COORDINATION OF THE 1ST 1000 MOST CRITICAL DAYS IN ZAMBIA

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The Key Stakeholders in the Nutrition Sector and Their Roles

- At National level, there is the inter-ministerial special committee on nutrition of Permanent Secretaries from 10 line ministries Chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet.
- The main role is to oversee implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Policy.
- At national level a there is a Multistakeholder Platform (MSP) that bring various institutions in a common space to address stunting. It is comprised of what we call SUN Networks or Forums.
Zambia joined SUN: December 2010 and Government designated the National Food and Nutrition Commission as National Focal Point institution.

MSP was formed: 2012

Membership of the MSP: Representatives from the 5 Government key Line Ministries, CSOs, NGOs, Quasi-government Institutions, UN System, Donor Agencies, and more recent the Business community.
Coordination Structures for Nutrition

Special Committee of Permanent Secretaries on Nutrition

Multistakeholder Platform

Government Forum
Nutrition Cooperating Partners
United Nation Network
Academia & Research
Business Forum

Multistakeholder Platform

District Nutrition Coordinating Committees (DNCCs)

Ward Nutrition Coordinating Committees (WNCC) / Zonal Nutrition Coordinating Committees (ZNCC)
Status of SUN Networks and Forums in the country

- Government partners: Fully Active
- United Nations: Fully Active
- Civil Society: Fully Active
- Donors: Fully Active
- Business: Fully Active
- Technical community: Fully Active
The Key Stakeholders in the Nutrition Sector and Their Roles

- At sub national level, in the 14 phase One 1st 1000 Most Critical Days Programme
  - District Nutrition Coordinating Committees (DNCCs) created
  - DNCC have formed Ward/Zonal Nutrition Coordinating Committees (WNCCs/ZNCCs)
- In the process of establishing Provincial Nutrition Coordinating Committees (PNCCs)
  - 7 PNCCs have already developed nutrition multisectoral plans ready to be funded
- Membership of coordinating committees at sub national levels: government key line ministries, NGOs, Faith Based Organizations, and International and bilateral organisations implementing projects related to food, health, water and sanitation, and nutrition
Accomplishments or Progress

• Joint planning where:
  ○ Key line ministries and other SUN networks prioritize activities for each year.
  ○ Roles and responsibilities of actors agreed upon.
  ○ At Sub national level joint nutrition multisectoral plans have been developed and being implemented by multisectoral teams.

• Joint progress review –
  ○ Two annual reviews undertaken to date to review progress since 1st 1000 MCDP started in 2013.
  ○ Joint field visits undertaken to selected pilot districts for SUN/1st 1000 MCDP for each review. Feedback meetings held and made recommendations for improvement and agreed on way forward to accelerate quality implementation of the Minimum Package of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions
Enabling factors for Progress

- Existence of the legal framework (NFNC Act, National Food and Nutrition Policy) that enables NFNC Act facilitate bringing stakeholders to a common space to work together for nutrition improvement.
- Availability of the National Food and Nutrition Strategic plan as well as sector strategic plans as reference points for coordinated action. 1st 1000 MCDP developed from strategic Direction 1.
- Raised Global advocacy for multisectoral action for nutrition - UN Assembly, WHA, ICN 1, ICN2, world Food summit, and many other regional and global initiatives.
- Continuous advocacy activities by CSO/SUN and Nutrition Cooperating Partners Networks to raise nutrition profile.
Challenges and Risks

- Delayed institutionalization of coordinating structures at national and subnational levels by government.
- Slow pace to Amend the Mandate of NFNC. Process initiated in 2007 still ongoing.
- More players attracted to nutrition as nutrition popularity grows who however have not been oriented on the SUN/1st 1000 MCDP ideals.
- Sector controlling officers at district level who where not involved in the development of nutrition multisectoral plans resulted in Key line ministries implementing the programme in silos without converging on same target groups and same location, hence posing challenge on achieving desired impact of reducing stunting.
Recommendations

- There is need for the coordination structures at all levels to be formalized so that they are held accountable for their actions.
- NAZ and other partners to pressure Government to hasten review of the NFNC Act in 2016.
- There is need to restructure NFNC to make it more responsive to the changing needs.
- Document success coordination mechanism from pilot districts to aid in rolling out to other districts throughout the country.
- Continue Orientations and reorientations of Coordination Structures at district and sub-district level to enhance convergence.
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