



Republic of Malawi

## **FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY**

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADD	Agricultural Development Division
AIDS	Acquired Immuno- Deficiency Syndrome
ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
ARIs	Acute Respiratory Infections
ARV	Anti-Retroviral
CISANET	Civil Society Agricultural Network
COMESA	Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa
DFID	Department For International Development
EHP	Essential Health Package
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EP&D	Economic Planning and Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
FEWS	Famine Early Warning System
FNSIS	Food and Nutrition Security Information System
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESS	Genetically Engineered Seeds and Substances
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
HIS	Health Information System
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HMIS	Health Management Information System
ICN	International Conference Nutrition
LBW	Low Birth Weight
MBS	Malawi Bureau of Standards
MCCCI	Malawi Confederation Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MEGS	Malawi Economic Growth Strategy
MFIs	Micro-Finance Institutions
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MPRS	Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy
MTCT	Mother to Child Transmission
NASFAM	National Small Holder Association of Malawi
NFRA	National Food Reserve Agency
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSSA	National Sample Survey of Agriculture
OPC	Office of President and Cabinet
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SGR	Strategic Grain Reserve
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee
WFP	World Food Programme
WFS	World Food Summit
WFSFYL	World Food Summit Five Years Later
WHO	World Health Organisation

## **1.1 PREAMBLE**

- 1.1.1 The Constitution of Malawi recognises that access to and utilisation of nutritionally adequate and safe food in the right quantities is a right of each individual. This will enable them to lead an active and healthy life.
- 1.1.2 Improving the living standards of the people of the country has for a long time been an immediate need. Building on the Vision 2020, the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy was launched to realize the aspirations of Malawians, which include sustainable food and nutrition security.
- 1.1.3 The Integrated Household Survey of 1997/98 indicates that approximately 65.3% of the population is poor and cannot meet their food requirements and basic non-food needs annually.
- 1.1.4 Many factors interact to create a food insecure situation in Malawi: chronic poverty, low agricultural productivity, poor infrastructure, ecological constraints, inappropriate economic policies, limited arable land other demographic and social factors. These are not discrete, independent factors, but related elements of the food security-malnutrition equation. However, it is widely accepted that the primary cause of food insecurity and malnutrition in Malawi is chronic poverty: the persistent lack of economic opportunity either to produce adequate safe and nutritious food or to exchange labour for the income to purchase adequate, safe and nutritious food.
- 1.1.5 Agriculture is the backbone of Malawi's economy, accounting for 36% of GDP, 87% of total employment and remains one of the most important sources of income as it accounts for 65.3% of total income of the rural poor. Promoting agricultural growth and diversity will contribute to national and household level food security.
- 1.1.6 Natural disasters, such as drought, floods and crop destruction by pests and diseases, have had adverse effects on the country's national food supply situation. Poor land use management and inadequate use of fertilisers exacerbate the effects of natural disasters. Experience with these types of problems has heightened the Government's commitment to ensure that the country has access to adequate supplies of food at all times to meet subsistence and commercial needs.
- 1.1.7 Food Utilization in Malawi is generally poor. Inadequate knowledge about food values, food choices, combinations of the Malawi Six Food Groups<sup>1</sup>, childcare and feeding practices, gender issues, and intra-household distribution of food affect the way households benefit nutritionally from the available foods. The current nutrition education primarily targets women and yet decision makers at household level are men.
- 1.1.8 Inadequate appropriate skills and technologies for food preparation, preservation and storage lead to high food losses in terms of both quantity and quality. Food taboos resulting from cultural and religious beliefs limit consumption and/or use of certain foods hence reduces food diversity at household level.

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<sup>1</sup> The six food groups are staples, animal products, legumes, vegetables, fruits, fats and oils

1.1.9 Diseases affect the utilisation of the consumed food as they may cause malabsorption of nutrients, loss of appetite, nausea, and direct loss of nutrients. General ill health can result in loss of productivity.

1.1.10 There is inadequate coordination in collecting, analysing and disseminating food and nutrition security information resulting in irrational interventions, repetition and duplication.

## **1.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1.2.1 The MPRS and Malawi Economic Growth Strategy (MEGS) will be the major guiding framework for achieving food and nutrition security.

### **1.2.2 Good Governance**

Good governance will be the major element for ensuring that public institutions and systems protect and benefit all people. This consists of the following elements:

#### **1.2.2.1 Political leadership and commitment**

Strong political leadership and commitment is necessary for development interventions to have an impact on wealth creation leading to poverty reduction.

#### **1.2.2.2 Rule of Law**

The “Rule of Law”, should set parameters through an established set of legal principles and norms within which government and society must function. It needs to involve the implementation by law enforcement and public observance of such laws. It also entails that organs of the State respect the verdicts of the courts.

#### **1.2.2.3 Economic Governance**

Sustained economic growth, appropriately shared by all members of society, will contribute to achieving improvement in food and nutrition security. The primary purpose of economic governance should be to enhance economic well being, thereby reducing mortality, promoting greater opportunities for advancement, and engendering greater public confidence in democracy.

#### **1.2.2.4 Human rights**

Cognisant of the provisions for the protection of human rights and freedoms as enshrined in the Constitution of Malawi, the right to adequate food is fully accepted as a human right. The right for everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food shall be observed in accordance with the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights says, “the right to adequate food is fully realised when every individual, alone or in a community with others, has physical and economic access to adequate food or the means of its procurement.”

### 1.2.3 Multi-sectoral approach and partnerships

Food and nutrition security has multi-sectoral ramifications. It is, therefore, imperative that this policy document should be jointly owned, implemented and monitored by all the sectoral ministries, civil society organisations and stakeholders involved in food and nutrition security issues.

### 1.2.4 Capacity Development

Implementation of the food and nutrition policy will require a diversity of technical knowledge and skills among service providers and beneficiaries. As such, a comprehensive capacity development strategy shall be part and parcel of the implementation process of this policy.

### 1.2.5 Commitments to International Agreements

The Malawi Government has obligations to international agreements and commitments that have a bearing on food and nutrition security. These include the following:

- (a) The World Declaration of the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition (ICN);
- (b) The United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- (c) The World Food Summit declaration of 1996 re-iterated in the African Union Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (July 2003) and WFSFYL;
- (d) The Sirte declaration on the challenges of implementing integrated and Sustainable Development on Agriculture and Water in Africa, (February 2004); and
- (e) The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agricultural and Food Security in the SADC region (May 2004).

Government will, therefore endeavour to comply with the obligations under these agreements or instruments.

### 1.2.7 Protecting the right to food

Government will be committed to ensuring that no government actions or those of private traders would reduce any Malawians access to safe nutritious food and that there is no discrimination in the buying and selling of food.

### 1.2.8 Social Protection

Every person has the right to food and nutrition security and a standard of living adequate for health. Recognizing that there will always be a part of the society that will require social protection in order to meet their food and nutrition requirements, government will provide distinctly targeted safety nets cautious of the need to avoid creating dependency and negative impacts. In line with the Government's National Safety Nets Strategy, social protection programmes shall be designed, in such a way that they complement the broader pro-poor growth strategy and also help people prevent, manage and cope with risk to reduce vulnerability. They shall be designed to enable the vulnerable to gradually build up their assets so as to escape the threat of poverty in a sustainable way and to increase their resilience to shocks.

#### 1.2.8.1 Food Aid

Food aid programmes shall be designed for desperately vulnerable people whose needs cannot be addressed through any meaningfully viable programmes other than being supported by special programmes like food aid. Efforts shall be made to ensure that food aid is not used for political purposes or as a means of forcing other concessions and bribes. Large scale distributions shall remain a last resort.

#### 1.2.8.2 Agricultural input subsidies

Government shall put in place distinctly targeted agricultural input subsidies to enhance growth and food diversification for the poor farmers that can still not afford agriculture inputs after exhausting all economic levers. Measures shall be put in place to ensure that such subsidies do not have negative impacts on the input market.

#### 1.2.6 The role of the market

Government shall endeavour to put in place legislation, practices and mechanisms aimed at removing activities that restrict free competition in the market of food, food products and agricultural inputs. Opportunities shall be created for the private sector to address the needs of the population that has purchasing power to meet their food and input requirements from the market.

#### 1.2.9 Cross-cutting issues

The food and nutrition security policy operationalises the mainstreaming processes as guided by respective national policies and strategies in the following cross-cutting issues:

##### 1.2.9.1 HIV and AIDS

HIV and AIDS negatively affect productivity, economic growth, compromises the immune system and increases the susceptibility of those affected resulting in low food intake, mal-absorption and metabolic alterations. The policy will be implemented with full recognition of the national HIV and AIDS policy and strategic framework and the other sector policy documents.

##### 1.2.9.2 Environment

The policy recognizes the existence of the National Environmental Policy and advocates participation of all stakeholders in sound management, conservation and utilization of natural resources and the environment to achieve increased but sustainable productivity and development now and in the future.

##### 1.2.9.3 Gender equity and empowerment

The national gender policy and the national gender programme, stipulates that equality and equity must be promoted in all food and nutrition security initiatives to ensure improved nutritional status and health for women, children and men. Efforts shall be devoted to improving women's social status relative to that of men in all aspects of food and nutrition security.

#### 1.2.9.4 Science and Technology

The government recognizes the low content of science and technology in national economic development programmes as a barrier to economic growth and therefore exacerbates poverty. Priorities will be given to improving the capacity and capability of the national system for science and technology, intensified promotion and transfer of technologies to key livelihood systems and increased investment in research and development.



## CHAPTER 2

### 2.0 POLICY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 2.1 Overall Goal of Food and Nutrition Security Policy

The long-term goal of this policy is to significantly improve the food and nutrition security of the population. The goal implies a rapid and substantial reduction in the degree and severity of malnutrition, in all its forms, i.e., chronic and acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among the men, and women, boys and girls, especially under-fives, expectant and lactating mothers of the population.

##### 2.1.1 The concept of food security implies that:

- (a) All Malawians at all times have both physical and economic access to enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life;
- (b) The ways in which food is produced and distributed should be environmentally friendly and sustainable;
- (c) Both the production and consumption of food are governed by social values that are just and equitable as well as moral and ethical;
- (d) The ability to acquire food is ensured;
- (e) The food is nutritionally adequate and personally and culturally acceptable;
- (f) The food is obtained in a manner that upholds human dignity.

##### 2.1.2 Primary Objective of Food Security

The primary objective of **Food Security**, is to guarantee that all men, women, boys and girls, especially under-fives in Malawi have, at all times, physical and economic access to sufficient nutritious food required to lead a healthy and active life.

##### 2.1.3 The concept of nutrition security implies that:

- a) Healthy food choices and lifestyles, are easy choices for all Malawians;
- b) There is absence of all forms of malnutrition that is, protein-energy, micronutrient and over-nutrition;
- c) All Malawians should have access to services for the prevention, timely treatment and proper management of malnutrition and infectious diseases;
- d) Good nutrition and its role in the context of a healthy lifestyle is a fundamental part of achieving social justice and poverty reduction.

##### 2.1.4 Primary Objective of Nutrition Security

The primary objective of **Nutrition Security** is to significantly improve health and nutritional status to lead an active healthy life and reduce the burden of diet-related, illness, deaths and disability among men, women, boys and girls living in Malawi.

## CHAPTER 3

### 3.0 SUSTAINABLE FOOD AVAILABILITY

#### 3.1 Food availability:

In this policy, food availability refers to food that is sufficient in appropriate quantities and qualities supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid). Thus, factors determining **Food availability** include the following:

- Available food stocks of the Malawi Six Food groups (farm level, commercial, and government stocks).
- The volume and stability of the production of foods based on the Malawi Six Food Groups (subsistence and market oriented production).
- Food imports (commercial and food aid).

#### 3.2 To ensure availability of food in sufficient quantities, adequate quality and variety through production, purchase, trade and donations to meet demands of all Malawians at all times.

##### 3.2.1 Increase food availability in terms of quantity and quality that is accessible to all households at all times

###### **Strategies**

- 3.2.1.1 Promote contract farming for agricultural production development
- 3.2.1.2 Strengthen management and maintain adequate stocks of the Strategic Grain Reserves
- 3.2.1.3 Diversify the types of food stored in strategic food reserves at community and national level to include foods from all the six groups

##### 3.2.2 Promote irrigation development and integrated water resources management.

###### **Strategies**

- 3.2.2.1 Create conducive environment for the private sector investment and local community participation in irrigation development
- 3.2.2.2 Facilitate investments in rainwater harvesting and water management
- 3.2.2.3 Encourage use of lakes, rivers, and underground water resources for irrigation
- 3.2.2.4 Encourage sustainable utilization of wetlands for agricultural use

##### 3.2.3 Increase access to agricultural inputs.

###### **Strategies**

- 3.2.3.1 Ensure stability of fertiliser supply (e.g. maintain a fertilizer buffer stock as necessary)
- 3.2.3.2 Encourage domestic production of high quality improved varieties
- 3.2.3.3 Promote establishment of community seed banks for easy access and sustainability

### 3.2.4 Promote crop protection

#### **Strategies**

- 3.2.4.1 Encourage farmers to follow appropriate cultural and management practices
- 3.2.4.2 Encourage Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for crop protection as a way of safeguarding farming systems and maintaining a productive economy
- 3.2.4.3 Facilitate storage pest management

### 3.2.5 Promote animal power and farm mechanization

#### **Strategies**

- 3.2.5.1 Increase access to drought animals and animal drawn implements
- 3.2.5.2 Expand training and utilization of animal power
- 3.2.5.3 Facilitate access to tractors and tractor-mounted implements especially for farmer organizations and groups

### 3.2.6 Increase access to credit by female and male farmers

#### **Strategies**

- 3.2.6.1 Support and empower micro-finance institutions (MFIs) to provide financial services to farmers
- 3.2.6.2 Encourage the formation of farmer club, associations and cooperatives to benefit from financial services
- 3.2.6.3 Develop a legal and regulatory framework for the financial services sector and micro-finance institutions

### 3.2.7 Promote environmental and land management for sustainable agriculture development

#### **Strategies**

- 3.2.7.1 Guarantee security in land tenure and transparency in land transfer system
- 3.2.7.2 Ensure implementation of the land re-distribution programme to relieve land pressure and encourage utilisation of arable land
- 3.2.7.3 Promote conservation of land and proper utilization based on applicable instruments such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), audits and land use plans
- 3.2.7.4 Enforce the regulation that requires tobacco estates to allocate a proportion of their land for afforestation
- 3.2.7.5 Develop appropriate technology and extension methods aimed at improving and maintaining soil fertility
- 3.2.7.6 Prevent water, soil and air pollution from agro-chemicals

### 3.2.8 Develop and promote adoption of appropriate technologies.

**Strategies**

- 3.2.8.1 Strengthen demand-driven research and research based extension system using participatory approaches
- 3.2.8.2 Facilitate capacity building in relevant fields to researchers, extension workers, farmers and other stakeholders
- 3.2.8.3 Strengthen farmer based organizations to improve extension service delivery
- 3.2.8.4 Encourage research, manufacturing of products and marketing of appropriate technologies

**3.2.9 Promote Animal Health and Livestock Development.****Strategies**

- 3.2.9.1 Develop capacity of livestock farmers and extension workers in production, pest and disease prevention, treatment and marketing
- 3.2.9.2 Develop mechanisms to ensure security of livestock in the country
- 3.2.9.3 Encourage the integration of livestock into smallholder farming systems
- 3.2.9.4 Expand animal health service delivery
- 3.2.9.5 Encourage adding value to produce meat and milk products

**3.2.10 Promote fisheries and aquaculture development.****Strategies**

- 3.2.10.1 Integrate fish farming/aquaculture into irrigation development programmes
- 3.2.10.2 Create a conducive investment climate for commercial fisheries and aquaculture
- 3.2.10.3 Empower local communities to manage fisheries resources

**3.2.11 Promote sustainable harvesting of natural food resources****Strategies**

- 3.2.11.1 Ensure sustainable harvesting of foods such as honey, mushrooms, caterpillars, mice, wild fruits and vegetables, etc in accordance with the existing Natural Resource and Wildlife Management policies
- 3.2.11.2 Promote the production of indigenous foods

**3.2.12 Improve the coordination and management of food aid and imports.****Strategies**

- 3.2.12.1 Promote a coordinated approach to planning and management of food aid and commercial import
- 3.2.12.2 Ensure that food aid conforms to the bio-safety and other related legislations

**3.2.13 Improve access to domestic, regional and international markets.****Strategies**

- 3.2.13.1 Strengthen private sector participation to ensure timely provision of inputs and purchase of sufficient produce

- 3.2.13.2 Regulate and facilitate agricultural markets of inputs and outputs at national, regional and international levels to ensure fairness, transparency and competitiveness
- 3.2.13.3 Expand and strengthen the development and rehabilitation of rural infrastructure
- 3.2.13.4 Establish an operational integrated market information system

## CHAPTER 4

### 4.0 SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO FOOD

#### 4.1 Food Access

Access by individuals to adequate resources (entitlements) to acquire appropriate food for a nutritious diet. Entitlements are defined as the set of all those commodity bundles over which a person can establish a command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which he/she lives including traditional rights, for example, access to common resources.

#### 4.2 To guarantee physical, social and economic access to adequate food at all times

##### 4.2.1 Promote sustainable access to adequate nutritious food and other resources at household and national level

###### Strategies

4.2.1.1 Formalize trade in foods and other economic products in line with bilateral, regional and international trade agreements without compromising sanitary and phytosanitary issues

4.2.1.2 Promote traditional and cultural practices that improve food and nutrition security for women and men, girls and boys

##### 4.2.2 Increase the purchasing power or the level of real income, for all those who depend on the market as their source of food supplies

###### Strategies

4.2.2.1 Improve market efficiencies to give the poor better prices for their products

4.2.2.2 Promote off-farm employment opportunities through economic empowerment programmes and other income-generating activities

4.2.2.3 Promote equitable distribution of income, especially for women through the improvement of their knowledge of the market functions

##### 4.2.3 Transform subsistence producers into commercial oriented producers

###### Strategies

4.2.3.1 Maximise the potential for earnings from assets of subsistence producers by helping the poor farmers to find for better markets

4.2.3.2 Promote equitable distribution of assets within the household through a clear ownership of the assets

4.2.3.3 Support producers to combat theft in rural area through expanding community policing system

##### 4.2.4 Improve delivery of social support to the poor and socio - economically vulnerable individuals

###### Strategies

4.2.4.1 Ensure transparent and cost effective delivery of social economic support functions

- 4.2.4.2 Improve targeting mechanisms for the delivery of safety net programmes including cash based transfer
- 4.2.4.3 Put in place mechanisms to remove all transient obstacles to ensuring access for people cut off from the usual channels of accessing food

## CHAPTER 5

### 5.0 FOOD UTILIZATION

#### 5.1 Food Utilization:

To achieve satisfactory nutritional status, food must be effectively utilised. This encompasses the quality of the food allocated for consumption and the biological utilization of nutrients in the body. There are a number of crucial factors which need to be taken into account when considering food utilisation which include the following:

- Adequate knowledge in food and nutrition to make healthy food choices that lead to good health and satisfactory nutritional status
- Food choices, combinations, preparation and equitable distribution in the household so all members are able to meet their dietary and nutrient requirements
- Provision of safe water and adequate sanitation, and hygiene to prevent diseases
- Availability and access to services and time to prepare adequate and nutritionally balanced and culturally acceptable diets

#### 5.2 To achieve and sustain nutritional and health status through effective utilization of food at all household, community and national levels

##### 5.2.1 Promote food and dietary diversification and modification through increasing variety of food necessary at national levels

###### **Strategies**

- 5.2.1.1 Support production and utilization of indigenous fruits and vegetables, legumes, oilseed crops, staples, livestock and fish
- 5.2.1.2 Support management and use of wild animals
- 5.2.1.3 Promote research, extension and training in cost-effective technologies in food preparation, processing, preservation and storage

##### 5.2.2 Promote adoption of appropriate diet and healthy lifestyles

###### **Strategies**

- 5.2.2.1 Develop comprehensive dietary guidelines
- 5.2.2.2 Develop appropriate and comprehensive nutrition, health education and communication strategy
- 5.2.2.3 Facilitate nutrition counselling and support for specific conditions especially for those living with HIV and AIDS
- 5.2.2.4 Strengthen institutions to conduct research and training in nutrition and food technology



- 5.2.3 Promote the control, prevention and treatment of micronutrient deficiency disorders particularly those caused by Vitamin A, iodine and iron deficiencies.

**Strategies**

- 5.2.3.1 Encourage production and consumption of micronutrient rich foods.
- 5.2.3.2 Develop and enforce mandatory guidelines on food fortification
- 5.2.3.3 Strengthen supplementation of micronutrients in under-five children, school-aged children, and pregnant and postpartum mothers
- 5.2.3.4 Promote community based technologies for fortification

- 5.2.4 Promote control, prevention and treatment of diseases that have direct impact on nutrition and health status

**Strategies**

- 5.2.4.1 Facilitate the implementation of the Essential Health Package
- 5.2.4.2 Strengthen counselling services for management of nutrition-related diseases especially for symptoms of common HIV and AIDS related illnesses
- 5.2.4.3 Provide counselling services on infant and young child feeding especially in the context of HIV and AIDS
- 5.2.4.4 Encourage early health care seeking behaviours among all people who are sick, especially those living with HIV and AIDS
- 5.2.4.5 Facilitate dissemination of information and support to clients on medical treatment (including ARV) to ensure adherence
- 5.2.4.6 Facilitate implementation of water supply and sanitation programmes
- 5.2.4.7 Promote and support palliative care and community coping mechanisms for HIV-positive and affected households
- 5.2.4.8 Promote implementation of national guidelines for management of moderate and severe malnutrition

- 5.2.5 Increase access and availability of services and information to prevent consumers from health hazards

**Strategies**

- 5.2.5.1 Review and enforce national legislation and regulations according to the international Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreements
- 5.2.5.2 Establish comprehensive food-control systems at all levels that include risk analysis to ensure safety in the entire food chain
- 5.2.5.3 Regulate development and use of modern biotechnology including Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Genetically Engineered Seeds and Substances (GESS) in order to enhance bio safety

- 5.2.6 Promote the consumption of adequate food in both quality and quantity to meet nutritional needs for rural and urban households with special emphasis on vulnerable groups

**Strategies**

- 5.2.6.1 Facilitate the implementation of the national nutrition strategy.
- 5.2.6.2 Strengthen the implementation of the School Health and Nutrition programme
- 5.2.6.3 Build capacity for communities to adequately care for the socio-economically deprived and the nutritionally vulnerable groups

## CHAPTER 6

### 6.0 STABILITY IN FOOD AND NUTRITION

#### 6.1 Food stability

To be food secure, a population, household, or individual must have access to adequate food **at all times**. They should not be at risk of losing access to food as a consequence of an economic or climatic crisis or seasonal food variations. The concept of stability can therefore refer to both availability and access to food.

#### 6.2 To guarantee that every individual has adequate and nutritious food that is accessible at the required time and in useable form.

##### 6.2.1 Improve the management of disasters

###### **Strategy**

6.2.1.1 Promote a coordinated approach to disaster preparedness and management

6.2.1.2 Ensure allocation of adequate resources to disaster management

6.2.1.3 Improve system of assessing possibilities of a shock

## CHAPTER 7

### 7.0 FOOD AND NUTRITION INFORMATION SYSTEMS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

#### 7.1 Background

Food and nutrition security information is a necessary element of the national goal of reducing food insecurity and malnutrition since it helps in decision making, policy and program interventions. In Malawi, there are several food security and nutrition related information systems currently being used by sectoral ministries and other Non Governmental Organisations without any proper coordination. These information domains include the following:

- (a) Agricultural statistics (crop production estimates, gender based, livestock census, agriculture census input/output market prices, coping mechanisms);
- (b) Health and nutrition information (nutrition indicators, health statistics);
- (c) Population statistics;
- (d) Demographic and Health statistics
- (e) Macro-economic information (national accounts, trade statistics, exchange rates, inflation);
- (f) Natural resources information (land, water, meteorology, environmental factors)
- (g) Market information systems; and
- (h) Other institutional arrangements for specific collection, analysis and dissemination of food and nutrition information such as the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC), Health Information System (HIS), Integrated Household Survey (IHS) and the Malawi Socio-Economic Database (MASEDA) need to be recognized and enhanced to support this integrated monitoring system.

The above domains are in different sectoral Ministries and are managed separately. This monitoring and evaluation system will coordinate the management of all the food and nutrition security data and information. It will also serve to provide all the relevant stakeholders with up to date information on the implementation status of the food and nutrition security policy based on the implementation plan to be developed as part of this policy.

#### 7.2 To harmonise and improve Food and Nutrition Security Information Systems (FNSIS) for evidence based interventions

##### 7.2.1 Enhance monitoring and evaluation through proper management of information systems at all levels

###### **Strategies**

- 7.2.1.1 Update the existing institutional structures and systems for food and nutrition security data collection, analysis and management

- 7.2.1.2 Strengthen institutional set-up and capacities to produce, analyse and disseminate information
- 7.2.1.3 Facilitate in-depth analysis on the quality and optimal quantity of information for decision-making
- 7.2.1.4 Improve technical infrastructure and skills for data collection and management and stimulate demand for information
- 7.2.1.5 Support creation of information products that are appropriate, timely and demand-driven
- 7.7.1.6 Encourage utilisation of properly and accurately analysed prevailing information for decision making by key stakeholders
- 7.2.1.7 Facilitate development of appropriate linkages between decentralized decision-making at district and national levels
- 7.2.1.8 Strengthen tracking and monitoring of food and nutrition surveillance systems
- 7.2.1.9 Evaluate the impact of on going food and nutrition security programmes
- 7.2.1.10 Establish a communication strategy to ensure a shared vision and understanding of the policy

## CHAPTER 8

### 8.0 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

#### 8.1 Background

To effectively plan and implement the **Food and Nutrition Security Policy** as well as monitor and evaluate its progress a strong infrastructure within Government is required. If we are to guarantee the implementation of the policies and programmes of food and nutrition security, it is necessary to guarantee the coordination, not only of government institutions, but also of all actors involved in the food and nutrition economy.

A National Food and Nutrition Security Committee will be established to bring together and coordinate food and nutrition security issues currently being handled by different government institutions. The committee will report to Cabinet Committee on Food and Nutrition chaired by the President.

The Chief Secretary for the Public Service will chair the National Food and Nutrition Security Committee. The Ministry of Agriculture will provide the Technical Secretariat.

The Committee shall comprise of the following:-

➤ Government

- i. OPC (chair)
- ii. Ministry of Agriculture
- iii. Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
- iv. Ministry of Finance
- v. Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare and Community Services
- vi. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
- vii. Ministry of Trade and Private Sector Development
- viii. Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs
- ix. Ministry of Health
- x. Ministry of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment
- xi. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Service
- xii. Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
- xiii. Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS
- xiv. National Statistical Office (NSO)
- xv. Ministry of Water Development
- xvi. Ministry of Industry and Technology Development

➤ Parastatals and NGOs:

- i. ADMARC
- ii. NFRA
- iii. MCCCCI
- iv. CISANET
- v. NASFAM

➤ Donor Agencies

- i. One representative of the donors
- ii. One representative of UN agencies

The following will be the functions of the committee:

- i) Collate existing knowledge and scientific evidence for food and nutrition policy periodic review and implementation
- ii) Coordinate implementation of food and nutrition policy
- iii) Monitor and evaluate implementation of food and nutrition policy
- iv) Coordinate impact assessment of food and nutrition interventions
- v) Coordinate development of dietary and nutrition guidelines
- vi) Facilitate information sharing and dissemination
- vii) Coordinate resource allocation to food and nutrition security
- viii) Monitor adequacy of sectoral budget lines and ensure adherence to utilisation according to allocations
- ix) Solicit technical support at all phases, where necessary, during implementation of the food and nutrition security policy

## FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

