



REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY STRATEGIES (FNSS) DIALOGUE

Held on **Tuesday, 27th April 2021**

Prepared by



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1. Introduction

This report is a summary of proceedings of the Food and Nutrition Security Strategies (FNSS) meeting that took place on Tuesday, 27 April 2021. The webinar allowed key stakeholders to dialogue on issues related to the African Union's Commitment 3 - Ending Hunger by 2025; and, Commitment 6 - Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other related risks. The decision to focus on Food and Nutrition Security Strategies rather than the related policies was taken because strategies are the means through which policies are implemented, and they tend to be modified more often in response to changing conditions than is the case with policies.

The webinar was held virtually on the Zoom platform.

1.1. Background

The partnership of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and CARE Southern Africa conducted an assessment of the alignment of food and nutrition security strategies (FNSS) in five countries, namely Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa, to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Food and Nutrition Security Strategy 2015-2025. The regional strategy is aligned to the Malabo Declaration and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The performance of Malawi was reviewed against the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Malabo Declaration targets on nutrition and climate change. The nutrition targets are particularly under *Commitment 3: Ending hunger by 2025, Performance Category (PC) 3.5: Improving Food security and Nutrition*; while climate change targets are under *Commitment 6: Enhancing Resilience to climate variability, PC 6.1: Ensuring Resilience to climate-related risks and PC 6.2: Investment in resilience building*.

Findings from the second Biennial Report Review highlight that Malawi attained an overall score of 4.81 against a benchmark of 6.66, which indicates that the country is currently not on track to achieve the 2025 Malabo Declaration commitments. Although Malawi was on track in the inaugural Biennial Review (BR), the country is currently not on track to achieving the 2025 targets on food security and nutrition. On climate change targets, the country's performance has not been on track since the inaugural BR Report. Whilst Malawi's performance on PC 6.1 was on track in the inaugural BR, it is not on track in the second BR. This shows that there is more that needs to be done to address the gaps affecting the country's performance in fulfilling the Malabo commitments.

Against this background, the FANRPAN Regional Secretariat engaged CISANET, the FANRPAN Node Hosting Institution in Malawi to convene a Food and Nutrition Security Strategies dialogue. The dialogue would enable participants to recommend specific action points to improve Malawi's performance in climate change and nutrition related strategies. CISANET therefore organized and conducted a virtual webinar on 27th April 2021.

2. Opening Remarks

The opening remarks were made by Pamela Kuwali, National Director of CISANET, Chikondi Chabvuta of CARE Southern Africa; and Francis Hale of FANRPAN

3. Attendance

A total of 24 (48%) out of 50 registered stakeholders attended the webinar. These were drawn from the resilient and nutrition friendly agriculture thematic group of the CISANET, as well the wider CISANET membership, and included the following:

- ✚ Government representatives;
- ✚ Civil Society;
- ✚ Research Institutions;
- ✚ Private Sector; and
- ✚ Farmer organizations;

4. Webinar objectives and Key Presentation

The objective of the webinar was to discuss areas of alignment to the regional FNSS and the existing gaps following an assessment report from the CARE-FANRPAN partnership. During the webinar, the key stakeholders were tasked to review Malawi's performance based on the CAADP/Malabo Declaration's Second Biennial Review Report (BR), and to develop and validate multi-sectoral action points towards addressing the gaps in national performance.

Two key presentations were made to inform the meeting on the background and performance of Malawi towards attaining the targets on climate change and nutrition security and these were on:

- i. Post BRR Review from a nutrition and climate change perspective in Malawi
- ii. FNSS from a Nutrition and Food Security Perspective Presentation
- iii. Food Nutrition Security Strategies and Climate Shocks.

Some key points from the presentation were that Malawi attained an overall score of 4.81 against a benchmark of 6.66, down by 2 percent from the last BRR. The second BR report made key action points or recommendations for Malawi and these are as follows:

- i. Effectively implement food and nutrition security policies that would help to reduce the current high prevalence of stunting and wasting among children less than five years of age.
- ii. Invest in R&D to establish gaps and opportunities to improve the nutritional status of the children under five years old and address undernourishment in the population as a whole.
- iii. Invest in strengthening climate data collection and analysis systems.
- iv. Invest in R&D to establish gaps and opportunities to improve the proportion of agriculture land that is under sustainable land management.

Some of the recommendations from a nutrition and food security perspective from the Department of Nutrition with regards to meeting Malawi's commitment include the following:

- i. Malawi should effectively implement food and nutrition security policies that would help to reduce the current high prevalence of stunting and wasting among children less than five years of age.

Some of the recommendations from a climate change perspective with regards to meeting Malawi's commitment are as follows:

- i. Post-harvest management should be included as an intervention in the NMNSP
- ii. Adaptation and mitigation covered under climate smart agriculture, including promotion of integrated farming villages (water supply, solar panel, home with anti-cyclonic standards, etc.
- iii. Implement disaster risk reduction and management strategy based on an early warning system: short cycle seeds, agricultural insurance, prevention of emerging pests and infrastructure against cyclones, droughts, flooding and locust invasions
- iv. Conservation agriculture, watershed management and work towards reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- v. Dissemination of information on adaptation and mitigation / behaviour change initiatives/Capacity building etc.
- vi. Agro-ecological farming and sustainable management of forestry.
- vii. Climate change adaptation, e.g., through use of drought tolerant crops
- viii. Managing climate data (i.e. households that are resilient to climatic variability etc.)
- ix. Adopt Agriculture bio diversity
- x. The government and key stakeholders should establish milestones and work together collectively. Meet frequently to track progress etc. Also invest in R&D

5. Key Webinar Outcomes – Proposed Actions

The following were the key outcomes from the deliberations in the webinar:

- i. There is need for improved data collection strategies for nutrition indicators in order to properly finance interventions. The BRR does not clearly indicate the nutrition budget to facilitate in addressing the gaps due to lack of evidence on some indicators.
- ii. The national budget analysis with a focus on nutrition conducted by CSONA established that some key multi-sectoral nutrition strategies are not aligned to some indicators that are in the MGDS III, which makes it a challenge to track progress. It was also found that budgetary allocation to nutrition is on the lower side.
- iii. There is need to promote coordination structures at different levels. There are networks for CSOs, donors and public sector that are mandated to regularly meet to share lessons and experiences to improve their functioning. Networks provide technical and financial support and work plans to assist with various interventions in nutrition e.g. the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Committee meets every quarter to share sectoral activities and to advise. At district level there are the DNCCs that should conduct coordination at that level.
- iv. There is need to promote the production of fruits in backyard gardens. This is part of the integrated homestead farming initiative being implemented by the Department of Nutrition. It is aimed at all value-chains within the homesteads, enabling community members to support and complement each other. In other cases, if farmer have excess production, it should be used to make stockfeeds. There is also nutrition education as well as food availability calendars which also include indigenous foods to guide the communities to access such.
- v. Malawi has revised its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) from the Paris Agreement and recognized Nutrition and Food Security as key areas to invest in for the country's agriculture transformation towards 2040 (timeframe for NDCs).

6. Next steps

- i. Government must engage various stakeholders through workshops for the dissemination of research to improve nutrition and food security
- ii. Call for all stakeholders to also commit to NDCs for coordinated investment in nutrition and food security in order to achieve Malabo commitments.

7. Annexes

7.1. Agenda

Time	Activity	Responsibility	Moderator
9:30 – 9:45 am	Participants logging in	All	CISANET
	Opening Prayer	Volunteer	
	Self-Introductions	All	
9:45 – 10:00 am	Welcoming Remarks	CISANET /FANRPAN/CAR	CISANET
10:00 – 10:15 am	FNSS Assessment Report Presentation	Dr Njongenhle Nyoni - FANRPAN	CISANET
10:15 – 10:30 am	FNSS from a Nutrition and Food Security Perspective Presentation	Ms Maureen Maguza - Department of Nutrition	CISANET
10:30 – 10:45 am	Plenary	All	CARE
10:45 – 11:00 am	FNSS from a Climate Perspective Presentation	Mr Dhaquir Bashir – Concern World Wide	CARE
11:00 – 11:25 am	Plenary	All	CARE
11:25 – 11:30 am	Closing Prayer	Volunteer	CISANET
	End of NFSS Webinar		

7.2. List of invited stakeholders

No.	Name	Organisation	Gender	Email
1	Chilungamo Phiri		M	
2	Chikondi Chabvuta	CARE Malawi	F	Chikondi.Chabvuta@care.org
3	Romao Xavier	CARE Mozambique	M	Romao.Xavier@care.org
4	Pamela Kuwali	CISANET	F	pamela@cisanetmalawi.org
5	Thokozani Guta	CISANET	M	thokozani@cisanetmalawi.org
6	Dhaquir Bashir	Concern World Wide	M	Dhaquir.Bashir@concern.net
7	Rachel Mkandawire	FANRPAN	F	
8	Njongenhle Nyoni	FANRPAN	M	nnyoni@fanrpan.org
9	Miriam Yona	AG Care	F	mathews.mhuru@gmail.com
10	Janet Ntchita Mtoso	Vwirani	F	

11	Kanto Razafimandimby	FANRPAN	F	krazafimandimby@fanrpan.org
12	Francis Hale	FANRPAN	M	fhale@fanrpan.org
13	Rowlands Kaotcha	The Hunger Project	M	
14	Tendai Saidi	CISANET	M	tendai@cisanetmalawi.org
15	Driana Lwanda	AICC	M	driana@aiccafrica.org
16	Maureen Maguza	Department of Nutrition – Ministry of Health		
17	Lemekeza Mokiwa	CARE Malawi	M	
18	Charles Chinkhunda	Department of Planning – MoA	M	
19	Gertrude Kambauwa	Department of Land Resources - MoA	F	
20	Silvia Mapanje	Department of Nutrition – Ministry of Health	F	
21	Patrick Likongwe	Lead Sea	M	plikongwe@leadsea.mw
22	Mike Marvin Banda	MEJN	M	angozomike@gmail.com
23	Henderson Fulatira	ELDS	M	ubwino@gmail.com
24	Evans Malata	UNF-CCC focal Point	M	