

Mapping and analysis policies to inform food security and nutrition planning: Towards more coherent and cross-sectoral policies

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Why this learning lab?

Rationale and objectives

Political momentum for better “policy coherence” for FSN

- At the **Second International Conference on nutrition (ICN2)** in November 2014 world leaders call for greater policy coherence to ensure that policies, strategies and activities of each relevant sector contribute to and reinforce the work of other sectors in reducing malnutrition rather than undermine it (Rome Declaration on Nutrition, 2014).
- One year later in September 2015, they also called for enhancing “policy coherence for sustainable development” in the implementation of **the new Agenda 2030 and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals** (Target 17. 14).
- In 2016, the **Decade for Action on Nutrition** is announced and the **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is promoting policy convergence of multiple sectors as well as policy coherence for ensuring contribution of food systems to improved nutrition.

But...knowledge and research gaps limit informed policy decision-making

- Information systems for Food Security and Nutrition often focus on surveillance of outcomes
 - Few analyses of policies to inform decision-making on food security and nutrition
 - Poor monitoring and evaluation of policies:
 - Which policies are in place which influence FSN?
 - Are they actually implemented?
 - Is their impact evaluated?
- Can researchers help?

Objectives for the Learning Lab

- Sensitize on the **importance of policy coherence** to promote nutrition-sensitive food systems
- Bring **attention to current efforts** in terms of policy mapping and analysis to inform policy decision
- Identify **priority research areas** related to policy coherence, mapping and analysis for nutrition-sensitive food systems
- Suggest **recommendations** on how to support greater linkages between research and policy to ensure research effectively informs policy-making on food security and nutrition.

Getting started...

What is policy coherence?

In general:

“Policy coherence refers to consistency, comprehensiveness and harmonious-compatible outcomes across policy areas and sectors without compromising the integrity of policymakers’ goals” (Dubé et al, 2014).

Applied to food security and nutrition:

“The core of any strategy for policy coherence is to agree on common policy objectives aiming to address both sectoral policies and food security and nutrition related challenges in a coordinated and consistent manner” (Hawkes, 2015).

Some questions...

- Why is policy coherence important?
 - Provide one example of policy incoherence and its implications for food security and nutrition
 - Why is policy coherence difficult?
 - Identify 3 main reasons why ensuring policy coherence is difficult
- *Break out in groups of 6 to discuss these questions*

Examples of policy incoherence (*group work results*) -1/3

- Budget is often not coherent with policies
- Sectoral policies are often not coherent: e.g. Ag policy mentions nutrition but not coordinated with nutrition policy led by health sector
- Brazil : example of coherent multi-sectoral policy framework
- Ethiopia: Nutrition policy. While 9-11 sectors are involved there are incoherence among policies due to different stakeholders
- Uganda: while government ratified nutrition policy there is often inconsistent implementation across sectors
- Ethiopia: water harvesting introduced by MoANR (e.g. materials distributed) – unexpected consequence: malaria → MoH covered water harvesting holes

Examples of policy incoherence (*group work results*) -2/3

- Australia: While addressing overnutrition, NCDs, diabetes there is very little policy focus on production of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Zambia: SUN country – Problem is lack of nutritionists. While training programme are in place, government positions are frozen making recruitment impossible.
- Ethiopia: dairy sector policy states to ensure safe dairy products throughout value chain but problem of Aflatoxin in milk due to problems in processing of animal feed.
- Ethiopia policy with regards to pastoralists: settlement policy and shift to agro-pastoralism. Not done in consultation with pastoralists → erodes livelihoods
- Commercial investments vs. food security goal: while focusing on cash crops to generate foreign exchange (e.g. coffee, sesame) there is no promotion of investments on staple crops for FS of population

Examples of policy incoherence (*group work results*) -3/3

- Lack of implementation – e.g. little implementation of regulation of marketing of unhealthy foods, esp. to young people / improper advertising on benefits for child development
- Push for multi-sectoral collaboration → e.g. training of extension workers on nutrition but no consideration for their time → disruption to system
- Nepal: commitment by government to improve nutrition via multi-sectoral plan but MoAg pushing productivity of limited staple crops (e.g. subsidies, seed, extension) and not on more nutritious crops.

Why is policy coherence difficult ? (*group work results*)

- Too many sectors with different interests involved and pursuing different agendas
- Different donor agendas
- Difficulty to bring different stakeholders together and plan together
- Short political office of politicians → short-term vision
- Coordination and communication gaps between ministries
- Planning: not enough time for research and analysis
- Lack of resources
- Knowledge gap of policy makers and implementers
- Limited synergy between stakeholders
- Lack of public participation (top-down policy making)
- Lack of political commitment
- Trade/foreign exchange vs. food security
- Political instability → turnover, changes in policy, etc.

Tackling trade-offs and create win-win between sector policies

Trade-offs can be:

- Across domains (e.g. economic vs social/nutrition objectives)
- Between current and long-term objectives (Sustainable development goal, possible shocks)

They can be unintentional or intentional implying respective responses:

- Increasing the knowledge and understanding vis-à-vis trade-offs
- Identifying political interest that deliberately create and maintain such policy incoherence

Key concepts on FSN and nutrition-sensitive food systems and their relevance for policy coherence

What do food systems encompass?

In fact, **food systems** encompass all the people, institutions and processes by which agricultural products are produced, processed, and brought to consumers (FAO SOFA 2013).

Food systems include both the activities (production, storage, processing, trade and marketing, preparation, consumption, ...) and the **context** in which these activities take place.

Activities are driven by **the behavior of a set of actors** (farmers, processors, traders, consumers, policy makers and officials in government and non-governmental organizations) which have differential access to power and resources, and respond to opportunities, risks and constraints imposed by the context including the public policy.

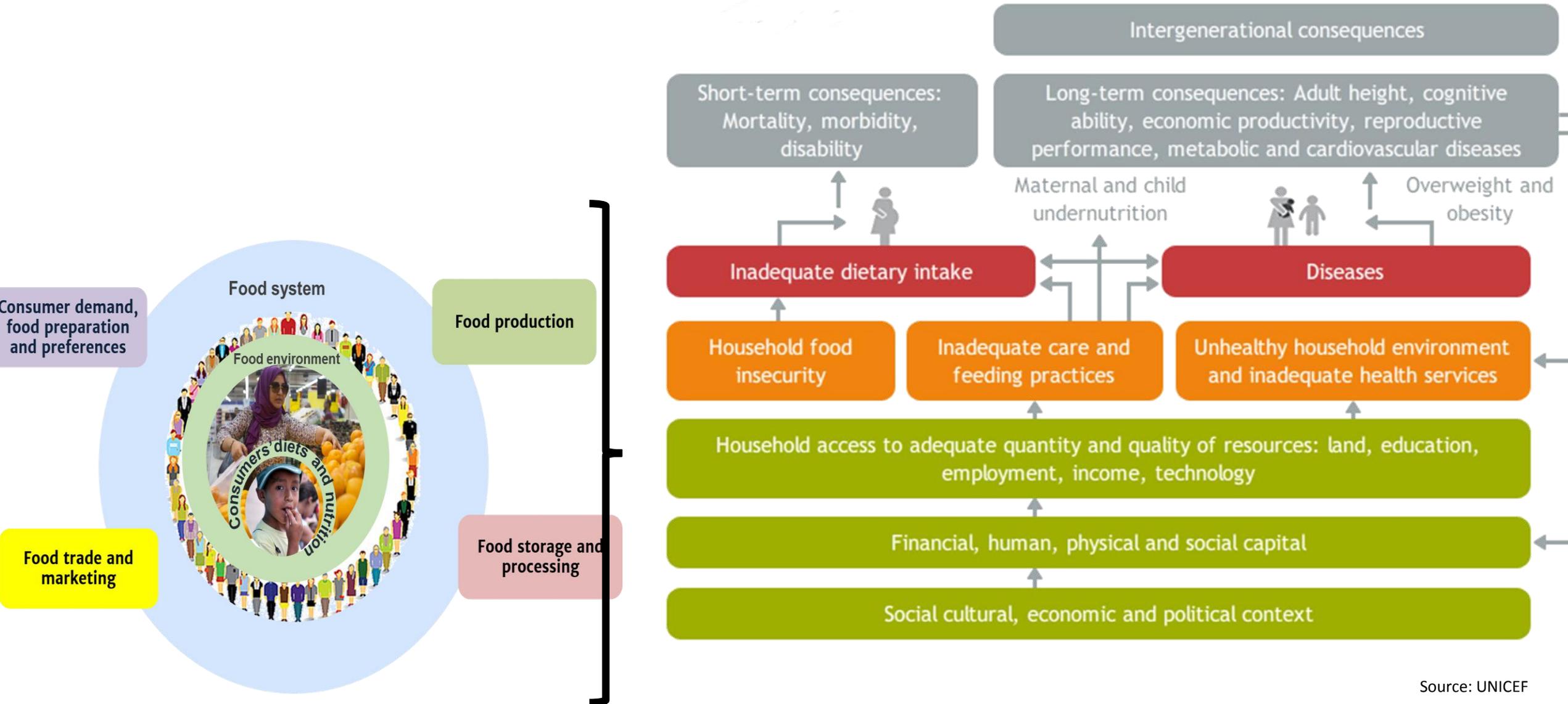


Four main functions of food system

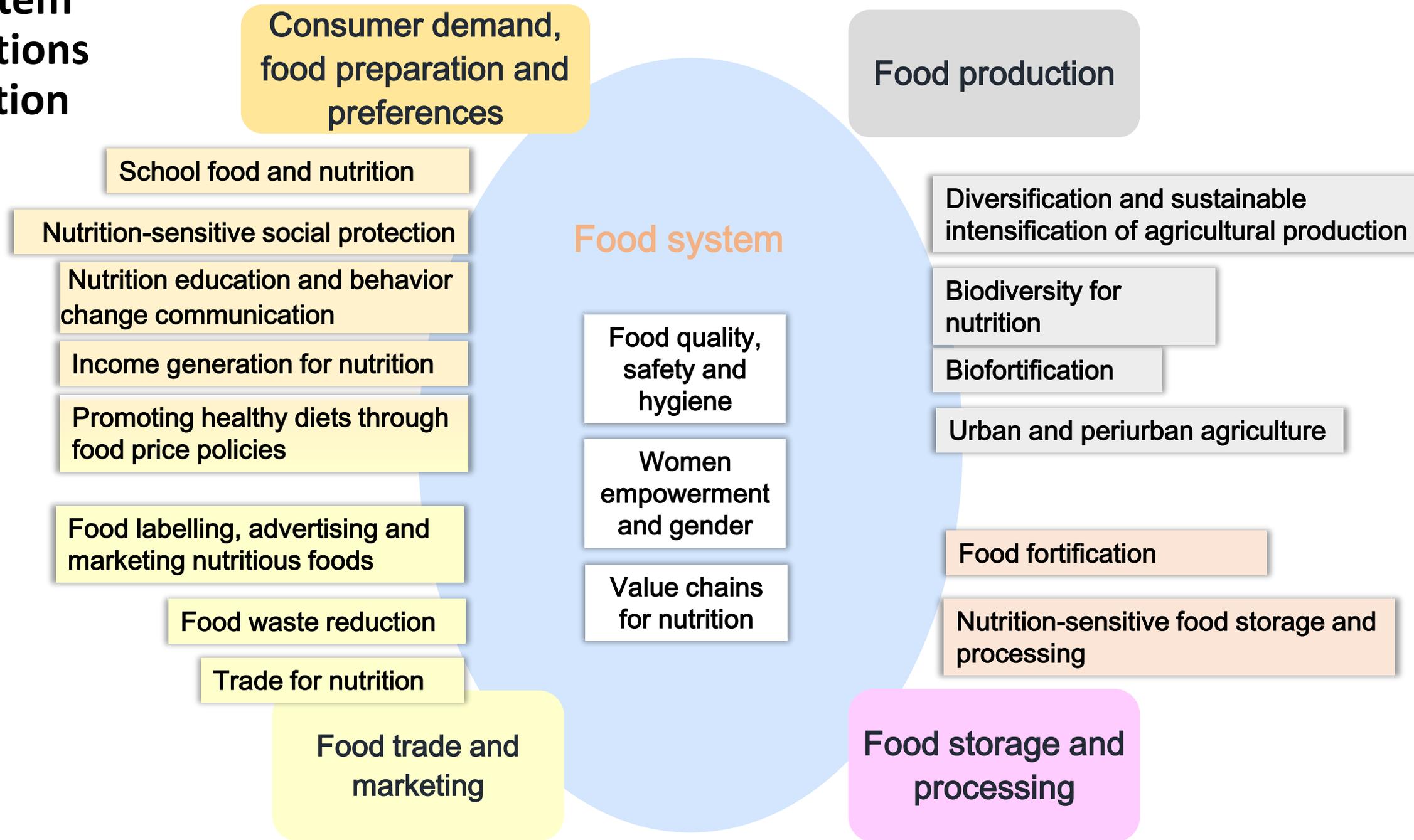
Food system functions determine availability, affordability, convenience and desirability of various foods - in other words the **food environment** - and thus the **behavior of consumers**. Through the food environment, the food system influences consumers' diets and nutritional status.



Food systems affect the various causes of malnutrition



Food system interventions for nutrition



Examples of trade-offs between economic and nutrition objectives

Consumer demand, food preparation and preferences

Undermining policies for resource (including land) redistribution that might reduce inequality and increase purchasing power **VERSUS** economic considerations

Food trade and marketing

Importation of foods and beverage high in sugar and fat **VERSUS** nutrition objectives and promotion of healthy diets

Food system



Food production

Production-related policies in support of staple foods and oil crops and income generation **VERSUS** diversity of nutrient dense fruits, vegetables, and animal sourced foods.

Food storage and processing

Policies in support of agro-processing and retail sector that can increase availability, access and affordability of energy dense, nutrient poor foods **VERSUS** nutrition objectives

Building coherent and cross-sectoral policies for Food Security and Nutrition

1) **Sharpening focus on Food Security and Nutrition objectives** of a specific policy

(e.g. social protection; agriculture; livestock; education...)

2) **Building coherent policy approach** across sectoral policies

➤ Across a variety of sectors

➤ Between two sectors

Sharpening the focus of FSN objectives of a specific policy: Social Protection

- SP is key for poverty eradication, inequality reduction, rural dev.
- General principles for nutrition-sensitive interventions
 - Target the nutritionally vulnerable;
 - Incorporate explicit nutrition objectives and indicators;
 - Empower women and make them recipient of social protection benefits;
 - Promote strategies that enable households to diversify their diets and livelihoods;
 - Strengthen linkages to health and sanitation services;
 - Integrate nutrition education and promotion;
 - Scale up safety nets in times of crises.
- Yet, many social protection programmes do not take advantage of this opportunity
- To address this, development of a specific ISPA tool to assess and strengthen performance of national social protection Programmes with a view to improve food security and nutrition.



Towards a coherent multi-sectoral policy framework: Brazil experience

- The Brazilian government placed food security and nutrition as a strategic objective of public policies focusing on agriculture, nutrition, health, education and poverty reduction.
- The *Fome Zero* (Zero Hunger) programme introduced in 2003 focused on two areas:
 - (i) improving access to food among low-income populations using social protection instruments, coupled with the recovery of minimum wage and of employment; and
 - (ii) strengthening family farming, the main source of food supply to the domestic market.

For ensuring proper implementation – among other things :

- A series of different laws were passed to complement action such as Organic Law on Food and Nutritional Security to ensure the right to adequate food, and a law on Family Agriculture in 2006
- A new Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger was set up to coordinate the action of all of the other ministries around the national food and nutritional security policy.

Strengthening coherence across sectors: Agriculture, social protection and rural development



Findings From Protection to Production (PtoP) project show that coherent agricultural and social protection interventions can tackle poverty and hunger:

- **Agricultural interventions** can address structural supply-side constraints in the agricultural sector whereas complementary **social protection interventions** can help alleviate household liquidity constraints and enhance the ability to plan expenditures.
- Benefits at household level: improving production, strengthening risk management capacities and increasing food consumption and dietary diversity.

From Protection to Production (PtoP) project is a multi-country impact evaluation of cash transfers in sub-Saharan Africa from collaboration between FAO, UNICEF and the governments of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe:

<http://www.fao.org/economic/ptop/home/about/en/>

Four key elements to support policy coherence

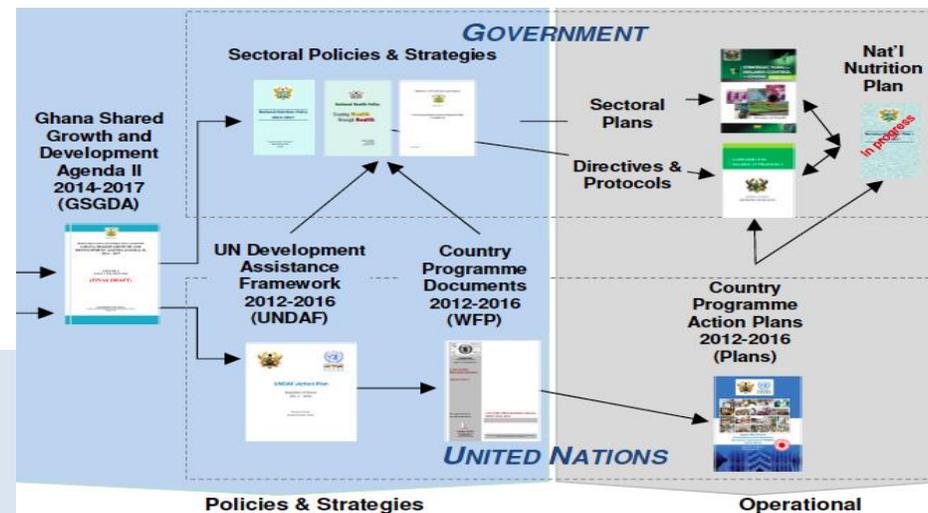
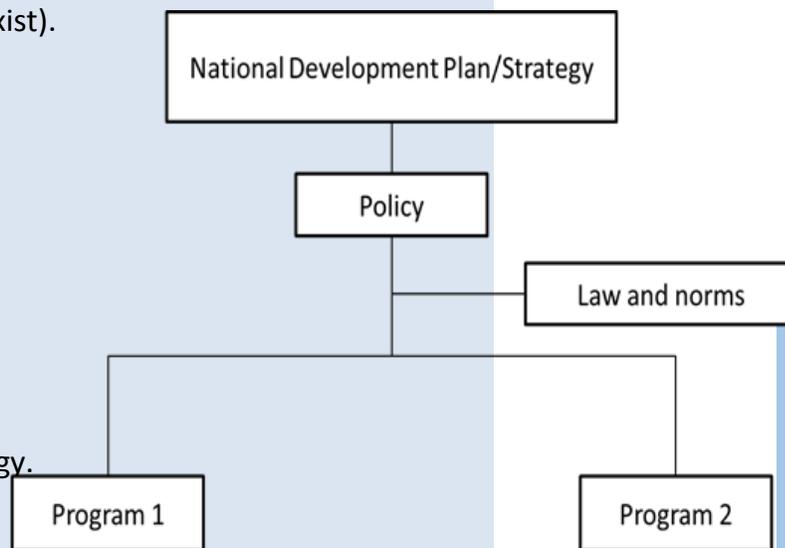
- **Better analysis of the coherence between sectoral policies and food security and nutrition** action to both enable a common understanding of the opportunities and risks
- **The implementation of complementary policies** to ensure benefits of sectoral policies are transferred to the people who most need them, and to mitigate the risks
- **Stronger institutional capacities** to enable analysis implementation and greater coordination and cooperation
- **Better governance mechanisms**, to, along with greater capacity, enable greater coordination and cooperation for sectoral and food security and nutrition policy coherence.

Examples of tools that can support policy analysis to inform coherent policy-making for food security and nutrition

Use of policy mapping

Examples of key policies to be mapped...

1. **National Development Strategy** (or programme /policy).
2. National **Poverty Reduction Strategy Plans** (PRSP) and/or Poverty Reduction Strategy.
3. National **food security and/or nutrition** strategy or policy document.
4. **National single-sector** policy and/or strategy (e.g. **health, education, rural institutions**, etc.) with an explicit objective to improve food security and/or nutrition (if they exist).
5. National **agricultural** policy and/or strategy.
6. National **forestry** policy and/or strategy.
7. National **livestock** policy and/or strategy.
8. National **fisheries/aquaculture** policy and/or strategy.
9. National **environmental** policy and/or strategy.
10. **Land** policy and/or strategy.
11. Natural Resources policy and/or strategy.
12. Climate Change policy and/or strategy.
13. National **social protection** policy and/or strategy.
14. **National Disaster Risk Reduction /Management** policy and/or strategy.
15. **Agriculture Extension** policy and/or strategy.
16. **Trade** policy and/or strategy.
17. **Occupational Safety and Health** policy/strategy and programme documents
18. **Private sector development** policy and/or strategy.
19. National policy and/or strategy for **Cooperatives and Farmer Based Organizations**.
20. National or regional programme documents for **youth and/or women employment** and entrepreneurship
21. National Policy or Plan or Framework on Gender Equity, Gender Equality and/or Gender Mainstreaming



Source: REACH Policy planning overview

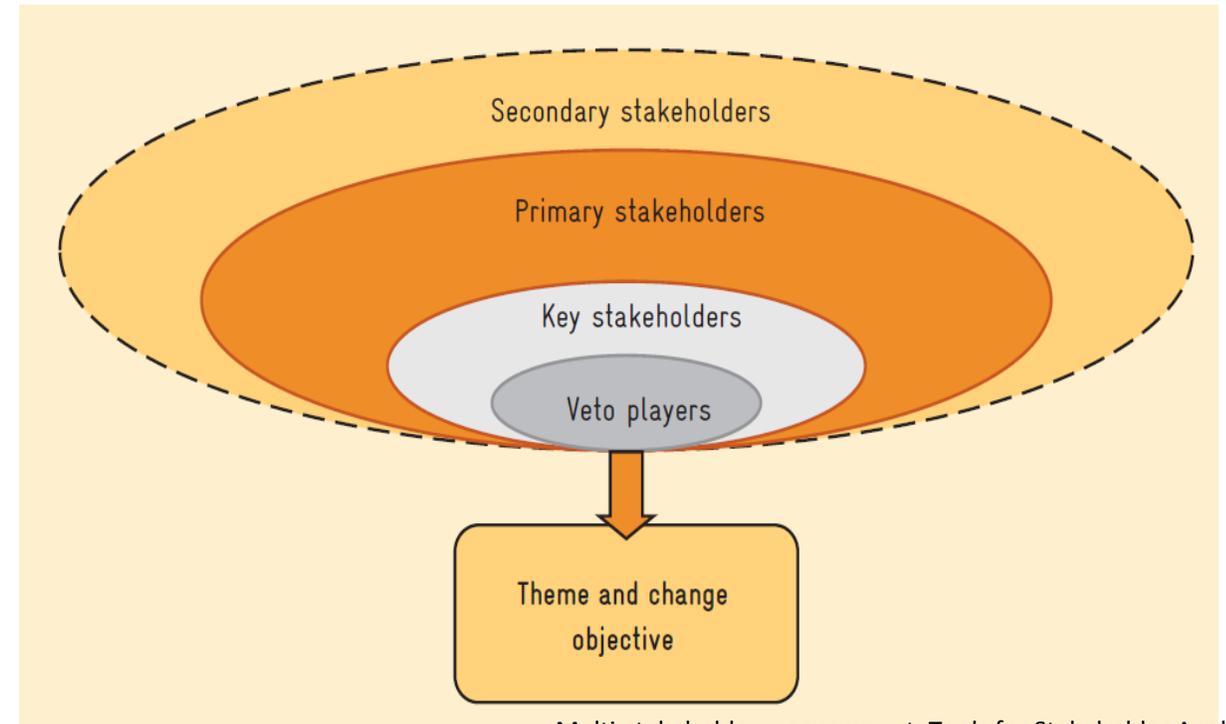
Mapping the key policies involves identifying and describing the main policies and related instruments that govern a specific sector and that have or could have a positive or negative impact on food security and nutrition

Understanding the political economy is key to understand the policy context

Stakeholder mapping paves the way to analysis on:

- what drives political behaviour,
- how this shapes policies and programmes, and
- ultimately help to identify win-win

“if a theoretically good policy solution cannot be implemented in the context of a given national or local political settlement, it is actually not a good solution.”



Use of stakeholder mapping

THE PROCESS

Stakeholder analysis is a relatively simple process that involves the following three steps:

Step 1 - Specify the issue

Stakeholders are defined and identified in relation to a specific issue – concentrating on people and groups that have a concrete "stake" in a specific issue or topic.

Step 2 - Develop a long list of stakeholders

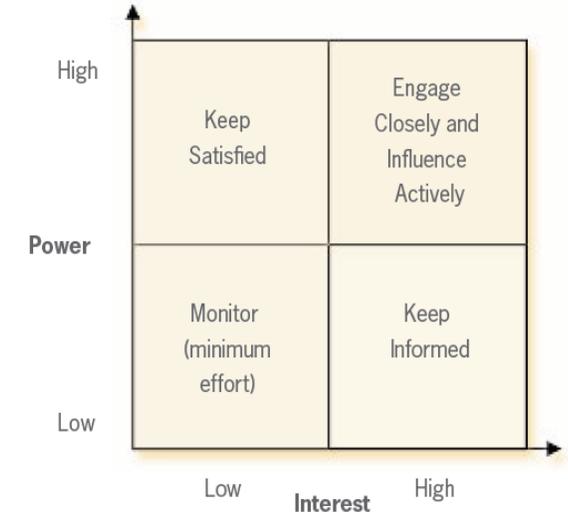
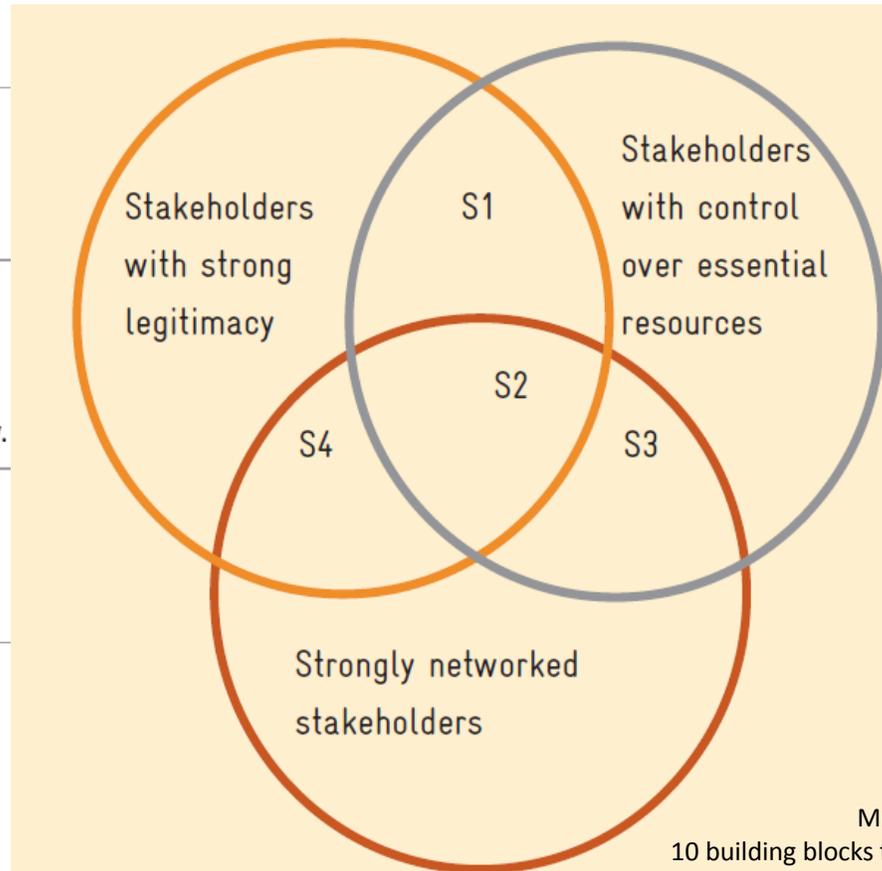
Gather a small group of informants, preferably with varied perspectives and backgrounds, to brainstorm all the stakeholders or interest groups associated with the purpose of your analysis. You should consider all possible stakeholders in the public sector, private sector and civil society.

Step 3 - Conduct stakeholder mapping

The long list of stakeholders can be analysed to determine "clusters" of stakeholders with different levels of interest and levels of influence over the issue.

Stakeholder analysis. FAO & ODI, 2010

Graphic representation of key stakeholders



Power measures their degree of ability to help or have an impact on your project.

Interest measures their degree of support or opposition to your project's goals and objectives.

Stakeholders S1 to S4 are key stakeholders. They have at least two important core functions that distinguish them as outstanding.

Other examples of sources of information and analytical works



Worldwide legislative and policy database of national laws, regulations and policies on food, agriculture and renewable natural resources.

<http://faolex.fao.org>



Interactive platform with standardized information on nutrition policies and actions.

<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/>



Monitoring tool for assessing impact of Food and Ag. Policies in Africa through key commodity and public expenditure analysis.

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/mafap/home/en/>

Fapda - Food And Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis Tool

Database gathering policy decisions collected since 2008 from more than 80 countries. <http://www.fao.org/in-action/fapda/fapda-home/en/>



Examples of different policy actions that have been taken around the world to promote healthy diets and reduce obesity

<http://www.wcrf.org/int/policy/nourishing-framework>

Some practice: designing research programmes to support coherence policy making for food security and nutrition

Two scenarios & Two policy-making situations

- A rural context: Ismail and Nayece's family
- An urban context: Fatuma's family

Two tasks:

- Informing the design of a multi-sectoral FSN strategy
- Informing the design of a nutrition-sensitive sectoral policy

➤ Four working groups for discussion

Rural scenari

A rural scenario

Meet Ismail and Nayece's family:

Ismail is a 35 year old farmer, and his wife is Nayece, 30 years old. Together, they have four children and are agro pastoralists. Over the last several years, the community where they live has suffered recurrent droughts.

What kind of nutrition and health problems do Ismail and Nayece face?



Nayece is pregnant. She is underweight and anemic.

Their eight month old child is wasted (acutely malnourished).

Their four year old daughter is stunted (chronically malnourished)

All children suffer from episodic diarrheal events.

All family members suffer from multiple micronutrient deficiencies.

During the lean season, the nutrition situation of the family gets worse.

LESSON

A rural scenario

How do Ismail and Nayece's family live? What challenges do they face in meeting their nutritional needs?

Hover over the interactive areas in the illustration.



Ismail and Nayece's food and nutrition security situation

- - We mostly consume what we produce. I grow maize on our small rainfed plots. Because of the recurrent drought, soil fertility and yields have gone down.
- - I used to grow different types of vegetables in my homestead garden, but because of low soil fertility, I decided to stop planting tomatoes and cabbage and to only grow leafy greens and okra.
- - We also raise livestock, including goats and a few cows. Many of our animals died in the recent drought, which forced us to reduce our consumption of milk and milk products, and lowered our income from livestock sales.
- - We have a small granary to store our harvest, hence we sell the majority of our maize production at harvest time, when prices are lowest. When our stocks are finished, we buy cereals on the market at a high price.
- - Women only grind cereals with traditional stones. We do not process other foods because we have no appropriate technologies, nor electricity.
- - Also, sometimes our maize stock gets damaged by rodents, insects or fungus, but we are forced to use it.
- - I wish more vendors would come from the riverine areas where food is grown year round. We could always buy fruits, vegetables and fish, especially during the lean season, and for better prices.
- - The road conditions are so bad and our trucks are not refrigerated. By the time we get to the village, half of the fresh foods we carry - fruits and vegetables and fish - gets lost.
- - When I cook, it is not always easy to keep the food clean. We do not have a water source near the house, soap is not always available or affordable and the animals always roam around the kitchen when I am cooking.
- - Food is scarce, so I reduce portions for my daughter and myself to ensure that the men and boys get enough food. I also cut out certain foods like eggs and okra from my diet, because my stepmother told me they are dangerous during pregnancy and breastfeeding.
- - I feed my eight month old child with porridge. I would like to mash it with meat or nuts, but they are too expensive. I am not sure what kind of alternative cheaper foods I could use.
- - At harvest time, there is heavy workload in the field. I will wean the child and leave him at home with the siblings.
- - I have no access to subsidies for improved vegetable seeds, while my husband has for maize.
- - My husband decides how we spend the money we earn. I wish I could buy more nutritious foods and bring more often our children to the health centers when they are sick.

Group work 1a – Rural/Multi-sectoral scenario:

- The Government is designing a multi-sectoral food security and nutrition strategy prioritizing the most food insecure rural areas in the country.
- They have commissioned your institute to conduct a policy review and analysis to inform the decision-making process.
- The key questions they wish to address are:
 - Which existing policies currently affect the food security and nutrition situation of the local populations?
 - Are these policies supportive of the objective of improving food security and nutrition? Or do they risk undermining the achievement of this objective?
 - Which may be the policy changes required to ensure the multi-sectoral strategy and other relevant policies are well aligned to support food security and nutrition objectives?

Group work 1a – Rural/Multi-sectoral scenario:

Your task as a research design team is to answer the following questions:

- Which policies should the research team review?
- Which stakeholders should they be interviewing?
- The research team will be composed 5 researchers. What should be their professional profile? Which disciplines/areas of expertise should be present in the team?
- What research methods and tools (including data collection and analysis methods) will be most appropriate to support the research?
- What time frame do you expect to need to complete the research?
- How will the research team ensure that the results are effectively used to inform the strategy preparation process?

Please note any specific challenges you expect to meet in the research process on any of the listed issues, with potential solutions if you identify some.

Group work 1a results (Rural/Multi-sectoral scenario):

Which policy areas to focus on/would be relevant?

- Nutrition and food security
- Rural development policy
- Social Protection policy
- Agricultural production policy
- Women's, youth and child ministry
- Environmental policies
- Health policies
- Infrastructure
- Trade and market policies
- Land use policies
- DRR policies
- Pastoral/livestock policies

Group work 1a results (Rural/Multi-sectoral scenario):

Stakeholders that would be important talk to:

- Families
 - What policies they know about
 - Which ones are working for them
 - Which ones are not working for them
- Community members and other HHs in the area who might be affected
- Clan leaders, clergy, other religious or cultural figureheads
 - Define the extent of the problem
 - Define their influence
- Health workers, ag extension workers, front-line workers, service delivery
- Government officials from ministries governing the policies listed above
- Traders and input suppliers, buyers

Group work 1a results (Rural/Multi-sectoral scenario):

Team composition for research & analysis	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Health/nutritionist, someone with strong quantitative skills• Agricultural specialist• Policy science – person who is a national, and who is already part of policy making in the country, planning commission• Value chains/economist, also someone with strong quant• Social scientist, social protection, someone with solid qualitative skills<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All with some background in gender sensitive policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder mapping• Investigate available data sources including bureau of statistics• Desk review of policies and stakeholder IDIs to identify<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What is feasible▪ What is most relevant them• IDIs and/or survey with frontline workers• FDGs and/or IDIs with most (potentially) effected communities• HH surveys or pull existing survey/census/surveillance quant data

Group work 1a results (Rural/Multi-sectoral scenario):

How to disseminate effectively:

BEFORE STARTING:

- Identify first what priorities stakeholders have
- Questions that need to be answered for them to support a new/change in policy
- Types of information they respond to
- Try to get as much buy-in as possible at the beginning

EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER:

- Communicate with initial stakeholders personally
- Try to create continuity in communication about mission and research and then results if there is a change-over in governance or people in power
- Policy briefs, other forms of disseminating information besides a 100-page report
- Creating social/public interest and demand for policy change
- Making sure priorities are set, so that if you have to make compromises you are still reaching the most vulnerable
- Make sure to talk to the stakeholders who are opposed to your proposed policies/interventions, not just the ones who support
- Make sure to show the economic value, not just the health value

Group work 1b – Rural/Sectoral scenario:

- The MoAg is designing an agricultural investment programme focused on increasing the production and productivity of maize. The inter-ministerial working group for FSN led by the Prime Minister's office has asked the Ministry of Agriculture how this programme will contribute to the country's multi-sectoral strategy for food security and nutrition, which includes an objective of improving dietary diversity, in particular for women and young children.
- To answer this question, the Ministry of Agriculture has commissioned your institute to conduct a of the programme and analyze how it can be designed to better contribute to food security and nutrition.
- The key questions the Ministry wishes to address are:
 - How will the programme impact food security and nutrition of the local population? What are anticipated positive impacts and potential negative impacts?
 - Can the programme's positive impacts on food security and nutrition be enhanced through synergies with other sectoral policies and programmes (e.g. social protection, health)? Which ones?
 - Do any specific policy decisions or strategy decisions need to be taken to ensure the positive impact is maximized?

Group work 1b – Rural/Sectoral scenario:

Your task as a research design team is to answer the following questions:

- Which policies should the research team review?
- Which stakeholders should they be interviewing?
- The research team will be composed 5 researchers. What should be their professional profile? Which disciplines/areas of expertise should be present in the team?
- What research methods and tools (including data collection and analysis methods) will be most appropriate to support the research?
- What time frame do you expect to need to complete the research?
- How will the research team ensure that the results are effectively used to inform the strategy preparation process?

Please note any specific challenges you expect to meet in the research process on any of the listed issues, with potential solutions if you identify some.

Group work 1b Results (Rural/Sectoral scenario):

Which policy areas to focus on/would be relevant?

- Agricultural policies /subsidies
- Health and nutrition policies
- Policies should be assessed and monitored to ensure full implementation
- Factors should be tracked (age, sex, etc.)

- Foreign investments and trade
- Interventions to improve technology
- Environmental policies
- Security and conflict resolution

Group work 1b Results (Rural/Sectoral scenario):

Stakeholders that would be important talk to:

- Ministries and public institutions: Agriculture, gender, Education, Health and nutrition
- Farmers (commercial and private)
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Group work 1b Results (Rural/Sectoral scenario):

Team composition for research & analysis	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutritionists• Agronomists• Econometrics• Ecologists• Sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key informant interviews• Questionnaires• GIS• Reviews• Focus group discussion• Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) Tool• Meteorological data• Value chain analysis• Qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods

Urban scenario

LESSON

An urban scenario

Let's meet Fatuma's family:

What nutrition and health problems do they have?

This is Fatuma, 30 years old.

She migrated with her school-age daughter and young child from the village to the slum area of the capital city.

She runs a small roadside business selling snacks, candy and other items.



Fatuma is overweight.

Her daughter is overweight.

Her younger son is stunted.

Both children suffer from episodic diarrheal events and micronutrient deficiencies.

LESSON

A rural scenario

How do Ismail and Nayece's family live? What challenges do they face in meeting their nutritional needs?

Hover over the interactive areas in the illustration.



Fatuma's food security and nutrition situation

- I spend most of the day out of the home. I eat ready-to-eat foods bought from street vendors such as deep fried pastries and snacks with sauces. This food is full of energy, and it's cheap and tasty.
- At school, my daughter eats a rice or porridge meal. After school, she is often still hungry and will peck snacks and candies from my stand.
- (daughter) Today, in front of the school, there was a free distribution of chocolate bars from my favorite brand. I like them so much!
- Without a regular source of income, I find it hard to plan food purchases very far in advance. At the end of each day, I use my earnings to buy a small amount of rice to prepare the evening meal.
- I heard the government helps poor families with a monthly cash transfer, but we have not been included in the programme.
- When I run short on food, I don't ask my neighbours for help because we do not know each other. Relationships here in the city are really different from those in the village!
- I cannot afford to buy fresh foods everyday. I wish I could grow vegetables at home, but I don't know how.
- My children sometimes get sick when we eat from foods that I buy in the market. It must be because of the unclean conditions in which foods are stored and prepared.
- The local health worker advises me to use fortified flour and oil for my children's health. These foods are only available in big supermarkets located in upper-class neighbourhoods.
- I buy baby foods from informal retailers at affordable prices. However there is little information provided on the package about their content so I am not sure they really meet my child's needs.
- My young child stays with me throughout the day while I am working. There is no preschool or day-care service in my neighbourhood.
- It is not easy as a woman to find a formal job in the food sector. Preference is often given to men.

Urban- rural linkages

- (Fatuma) Sometimes, I would like to buy millet. It is a local food from our village. But because imported rice is so much more affordable than local millet, I buy rice.
- (trader) We do not buy local millet. We only trade rice and maize from international suppliers.
- (farmer) In our village, we stopped growing millet because there is no longer any demand for this cereal. But even selling our maize is difficult because we have to compete with imports.

Group work 2a – Urban/Multi-sectoral scenario:

- The Government is designing a multi-sectoral food security and nutrition strategy prioritizing the main urban areas in the country.
- They have commissioned your institute to conduct a policy review and analysis to inform the decision-making process.
- The key questions they wish to address are:
 - Which existing policies currently affect the food security and nutrition situation of the urban population, especially the urban poor?
 - Are these policies supportive of the objective of improving food security and nutrition? Or do they risk undermining the achievement of this objective?
 - Which may be the policy changes required to ensure the multi-sectoral strategy and other relevant policies are well aligned to support food security and nutrition objectives?

Group work 2a – Urban/Multi-sectoral scenario:

Your task as a research design team is to answer the following questions:

- Which policies should the research team review?
- Which stakeholders should they be interviewing?
- The research team will be composed 5 researchers. What should be their professional profile? Which disciplines/areas of expertise should be present in the team?
- What research methods and tools (including data collection and analysis methods) will be most appropriate to support the research?
- What time frame do you expect to need to complete the research?
- How will the research team ensure that the results are effectively used to inform the strategy preparation process?

Please note any specific challenges you expect to meet in the research process on any of the listed issues, with potential solutions if you identify some.

Group work 2a Results (Urban/Multi-sectoral scenario):

Which policy areas to focus on/would be relevant?

- Social Protection programs
 - Income
 - Pre-school/School feeding
- Land use policies
- Urban agriculture policies
- Education/ Nutrition education
- Health access/Health services
- Infrastructure/urban planning
- Trade (international and local) and market policies
- WASH
- Food labelling and marketing
- Gender
- Food availability and food environment
- Community mobilization/ Community gardens

Group work 2a Results (Urban/Multi-sectoral scenario):

Stakeholders that would be important talk to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministries and public institutions: Health, Commerce/Trade, Woman development, Ag-urban planners, Education, Water and sanitation• Local shoppers, local municipalities, NGOs, farmers, religious institutions, community leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private sector, Food companies, Ag-industries• Donors |
|--|--|

Group work 2a Results (Urban/Multi-sectoral scenario):

Team composition for research & analysis	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutritionist• Anthropologist/Social science• Economists• Behavior specialists• Market urban/rural analysts• Value chain/transport• Food system analysts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24h recall• Focus group discussion,• Mapping• Nutrition Education / food labelling• Access to social service analysis• Seasonality

Group work 2b – Urban/Sectoral scenario:

- The Ministry of Public Health is designing a policy and programme to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in poor urban areas as part of its efforts to promote healthy diets. Its efforts will focus on awareness raising and behavior change communication. The Ministry of Public Health is concerned that its policy will not be effective without the support of other sectors, and it therefore has brought the issue to the inter-ministerial working group on food security and nutrition led by the Prime Minister's office and to the municipality of the capital city.
- To answer this question, the inter-ministerial working group has commissioned your institute to conduct a policy review to analyze how the effectiveness of the Ministry of Public Health's efforts can be enhanced through synergies with other sectors.
- The key questions the inter-ministerial working group wishes to address are:
 - Which policies/interventions can complement the MoPH's efforts on behavior change to promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables?
 - Do any current policies risk undermining or limiting the impact of the MoPH's efforts?
 - Do any specific policy decisions or strategy decisions need to be taken to ensure efforts to promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables are as effective as possible?

Group work 2b – Urban/Sectoral scenario (cont'd):

Your task as a research design team is to answer the following questions:

- Which policies should the research team review?
- Which stakeholders should they be interviewing?
- The research team will be composed 5 researchers. What should be their professional profile? Which disciplines/areas of expertise should be present in the team?
- What research methods and tools (including data collection and analysis methods) will be most appropriate to support the research?
- What time frame do you expect to need to complete the research?
- How will the research team ensure that the results are effectively used to inform the strategy preparation process?

Please note any specific challenges you expect to meet in the research process on any of the listed issues, with potential solutions if you identify some.

Group work 2b results (Urban/Sectoral scenario):

Which policy areas to focus on/would be relevant?

- Agriculture
- Social Protection
- Health and nutrition
- Investments and trade
- Labour issues
- Infrastructure/urban planning
- Education/ Nutrition education
- Finance
- Value chain

Group work 2b results (Urban/Sectoral scenario):

Stakeholders that would be important talk to:

- Ministries and public institutions
- Value chain actors in implementation
- Sample of mothers, community members
- Key informants for interviews
- NGOs

Group work 2b results (Urban/Sectoral scenario):

Team composition for research & analysis	Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutritionist• Anthropologist• Agronomists• Policy analysts• Education specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus group discussion (FGD), communities• Household expenditure• Value chain analysis• Stakeholder mapping• Socio-economic analysis• Key informant interviews• Mixed methods• Market analysis

Highlights from plenary discussion

- Participants realized that exercise encompasses a large variety of policies and also implies to look at specific policy areas that may not be initially considered as related to nutrition (e.g. land issue)
 - Challenging to define the scope of a policy analysis (what to include or not)
 - Mixing research methods and sequencing them strategically can help address breadth and scope (i.e. start wide, but use key informant interviews and FGDs to “zoom-in” on most strategic issues)
- Confirmed need for analysis of these policies and interactions and ensuring dialogue with key government stakeholders
- Importance to connect local level and beneficiaries’ reality with policy level, through research “on the ground” (including using social sciences, e.g. anthropology)
- Solution-problem tree approach can help bringing different stakeholders together around common objectives and establishing a shared narrative
- Understanding the different timeframes between research and policy needs and aligning research to policy process
- Adapting key messages to stakeholders (e.g. economists would pay attention to win-win economic scenari and where money goes)

Looking ahead

Key elements to move forward

- Promoting a food system approach to support policy coherence for FSN
 - Raise awareness and understanding of key concepts
 - Advocate for focusing sector policies on food security and nutrition goals
 - Advocate for reconciling various policy objectives towards food security and nutrition
- Promote greater linkages between research and policy-making:
 - Ensure policy analysis, studies and expert consultations are designed to generate needed information
 - Present research findings in a way that is easy to use for policy-makers
 - Align the research process with the policy-making cycle
 - From punctual research to continuous M&E and strengthening national comprehensive information systems
 - Participatory research methods as means to engage local populations

Key elements to move forward (cont'd)

- Strengthen capacities including of countries to:
 - Map key policies, investments, stakeholders, etc. that shape food systems
 - Analyse possible conflicts and complementarities between sector policy objectives and food security and nutrition ones
 - Identify necessary change to reduce conflicts and strengthen synergies among policies and programmes
 - Assess stakeholders' role and dynamics around sectors policies and food systems
- Building bridges across disciplines and stakeholders :
 - Creating incentives to work in an integrated manner: researchers, countries, development partners, etc.
 - Foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and expert panels to reach a common understanding of impacts, trade-offs and synergies and to identify barriers to, and catalysts for, policy change.

Thank you for your attention !

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