Reflecting on the Hunger Situation in Zambia

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Presented at the CSO-SUN/PSP Policy Dialogue on Food, Nutrition Security and Social Protection
Background

- FAO report on state of the world food insecurity
  - Zambia moves from 45.8% (2000-02) to 48% (2013-14)
  - Ranked worst in Africa and 2\textsuperscript{nd} worst in the world
  - Undernourishment measured using food balance sheets compared to population
  - Considers coefficient of variation and skewedness

Questions
- What does this mean for Zambia?
- What did 45.8% mean for Zambia?
- What is the MDG target for Zambia?
Cont.

Food Balance Sheet (Maize)
High food production but hunger paradox

- Food Balance sheets show surplus maize
- Disconnect between maize production and consumption
- What could explain the paradox
  - Majority of the maize siphoned out of the rural areas
  - Poor access to maize and maize meal
    - Low incomes
    - High maize prices
    - Poor infrastructure
  - Nearly 30% of rural households are net buyers of maize
Net buyers and net sellers of maize

Net buyers 28%
Net sellers 42%
Neither buys nor sells 30%

Negatively affected by high maize prices

Source: 2012 CSO/MAL/IAPRI Rural Agricultural Livelihoods Survey
# Child Nutrition Status: Achieving the MDG Target?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of underweight children (under 5 years of age)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of stunted children (under 5 years of age)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of wasted children (under 5 years of age)</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNDP, 2003, DHS various years
### Indicator Severity of malnutrition by prevalence ranges (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Very high</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Underweight</strong></td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>&gt;=30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stunting</strong></td>
<td>&lt;20</td>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>&gt;=40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wasting</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 5</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>&gt;=15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hunger Incidence: Evidence from IAPRI/CSO/MAL Survey

- RALS 2012
  - 8839 rural agricultural households
  - Nationally representative
Households Experiencing Hunger

% of HH Experiencing Seasonal Hunger

- 47% % HH with enough food all year-round
- 53% % HH without enough food for at least one month

Source: RALS
Rural Seasonal Hunger 2010/2011

% of Households who experienced inadequate food for at least some time

Source: RALS
Actual Months in which the households experienced seasonal hunger

% of HHs reporting inadequate HH food provisions in this month

Lean Period

Source: RALS
## Hunger and Poverty Rates Among Smallholder Households By Province, 2011/12 Marketing Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>% of HHs experiencing hunger in one or more months</th>
<th>Smallholder poverty rate (%)</th>
<th>Mean number of months in which HHs experienced hunger (among HHs that experienced hunger)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>(A) 6.0</td>
<td>(B) 75.5</td>
<td>(C) 0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copperbelt</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luapula</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lusaka</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muchinga</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NorthWestern</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>1.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: RALS*
Land Cultivated and Seasonal hunger

Source: RALS
Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

- Hunger incidences and malnutrition remain high in Zambia

Policy Options

- Promote on-farm storage
- Reduce post-harvest losses
- Promote on-farm processing
- Promote SMEs investment in hammer mills
- Crop diversification to mitigate crop failure risk
- Increase access to more land for smallholder households
Thankyou for your Attention
Undernourishment or Chronic Hunger
A state, lasting for at least one year, of inability to acquire enough food, defined as a level of food intake insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements. For the purposes of this report, hunger was defined as being synonymous with chronic undernourishment. FAO, 2014

SOFI 2014
Food Balance Sheet (Maize)
High maize production but hunger paradox

Maize Production 1000 Tons

- Production levels from 2000 to 2013, showing a general trend of increase.
Trends in Nutritional Status

Source: DHS preliminary results presentation 2014