up innovations and scale up context-specific interventions to ensure universal access to education by all children during the pandemic.

Income Sources - The main income sources in the urban areas were salary/ wages (26%) and casual labour (20%), whilst the alternative income sources were casual labour (22%) and vending (14%). Given that the country was suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the implementation of lockdown measures to try and curb the spread of the virus. This resulted in disruption of operations for most companies and those undertaking vending. It was recommended that the Government needed to put in place measures to cushion both the formally employed and those not in the informal sector. Furthermore, it was recommended that it might be necessary to create a conducive environment for vendors to operate in line with by-laws of the local authorities or proffer alternative diversified livelihoods options for urban households.

Income and Expenditure - Income levels of urban households (ZWL 15805) were below the Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL) which was ZWL 23350. The purchasing power of the Zimbabwean dollar had been heavily eroded by inflation and negative economic effects of COVID-19. This could have undermined the ability of urban households to access food and basic services. A recommendation was put forward that efforts should be made to improve the level of household income in line with the currently prevailing cost of living. There was an increase in the food expenditure ratio from 48.6% in 2019 to 55% in 2020. This increase showed an increase in urban household poverty, and could have been attributed to the inflation rates and loss of income due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Government was recommended to ease the tax burden in order to increase disposable incomes for households.

Food Security - The prevalence of urban cereal insecure households increased to 42% from 30% reported in 2019. This translated to 2,431,816 people in the urban areas. The Ruwa-Domboshava -Goromonzi domain (72%), Chinhoyi (63%), Kwekwe (63%) and Epworth (62%) had the highest prevalence of cereal insecurity. The majority of households (84%) could not meet their food needs. The Ruwa-Domboshava-Goromonzi domain (93%) and Chinhoyi (93%) had the highest proportion of households below the Food Poverty Line.

Health and Child Nutrition - COVID-19 is a new disease hence the recommendation made was that there was need for continued research including local research institutes to inform on appropriate interventions such as types of suitable masks in view of the new variant of COVID-19 B117 and ensuring that supply chain for these interventions are affordable to the common public as more than half of the population felt that recommended PPE were unaffordable.

The quality of life of members living with chronic conditions depends on adherence to taking of life long medication. In Urban areas 24% of chronically ill members reported to have missed medication. The main reason cited was that medication was too expensive. The Ministry responsible for health services was called to consider subsidizing chronic illness medication for ease access to the majority of patients.

The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) based on MUAC for Age was ranging between 3% and 5% across all domains. It was recommended that the Ministry of Health and Child Care should continue capacitating community health workers and caregivers to conduct early screening and acute malnutrition detection. Another recommendation was for Food and Nutrition Security Committees at all levels to implement interventions that improve dietary diversity and create a safe and healthy enabling environment for children under the age of five.

Food Consumption Patterns - Generally, urban populations continued to consume poor diets as evidenced by the decrease in acceptable food consumption score from 62% in 2019 to 54% in 2020. More-so, women of childbearing age were also consuming only 3.4 out of the recommended 9 food groups. Therefore, this called for a holistic multi-sectoral approach across all sectors to ensure that urban diets are improved and at least reach the minimum quality required.

Poor infant feeding practices remained a common challenge across all urban domains. The department of National Nutrition was urged to consider conducting an in-depth assessment to understand the drivers of poor feeding practices in urban areas.

WASH - Boreholes remained a significant source of drinking water in urban areas with the proportion of households accessing drinking water from boreholes increasing from 10.6% in 2018 to 20.1% in 2020. The provision of safe portable water in local authority areas was the duty of local authorities and the mandate had to be met as per policy. Therefore, it was recommended that there was an urgent need for Government to assist in mobilizing resources for local authorities and ZINWA to establish improved water sources in all urban areas and ideally have water piped into dwellings.

Open defecation was still a practice in some sections of urban areas with Matabeleland North (6.6%) and Matabeleland South (6.5%) having the highest proportion of households practicing open defecation. Sanitation is one of the major indicators used to measure the attainment of Upper-Middle-Income economy status which the country is aspiring towards, hence it was

recommended that the Government and its partners intensify investment in sanitation to ensure the country is on course to achieve vision 2030. In addition, Local authorities were called to ensure that no people settle in urban dwellings which have no approved sanitation facilities.

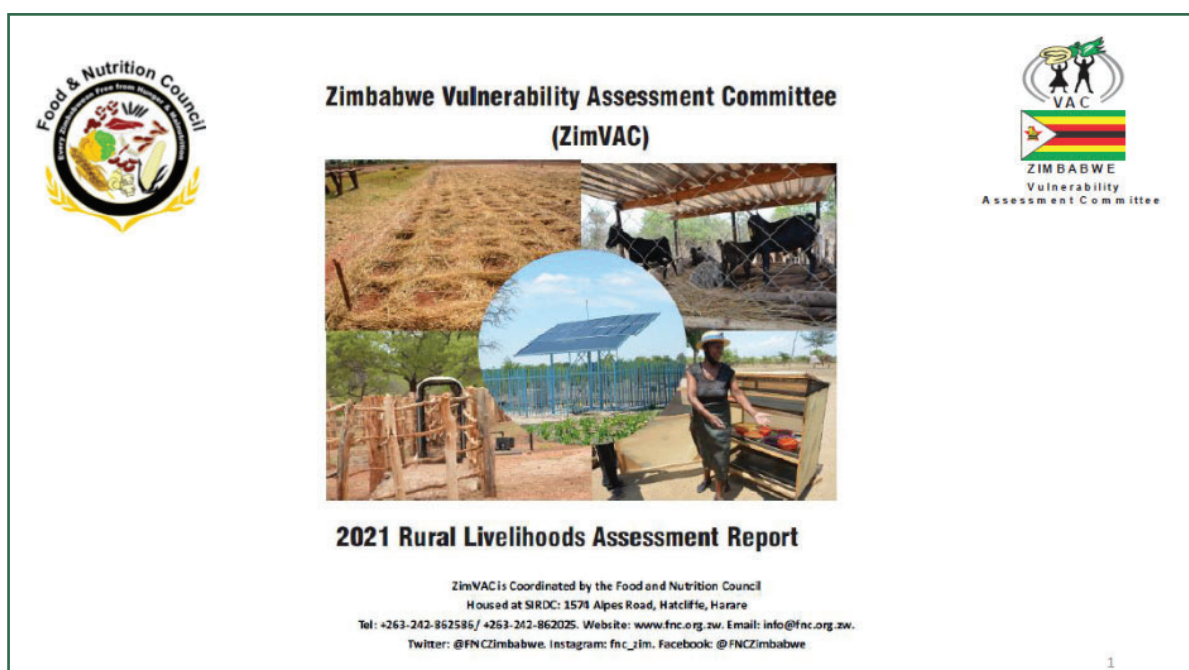
Housing - The proportion of households which were sharing dwelling units was 54% nationally and in Matabeleland South 17% of the households had more than five households sharing a dwelling. This predisposed these households to various risks. In light of Covid-19, these areas were likely to be at the highest risk as it may have become difficult to maintain social/physical distance to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It was recommended that the Government roll-out pro-poor housing provision programmes for the urban population to reduce issues of crowding in urban areas.

Community Development Challenges - The most common development challenges reported by urban households were lack of income generating projects (13%), unemployment (11%), high food prices (10%) and corruption (10%). As the country aims to become an upper-middle income economy, there was need to implement strategies that address these development challenges in urban areas. Government and development partners working in urban areas should consider empowering urban households with interventions that enhance urban household resilience and livelihoods.

Efforts to address urban development challenges were reported to be mostly by the Government. It is recommended that local authorities engage in development projects and or interventions aimed at addressing urban development challenges in addition to provision of municipal services and governance issues.

II. Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) - 2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment- May 2021

The Food and Nutrition Council coordinated the 2021 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA). In recognising the risk of spreading COVID-19 during data collection, innovative approaches were used to collect vital information without causing any harm.



Purpose - The overall purpose of the assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas, for the purposes of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions. Specifically, the assessment aimed:

- To estimate the population that was likely to be food insecure in the 2021/22 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.
- To assess impact and severity of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods.
- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months and 5 to 19 years.
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
- To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions in the country.
- To identify development priorities for communities.
- To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.

- To measure household resilience and identify constraints to improving their resilience.
- To identify early recovery needs in order to determine short to long term recovery strategies.

Primary data collection took place from 3 to 20 May 2021. In recognising the risk of spreading COVID-19 during data collection, innovative approaches were used to collect vital information without causing any harm. The RLA was guided by global, and country specific recommendations and all necessary precautions were taken to avoid potential transmission of COVID-19 between enumerators and community members.

In order to reduce exposure to COVID-19 through person-to-person physical contact, primary caregivers were capacitated to measure their children using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes and assessment of oedema. In the case of anthropometrists recruited from MoHCC, additional appropriate PPE was provided (gloves, disposable plastic aprons) to enable them to measure children of 6 – 59 months and 5 to 19 years.

Data analysis and report writing ran from 23 May to 3 June 2021. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting. Eight provincial reports and a nutrition supplementary (Drivers of malnutrition amongst school going children and adolescents) reports were produced from the assessment.

Findings

Education - Attainment of the country's universal primary education for all, continues to be frustrated by challenges which keep children of school going age out of school. Financial constraints, children considered too young and adolescent pregnancy were some of the notable reasons why about 23% of the children were not in school. This situation called for urgent strengthening of the Government's BEAM programme and for stronger partnerships between Government and its development partners to secure the strides the country has made in improving access to education for the generality of its people.

Social Protection - In light of the vulnerability across the country due to a combination of persistent shocks, including COVID-19 which resulted in negative effects on the broader micro-economic environment, Government and its development partners were called upon to work together to mobilize resources to support the vulnerable. There were calls to scale-up emergency support and resilience building to households.

Access to Social Infrastructure - It was recommended that there was need to improve access to Police, Health Facilities and Animal Health Centres. Options included increasing the provision of mobile social infrastructure.

Livestock - It was concerning to note that cattle and shoats off-take remained suppressed in the smallholder farming sectors and the majority of cattle and shoats losses were due to diseases. It was recommended that these areas should be prioritized in a broader strategy to improve cattle and shoats' productivity in this sector.

Household Income - The combination of climate related shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic {including impact of the lockdown) continued to negatively affect rural livelihoods, thereby potentially reducing disposable income available to the households for food and nutrition security. Interventions which strengthen households' economy and resilience were highly recommended to ensure households remained food and nutrition secure.

Access to Irrigation Infrastructure - Generally there were few communities with irrigation schemes (27%) across the country. This meant that the majority of communities across the country still relied largely on rain-fed crop and livestock production. An overreliance on rain-fed agriculture presented a challenge as farming communities were susceptible to the risks associated with unfavorable seasonal conditions such as drought, waterlogging and prolonged dry spells. Government was urged to accelerate on investment in the setting up of irrigation schemes to ensure communities have improved access to reliable sources of water for agricultural production.

Success of Government Interventions - A well-coordinated Government assistance programme to smallholder farmers buttressed by the ready availability of inputs on the market and normal to above normal rainfall in most parts of the country resulted in the country's

- 2021 maize and small grains production increasing by over 147.5% compared to last year's harvest. Other food crops also recorded increases as noted by the Ministry of Agriculture's Crop and Livestock Assessment. Cash crops such as soya bean, sugar bean and tobacco production also posted some significant increases compared to last year's harvest.
- Pfumvudza/intwasa programme recorded a significant adoption rate of 52% of households practicing it and 56% having been trained within one year of its inception. This was an applaudable achievement. Government was recommended to continue and spruce up the programme by availing a full package on time and move towards full mechanization of the programme.

Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods - Rural households suffered reduction of income sources, reduction of food sources and failure to access basic commodities as a result of the pandemic. There was a need for the development of a holistic and multi-sectoral response to the pandemic to ensure that policies being implemented to mitigate the spread of the disease, such as lockdowns, did not inadvertently increase household vulnerability.

Enhanced Food Access - The projected household food security situation was based on a number of assumptions about the most likely outcome regarding staple cereal prices, cereal deficit households' purchasing power and staple cereal availability. There was a need to continuously monitor market access and prices as the volatility presented by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic may have had a negative impact on food access.

Grain Storage Structures - Post harvest losses in cereals measured from physiological maturity to final consumption can range between 20% and 30% of weight loss. The advent of the large grain borer is known to result in even higher crop weight losses. It was therefore worrying that about 70% of households continued using ordinary rooms to store their grain. This issue required an urgent attention as part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure household level food security.

Income and Expenditure - The combination of climate related shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic (including impact of the lockdown) continued negatively affecting rural livelihoods, thereby potentially reducing disposable income available to the households for food and nutrition security. Interventions which strengthen households' economy and resilience were highly recommended to ensure households remain food and nutrition secure.

III. 2021 RLA Nutrition Supplementary Report-October 2021

Following the ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment, the FNC developed a supplementary report which covered the major drivers of malnutrition amongst primary school aged children and adolescents. The report utilized nutrition data from the ZimVAC 2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment to co-relate nutrition outcomes and household characteristics. The objectives were to::

- i. Provide the descriptive analysis of nutrition status of children 6 to 59 months and 5 to 19 years
- ii. Identify the nutrition problems and FNS risks faced by school-going children and adolescents in the selected 20 districts of Zimbabwe.

- iii. Identify the possible drivers to malnutrition among the under five children, school-going children and adolescents.
- iv. Propose appropriate recommendations for improving programming and enhance prioritization of nutrition and humanitarian interventions

The sample size that was available for analysis used to synthesize the report was mainly drawn from twenty districts. The data available was not adequate enough to give a sample representative at district level hence variance in the data.

The major findings from the report were as follows:

Prevalence of stunting - On average across the 6-59 months aged children that were assessed in the twenty districts, 24.4% were stunted which was high according to WHO thresholds. It was recommended that high impact and context relevant nutrition sensitive and specific interventions using multisectoral approaches should be prioritized to address stunting in the under-five children.

Overweight and Obesity - Data collected from the sampled districts showed that both thinness and obesity were prevalent in children 5-9 years old and adolescents. Meanwhile overweight and obesity at this age were likely to persist into adulthood and increase the risk of chronic diseases in the short and long term. Further research was required on the children 5-9 years old and adolescents so that programmes include this age group since it is also vulnerable.



Household size and stunting - Households with bigger household sizes were likely to have stunted adolescents. Therefore, initiatives that educate people on reproductive health were urged to be upscaled.

Household head characteristics and undernutrition - Households headed by females, households headed by mentally-ill persons were more likely to be affected by undernutrition as compared to their counterparts therefore these households were recommended to be prioritized to participate more in food and nutrition security interventions. It was recommended that the Government needed to look at how cultural and social restrictions of women's involvement in activities affects their level of household food security.

Household head education level and stunting - The level of educational attainment and/or possession of a diploma post primary and secondary of household head was found to be less associated with stunting for both the age groups 5-9 years and 10-19 years hence the concept of universal education for all and skills enhancement was recommended to be prioritized. It was recommended that the Government should ensure increased access to education i.e., primary, secondary and tertiary/vocational, this will have positive nutrition outcomes for the country and reduce malnutrition in children under five and the school going age group.

WASH and stunting - Access to water from unimproved sources and unavailability of hand-washing station at toilet facility were also identified to be key drivers of undernutrition for the 6-59 months age group hence there was need to ensure that safe and clean water was always available and behavioral change actions that promote washing of hands at household level are promoted.

Cereal insecurity and stunting - Cereal insecurity which was one of the key indicators that reflects extreme food insecurity at household level was associated with stunting especially for the 5-9 years age group therefore Government and its development partners were requested to continue to scale up and strengthen initiatives that increase availability and access to diversified foods at household level for this key age group such as Pfumvudza/Intwasa and nutrition gardens.

Household income and stunting - Low household income was associated with undernutrition especially for children 6-59 months. Therefore, multisectoral initiatives that stimulate income generation at household level were recommended and these included but not limited to cash crop and livestock production and sales, increased access to formal loans, organized horticultural production and sales and financial literacy.

Conclusion - A general recommendation from the report was that there was a great need to invest more into research of the nutrition status of the 5–19-year age group in the country so as to clearly understand the nutrition situation of this age group and set clear targets for improvement as well as design appropriate interventions.

IV. Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Impact Assessment-10-22 November 2021

The data collection for Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Impact assessment was conducted from 10 to 22 November 2021. The overall objective was to generate evidence on the impact of interventions/programmes on household food and nutrition security and resilience with the aim to inform policy, actions and future intervention designs.

The specific objectives were as follows:

- To assess the effectiveness of food and nutrition interventions and resilience building programmes.
- To measure relevance, efficiency and sustainability of food and nutrition interventions and resilience building programmes in Zimbabwe.
- To assess the impact of food and nutrition interventions and resilience building programmes using wellbeing outcomes such as nutrition, income and food security (HDDS, CSI, rCSI, HHS, LCS).
- To document successes, areas for further improvement and recommend actions that will guide policy and programmes for future food and nutrition and resilience building programs in Zimbabwe
- To assess the impact of intervention programmes on household (i) food and nutrition security, and (ii) resilience.
- To perform a counterfactual analysis of the impact of the interventions.
- To evaluate if the data collection tools are customized to the Zimbabwean context, e.g., does the tools for consumption patterns recognize Zimbabwean traditional foods.

The data collection process was carried out in ten districts namely Binga, Buhera, Chipinge, Mutasa, Lupane, Nkayi, Tsholotsho, Mwenezi, Mbire and Mutare. The methodology of the impact assessment included household interviews and community Focus Group Discussions. Enumerators were drawn from DFNSCs and DDRCs and the criteria for selection was that the

enumerators needed to be well versed with the ZimVAC data collection tool. A one-day enumerator training and standardization was conducted for all the districts and the data collection process commenced immediately after the training. The supervisors would routinely also conduct the community Focus Group Discussions as well as supervise the data collection process. All Covid-19 protocols were observed in particular during the nutrition anthropometric measurements.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the festive holidays, data analysis and report writing for the Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience Impact Study had been planned for the first quarter of 2022.v

V. Virtual ARC Training of Trainers' Workshop-22 March

The African Risk Capacity programme in Zimbabwe has experienced successes over the recent past since 2019. Key achievements included:

- (i) participation in ARC drought risk pools VI & VII through a Government and Replica policy for the 2019/20 and 2020/2021 agricultural season;
- (ii) approval of the ADReFi programme. These successes have been capped by ARC drought risk insurance payouts in June 2020, that were used to support vulnerable households in selected districts through the approved Final Implementation Plans (FIPs) for both Government and the UN WFP Country Office.

Efforts already underway to further build on the successes mentioned above will be centred on:

- (i) ARC programming towards pool VIII which is a group of 12 countries (Gambia, Mali, CoteD'Ivoire, Senegal, Sudan, Zambia, Malawi, Togo, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Zimbabwe) participation and beyond;
- (ii) rolling out of activities prescribed by the ADReFi programme; and,
- (iii) mobilisation of resources to expand drought insurance coverage for Zimbabwe for the upcoming pool VIII and beyond. In addition, efforts to broadly strengthen the programme through institutionalisation and expansion of ARC activities and utilisation of ARC tools beyond the national level was the main focus for 2021.

The Training of Trainers (ToT) on Africa RiskView drought models under the ADReFi Programme was undertaken virtually. The main objectives were to introduce/recap how to download and install Africa RiskView, enrol the trainers on to the Learner Management System, review the five modules on the Learner Management System (LMS) and agree on the T.o.T implementation plan. The trainers would further train district level experts to expand access and use of the early warning software platform in the districts. This activity would be implemented in the districts under the ADReFi, with contribution of the ARC Agency through the training of trainers. The training leveraged on the ARC's Learner Management System (LMS), preceded by an introductory session on utilisation of the platform, marking the launch of the LMS by member states. Learners were allowed to go through a self-paced training on the prescribed modules over a period of one month and later a workshop to review progress and facilitate practical elements of the training were held.

The virtual introductory workshop on the 22nd March 2021, covered the following areas:

1. Africa RiskView download and licensing
2. Enrolment on the ARC's Learner Management Platform
3. Overview of the six modules to be covered in the training
4. T.o.T programme plan and learner support system

VI. USAID/WFP Resilience Panel Study: Troutbeck Hotel Nyanga-September 2021

The FNC led the synthesis of the USAID/WFP Resilience Panel Study in order to build evidence on the impact of development programmes on resilience capacities in Zimbabwe. A panel study was undertaken in eight selected districts: Buhera, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Bikita, Chivi, Mwenezi, Masvingo and Zaka. Data for this study was collected from a panel of households through three survey rounds conducted in May 2018, December 2018 and May 2021. These had significant development efforts mainly through USAID funded Development Food Security Activities and WFP's Resilience programs. The findings were intended to contribute towards fostering an understanding of the impact of development programmes on building community and household resilience. Furthermore, gaps and constraints to resilience data collection, analysis and reporting were documented.

The aim of the Resilience Panel Study was to understand how households respond to shocks and how their resilience capacity changes over time. A longitudinal panel survey design was used for this study. Data was collected from the same households at three intervals. The process produced a panel dataset which was used to track changes over time and between different groups. The study drew a lot of elements from the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (ZimVAC) Rural Livelihoods Assessment structure. This facilitated resilience measurement to be easily integrated into the ZimVAC processes.

Summary of findings from the assessment resilience analysis were:

Shocks and Stressors: The most reported shocks and stressors across the rounds of assessments were cash shortages, cereal price changes, livestock deaths, diseases and price changes and drought. The third round indicated a general increase in shocks. The increase could be explained by the compounding effects of the COVID- 19 pandemic on livelihoods, access to input and output markets, movement restrictions and access to information.

Shock Exposure Index (SEI): The SEI is a measure of the overall degree of shock exposure for each household. The SEI is a product of the number of shocks to which a household was exposed to in the past 12 months and perceived severity of each shock experienced. It ranges from 0 to 60. The shock exposure index in May 2021 ranged from 13.70 in Chimanimani to 22.80 in Buhera representing an increase in all districts compared to May 2018 and December 2018. Gradual increases were observed from May 2018 to May 2021 in Buhera, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Mwenezi and Chivi indicating worsening experiences and impacts of shocks most likely compounded by COVID- 19 in May 2021. The increase in the experience and impact of shocks was significant through the rounds ($p < 0.05$).

Shock Preparedness Index: The prospective ability to recover index is based on estimation of the ability of households to cope from four major shocks experienced by households in the year prior to the survey. The prospective ability to recover index ranges from 4 to 12, with 4 being those unable to recover and 12 those who can recover without difficulty. In all 3 rounds the average preparedness was low at 4.72; in round 1, 5.83; in round 2; and 5.81 in round 3. The average shock preparedness index was generally higher among project participants than non- project participants, but the difference was not statistically significant.

Relationship between Programme Activities and Resilience Capacities: In comparison with May 2018, December 2018 and May 2021 show a statistically significant increase in resilience capacity for those households involved in one or more Programme activities. The increase in resilience capacity between December 2018 and May 2018 was higher compared to the increase between May 2021 and May 2018.

There was a statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) relationship between involvement in project activities and resilience despite the type of activity implemented or number of activities. Being part of at least one programme activity was associated with an increase in resilience of at least 3.63 points with the highest increase realised when one was involved in three or more activities with an increase of 20.74 points.

VII. Virtual SADC-ARC Technical Exchange Workshop: 14-16 September 2021

The workshop was organised within the framework of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the ARC Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was executed in October 2019. The MOU's aim was to reinforce collaboration of the two organisations in the area of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) for the benefit of the regional SADC Member States. The collaboration was expected to enhance adoption of emerging DRM and DRF innovations whilst strengthening risk profiling and analytics, early warning, early response planning and associated financing mechanisms, at both regional and national levels.

The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of ARC's risk modelling tools by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) and strengthen the linkages between NVACs and ARC's Member States vulnerability profiling.

VIII. Digital food and nutrition security Dashboard

The FNC coordinated the development of the Digital Food and Nutrition Security dashboard in collaboration with Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI). The dashboard brought together data from diverse sources and provided insights into the different aspects of food systems. The objective of the dashboard was to improve reporting, communication of, and access to food security information.

The DFNS dashboard contained the following broad features .

- Information on the availability of food
- Information on the stability of supplies;
- Information on constraints regarding access to supplies of food;
- Information on the biological utilization of staple foods;

The dashboard can be accessed through the FNC website.

KRA 2: Multi-sectoral Coordination Unit

The MCU played a pivotal role in ensuring that multiple sectors responded cohesively to the food and nutrition challenges compounded by the COVID-19 crisis. The MCU coordinated and contributed to several national activities around food and nutrition. The following key achievements were realized during the reporting period:

I. Inter-district Learning-18 to 22 January



The MCU with support from REACH coordinated inter-district learning, to enhance knowledge sharing between the districts that were implementing the Multi-sectoral Community Based Approach towards Stunting Reduction project. This activity facilitated the documentation and sharing of best practices that were meant to inform the scaling up of the community-based stunting reduction approach. A team of six officers from each of the four selected districts and three Provincial Officers attended a virtual Learning Event from 18 – 22 January 2021. The objective of this learning event was to strengthen FNSC performance through interactive discussions. During the virtual workshop, teams conducted a DFNSC functionality assessment to identify areas of strength and weakness of their fellow DFNSC.

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

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 their functionality.

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. PFNSC were encouraged to support DFNSCs through continuous supervision and capacity building initiatives in collaboration with mentors from NFNSC. The summary reports from the districts indicated some functionality gaps that need to be addressed. The common gaps identified across the four were advocacy, documentation, and writing skills.



Sharing of DFNSC Best Practices. The four DFNSCs presented best practices from their districts. This was evidence that multi-sectoral efforts were effective in addressing district specific food and nutrition challenges as well as improving coordination.



Lessons from Tsholotsho, Shamva, Mt Darwin & Gwanda. The Districts highlighted their lessons learnt with most agreeing that the use of social media channels like WhatsApp had allowed them to continue meeting and discussing issues even during the lockdown period. It was noted that more capacity building was needed for the secretariat focal points in these committees to be able to distinguish and articulate lessons learnt from achievements and best practices.

II. Finalization of the MCBM Strategy Review and Consultative Meetings

The FNC commissioned a consultancy to review the 2016 MCBM Strategy to align multisectoral efforts with the national development agenda. The consultancy team through in-depth desk review and key informant interviews produced a draft MCBM Implementation framework that was meant to guide multi-sectoral work in the country. During the first quarter of 2021, the unit coordinated MCBM Implementation Review Technical Working Group Committee meetings where members provided technical guidance to the consultancy team. During the second quarter of 2021, the consultancy team conducted consultative meetings with subnational committees to draw their insights and technical contribution to the document.

The consultancy team engagement with FNSCs was very successful and valid contributions were received from all participating districts. The key contributions which came from the consultations were as follows:

- Periodic training and capacitation of DFNSCs
- Staff attrition was reported as a major problem to continuity of the model. It was suggested that could be turned into an opportunity by maintaining a database of trained officers who would have relocated (a tracking system) and have them train members in their new location.
- In order to effectively operationalize and implement the MCBM strategy, there is need to create linkages with partners
- Evidence based- Implementing districts should write technical papers on key food and nutrition security indicators that are taking the improvement trend.
- Establishment of FNSCs and MCBM in urban areas since food insecurity and malnutrition is also increasing in urban areas (Neighbourhood Food and Nutrition Security Committees)
- The National Food and Nutrition Committee should advocate for local authorities to adopt FNS issues into the devolution funds budget.
- The consulted district committees also suggested that the role of PDC/DDC should be changed to co-secretariat.

III. Food and Nutrition Security Committee Coordination Meetings: April/May 2021

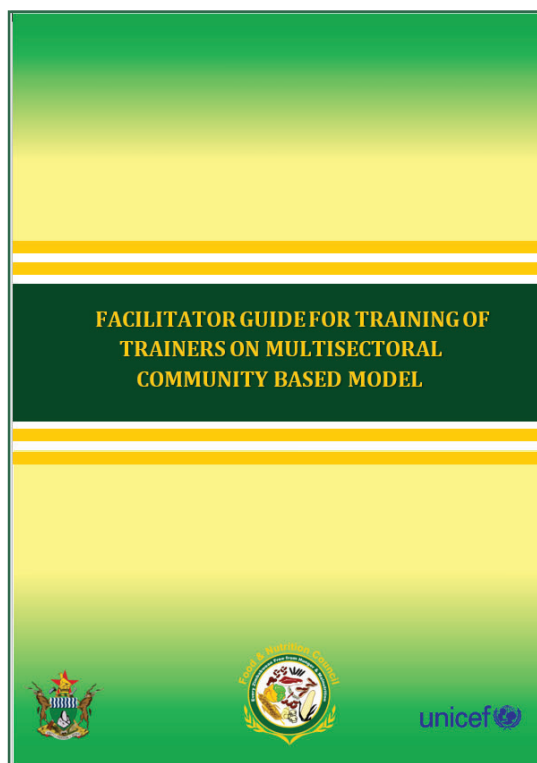
The FNC coordinated quarterly DFNSC meetings across the thirty-eight MCBM districts during the period under review. The first quarter DFNSC Coordination Meetings were conducted to review progress and realign second and third quarter work plans with NDS1. District teams were also requested to brainstorm on how FNSCs would sustain functionality when donor / partner support was no longer available. Report templates were provided for FNSCs to compile their quarterly progress report and work plans.

IV. Coordination Meetings for Urban Food and Nutrition Security Committees: January 2021

The Food and Nutrition Council with support from UNICEF successfully established Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees in Harare Metropolitan and Bulawayo City in November 2020. To ensure that the two PFNSCS remained functional, the FNC provided support to the committees to conduct annual planning meetings at the beginning of the year. The two urban committees developed nutrition sensitive multi sector annual and first quarter plans to guide their efforts in 2021.

V. Review and Development of Food and Nutrition Security Committee (FNSC) Operational Manual (2021) and Training Packages-October 2021

The Food and Nutrition Council with support from UNICEF commissioned the review of the Multi-sectoral Community Based Model training packages, an approach adopted to address food and nutrition security challenges. The 2021 MCBM review was undertaken to align the approach with the current national development momentum. A report on the findings of the MCBM review was shared, and the MCBM Review TWG agreed to package key recommendations highlighted into Standard Operating Procedures and MCBM Technical Guidance handbooks for FNSCs. The development of these two complementary documents was timely particularly during this period as the country embraces the devolution momentum. The Operational Manual Review also allowed for adjustments of procedures to accommodate new lessons learned since 2016. The final reviewed documents were meant to facilitate consistent conformance to technical and quality functionality requirements by FNSCs. The MCBM Technical Guidance handbook acts as a quick reference document for key technical procedures in the implementation of the approach.



VI. EU ACARS Evaluation

The FNC participated as key informants in the end-term evaluation of the Joint UNICEF/FAO Programme on “Accelerated Community Actions for Reducing Stunting (ACARS) in Zimbabwe. The Food and Nutrition Council was one of the key stakeholders that implemented the program from January 2017 until September 2020

The aim of this intervention was to improve food and nutrition security and increase household resilience to repeated shocks in Zimbabwe. Project covered four districts namely, Mutasa, Chipinge (Manicaland Province), Chiredzi and Mwenezi (Masvingo Province). A two-pronged implementation approach was used, focusing on policy and strategic support at national level and participatory and community driven approaches at community level. At the national level, the programme supported and strengthened multi-sectoral coordination activities, building capacity in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement –MLAWCRR to integrate nutrition in the ministry’s policies, strategies, programmes and planning. The development of national Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) and national Food Composition Tables (FCTs) and documentation and information management through the Near Real Time Monitoring (NRTM) system are also being undertaken at national level. At

the district level a local partner (NAZ) was recruited for supporting and strengthening multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) committees to identify and address key drivers of stunting, promoting production of diversified agricultural products for a diversified diet and conducting community level education activities on stunting reduction. The funding facilitated for strengthened coordination for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) platforms in Zimbabwe. The main achievement was the establishment of the SUN Research and Academia Platform (SUNRAP) 2018, resuscitation of the Business network in 2019, participation during the SUN Global Gathering together with an award for a Nutrition Champion during the 2018 edition. The strengthened networks have seen an increase in the production of secondary analysis thematic papers as well as improved cohesion and participation of the business and the academia in government structures in food and nutrition security.

The European Union (EU), provided funding to support these activities with support from the two management organizations – UNICEF and FAO. The report constituted the final narration of achievements, lessons, challenges and recommendations from this action.

VII. ZRBF/MCBM Training in 8 Districts 1 to 5 November



The MCU coordinated Multi-Sectoral Community Based Model trainings in eight Zimbabwe Resilience Building districts namely Lupane, Bubi, Zvishavane, Mberengwa, Bulilima, Umguza, Umzingwane and Mudzi. The training was conducted on the realization of the major limitation of the current ZRBF program to achieve nutrition security in the eight districts. The MCBM training was conducted to ensure that all relevant stakeholders were brought to the same level to strengthen nutrition-specific and sensitive components within their resilience programming. Such integration was meant to inform the second-generation ZRBF program in 2022, where streamlining of nutrition was prioritized.

In total 120 participants drawn from key line ministries and development partners were trained across the target districts. Facilitators were drawn from the national pool of trainers. Results of the pre-and post-tests from the eight districts were indicative of incremental knowledge acquired during the training. This was a reflection that learning had taken place. The key recommendation from the training was to expedite cascading of training to ward level structures

VIII. Virtual REACH Nutrition Action Mapping Planning Meeting -16 November

The Unit prioritised to map nutrition actions with support from REACH. A virtual planning meeting for Nutrition Action Mapping was held on 16 November 2021. During the meeting, the following was agreed upon:

1. Fourteen (14) Core Nutrition Actions (CNA) will be mapped covering both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions.
2. The team also agreed to pilot the CNA mapping in four districts in Matabeleland North and South.

It was also agreed at the meeting that the mapping activity would be conducted in 2022.

KRA 3: Nutrition

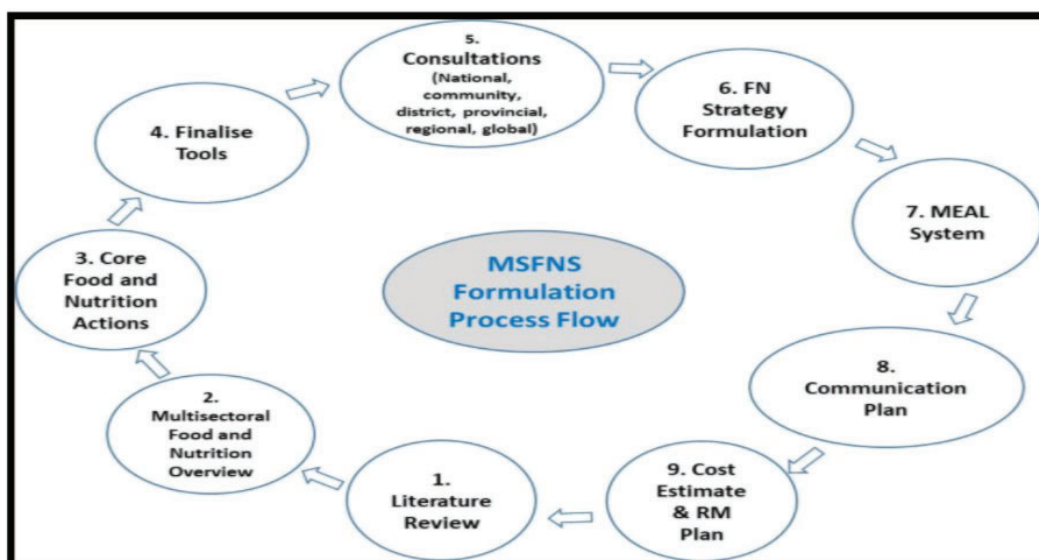
The Nutrition Unit is mandated to strengthen the coordination and implementation of evidence based nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions that are integrated within a broad public health framework.

I. Multisectoral National Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (MFNSS)- 2021-2025



The FNC coordinated a series of meetings at national and subnational level as stages in the development of the MFNSS.

The development process comprised of 9 key steps as summarised in the diagram below of which steps 1 to partly step 5 were covered in the previous reporting period:



Source: Inception Report

Consultations and Strategy Formulation

A series of national and subnational multisectoral engagements were coordinated by the Food and Nutrition Council which included the Food and Nutrition Security Committees and the Expanded Technical Committee.

The Expanded Technical Committee met with the main agenda being deliberations on the draft MFNSS document. Key meeting recommendations were:

- **Alignment of the Strategy to NDS1:** In order to ensure that all the outlined strategies were realised, it was recommended to streamline the key implementation strategies to the NDS1.
- **Finalisation of the Strategy:** A proposal was also made to create visuals to clearly highlight interconnectedness of the MFNSS goals/strategies, the NDS 1 and other sectoral strategies.
- **Provision of Quantity and Quality Food:** It was highlighted that it was of great importance that the aspects of quality food that meets nutritional requirements be highlighted in the various strategies in the MFNSS.
- **Emerging Issues:** Continuous learning and utilisation of emerging evidence was highlighted as key in informing the strategic document.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The indicators in the MFNSS were recommended to speak to the intended outcomes of the NDS1 and ensure all pillars of NDS1 were well represented.

Cost Estimate, MEAL and Quality Assurance

The technical team with representation from the UN, academia and Government (Nutrition, Health, Food Safety, Government Analyst Laboratory, Social Welfare, Education, Gender and Agriculture) was coordinated to participate in the following strategy development processes:

- Costing of the thematic area strategies
- Development of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Framework aligned to the NDS1 and other sectoral documents
- Quality checks and editorials to incorporate feedback from the senior multistakeholder platforms



Scaling Up Nutrition

i) **Scaling Up Nutrition Network Business Network Indaba-26 November**

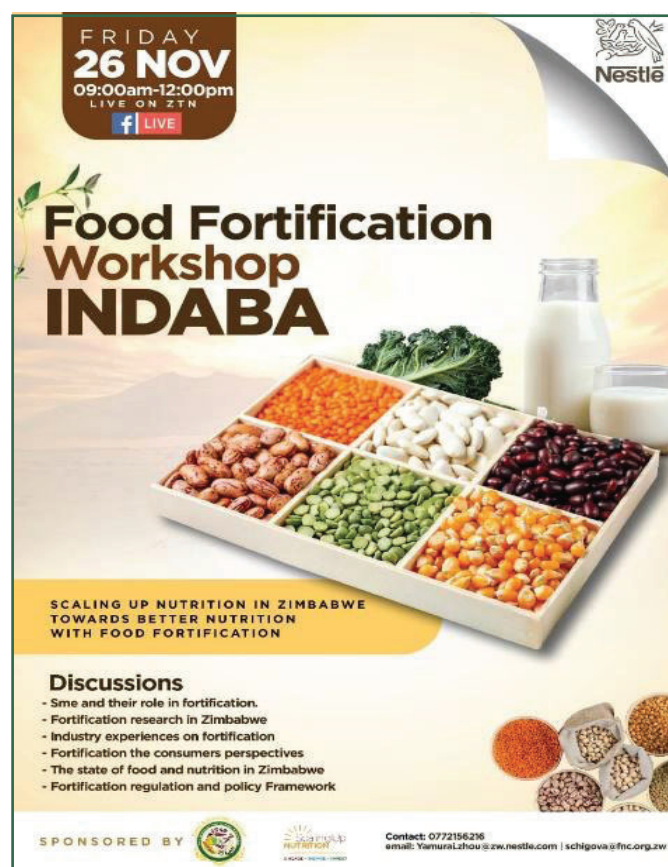
The Food and Nutrition Council in its capacity as the Scaling Up Nutrition convener coordinated a SUN business network event in November. The platform sought to bring together relevant stakeholders along the various fortification value chain to comprehensively exchange ideas, continue learning, leverage on opportunities and proffer possible solutions to drive the fortification agenda in Zimbabwe.

The meeting objectives were:

- To initiate the SUN business forum, to the role of business in supporting food and nutrition security
- To improve efficiency and effectiveness of Government investment on food security and nutrition by highlighting the gaps, opportunities, and impact of current fortification initiatives
- To raise awareness and promote food fortification to improve knowledge and appreciation of fortified foods and the associated benefits.

The meeting recommended the following action points:

- Engagement of key strategic ministries and departments like the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. This has implications on the lobbying processes for forex for the purchasing of fortificants for the business sector.
- Strengthen the SBN membership incorporating the various strategic areas as well as the business operation levels in the economy
- Amplifying the consumer's voice and knowledge to make informed decisions around uptake and utilisation of fortified foods.
- Create dialogues around food fortification cost sharing for instance include the subsidies on the fortificants or equipment import waiver.
- Advocate for strong enforcement and testing for the level of fortificants for foods on the market to create a level playing field.



II. Parliament Engagement



Parliaments and Parliamentarians have a clear and important role to play in ensuring that progress is made in achieving the set development goals like achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the Middle Upper Income Country (MUIC) by 2030. Effective Parliamentary engagement can be a catalyst for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and improving the lives of citizens in every country. Towards FNC's continued drive to sensitise Parliamentarians on the need to scale up food and nutrition interventions in the country, the SUN networks met with the members of the parliamentary portfolio committee on Women Affairs, Gender, Community and SMEs Development. Key meeting highlights were:

- the critical role the Parliaments have in influencing budgetary decisions for nutrition throughout the budget cycle
- the recognition of the critical role that parliamentarians play in securing necessary laws, policies, financing and equitable implementation of nutrition actions.
- Preliminary discussions around the need to form a multidisciplinary parliamentarian's caucus on nutrition.

III. SUN Regional Meetings

The FNC represented the country during the SUN regional network meeting in July. The Regional Meeting discussed preparations for the 2021 global summits, shared progress made in operationalizing the SUN 3.0 and brought together the Country Focal points within the SUN Countries. The meeting specifically looked at three items:

- **Item 1:** The status of the countries regarding the SUN 3.0 including Multi-sectoral Platforms (MSP) functionalities, national coordination mechanism status.
- **Item 2:** The status of the Food System Summit and Food System Dialogue at country level and the Nutrition for Growth preparation and commitment status.
- **Item 3:** Agree on feasibility of annual regional coordination workshop on SUN 3.0.

All the SUN network chairpersons for Zimbabwe were present in the meeting whose aim was to bring together the different Focal Points and improve peer to peer exchanges. The regional presentation by the FNC highlighted the multi-stakeholder platforms and how some network members were contributing to the in-country processes. The country also agreed to a regional coordination workshop including such countries such as Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana.

IV. Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Commitments

The FNC facilitated series of multistakeholder engagements to develop the N4G commitments before submission at the Tokyo Summit. As part of the FNC strategic objectives of facilitating Zimbabwe's representation at global fora, the country managed to present the commitments in form of a video by the Honourable Deputy Ministry of Health and Child Care, Dr J.C Mangwiro. The commitments were data-driven, financial, policy, programmatic and impact covering areas on universal health coverage, resilience and healthy diets. The country also signed a compact for action during the summit. <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/tokyo-compact-on-global-nutrition-for-growth/>

V. Country to country learning with Malawi

As Zimbabwe readjusts and learns from its experience of the multisectoral approach and coordination of food and nutrition security at all levels, there is deep reimagining and interest to learn from other countries. The learning includes how effective and sustainable their ap-

proaches have been to producing results in multisectoral coordination and gaining the necessary political will and leadership to maintain nutrition as a key agenda in development at all levels. It is against this background that the FNC coordinated a learning meeting with Malawi SUN Country Network on the 11th of August 2021.

The meeting aimed to answer the following questions of interest:

- The approach Malawi has used to support subnational level multi-sector coordination.
- The results/challenges to date.
- How was the collaboration with Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development initiated.
- How did the SUN convener/team equip Local Government with capacities, skills and tools?
- How nutrition was integrated into Local Government planning and budgeting/financing processes

Key Highlights from the Malawi presentations

- establishment of a nutrition unit/ department within all line ministries to create more ownership and integration of nutrition initiatives by other ministries besides one sector alone.
- Presence of a nutrition expertise under the coordination of one technical department of Nutrition staff establishment even though they are placed in different ministries.
- At district level Malawi had managed to place four to six nutrition experts at district level with coordination and management capabilities under the district coordinator's office. This is quite commendable and was achieved through continued advocacy as well as clearly defining roles of the new cadres and using evidence generated and policy commitments of sectors.
- The institutionalisation of community-based nutrition groups like care groups was crucial for continuity of services by the Malawi Government .
- Malawi had identified a package of eight minimum interventions that have nutrition impact at village level and this package guides development partners and other players as they work in the communities, and it is used to measure their impact at community level.

- Malawi had engaged the Ministry of Finance to have a budget line for Nutrition which is separate from other Ministry budget lines. This budget line had been incorporated even at sub-national level development structures. This innovation brings more transparency on the tracking of nutrition support and also greater responsibility and ownership of the budget line at sub-national level.
- Use of Multiple Technical working groups at the technical level was a good way of task sharing and bringing greater focus on all nutrition thematic areas. These technical working groups ought to be fully functional according to their mandates and provide regular updates to the MSP for accountability purposes.

Recommendations

Given the above, it was imperative to note that Zimbabwe had almost similar arrangements in the FNS implementation and coordination mechanism. However, some key recommendations for FNC's consideration included:

1. Creation of sectoral nutrition experts in key line ministries.
2. Advocate for increased community nutrition cadres especially at ward level under the office of the District Development Coordinator.

VI. Food Systems Summit

The FNC, participated as part of the panellists at the roundtable meetings to galvanise the country CAADP and the SUN focal point by AUDA-NEPAD. FNC participated in these meetings which were aimed at the orientation of member states in their efforts to organise and convene National Food Systems Dialogues leading up to the UN Food Systems Summit set for September 2021. The National Dialogues were expected to go beyond just agriculture; thus the SUN focal point brought a wealth of knowledge, experience and networks which would be valuable in comprehensive and inclusive national and sub-national dialogues.

The FNC managed to participate in the national dialogues from stage 1 to 3 (May to June), global presummit (26-28 July) and the UN Food Systems Summit (23 to 24 September). As a facilitator of track 1 for in-country dialogues, the FNC managed to influence the alignment of key strategic actions into the food systems transformation pathways. In addition the SUN networks were strategically placed in the tracks to influence the inclusion of nutrition-sensitive actions in the national pathways. Key outcomes from the meetings included:

- Provision of safe, nutritious food is key with a component of including chemical residual analysis for food for local consumers.
- The private sector in Zimbabwe has a huge role in ensuring provision of safe, nutritious food and there was need for the SUN Business network to be engaged and capacitated. A more active coalition of the private sector in food systems could be harnessed so that positions that influence industry are easily advocated for and implemented.
- There was need to listen to the voices of the indigenous people when designing food systems so that their way of life and even food production systems are not destroyed. For Zimbabwe it applied to the production and marketing of small grains. These small grains were historically associated with the indigenous people of Zimbabwe before the introduction of maize.
- Strengthening the production of underutilised seeds in the country's seed houses as well as demand creation within the urban population was going to go a long way in sustaining production of the underutilised nutritious foods.
- Upscale social behaviour change and communication (SBCC) interventions for uptake of nutritious ,safe food by consumers.
- Taking the multi-local approach for example one factory per district/ province.
- Prioritizing quick wins such as a few interventions with higher impact.
- Building and innovating including skills, e.g technology adaptations, food techvalley programmes.

VII. SUNRAP activities

The FNC as the SUN convener, also coordinated with SUNRAP to present at the first FAO e-learning webinar “How to transition to nutrition-sensitive and sustainable food systems” that took place in May 2021. SUNRAP members presented at the FAO eLearning academy on nutrition and climate change. The main thrust was the issues of how food systems could meet the changing climatic environment whilst addressing the nutrition needs.

VIII. Insects 4 Nutrition Project

The Food and Nutrition Council has remained committed to ensuring a multisectoral approach to household food and nutrition security in order to ensure that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and malnutrition. In light of this, the FNC continued to support relevant research which informs the gap between programming and policy to foster a cohesive response to food and nutrition issues. The FNC in collaboration with Marondera University, University of Zimbabwe and Chinhoyi University of Technology supported a research project on “upscaling edible insect-based porridge for improved health and nutritional status of primary school children in low socio-economic communities in Zimbabwe”.

As part of the study, the initial survey investigated the insect supply chain and existing practices in processing and consumption of insect-based porridges (particularly mopane worm and soldier termites). The FNC coordinated the Government stakeholder participation in the study held from 6 to 12 April 2021.

IX. Complementary Feeding Framework Sensitisation Meeting-30 November

The efforts meant to support appropriate feeding are critical for child survival and the protection of infants and young children. The challenge of fighting malnutrition had been beyond the capacity of a single entity. This called for the collaborative work within and between the food system, health system, social protection system and WASH system.

It is against this background that the FNC coordinated the multi-stakeholder sensitisation meeting on 30 November 2021 involving sectors relevant in improving the diets of young children in Zimbabwe with support from UNICEF and MOHCC. The meeting managed to set the initial phases for the adaptation of the complementary feeding framework for Zimbabwe and the following were the key highlights:

- Mapping of other missing stakeholders and departments in the various systems.
- Stakeholders were sensitised on the need for a coordinated platform to identify best strategic actions which can be taken at policy, institutional, community and family level to improve the diets of young children using a systems approach and how they link with nutrition-sensitive programming.
- Sector focal points were tasked to coordinate intra-sectoral mobilisation of members towards the system-specific adaptation meeting planned in the later stages.

KRA 6: Knowledge Management

Through the Knowledge Management unit, FNC strengthens the development of a robust multi-sectoral food and nutrition knowledge management system. This system facilitates the creation, dissemination, storage and application of knowledge at all levels. Central to this work is the strengthening of capacity at all levels to ensure a coordinated approach among stakeholders.

I. Development of Knowledge Products.

The FNC developed various knowledge outputs to facilitate knowledge sharing among food and nutrition stakeholders. The outputs included the following:

- *Bulletins*
- *Sub-national response flyers for the 2020 Rural Livelihoods Assessment*
- *Knowledge Products for the Inter-district Learning Events*
- *Urban and Rural Livelihoods Assessment Reports*
- *Policy Paper for the Working Party of Permanent Secretaries and Cabinet Committee for Food and Nutrition Security for the ULA*
- *Factsheets (in 15 languages)*
- *Newsletters*
- *Posters*
- *Flyers*

The knowledge products were shared widely with the Cabinet Committee for Food and Nutrition Security, the Working Party of Permanent Secretaries, heads of Agencies, Donors as well as Provincial and District Food and Nutrition Security Committees. These products continue to be vital tools for informing and guiding policies and programmes that respond to the prevailing food and nutrition security situation.

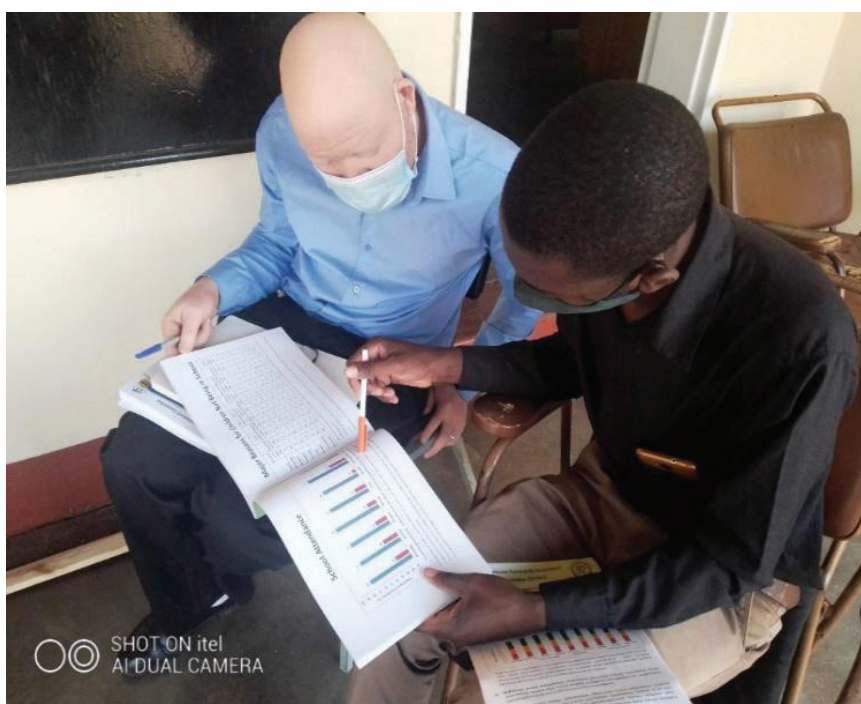
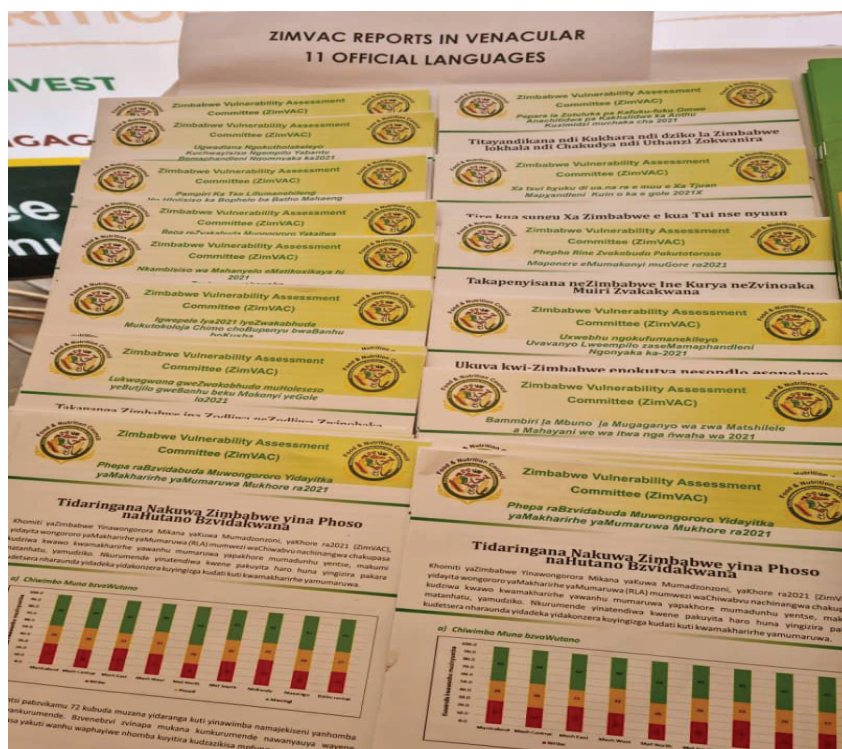
II. Media Engagement

Food and nutrition security continues to have high Government commitment in Zimbabwe. Key line ministries are well engaged, with individuals championing food and nutrition within the sectors. In order to increase inter-sectoral awareness of food and nutrition issues, FNC engaged the media (print and electronic) to ensure that all key stakeholders (such as the general public and communities) were engaged.

The outputs of the engagement included the following:

- <https://www.chronicle.co.zw/national-e-learning-strategy-for-schools-seeks-to-connect-more-pupils-online/>
- https://www.chronicle.co.zw/women-constitute-highest-number-of-chronically-ill-people-in-zimbabwe/amp/?__twitter_impression=true
- <https://www.spiked.co.zw/covid-19-hunger-in-urban-zimbabwe-peaks/?s=03>
- <https://www.263chat.com/hunger-in-urban-zimbabwe-peaks-as-the-ripple-effect-of-covid-19-is-felt-across-the-nation/>
- <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/hunger-urban-zimbabwe-peaks-ripple-effect-covid-19-felt-across-nation>
- https://www.chronicle.co.zw/bulawayo-accounts-for-most-child-headed-families/amp/?__twitter_impression=true&s=03
- <https://www.chronicle.co.zw/wfp-government-collaborate-to-build-urban-resilience/?s=03>

III. Dissemination of the 2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Knowledge Products



In order to ensure utilisation of the 2021 RLA findings to inform programme planning and response, the FNC facilitated the printing of the National and Provincial RLA reports. In addition, Factsheets in fifteen languages were also developed. These outputs were disseminated to all the eight provinces and sixty rural districts and this facilitated the development of District response strategies. For wider dissemination of the results, electronic copies of the reports were shared through email, twitter and the FNC website (www.fnc.org.zw). A detailed dissemination report which documents key lessons and recommendations was compiled.

IV. Media Tour

FNC undertook a media tour in Mbire, Zvimba and Zaka. The purpose of the tour was to facilitate capturing and dissemination of critical lessons and best practices in food and nutrition security. During the tour, FNC collaborated with the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting and with journalists from the print and electronic media to ensure wider media coverage.



The media team which included journalists from the Herald, the Sunday Mail, the Chronicle, New ZIANA and ZBC TV visited several community and household food and nutrition project sites and held interviews with members of the community as well as those from District and Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees. The tour resulted in wide coverage of these projects through newspaper articles and TV and radio News bulletin reports.

V. Website Management

The FNC continued with updating its website to ensure stakeholders had access to relevant and up-to-date information. This included the uploading of key documents such as survey reports to facilitate their availability to stakeholders to inform programming. The organization's social media platforms were also utilized to enhance brand visibility, facilitate interaction with stakeholders and increase reach of survey findings. All knowledge products developed during the year were also uploaded on the FNC website.



VI. Documentation of Strategic Meetings and Processes

The FNC facilitated the documentation of strategic meetings and processes. Key outputs were the FNC Strategy (2021-2025), meeting reports, minutes as well as speeches. The documentation facilitated the capturing and sharing of key recommendations and resolutions.

VII. Enhancing Visibility of the FNC Brand

FNC participated in the 2021 edition of the Harare Agricultural Show. The exhibition provided a platform for stakeholder engagement, sharing of lessons in food and nutrition security as well as enhancing the visibility of the FNC brand. In addition, the unit utilised social media platforms for brand visibility, to engage stakeholders and to provide updates on the organisation's activities.

FNC Strategic Engagements

I. Accountability to Affected Populations

The FNC attended a course on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) that was offered by UNICEF during one of the WASH Coordination meetings. The aim of the course was to provide participants with a better understanding of AAP and the importance of involving communities at all stages of programming of our projects. AAP is an active commitment by humanitarian actors to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people they seek to assist.

II. Information Management Emergency Preparedness Workshop 15-17 September 2021

The meeting was jointly organised by the WASH Sector and the Department of Civil Protection with support from UNICEF. It sought to appraise participants on the importance of management in emergency preparedness and response and the consequences of poor information management systems in emergency planning and responses. Topics covered included:

- Humanitarian Data exchange – HDX
- Data collection tools
- Capacity Mapping
- Good data collection and validation techniques
- Data analysis and visualization
- Mapping for emergency preparedness and response

The training was good and necessary for all Government players and organisations involved in emergency humanitarian assistance activities, but there is also need to improve on resource availability within organisations as well as the internet network for efficient functioning of the system.

III. Harmonisation of Food Safety Standards virtual meeting

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA)-NEPAD in collaboration with FAO are in the process of coming up with continental guidelines for harmonization of food safety standards. The draft document was shared to all African countries for input, and FNC attended a validation meeting for the guidelines. The most important issues noted were that the guidelines facilitated the harmonization of food safety standards to suitably fit into the systems of the AU and could contribute to the achievement of the aspirations of the Africa people and that the guidelines were compatible to continental standards harmonization programmes and would facilitate the food standards harmonization activities of Africa at continental level.

IV. [FNC/UNDP] ZRBF OMS3

The FNC was part of a national team of stakeholders that supervised the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) Outcome Monitoring Survey round 3 (OMS3) in March. The OMS3 is the third round of an annual panel study designed to measure change in the impacts of ZRBF interventions over time, comparing findings from the same sampled households in OMS round 1 (OMS1), OMS2 with OMS3. OMS3 was designed as a mixed-methods study, which included a qualitative component to contextualize quantitative findings and investigate a series of qualitative research questions focused on dynamics of change related to ZRBF interventions. In addition to data on shocks, resilience capacities, and key food security outcomes. The qualitative component used focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) at both the community and district levels. Qualitative Research Findings. A draft consolidated report was compiled in October.

V. Enhanced Resilience for Vulnerable Households in Zimbabwe Project

The Enhanced Resilience for Vulnerable Households in Zimbabwe (ERVHIZ) is a 32-month integrated project funded by the European Union, whose overall objective is to contribute to the well-being of households in vulnerable situations in the face of economic and climate induced shocks and stresses in Zimbabwe. It will increase the resilience of rural households to food crises and climate change by increasing sustainable crop and livestock production together with improved practice of healthy eating and access to improved water, sanitation and hygiene. The FNC represented by the MCU is part of the project management and coordination team responsible for day-to-day implementation including oversight of the project.

The PCT team met twice to agree on terms of reference and project implementation and monitoring plan. At the end of the year the team met to review progress attained in the year 2021.

VI. [CDTO] Multisectoral Approach towards Nutrition Adaptation (MANA)

The MANA project supports 7200 vulnerable households in the districts of Nyanga and Tsholotsho through multisectoral measures at all levels. The focus of the project was on;

- Agriculture Biodiversity
- Livelihoods and food and nutrition security and Food aid,
- Policy and Advocacy and Environment and Climate change
- WASH and Emergency Response

VII. SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme Activities.

FNC led the multi-stakeholder delegation which represented the ZimVAC at the following SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme fora:

- **Pre-Assessment Workshop:** The virtual workshop aimed at capacitating National VACs to better prepare for their 2021 annual assessments as well as enhance quality and credibility of their survey processes and outputs. Zimbabwe had the opportunity to showcase its key achievements in evidence generation as well as to share lessons learnt from successfully undertaking monitoring activities in the context of COVID-19.
- **Annual Organisation Meeting (AOM) and the 17th Meeting of the RVAA Programme Steering Committee:** At this forum, ZimVAC shared the planned activities for 2021 and was allocated funds to support capacity building of decentralised Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis structures.

- **SADC Regional Dissemination Forum:** The forum facilitated dissemination of the 2021 RLA results. Zimbabwe was one of the few SADC countries which had successfully undertaken their 2021 livelihoods assessments.

VIII. National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Coordination Meetings

The FNC is a member of the multisectoral National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee. The function of the committee is to review and coordinate WASH interventions within the country in both rural and urban areas. FNC participated in 17 virtual meetings held in 2021. The main interest of the FNC was to advocate for a multisectoral response to the WASH situation reported in ZimVAC (Urban Livelihoods Assessment 2020 and Rural Livelihoods Assessment 2021). Additionally, to advocate for the promotion of WASH interventions that enhance food safety and ultimately lead to food and nutrition security.

IX. National Standards Strategy 2021-23

The Standards Association of Zimbabwe developed led a process of developing the National Standards Strategy 2021-23. The purpose of the strategy was to give a framework of defining standards that need to be developed for the country in order to have a common trade language among organisations. The application of standards leads to the production of goods and delivery of services that meet internationally recognized standards. This removes barriers to trade and allows organizations to export their products and services, accessing international markets.

The FNC participated in two virtual meetings convened by the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ). The first meeting was held in October 2021 to discuss the proposed Draft National Standards Strategy. The follow-up meeting was held in December 2021 was a consultative forum to discuss the Second Draft. The remaining work is for SAZ to finalise and validate the National Strategy before seeking approval from Ministry of Industry and Commerce in first quarter 2022.

X. Developing *Mahewu* and Instant Porridge Standards

SAZ led the process of developing new Mahewu and Instant cereal-based porridge. The two standards' documents are yet to be finalised. FNC participated in four virtual consultative meetings. The main advocacy thrust for the FNC was to ensure that the standards are aligned to the safety and food fortification legislation in Zimbabwe in order to address some of the micronutrient deficiencies.

XI. Africa Food Policy Dialogues

The FNC is a member of the National Steering Committee created by the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe in partnership with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). The purpose of the steering committee was to lead a national process to determine the direction of Zimbabwe's Food System. Additionally, this steering committee had a task to bring together sectoral policies on production, processing, distribution and consumption and refocus on transition to sustainability. The steering committee led a national process to review Zimbabwe's Food Policies and conduct national consultations to feed into a Food Policy for Africa. FNC took part in three virtual meetings of the National Steering Committee.

The specific role of the FNC in the National Steering committee was to facilitate the coordination of the multisectoral consultative process through its existing food and nutrition security committees at national and subnational levels. To this end, FNC facilitated a meeting on the Africa Food policy dialogues with three District Food and Nutrition Security Committees (Tsholotsho, Chipinge and Hwange). The virtual workshop took place on the 24th of August 2021. The purpose of the workshop was to consult these committees (in the PELUM program operating areas) on Zimbabwe's contributions to the drafting of the Africa Food Policy. The broad thematic issues that were discussed during the virtual workshop were:

- Characteristics of a good food system in country and regionally.
- Strategies or ways to promote sustainable food systems.
- Documentation of good practises and lessons learnt.
- Recommendations for a better food policy.

XII. Food Legislation Review

The Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) supported by UNICEF led a process to review the Breast Milk Substitutes legislation. The statutory instrument (SI 46 of 1998) is called the Public Health (Breast-milk Substitutes and Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 1998. There were a number of gaps that were noted in this statutory instrument regarding products earmarked for breastmilk substitutes and infant feeding. Some new products were not adequately legislated. The review sought to address these gaps through an inclusive multisectoral process. FNC participated in one workshop and two virtual meetings. The involvement of FNC was to advocate for a legislation that does not undermine the promotion exclusive breastfeeding while providing for the provision of safe and appropriate breast milk substitutes and complementary foods. Furthermore, ensuring the inclusion of enforcement of these standards.

XIII. Africa Food Safety and Quality Summit 2021

FNC attended the Africa Food Safety and Quality Summit which was held virtually from 14 to 16 July 2021. The event, brought together the food and agriculture industry stakeholders, government ministries and regulatory agencies, suppliers of technologies, academic and research institutions and NGOs and development organisations from more than 70 countries to learn, network and do business - while talking about food safety, quality and compliance management in Africa.

The event was an opportunity for FNC to discover the latest ideas and appropriate solutions and technologies that boost Africa's capacity to avail safe food to its growing population, while enabling the continent to trade better within itself and into the regional and international markets. The implication of the workshop on the work of FNC was to advocate for the creation of an organised body that looks into food safety, quality and compliance management in the Zimbabwe.

XIV. AUDA-NEPAD Food Safety and Quality Community of Practice Webinar

FNC represented Zimbabwe in the inception meeting of the Food Safety and Quality Community of Practice held on 23 July. The meeting agreed on a charter defining the role of the community to promote sharing of information/experiences on best practice and provide technical guidance to member states convening the UN Food Systems Summit National Dialogues.

XV. Evaluation of Social Protection Programmes

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development led an evaluation of Social Protection Programmes in Zimbabwe. FNC was a member of the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) and Technical Evaluation Team (TET). The purpose of the ERG was to create a framework for the evaluation and to oversee the fieldwork carried out by the TET. FNC participated in four ERG virtual meetings to design data collection tools, refine the methodology as well as to review the draft report.

The National Social Protection Policy Framework for Zimbabwe has as its overall goal the reduction of poverty, vulnerability and inequality and enhancing of access to basic social services and makes provision for key policy measures with respect to social assistance. The evaluation focused on three interventions being implemented by the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare (MOPSLSW) under its Programme 3 in the Programme-based Budgeting approach implemented by Government:

- Basic Education Assistance Module
- Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy
- Harmonised Social Cash Transfers

The overall objective of the evaluation was to provide evidence-based information which will guide the establishment of a strong Integrated Social Protection Programme which is resilient and inclusive in order to improve on targeting, coordination of interventions and delivery of social welfare benefits. The evaluation furthermore sought to provide an overall independent assessment of the past performance of the action, paying particular attention to its intermediate results measured against its expected objectives; and the reason underpinning such results; and key lessons learned, conclusions and related recommendations in order to improve the current actions. To date the TET completed data collection was completed and data analysis carried out. Ministry of Finance is finalising the draft report pending submission by the same to Cabinet.

XVI. SADC RVAA Policy Work

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Regional Bureau for Southern Africa commissioned consultancy and research services to support the Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Program to accelerate and deepen the use and integration of Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis data and information in national and regional policymaking and programming processes within the SADC region. The activities included a citation analysis, stakeholder mapping and episodes study. FNC participated in this activity by coordinating and sensitization of stakeholders that were key respondents for this study.

The citation analysis found that there was extensive reference to VAA data in both academic and grey literature. There was effective use of the FNC website as a repository for VAA outputs. The most common theme informed by VAA was food and nutrition security. This could be explained by the fact that VACs were established with a mandate of emergency response and disaster management. Users of VAA information consist of Government departments, academia, the NGO sector, donor network and civic society. Media coverage was also significant and the media used this information to highlight Government efforts as well as stir up debate around topical issues such as WASH and school enrolment. VAA was the largest and most reliable data source in the country and was viewed as such by all sectors and users. The products and outputs were readily accessible to all sectors with a clear and current digital footprint. It appeared as though VACs had diversified on thematic focus and it had taken long to break out of this initial mandate and had more examples of programme influence than policy influence.

XVII. NDS1 Indicator Development

The Office of the President and Cabinet organised a technical workshop for sector specialists on the review of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from 14-21 November 2021 in Mutare. The purpose of the workshop was to review NDS1 KPIs. The FNC contributed to the development of KPIs for the food and nutrition security sector. These will be tracked mainly using ZimVAC data and incorporate indicators from key line Ministries and agencies involved in food and nutrition security programming.

XVIII. Food and Nutrition Sector Working Group Sensitization & Operationalisation-

The FNC participated in the two consecutive workshops led by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The workshops were carried out with the aim of conscientizing stakeholders on sector working groups and operationalising the food and nutrition sector working group.

According to presentations made at the inception workshop held in July 2021, a Sector Working Group (SWG) is a permanent, formal forum in which a wide range of development stakeholders, both international as well as domestic, meet to discuss sector policy, strategy, planning, prioritisation and major issues of implementation, and report on their activities and progress made towards achievement of sector results. The objectives of SWGs were to:

- Promote sector wide approaches (SWAPs)
- Facilitate dialogue and understanding between stakeholders over Government's policies and strategies on sector development
- Coordinate development of a Sector Capacity Development Plan and facilitate its implementation
- Identify funding gaps
- Ensure alignment of development assistance to a coherent sector strategy
- Review implementation of sector programmes and projects

The identified critical areas of cooperation at sector level were:

- Development of sector policies and strategies,
- Preparation of sector financing plans, identification of sources of funding, gap analysis and development of sector Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks;
- In consultation with the International Cooperation Department, initiate resource mobilization activities;
- Monitoring and Evaluation based on a sector results framework through Joint Annual Sector Reviews;

- SWGs have a mandate to submit recommendations to the relevant MDAs and, where appropriate, to Cabinet as far as the above-mentioned critical areas are concerned.

In the operationalisation workshop held on 2-3 December 2021 three key issues were agreed on. These were pitching the SWG at Permanent Secretary level and proposed TORs drafted; launch Sector Working Group in February 2022 and Consolidating Sector Strategic Plans.

Challenges

1. Due to COVID-19 pandemic a lot of activities were done using an online platform, this was time consuming with limited opportunities for interactions and contributions.
2. There was poor network connectivity at sub-national level and this also hindered the delivery of some outputs
3. Due to budget limitations the licenses purchased for analysis software had limited users and they expire after 12 months.
4. Human resources within FNC are few, resulting in some timelines being missed.

Conclusion

It is pleasing to note that FNC continues to strive towards achieving its mandate despite a number of challenges, through the various activities outlined in this report. The organisation continued to adopt innovative strategies to enable stakeholder engagement and participation in food and nutrition issues.

