

February 16, 2022

Responses to Participant Questions

[Webinar] Tanzania's New National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP II):

What's New and Why?

Question 1: Has there been an impact evaluation of the provision of 1000/tsh per child? If so, what was the result?

Answer 1: This provision of 1000tsh/child continues to be a commitment we are working towards. 100% planned allocation has been achieved but we are yet to reach 100% disbursement. On an annual basis, we evaluate plans against disbursement which continue to progress. Impact evaluation will be considered after the realization of 100% execution.

Question 2: In your nutrition programs how do you factor in individual nutritional requirements to optimize livelihood activities? Often, those with poor nutrition also rely on manual labor at times requiring as much as 4000 kcal/day? Does the NMNAP II consider diversity in energy requirements?

Answer 2: The shift to a lifecycle approach now used in NMNAP II is considerate of the unique requirements at all stages of the life cycle.

Question 3: What is the multi-sectoral nutrition information system (MNIS) and how does it work?

Answer 3: The MNIS is a country-led information system that pulls together data from relevant sectoral systems to assist monitoring progress of both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive sectors as part of NMNAP II implementation. The system contains both routine and relevant survey data.

Question 4: With the SUN Business Network in place, is there enhanced private sector engagement in nutrition?

Answer 4: Private sector engagement is one of the strategic priorities of NMNAP II and Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) implementation, which imply their engagement is more than what we experienced during NMNAP I implementation. Increased private sector investment for nutrition would extend beyond the mandate of the SUN Business Network.

Question 5: The Tanzania Food and Nutrition Center has been leading the development of the dietary guidelines for Tanzania over the past few years, to be finalized/launched soon. Their development also followed a multi-sectoral process. What are the links between the implementation of national food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) and the implementation of NMNAP II?

Answer 5: The NMNAP II is supportive of the food-based dietary guidelines. Although the FBDGs were not complete at the time of NMNAP II development, there is nothing contradictory in the NMNAP II

and the idea is that these key documents complement one another. The NMNAP II is a national-level action plan and the FBDGs include nutritional guidance for individuals.

Question 6: Does promotion of more comprehensive nurturing care feature in NMNAP II? For example, promotion of counseling on responsive caregiving and early learning, and monitoring of developmental milestones as part of routine nutrition services.

Answer 6: Care for child development is our priority as a country. Under our NMNAP II life cycle approach, we have prioritized evidence-based interventions which includes all key aspects of early childhood development (ECD). On the other hand, we have a separate sister document to NMNAP II, the National ECD strategy that details our vision and provides clear guidance on early learning and responsive caregiving.

Question 7: Where do school feeding programs fit into the NMNAP II?

Answer 7: The NMNAP II will coordinate with other programs and plans, including the National School Feeding Guideline, to support and complement to the extent possible. The school feeding program compliments nutrition interventions to adolescents in schools by availing nutritious foods, promoting health and nutrition practices including physical activities, establishment of vegetable and fruit gardens, and revival of school health clubs. These and other interventions promoted by the National School Feeding Guidelines are key for realization of NMNAP II milestones.

Question 8: Has the resource mobilization strategy for the NMNAP II also considered the contribution of households in financing for good nutrition at the household level? How is this going to be captured so that resource mobilization for nutrition is understood at the household level, and is captured in the national statistics for financing nutrition.

Answer 8: The Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) is a national level guidance document and although household financing for nutrition is important, this particular Strategy is not the appropriate place for such detail. We have other mechanisms to help us capture this information including the household and budget survey. NMNAP II aim that the households adhere to healthy practices that reduce occurrence of diseases

Question 9: How do you manage feedback from the community level? Engaging them in policies and plans can help with financing efforts for nutrition for their communities.

Answer 9: The quarterly Village Health and Nutrition Days are platforms used to generate feedback on NMNAP II implementation from the communities. During these days the village government and communities contribute and implement relevant nutrition activities as per the national guidance.

Question 10: How will contributions from the private sector be tracked? What are some of the barriers to private sector contributions and what can be done? Are there examples of successful private sector engagement?

Answer 10: Tanzania's Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is considering multiple ways of tracking private sector contribution as "contribution" takes many forms from nutrition services to voluntary donations and corporate social responsibility. Through implementation of the RMS and with the support of the Ministry of Finance we will be able to say who contributed what in NMNAP II implementation and in what ways.

Question 11: Have you considered the possibility of getting funding from the new government levy on mobile money ("TOZO")?

Answer 11: The RMS detailed various financial options and some of those include money from tax which is not necessarily the current TOZO.

Question 12: One challenge mentioned was the difficulty in quantifying the contribution of various sectors working on nutrition-sensitive interventions. Indeed, this would be a common problem in such multi-sectoral work. Are there any ideas on how to deal with this in the NMNAP II implementation?

Answer 12: The NMNAP II will continue the practice of budget reviews of nutrition-sensitive Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the extent to which they have incorporated nutrition. Methodology was developed to review the 2020/2021 budgets, and the results of that exercise will serve as a baseline. Additionally, the PMO and Tanzania Food and Nutrition Center (TFNC) have provided guidance to nutrition-sensitive MDAs to improve activity statements in their annual plans to ensure that activities with a desired nutrition outcome are clear, feasible, and actionable.

Question 13: How does the NMNAP II address micronutrient deficiencies? Something was mentioned about ensuring accountability for all finances that have been put in place, what are the steps put in place to prevent embezzlement of public funds?

Answer 13: One of the NMNAP II's Key Result Areas is micronutrient deficiencies and regarding funding we have good systems in place to link activities and spending which to large extent has reduced reallocation of nutrition funding to other activities.

Question 14: Are there plans for the government to promote small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) such as tax reliefs and supportive working environments? What will attract them to contribute to supporting nutrition and to NMNAP II?

Answer 14: We have good plans in place to heighten relationships between the government and SMEs. Through scheduled meetings, we will be able to agree on win-win scenarios designed to increase SMEs contribution to nutrition and improve the enabling environment for them to operate profitably. Specific examples will be under food fortification where no charge is imposed on importation of supplies in support of fortification work.

Question 15: Great to see community engagement through Village Health and Nutrition Days. Is a social and behavioral change communication strategy for community engagement also planned?

Answer 15: A social and behavior change strategy for nutrition in general is undergoing review led by TFNC.

Question 16: Many governments struggle to advocate for nutrition financing, what key lessons have been learned working with the Government of Tanzania to mobilize resources for this multi-sectoral implementation?

Answer 16: The Government of Tanzania learned many lessons through the development of the NMNAP II Resource Mobilization Strategy, many of which are applicable to other sectors. It is important to agree on a vision for the strategy - identify early on what the strategy should provide clear guidance on, where parameters exist, and where other documents or actors pick up. It's also important to push for specifics to the extent possible, for example, a call for increased participation of the private sector should also include the details on specifically what is expected, this helps manage expectations and informs actionable steps. Nutrition financing requires leadership from the government. As a country we are progressing very well and through the resource mobilization strategy, we will work hard to ensure the expectation of government contribution is realized.

Question 17: Regarding data availability, does Tanzania have an indicator on child development (e.g., # of children with suspected developmental delays)? If so, will the Nutrition Compact evaluation include the collection of such data?

Answer 17: We didn't have developmental indicators under the first NMNAP, but we will be capturing those through the Early Childhood Development Strategy.

Question 18: The climate crisis continues to make its effects felt, and food systems are both a cause and a victim. How can the nutrition plan support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts?

Answer 18: Part of a multi-sectoral approach is acknowledging authority and leadership of other sectors. Climate smart agricultural production is the remit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. The NMNAP II is designed to actively support these ministries and requests their support in turn.

Question 19: Why is NMNAP II not investing more in hiring nutritionists so that there is one at each ward or health center and/or hospital to ensure proper provision of nutrition services?

Answer 19: The NMNAP II acknowledges the critical role of nutrition professionals at all levels, however we can't do everything at once, we have started with regional and district nutritionists and there are plans in place to ensure their permanent presence at all levels to the extent possible.

Question 20: Can you speak to the interlinkage between the Adolescents Investment Plan (NAIA) and NMNAP II. Especially in the coordination and funding for the NAIA implementation roadmap.

Answer 20: To the extent possible we have tried to align interventions across all the country documents for comprehensive delivery. With the life cycle approach prioritized in NMNAP II, NAIA is very important to get us to where we want to be in 2026. The NMNAP II Common Results Resources and Accountability Framework details all issues related to resources by key result areas.

Question 21: Is it possible to add a budget line in the Government's PlanRep system to accommodate private sector contributions but also to monitor their contributions both in-kind and cash. What is the role of the Ministry of Finance and Planning in this?

Answer 21: Please see the response to Question 10 above.

Question 22: In terms of the Resource Mobilization Strategy—I was surprised not to see a SUN Donor partner mapping of resources—is this still in the plan? Also, what is the plan for tracking both the domestic and international resources for the multi-sectoral nutrition response?

Answer 22: A robust mapping exercise of donor-funded activities was conducted by TFNC, its findings informed the Resource Mobilization Strategy. International resources are considered in the Resource Mobilization Strategy, but as a country we are prepared that there may be a decrease as we have transitioned to middle-income country status.

Question 23: Where does integration with other services fit within NMNAP II and how comprehensive is it to inform service provision at the community and facility level?

Answer 23: The NMNAP II is a multi-sectoral strategy and operates under the assumption that we plan together. NMNAP II was developed with inputs from all the sectors, its implementation will be done through five systems emphasizing integrated services at all levels.

Question 24: What is the role of the private sector, and how do you plan to engage them and ensure accountability?

Answer 24: Refer to responses to questions 10, 13 and 15.

Question 25: How is the government facilitating implementation of nutrition interventions at the community level? How is it coordinated?

Answer: Refer to the response to question 9.

Question 26: How can we participate as stakeholders in the review of the indicators?

Answer 26: Normally, the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) collaborates with partners at all levels to ensure quality implementation of nutrition interventions. Regarding indicators review meetings, we will start with a technical meeting including a few stakeholders, and all stakeholders will be invited for review and validation.

Question 27: Is there a focal person we can reach out to for possible government opportunities to support the NMNAP II?

Answer 27: Head of Nutrition services is the point of contact from PO-RALG.

Question 28: Can you share how mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for caregivers has been integrated into the NMNAP II?

Answer 28: We acknowledge the importance of mental health in the overall well being of caregivers. This important topic is a priority research question for future studies.

Question 29: To increase the in-house capacity for nutrition professionals, are there any plans for the government of Tanzania to support academia to develop courses in Nutrition? Like an MPH in Nutrition.

Answer 29: With the new established SUN Academia and Research platform we believe various innovations will emerge to increase nutrition capacities country-wide. This good idea will be shared with relevant platforms and individuals for consideration.

Question 30: What is the strategy for helping organizations implementing nutrition-sensitive programming to better understand and execute their roles?

Answer 29: The strategy for integrating nutrition into the sectoral plans of ministries that do not have in-depth experience of nutrition has been to provide common orientation sessions on nutrition (for consistency in key nutrition messages) and to utilize a common process of integrating nutrition into plans and budgets. This has been done through the Planning and Budgeting Guidelines for Nutrition which were released in 2020 and two training sessions have been held. Additionally, a budget review process with distinct methodology has been developed to review ministry budgets and assess their degree of nutrition-sensitivity. This is a learning experience for ministries, PMO and TFNC alike, but every year nutrition integration improves with more clear and actionable activities and budget line items.

Question 31: Are there future plans to map out the entire food system landscape in Tanzania and identify which gaps exist and what measures can be put in place to make it more robust?

Answer 31: This is a good idea and will be considered by PMO and TFNC.

Question 32: What is the role of households in the NMNAP II and the Resource Mobilization Strategy?

Answer 32: The NMNAP II and its accompanying Resource Mobilization Strategy is a national level plan and strategy document. While households are of course important, guidance at the household level would not be appropriate in these documents. The NMNAP II and RMS link with guiding documents and infrastructure that extend to the local level.