



MALAWI GOVERNMENT

AGRICULTURE SECTOR FOOD AND NUTRITION STRATEGY (ASFNS)

2020 - 2024





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Foreword

The government developed the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy to provide guidance in the implementation of Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) interventions for improved food and nutrition security that will significantly contribute to sustainable national development. Inadequacy in agricultural diversification and production has hampered the progress on addressing malnutrition. Addressing this imbalance between agriculture and nutrition outcomes requires a concerted and multi-sectoral approach that increases and diversifies food production and consumption among the population.

The strategy will ensure that work plans are adequately coordinated, monitored and evaluated for nutrition impact. The strategy will support implementation of nutrition activities within the agriculture sector as outlined in several national development documents such as the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), the National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Policy (NMNP) and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), among others. The strategy will further provide a platform to advocate for resource mobilization for agriculture nutrition goals, which is currently weak and mainly depends on short-term projects that are donor funded. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) will coordinate the implementation of the strategy in collaboration with Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) in the Ministry of Health (MoH). MoA will ensure implementation of the strategy according to the implementation plan and they will provide policy guidance to sector stakeholders during the implementation process.

Successful implementation of the strategy requires effective coordination and collective actions among the sectors. I therefore appeal to all stakeholders to work together in the implementation of the interventions laid out in this strategy, for improved nutrition status of the population.



Hon. Lobin C. Lowe, MP

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Preface

Food and nutrition security are imperative if Malawi is to achieve its development goals. The 2012 Cost of Hunger survey estimated that the annual cost associated with child undernutrition in Malawi is 10.3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), equivalent to MK147 billion (597 million USD). The agriculture sector is crucial to achieving food and nutrition security as the main provider of food and water, which is the primary source of nutrition. Despite this, there is no evidence-based strategy detailing agriculture's role in nutrition, so gains in agriculture productivity are not translating into optimal nutrition outcomes. The Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy addresses this by detailing the agriculture sector's roles, responsibilities, and activities with streamlined steps to improve nutrition outcomes. Development of the Strategy involved extensive consultations involving about 500 participants at all levels. Literature reviews and consultations with existing policies, strategies, and plans related to food and nutrition, particularly the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), and the National Multi-sector Nutrition Policy (NMNP) constituted the strategy development process.

Agriculture is the main income earner for the country and contributes to national and household food security and nutrition. In order to achieve food security there must be a diverse food supply of all six-food groups (staples, fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts, foods from animals and fats) in adequate proportions to meet people's dietary needs. The 2017 Agriculture Production Estimates (APES) demonstrated adequate production of the food for the Malawi population, though it is not clear what proportion of the production is destined for human consumption. The MDHS reports that only 8% of infants and young children aged 6 to 23 months, attain minimum acceptable diets and only 25% receive minimum dietary diversity. The strategy will promote diverse production to include all the food groups needed for increased access to nutritious and safe foods, and practices that enhance increased food utilization.

The sector envisions a well-nourished population that effectively contributes to national growth and development. This will be achieved through five strategic objectives which encompass the following: i) To ensure stable availability of food from all the six food groups through sustainable and diversified production; ii) To ensure stable access to safe and nutritious foods from all the six food groups; iii) To promote and strengthen nutrition behaviour change communication to ensure stable, safe, and diverse food availability, access and utilization; iv) To promote gender integration and women and community empowerment and participation for improved food security and nutrition security; v) To create and strengthen an enabling environment for effective delivery of food and nutrition interventions.



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The Ministry of Agriculture also acknowledges the collaboration and technical contributions from all the government line ministries and departments, academic institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other stakeholders at national, district and community levels who took part in the development of this strategy.



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DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADD	Agricultural Development Division
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIP	Affordable Inputs Programme
APES	Agriculture Production Estimates
ASFNS	Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy
CBO	Community Based Organization
CLAN	Community Leaders on Actions on Nutrition
COMSIP	Community Savings and Investment Promotion
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DAESS	District Agricultural Extension Services System
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordinating Committee
DNHA	Department of Nutrition, HIV, and AIDS
DP	Development Partner
EPA	Extension Planning Area
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNA	Farm Nutrition Assistants
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDS	International Development Studies
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IHF	Integrated Homestead Farming
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAD	Minimum Acceptable Diet
MBS	Malawi Bureau of Standards
MDD	Minimum Dietary Diversity
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MMF	Minimum Meal Frequency

MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCENU	Ministry of Civic Education and National Unity
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFNR	Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare
MoH	Ministry of Health
Mol	Ministry of Industry
Mol	Ministry of Information
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NAP	National Agriculture Policy
NAPAS	New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support
NECS	Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NMNP	National Multi-sector Nutrition Policy
NSA	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
NSCT	Nutrition Support, Care and Treatment
PAT	Policy Advisory Team
PPP	Public-Private Partnerships Project
SANE	Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (Feed the Future Malawi
SHN	School Health and Nutrition
UIUC	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
VSL	Village Savings and Loan
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Definition of Terms

Food Insecurity: A situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. Causes of food insecurity include unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution, or inadequate use of food at the household level. Food insecurity may be chronic, seasonal, or transitory.

Food Systems: Encompasses the whole cycle of food production and consumption activities including: agriculture input supply, agriculture production, food processing, marketing (wholesale and retail), consumption, storage, preservation, and return to agriculture input supply.

Food Security: Exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food (and water) to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The pillars of food security include availability, access, utilization, and stability

Malawi's Six Food Groups: Similar types of foods grouped together according to the main nutrients in them, as well as cultural considerations. In Malawi, the foods are grouped into fats and oils, food from animals, legumes and nuts, vegetables, fruits, and staples.

Malnutrition: An abnormal physiological condition caused by deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in energy, protein, and/or other nutrients.

Minimum Acceptable Diet: This is a composite indicator of minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency for children 6-23 months for the previous day.

Minimum Dietary Diversity: A proxy for adequate micronutrient density of foods. A child must receive food from at least four out of seven food groups: grains, roots, and tubers; legumes and nuts; dairy products (milk, yoghurt, cheese); flesh foods (meat, fish, poultry, and liver/organ meat); eggs; vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables; and other fruits and vegetables.

Minimum Meal Frequency: For breastfed children they must receive solid, semi-solid, or soft foods at least twice a day for infants 6-8 months and at least three times a day for children 9-23 months. For non-breastfed children aged 6-23 months they must receive solid, semi-solid, or soft foods at least four times a day.

Nutrition Security: Exists when there is secure access to a nutritious diet (i.e., proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water) coupled with a sanitary environment and adequate health services and care, in order to ensure a healthy and active life for all household members (FAO 2012).

Nutritional Status: The physiological state of an individual that results from the relationship between nutrient intake and requirements and from the body's ability to digest, absorb and use these nutrients.

Overnutrition: is a condition that results from excessive intake of nutrients. Overweight and obesity are defined as abnormal or excessive body fat accumulation that may impair health.

Undernutrition: Lack of one or more nutrients in the body (proteins, fats, carbohydrate, water, vitamins and minerals). Forms of undernutrition include: underweight, stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies. Underweight (weight for age) is failure to reach one's potential weight compared to age; Stunting (height for age) is failure to reach one's potential height compared to one's age; Wasting (weight for height) is failure to reach one's potential weight compared to one's height.

Vulnerable person(s): includes a person or group of persons, who for any reason, cannot produce or purchase essential food items and commodities in adequate quantity and quality; or who has or have a high probability of an acute diminished access to adequate food and nutrition due to environmental, social, or economic risks and reduced capacity to cope with them.

INTRODUCTION

Attainment of food and nutrition security is indispensable to human capital development, which ultimately affects national growth and development. The Cost of Hunger in Malawi study showed that in 2012, 10.3% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), equivalent to USD 597million, was lost because of childhood-related undernutrition. 90% of the cost occurred due to losses in productivity as a result of undernutrition-related low human productivity and mortality in the workforce. As an agro-based economy, these economic losses are very likely to be contributed by, and hampering the agriculture sector, hence sluggish national growth and development.

There is now global understanding and appreciation of how agriculture and nutrition link to each other. Through food systems, agriculture provides access to diverse and nutritious food, which is foundational to nutrition. On the other hand, well-nourished people are more productive in the agriculture sector. As a result, governments and development partners are now opting to invest in Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) programmes and interventions, and reflecting the same in national policies and strategies. Key to such policies, strategies and interventions are investments in value chains of different food commodities, increased production of diverse and nutritious foods, marketing of agriculture produce, and behaviour change communication to enhance consumption of diverse and nutritious foods. The agriculture sector therefore addresses some of the underlying determinants of nutrition, including access to safe sufficient quality food, adequate care, and a healthy and hygienic environment.

In realization of the synergy between agriculture and nutrition, this strategy provides in detail the agriculture sector's national, district and community level roles, responsibilities, and activities with streamlined steps to improve nutrition outcomes. The strategy aims to strengthen coordination and collaboration among key agriculture and nutrition stakeholders and foster efficient use of resources to complement each other's activities. Further, the strategy provides justification for additional nutrition resources and lists specific activities that need support to enable the agriculture sector to contribute to the national aspiration of a well-nourished population..

1.1 State of Agriculture in Malawi

Agriculture is the leading income earner and source of livelihoods for Malawi, contributing 28 percent of GDP, generating over 80 percent of export earnings, and employing 64 percent of the country's workforce. The 2017 Integrated Household Survey showed that 83 percent of households in Malawi are engaged in agricultural activities, more so among rural (93 percent) than urban (40 percent) households. Crop production is largely rain-dependent, with less than 10 percent of the potentially irrigable land under irrigation.

Availability of cultivatable land is limited, with the average cultivated area per household being only about 0.61 hectare. Gender-imbalances are evident, with male-headed households cultivating more acres (0.68 hectare) than female-headed households (0.49 hectare) do. Nearly half (46 percent) of households cultivate less than 0.40 hectare. In addition to limited availability of cultivable land, soil losses are overwhelming, presently estimated at 29 tonnes/hectare/year, up from 20 tonnes/hectare/year in 1992. The net effect of small land ownerships, loss of agricultural productivity, increased expenditure on fertilizers, and a general decline in profitability of production is slow growth of the agriculture sector as source of food and livelihoods.

For a long time, the production, marketing and consumption of food has largely been skewed around a few commodities, largely maize, and not enough emphasis on other foods, thereby hampering efforts to diversify the food basket. Since 2000, the Ministry of Agriculture started promoting dietary diversity by advocating six food groups (staples, fruits, vegetables, legumes

and nuts, foods from animals, and fats and oils). Through the Integrated Homestead Farming (IHF) strategy, the agriculture sector is making effort to assist communities in the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies by encouraging consumption of diverse micronutrient-rich diets.

Malawi's food production is not steady, and may fluctuate from one year to another largely depending on weather factors. Food availability is further hampered by losses before, during and after harvest, thereby reducing not just the quantity, but also quality of food available for human consumption. According to the 2016 African Post-Harvest Losses Information System, Malawi's post-harvest maize losses are estimated at 17.2 percent. Through the National Agriculture Policy, the Government already committed itself to minimise post-harvest losses through the development and promotion of improved technologies for storage, preservation, food processing and other means that ensure national and household food security.

Another threat to attainment of food and nutrition security, which the agriculture sector has leveraged on, is food safety. One of the food safety concerns in Malawi is the level of aflatoxins contamination in agricultural produce, particularly in cereals and legumes. Evidence shows that long-term consumption of foods with above maximum permissible levels of aflatoxins can result in liver cancer, immune suppression, and stunting in children. Agronomic practices have the potential to minimise human exposure to aflatoxins. The Government through the National Agriculture Policy has committed to ensure food safety for all; this Strategy spells out and supports interventions to make food safe for human consumption.

Agricultural markets are important for ensuring that agricultural commodities are accessible to consumers. In Malawi, markets are still underdeveloped, which limits the availability of a variety of foods, as well as increasing the cost of food. In addition, some marketing and trade policies are restrictive and negatively affect marketing of agricultural products. As a result, there is limited incentive and ability of farmers to increase their participation in agricultural value chains, resulting in poor access to food.

1.2 State of Nutrition in Malawi

In recent years, Integrated Household -survey data have shown that between 2009/10 and 2015/16, Malawi made significant strides in reducing prevalence of stunting (47.1 to 37.1 percent); wasting (4 to 2.7 percent); underweight (12.8 to 11.7 percent); vitamin A deficiency (22 to 3.6 percent); iron deficiency (50.9 to 22 percent); and anaemia (54.8 to 28 percent) among children under the age of 5 years. For the first time, it was also shown in 2015/16 that zinc deficiency is widespread, ranging from 60 percent in children below the age 5 years to 66 percent in men.

While undernutrition has dominated the national public health nutrition agenda, there is growing evidence of increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity particularly among women of reproductive age. Overweight and obesity increased from 17.1 percent in 2010 to 20.7 percent among 15–49 year-old women. Consequently, non-communicable disease indicators are high in Malawi, evident through prevalence of raised blood sugar (5.6 percent), high blood pressure (32.9 percent) and high cholesterol in blood (8.76 percent). A robust agriculture system is important to ensuring production, marketing, access and consumption of healthy foods to minimise the risks of overnutrition and its associated ills.

The situation with respect to diet quality, particularly for complementary foods, also looks oblique. The 2010 MDHS showed that 29, 54 and 19 percent of children aged 6–23 months met their minimum dietary diversity (MDD), minimum meal frequency (MMF) and minimum acceptable diet (MAD), respectively. The 2015/16 MDHS however, showed receding progress in that 25, 29 and 8 percent of the children met their MDD, MMF and MAD, respectively. The agriculture sector has a pivotal role to play in enhancing dietary quality among all population groups, of which this Strategy is important.

1.3 State of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Malawi

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is an indispensable nutrition-sensitive pathway to attainment of nutrition targets. If properly done, a comprehensive WASH intervention would help to reduce environmental microbe load and; reduce faecal transmission of microbes via hands. It will also improve drinking water quality; promote exclusive breastfeeding while excluding potentially contaminated non-breast milk liquids and foods among children below the age of 6 months; ensure a clean play and infant feeding environment; and providing hygienically prepared and stored complementary food that is fed using clean utensils and hands.

Malawi has made positive strides in WASH services, but there remain several areas for improvement. According to the 2015/16 MDHS, the majority of households in Malawi (87 percent) obtain drinking water from improved water sources, up from 80 percent in 2010. In terms of sanitation, 52 percent of households had improved toilets/latrines, the most common type being pit latrines with slabs. While 83 percent of households had a place for washing hands, only 11 percent of those places had soap and water.

1.4 Policy Environment

This strategy has been developed in the context of several Government policies, plans and strategies, which together aim to achieve adequate nutrition among all population groups. The Strategy will therefore enhance implementation of nutrition-programmes, especially those that are anchored within agricultural activities. The following are key policies, plans and strategies:

Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS): MGDS III was designed to attain Malawi's medium-term development goals for the period 2017–2022. The aim is to position Malawi as a productive, competitive, and resilient nation through sustainable agriculture and economic growth, energy, industry, and infrastructure while addressing water, climate change, environmental management, and population challenges. Agriculture, Health and Population are among the five key priority areas while Nutrition is one of nine crosscutting issues.

National Agriculture Policy (NAP): The 2016 NAP has eight priority areas including Food and Nutrition Security, which promotes agriculture-based approaches for improving nutrition. One of the strategies for achieving this is production and consumption of diversified foods from all the six food groups to address the imbalance between agricultural production and nutritional outcomes. The NAP also highlights food safety as an important issue, particularly with regard to high levels of aflatoxins in maize and groundnuts that negatively affect nutritional and health status of Malawians.

National Multi-Sector Nutrition Policy (NMNP): For the period 2018–2023, the national nutrition response will be guided by the NMNP as a demonstration of government's commitment towards ensuring a well-nourished population that effectively contributes to economic growth and prosperity of the country. This strategy therefore puts into perspective the agriculture sector nutrition response by highlighting strategies and activities that are within the mandates of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Process of Developing the Strategy

Development of this Strategy was a multi-stakeholder consultative process, which involved national, district and community level personnel. Stakeholders were affiliated with government ministries and departments, development partners, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, community- and faith-based organisations, care groups, farmer cooperatives and associations, youth groups, as well as women and youth representatives, and individuals with expertise in agriculture and nutrition.

2.0 STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

The literature review and consultations with the national level and district stakeholders revealed a number of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the successful implementation of the Strategy:

2.1 Strengths

1. High level of political commitment by the Malawi government, development partners, non-governmental organisations, and civil society organisations, among others. United Nations cited Malawi as having a very high level commitment to nutrition through the Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (IDS, 2016). The index ranks governments on their political commitment in order to provide greater transparency and public accountability by measuring what governments achieve, and where they fail, in addressing hunger and undernutrition. Malawi is ranked number 2 out of 45 countries.
2. Existence of food and nutrition coordination structures: the MoA Food and Nutrition branch has posts at national, Agricultural Development Divisions (ADDs), and district levels; the District Agricultural Extension Services System (DAESS) has coordination platforms at district, Traditional Authority, and village levels aligned to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) Committees; and the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) for multi-sectoral nutrition coordination. If well coordinated and utilized by stakeholders, the structures are well placed to support the agriculture sector to plan and implement nutrition activities. (See Annex 2: Agriculture Coordination Structure).

2.2 Weaknesses

1. Agriculture's role in nutrition is not very clear for some stakeholders in the agriculture sector despite extensive work being done by some organisations. There is lack of understanding by most stakeholders of the links between agriculture, food, nutrition, and health.
2. Linkages within the agriculture sector departments and between Agriculture and Nutrition coordination systems are weak. DAESS is weakly linked to the national agriculture coordination system. DAESS linkages to DNCC platforms need to be strengthened.
3. Poor resource and unstable resource allocation to agriculture and nutrition activities. The budget allocated for agriculture diversification and other food and nutrition programmes is small compared to the budget for maize production (FISP).
4. Ministry of Agriculture's oversight on collaboration and coordination of nutrition programmes at the community and district level by different sectors and stakeholders is weak.
5. MoA do not have frontline workers responsible for nutrition activities at area and community level.
6. Monitoring and evaluation systems are weak.

2.3 Opportunities

1. The Malawi agriculture sector has increased its attention to nutrition issues as stipulated in the NAP, NAIP, and the Cooperation Framework for the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and in revitalizing development of this Strategy.
 2. The Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy (NECS) is helping to identify and address barriers to behaviour change around food and nutrition, particularly for parents with children under 2 years of age as part of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCN).
 3. Sustainable agriculture and climate smart agriculture approaches promote agricultural diversification and healthy soil as the basis of plant health, which can also benefit human health.
 4. The School Health and Nutrition (SHN) programme has promising models to promote agriculture, nutrition, health, and environmental sustainability.
1. Decentralisation of activities to district level can help to ensure effective and timely implementation of agriculture and nutrition activities, if supported.
 2. Increased number of NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Development Partners (DPs), and others working at community level. Strong collaboration and coordination among stakeholders can make use of the resources available.

2.4 Threats

1. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, fall armyworm and other pests that negatively affect food production resulting in food insecurity.
2. Unless there is sustainable funding towards nutrition activities, pulling out of donor support can affect implementation of the Strategy.
3. Changes in political commitment and environment towards nutrition may have a negative impact on the way the Strategy is implemented.

3.0 GOAL, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

3.1 Goal

To achieve a well-nourished population that effectively contributes to national growth and development through sustainable and diverse food system.

3.2 Strategic Objectives

Food and nutrition activities have been clustered under five objectives and include those that were committed to in the NMNP, NAP and MGDS. Under each objective, there are several strategies, and under each strategy, there are several activities.

The strategic objectives are as follows:

1. To ensure stable availability of food from all the six food groups through sustainable and diversified production.
2. To ensure stable access to safe and nutritious foods.
3. To promote social behaviour change for improved dietary practices.
4. To promote gender integration, and women and community empowerment and participation for improved food and nutrition security.
5. To create and strengthen an enabling environment for effective delivery of food and nutrition programs.

3.3 Strategies and Activities

3.3.1 Strategic Objective 1: Sustained availability of food

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure stable availability of food from all the six food groups through sustainable and diversified production.

In Malawi there is over emphasis on production (and marketing and consumption) of a few staples and not enough emphasis on the other food groups as well as diversity within the food groups. In order to achieve food security there must be a diverse food supply of all the six food groups (staples, fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts, foods from animals, and fats and oils) in the proportions that people need to eat. Agriculture can assist in addressing several of the existing nutrient deficiencies by increasing production, processing, and consumption of these foods.

Strategy 1: Promote diversified production of nutritious and safe foods.

Activities:

1. Advocate for availability and access of high-quality inputs for seeds, fish fingerlings, and improved livestock breeds.
2. Advocate for production of diversified crops, animal foods and underutilized food species.
3. Facilitate planting of fruit trees.
4. Advocate for scale up of production of diversified foods in school gardens.
5. Advocate for scale up of integration of nutrition in agricultural initiatives such as in the Affordable Input Programme (AIP).

Strategy 2: Scale up community seed banks for diverse foods.

Activities:

1. Advocate for setting up and scaling up of community seed banks.
2. Advocate for propagation of seed for underutilized nutritious foods, e.g. black jack, moringa, tamarind, finger millet, cat whiskers etc.
3. Conduct community mobilization for setting up of community seed banks
4. Train communities in setting up of community seed banks.
5. Mobilise smallholder farmers to participate in multiplication of nutrient dense indigenous foods and bio fortified crop seeds.
6. Mobilise communities to participate in the pass-on programmes for seeds and small stock.

Strategy 3: Promote technologies that reduce post-harvest losses in production, storage, preservation and food processing.

Activities:

1. Scale up effective technologies for food storage, food preservation and food processing, e.g. use of hermetic sealed bags for storage.
2. Train communities on use of improved technologies for food storage, food preservation and food processing.
3. Train communities on food budgeting, meal planning and meal preparation to reduce food waste and nutrient loss.

Strategy 4: Promote Integrated Homestead Farming (IHF).

Activities:

1. Scale up IHF initiatives.
2. Train communities on IHF.
3. Conduct community mobilization for IHF.
4. Provide start-up materials (seeds and livestock) for IHF in communities for pass-on program.
5. Integrate IHF in care groups.
6. Develop models for aquaculture production at household and community level.

Strategy 5: Promote environmentally friendly, labour-saving technologies for improved food security and nutrition.

Activities:

1. Advocate for the use of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) for nutrient-rich soil and diverse, stable food supplies.
2. Mobilize communities and train them on the use of fuel-efficient stoves, solar dryers, solar cookers and other fuel-efficient food preparation and preservation methods.
3. Conduct community demonstrations on construction and use of fuel-efficient stoves.
4. Conduct home visits to monitor household use of fuel-efficient stoves.

3.3.2 Strategic Objective 2: Access to Safe and Nutritious Foods

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: To ensure stable access to safe and nutritious foods.

Strategy 1: Foster adequate market supply and access of diverse and nutritious foods.

Activities:

1. Conduct community mobilization, targeting households to participate in income generating activities to increase access to diversified foods.
2. Train women and youth groups on VSLs and off-farm income generating activities to obtain sufficient income for food and nutrition requirements.
3. Develop targeted initiatives to promote income-generating activities.
4. Promote linkages to markets for the urban and rural poor supported groups.
5. Strengthen food markets to deliver affordable, sufficient, high quality, and nutritious foods.
6. Facilitate establishment of community food banks.

3.3.3 Strategic Objective 3: Social behaviour change

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: To promote social behaviour change for improved dietary practices.

Strategy 1: Strengthen social and behaviour change communication for improved diets.

Activities:

1. Revise the Community Food and Nutrition Training manual.
2. Develop and disseminate food and nutrition key messages using different channels e.g. radio, newspapers, mobile vans, social media, television, among others; including messages to counteract negative food and nutrition messages and taboos.
3. Translate food and nutrition messages to local languages.
4. Develop IEC materials for promotion of bio-fortified foods.
5. Develop IEC materials for promotion of underutilized foods.
6. Update recipe books for the general population.
7. Harmonise recipe books for the under-five children.
8. Develop IEC materials for planned agricultural production for diversified diets.
9. Print and distribute the developed IEC materials.
10. Ensure food and nutrition IEC materials, manuals and other materials are available in agricultural resource centres, Teacher Development Centres and other resource centres.
11. Conduct community awareness campaigns on dietary diversity based on the six food groups using different forums and channels (including diversified production and utilization of nutrient-rich indigenous and bio-fortified foods from all the food groups).
12. Identify and utilize national champions on food and nutrition.
13. Advocate for enforcement of a law that forbids misleading and negative publicity on food and nutrition messages using relevant authorities and channels.
14. Conduct food preparation demonstrations.
15. Conduct food and nutrition fairs and open days using all six food groups, including indigenous and bio-fortified foods.

16. Conduct food recipes and product development competitions using locally available foods.
17. Conduct household visits to provide tailor made food and nutrition education and counselling, and reinforce positive behaviours.

Strategy 2: Promote food safety.

Activities:

1. Sensitise communities on hygienic food handling and preparation.
2. Sensitize communities on food selection, including those sold on formal and informal markets (including awareness on aflatoxins, salmonellosis and typhus).
3. Review IEC materials on aflatoxins management (pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest) to incorporate emerging issues.
4. Print and disseminate the IEC materials on aflatoxins.
5. Promote water, sanitation and hygiene at household level.

3.3.4 Strategic Objective 4: Gender integration, women and community empowerment and participation

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: To promote gender integration, women and community empowerment and participation for improved food and nutrition security.

Strategy 1: Promote integration of gender and social-cultural issues within food and nutrition topics.

Activities:

1. Develop guidelines for integration of gender and food and nutrition.
2. Conduct sensitisation campaigns on gender and social-cultural issues, including male involvement.
3. Identify male nutrition champions for promoting gender and social-cultural practices in food and nutrition at all levels.
4. Orient local leaders on gender and social-cultural issues, including male involvement.
5. Conduct community sensitization on youth involvement on food and nutrition issues.
6. Encourage men and youth participation on food and nutrition issues (e.g. development of homestead gardens, food preparation demonstrations and nutrition fairs).

Strategy 2: Empower women and communities to demand for food and nutrition services.

Activities

1. Conduct community awareness on women engagement in decision making on food and nutrition issues.
2. Conduct community sensitisation and mobilization on existing food and nutrition programmes and services.
3. Conduct community mobilisation and sensitisation meetings with community influential leaders (Community Leaders on Actions on Nutrition (CLANs)) on food and nutrition programmes.
4. Advocate for economic empowerment of women (e.g. through seed and livestock pass on programmes, VSLs, agribusiness, etc).

5. Link vulnerable women to existing social protection programmes such as food for work/assets, social cash transfer, food for work/assets, etc.
6. Sensitize communities to formulate, use and enforce community-based by-laws on food and nutrition.
7. Link communities to agribusiness opportunities.
8. Mobilize communities to actively participate in home grown school feeding programmes.

3.3.5 Strategic Objective 5: Enabling environment

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: To create and strengthen an enabling environment for effective delivery of food and nutrition programs.

Strategy 1: Strengthen institutional capacity to effectively implement food and nutrition interventions at all levels.

Activities

1. Advocate for establishment of the position of Food and Nutrition Assistants (FNAs) at EPA level.
2. Advocate for recruitment of FNAs at EPA level.
3. Advocate for recruitment and training of Food and Nutrition Officers (FNOs) at all levels.
4. Train FNOs on planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of food and nutrition programs.
5. Train FNAs on planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food and nutrition programs.
6. Award best-performing districts in the food and nutrition programmes at all levels.
7. Conduct learning visits on best food and nutrition programs and practices.
8. Conduct capacity needs assessment on food and nutrition.
9. Conduct capacity development on food and nutrition based on identified needs.
10. Advocate for integration of food and nutrition in agricultural extension curriculum.
11. Train frontline workers, SHN-Teachers, local community leaders, other service providers, and households on optimal food and nutrition care and practices in collaboration with other sectors as appropriate.
12. Train care groups on optimal food and nutrition practices.
13. Conduct training of trainers on food and nutrition targeting frontline staff.
14. Develop resource mobilisation strategy for effective operationalization of the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS).

Strategy 2: Strengthen coordination of food and nutrition implementation structures at all levels.

Activities:

1. Conduct joint planning of food and nutrition interventions at all levels.
2. Support integration of food and nutrition in the DAESS structures at all levels for effectively delivery of food and nutrition interventions.
3. Participate in emergency nutrition responses at all levels.

Strategy 3: Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for healthy food systems

Activities:

1. Participate in bi-annual business network meetings.
2. Advocate for nutrition-sensitive value chains with the private sector.
3. Scale up nutrition-sensitive value addition initiatives in communities (e.g. by linking the communities to already existing initiatives like COMSIP).
4. Advocate for development of value chains for underutilized and bio fortified foods.

Strategy 4: Strengthen food and nutrition monitoring, evaluation, research, and surveillance system for effective implementation of the food and nutrition strategy

Activities:

1. Review the monitoring and evaluation framework for food and nutrition within the agriculture sector.
2. Integrate food and nutrition indicators from the agriculture sector into the National Multi-Sector monitoring and evaluation plan.
3. Build capacity of food and nutrition service providers on food and nutrition surveillance systems.
4. Support research on underutilized foods (crops and livestock) and development of bio fortified crop seeds.
5. Train M & E officers and sectoral data clerks on food and nutrition indicators.
6. Advocate for inclusion of nutrient composition in the criteria for release of new varieties of crops and breeds of animals.
7. Facilitate update of the Food Composition Database.
8. Facilitate development of food availability calendars at district and community level.
9. Conduct regular food and nutrition research for evidence-based programming.
10. Disseminate research findings on food and nutrition in national and international food and nutrition research dissemination conferences.
11. Participate in the national and international food and nutrition research dissemination conferences.
12. Document, disseminate and archive information on food and nutrition programmes, projects, progress, success stories, impact reports, etc.
13. Conduct joint quarterly review meetings on food and nutrition among all agriculture nutrition sector stakeholders.
14. Conduct routine monitoring of the food and nutrition interventions.
15. Participate in the national joint planning, monitoring and annual reviews.
16. Track resources being used on food and nutrition within the agriculture sector.
17. Advocate for inclusion of all the six food groups into the agriculture and food data system.
18. Routinely document lessons and best practices to continuously inform programming.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The government of Malawi through Ministry of Agriculture recognises the importance of stakeholders and partnerships in the implementation of this Strategy. The stakeholders include ministries, departments, agencies, development partners, academic and research institutions, the public sector, the private sector, CSOs, NGOs, faith-based organisations, and the communities as listed below. All stakeholders involved in agriculture and nutrition-related activities at national, district, and community level will implement the Strategy. Figure 1 below presents a summary of the agriculture-sector food and nutrition institutional arrangements.

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

The ministry will be responsible for food and nutrition security and mainstreaming nutrition as a core priority area by focusing on improving food access and promoting diversified diets, thereby ensuring that households are food and nutrition secure. The Ministry will support production and consumption of diverse nutritious crops, including bio-fortified foods. The Ministry will strengthen value chains to improve the production, availability, distribution, and accessibility of high-quality and safe nutritious foods and will promote nutrition education for social behaviour change. The Ministry will integrate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions in its programmes. The Ministry will also be responsible for coordination, resource mobilisation, capacity building, and supporting monitoring and evaluation on issues pertaining to food and nutrition within the Agriculture sector.

The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA)

The department of Nutrition will be responsible for providing oversight, strategic leadership, coordination, resource mobilisation, capacity building, and supporting monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy. It will also be responsible for promoting nutrition education, behaviour change communication and scaling up nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions. It will also promote access to safe and nutritious foods through standardisation of centrally processed foods.

Ministry of Health (MoH)

The ministry will be responsible for provision of clinical and biomedical nutrition services and linking the vulnerable households with malnourished children to food security and other social protection programmes.

Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)

The ministry will be responsible for implementation of the Strategy at council and community levels through the decentralization policy. It will ensure the replication of the multi-sectoral approach to nutrition at the district and city council levels.

Ministry of Education (MoE)

The ministry will be responsible for implementation of the school health and nutrition programmes. It will also be responsible for inclusion of nutrition education in school curricula at all levels of the education system. It will also promote agriculture education, particularly in the areas of agribusiness and value-addition.

Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW)

The ministry will be responsible for provision of leadership and technical direction in gender programming and mainstreaming nutrition sensitive agriculture within their existing programmes such as women's empowerment, integration of nutrition in income generating activities, social protection and community mobilisation.

Ministry of Civic Education and national Unity (MoCENU)

The ministry will be responsible for dissemination of culturally appropriate and contextually relevant nutrition sensitive agriculture information for public awareness.

Ministry of Labour(MoL)

The ministry will be responsible for integration of youth programmes in agriculture and nutrition to ensure that youth are actively involved in nutrition sensitive agriculture activities.

Ministry of Information (Mol)

The ministry will be responsible for dissemination of agriculture and nutrition information.

Ministry of Industry (Mol)

The ministry will be responsible for enforcement of trade-related sections of legislation that have impact on food, nutrition, including the counterfeit law, Salt Iodisation Act, food standards as defined and protected by the Malawi Bureau of Standards, and the Code of Marketing of Breast milk substitutes. In addition to that, it will also facilitate public-private partnership along nutrition sensitive agriculture value chains.

Ministry of Finance(MoF)

The ministry will be responsible for provision of sound macro-economic conditions, mobilising resources, allocating public funds from the national treasury to the agriculture and nutrition interventions, creating tax-related incentives that encourage private sector investments in nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions.

Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources (MoFNR)

The ministry will be responsible for coordinating, integration and mainstreaming of food and nutrition in environmental and social impact assessment and management plans in view of challenges due to climate change.

Academic Institutions and Research Organizations

Academic and research institutions will be responsible for conducting rigorous nutrition and agriculture research and disseminating findings to inform policy and programming. The academic institutions will also play an important role in development of nutrition sensitive agriculture training materials and capacity building.

Development partners

Development partners will undertake high-level advocacy for nutrition sensitive agricultural interventions among policy and decision makers; provide technical support including policy analysis and implementation; and assist government sectors in mobilising additional resources for food and nutrition.

Private sector agencies

Private sector agencies will ensure that the standards in the production and marketing of high nutritive-value foods are upheld; ensure that the provisions of the Nutrition and the Right to Food and Food Safety Acts are adhered to; facilitate the processing of high nutritive value indigenous foods using improved technologies.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

Civil Society Organisations will support the government in the implementation and scale up nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions. CSOs will play a crucial role to ensuring that the concerns of communities in nutrition and agriculture are heard and facilitate for appropriate actions.

Agriculture Multi-Sector Technical Working Group

The committee will be responsible for providing technical updates in the implementation of the Strategy within the sectors and provide technical guidance to other sectors and stakeholders on issues pertaining to food and nutrition. It will also provide regular updates to the relevant nutrition coordination committees such as Multi-sector Nutrition Coordination Committee, District Nutrition Coordination Committee and other Technical Working Groups.

District Nutrition Coordinating Committees (DNCC)

District Committees will be responsible for providing technical guidance to stakeholders, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluation of nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions at the district level. It will also be responsible for integrating nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions in other relevant programmes such as home grown school meals, school gardens, NRU backyard gardens.

Annex I Implementation Matrix

Priority Area 1: Sustained Availability of Food				
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure stable availability of food from all the six food groups through sustainable and diversified production				
Activity		Output/process indicator	Target	Responsibility
ID No.	Strategy 1: Promote diversified production of nutritious and safe foods			
1	Advocate for stable availability and access of high-quality inputs for seeds, fish fingerlings and improved livestock breeds.	Number of advocacy campaigns for promoting stable availability and high quality inputs	204	CSO, MoA, MoLG, NGO,
2	Advocate for production of diversified crops, animal foods and underutilized food species.	Number of advocacy campaigns for production of diversified crops, animal foods and underutilized food species	204	CSOs, MOA, MoLG, NGO,
3	Facilitate planting of fruit trees.	Number of fruit trees planted	10,000	MoA, MoLG, NGO,
4	Advocate for scale up of production of diversified foods in school gardens.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted in schools	2	CSO MoA, MoLG, NGO, CBO
5	Advocate for scale up of integration of nutrition in agricultural initiatives such as in the Affordable Input Programme (AIP).	Number of advocacy meetings on integration of nutrition in AIP conducted	5	CSO, MoA, MoLG, NGO,
Strategy 2: Scale up community seed banks for diverse foods				
6	Advocate for setting up and scaling up of community seed banks.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	2000	MoA, NGOs, CSOs
7	Advocate for propagation of seed for underutilized nutritious foods, e.g. black jack, moringa, tamarind, finger millet, cat whiskers etc.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	1	CSO, MoLG, NGOs, MoA
8	Conduct community mobilization for setting up of community seed banks.	Number of community mobilization meetings conducted	204	MoA, NGOs, MoLG
9	Mobilise smallholder farmers to participate in multiplication of nutrient dense indigenous foods and bio fortified crop seeds.	Number of mobilisation meetings conducted	204	MoLG, NGOs
10	Mobilise communities to participate in the pass-on programmes for seeds and small stock.	Number of mobilisation meetings conducted	2,068	MoLG, NGOs,

Strategy 3: Promote technologies that reduce post-harvest losses in production, storage, preservation and food processing					
11	Scale up effective technologies for food storage, food preservation and food processing, e.g. use of hermetic sealed bags for storage.	Number of technologies scaled up	51	MoA, MoLG, NGOs	
12	Train communities on use of improved technologies for food storage, food preservation and food processing.	Number of training sessions conducted	500	MoLG, MoA, NGOs	
13	Train communities on food budgeting, meal planning and meal preparation to reduce food waste and nutrient loss.	Number of trainings conducted	2,068	MoLG, NGOs	
Strategy 4: Promote Integrated Homestead Farming (IHF)					
14	Scale up IHF initiatives.	Number of districts reached with IHF	204	MoA, MoLG, NGOs	
15	Train communities on IHF.	Number of farmers trained in IHF	500	MoLG, NGOs	
16	Conduct community mobilization for IHF.	Number of community mobilisation meetings on IHF conducted	102	MoLG, NGOs	
17	Provide start-up materials (seeds and livestock) for IHF in communities for pass-on program.	Number of communities reached with the pass-on programme	500	MoA, MoLG, NGOs	
18	Integrate IHF in care groups.	Number of care groups integrated with IHF	3,000	MoLG, NGOs	
19	Develop models for aquaculture production at household and community level.	Number of aquaculture models developed	8	MoA, NGOs	

Strategy 5: Promote environmentally friendly, labour-saving technologies for improved food security and nutrition					
20	Advocate for use of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) for nutrient-rich soil and diverse, stable food supplies.	Number of advocacy meetings on use of CSA conducted	2,068	MoA, NGOs,	
21	Mobilize communities and train them on use of fuel-efficient stoves, solar dryers, solar cookers and other fuel-efficient food preparation and preservation methods.	Number of mobilisation meetings and training sessions conducted	204	NGOs, CBOs,	
23	Conduct community demonstrations on construction and use of fuel-efficient stoves.	Number of community demonstrations conducted	4,500	NGOs, MoLG, CBOs	
24	Conduct home visits to monitor household use of fuel-efficient stoves.	Number of home visits to support the use of fuel efficient stoves conducted	21,312	NGOs, MoLG,	
Priority Area 2: Access to Safe and Nutritious Foods					
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: To ensure stable access to safe and nutritious foods					
Strategy 1: Foster adequate market supply and access of diverse and nutritious foods					
25	Conduct community mobilization, targeting households to income generating activities to increase access to diversified foods.	Number of community mobilization sessions conducted on IGAs	2,068	MoAF, MoGCDSW, MoLG, NGOs, Mol	
26	Train women and youth groups on VSLs and off-farm income generating activities to obtain sufficient income for food and nutrition requirements.	Number of training sessions on VSLs and off-farm income	3,500	MoGCDSW, MoLG	
27	Develop targeted initiatives to promote income generating activities.	Number of initiatives developed	2	MoLG, MoGCDSW	
28	Promote linkages to markets for the urban and rural poor supported groups.	Number of groups linked to markets	2,000	Mol, MoA	
29	Strengthen food markets to deliver affordable, sufficient, high quality, and nutritious foods.	Number of food markets reached	200	MoA, Mol	
30	Facilitate establishment of community food banks.	Number of community food banks established	2,068	NGOs, MoLGRD, MoAFS	

Priority Area 3: Social Behaviour Change					
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: To promote social behaviour change for improved dietary practices					
Strategy 1: Strengthen social and behaviour change communication for improved diets					
31	Revise the Community Food and Nutrition Training manual.	Number of Community Training manuals revised	1		MoA, DNHA
32	Develop and disseminate food and nutrition key messages using different channels (radio, newspapers, mobile vans, social media, television, etc.) (including messages to counteract negative food and nutrition messages).	Number of key messages developed	5		MoA, MoLG, DNHA, MoI
33	Translate food and nutrition messages to local languages.	Number of food and nutrition messages translated to local languages	5		MoA, MoLG
34	Develop IEC materials for promotion of bio fortified foods.	Number of IEC materials on bio fortified foods developed	5		MoA, NGOs, CSO
35	Develop IEC Materials for promotion of underutilized foods.	Number of IEC material on underutilized food developed	5		MoA, NGOs
36	Update recipe books for the general population.	Number of recipe books updated	1		DNHA, MoA
37	Harmonise recipe books for the under-five children.	Number of recipe books for underfive children harmonised	1		DNHA, MoA
38	Develop IEC materials for planned agricultural production for diversified diets.	Number of IEC materials developed	5		MoA, NGOs
39	Print and distribute the developed IEC materials.	Number of IEC materials printed and distributed	20000		MoA, NGOs
40	Ensure that food and nutrition IEC materials, manuals and other materials are available in agricultural resource centres, Teacher Development Centres and other resource centres.	Number of Agricultural Resource Centres, Teacher Development Centres and other resource centres equipped with food and nutrition IEC materials	300		MoLG, MoA, NGOs
41	Conduct community awareness campaigns on dietary diversity based on the 6 food groups using different forums and channels (including diversified production and utilization of nutrient-rich indigenous and bio fortified foods from all the food groups).	Number of community awareness campaigns conducted	204		MoLG, MoA, NGOs
42	Identify and utilize national champions on food and nutrition.	Number of national campaigns identified and utilized	3		DNHA, MoLG
43	Advocate for enforcement of a law that forbids misleading and negative publicity on food and nutrition using relevant authorities and channels.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	28		DNHA, , CSO
44	Conduct food preparation demonstrations.	Number of food preparation demonstrations conducted	3,000		MoLG, MoA, NGOs

45	Conduct food and nutrition fairs and open days using all 6 food groups, including indigenous and bio fortified foods.	Number of open days and fairs on 6 food groups conducted	102	MoLG, MoA, NGOs
46	Conduct food recipes and product development competitions using locally available foods.	Number of competitions conducted	204	MoLG, MoI
47	Conduct households visits to provide tailor made food and nutrition education and counselling, and reinforce behaviours.	Number of household visits conducted	7,104	MoA, MoLG
Strategy 2: Promote food safety				
48	Sensitize communities on hygienic food handling and preparation.	Number of sensitization meetings conducted	2,068	MoLG, MoA
49	Sensitize communities on food selection, including those sold on formal and informal markets (including awareness on aflatoxins, salmonellosis and typhus).	Number of sensitization meetings conducted	204	MoA, MoLG, NGOs
50	Review IEC materials on aflatoxins management (pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest) to incorporate emerging issues.	Number of IEC materials conducted	2	MoI, MoA
51	Print and disseminate the IEC materials on aflatoxins.	Number of IEC materials printed and distributed	4000	MoI, MoA, NGOs
52	Promote water, sanitation, and hygiene at household level.	Number of promotional meetings conducted	204	MoH, NGOs

Priority Area 4: Gender Integration, and Women and Community Empowerment and Participation					
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: To promote gender integration, women and community empowerment and participation for improved food and nutrition security					
Strategy 1: Promote integration of gender and social-cultural issues within food and nutrition topics					
53	Develop guidelines for integration of gender and food and nutrition.	Number of guidelines developed	1	MoA, MoGCDSW	
54	Conduct sensitisation campaigns on gender and social-cultural issues, including male involvement.	Number of sensitization campaigns conducted	2,068	MoGCDSW, MoA	
55	Identify male nutrition champions for promoting gender and social-cultural practices in food and nutrition at all levels.	Number of male nutrition champions identified	235	DNHA, MoLG	
56	Orient local leaders on gender and social-cultural issues, including male involvement.	Number of orientation sessions conducted	2,068	MoGCDSW, MoA, MoLG	
57	Conduct community sensitization on youth involvement on food and nutrition issues.	Number of community sensitization meetings conducted	204	MoGCDSW, MoA	
58	Encourage men and youth participation on food and nutrition issues (e.g. development of homestead gardens, food preparation demonstrations and nutrition fairs).	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	245	MoGCDSW, MoA	
Strategy 2: Empower women and communities to demand food and nutrition services					
59	Conduct community awareness on women engagement in decision making on food and nutrition issues.	Number of community awareness meetings conducted	500	MoA, MoGCDSW, MoLG	
60	Conduct community sensitisation and mobilization on existing food and nutrition programmes and services.	Number of community sensitization meetings conducted	204	MoLG	
61	Conduct community mobilisation and sensitisation meetings with community influential leaders (Community Leaders on Actions on Nutrition (CLANs) on food and nutrition programmes.	Number of community mobilisation and sensitization meetings conducted	500	MoL, NGOs	
62	Advocate for economic empowerment of women (e.g. through seed and livestock pass on programmes, VSLs, agribusiness, etc).	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	2,068	MoA, CSOs	
63	Link vulnerable women to existing social protection programmes such as food for work/assets, social cash transfer, food for work/assets, etc.	Number of vulnerable women linked to existing social protection programmes	500	MoLG, MoA	

64	Sensitize communities to formulate, use and enforce community-based by-laws on food and nutrition.	Number of sensitization meetings conducted	2,068	MoLG
65	Link communities to agribusiness opportunities.	Number of communities linked to agribusiness opportunities	500	MoA, Mol
66	Mobilize communities to actively participate in home grown school feeding programmes.	Number of communities mobilised	408	MoE, MoA
Priority Area 5: Enabling Environment				
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: To create and strengthen an enabling environment for effective delivery of food and nutrition programs				
Strategy 1: Strengthen institutional capacity for to effectively implement food and nutrition interventions at all levels				
67	Advocate for establishment of the position of Food and Nutrition Assistants (FNA) at EPA level.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	4	DNHA, MoLG, MoA
68	Advocate for recruitment of FNAs at EPA level.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	4	DNHA, MoLG
69	Advocate for recruitment and train Food and Nutrition Officers (FNOs) at all levels.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	4	DNHA, MoLG, MoA
70	Train FNOs on planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of food and nutrition program.	Number of FNAs trained	38	MoA, DNHA
71	Train FNAs on planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of food and nutrition programs.	Number of FNAs trained	68	MoA, DNHA, MoLG
72	Award best-performing districts in the food and nutrition programmes at all levels.	Number of award sessions conducted	8	DNHA MoLG, MoA
73	Conduct learning visits on best food and nutrition programs and practices.	Number of learning visits conducted	4	DNHA, MoA, MoLG, NGOs
74	Conduct capacity needs assessment on food and nutrition.	Number of assessments conducted	1	DNHA, MoA
75	Conduct capacity development on food and nutrition based on identified needs.	Number of staff reached	2,068	DNHA, MoA
76	Advocate for integration of food and nutrition in agricultural extension curriculum.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	4	DNHA, MoA

77	Train frontline workers, SHN teachers, local community leaders, other service providers, and households on optimal food and nutrition care and practices in collaboration with other sectors as appropriate.	Number of frontline workers, SHN teachers, local community leaders other service providers and households trained	2,500	DNHA, MoLG, MoA, MoH
78	Train care groups on optimal food and nutrition practices.	Number of care groups trained	500	MoLG, MoA, MoH, NGOs
79	Conduct training of trainers on food and nutrition targeting frontline staff.	Number of training of trainers sessions conducted	204	MoA, DNHA, MoLG
80	Develop resource mobilisation strategy for effective operationalization of the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy.	Number of resource mobilisation strategies developed	1	MoA, DNHA
Strategy 2: Strengthen coordination of food and nutrition implementation structures at all levels				
81	Conduct joint planning of food and nutrition interventions at all levels.	Number of joint planning meetings conducted	1	DNHA, MoA, MoL, MoH, MoE, MoA
82	Support integration of food and nutrition in the DAESS structures at all levels for effectively delivery of food and nutrition interventions.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	4	MoA, NGOs, CSO
83	Participate in emergency nutrition responses at all levels.	Number of emergency nutrition interventions conducted	28	DNHA, MoA, MoH, MoGCDSW
Strategy 3: Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for healthy food systems				
84	Participate in bi-annual business network meetings.	Number of meetings attended	2	DNHA, MoA, MoLG
85	Advocate for nutrition-sensitive value chains with the private sector.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	4	DNHA, MoA, CSO
86	Scale up nutrition-sensitive value addition initiatives in communities (e.g. by linking the communities to already existing initiatives like COMSIP).	Number of communities reached with nutrition sensitive value addition initiatives.	5	DNHA, MoA, MoLG
87	Advocate for development of value chains for underutilized and bio fortified foods.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	4	MoA, MoLG

Strategy 4: Strengthen food and nutrition monitoring, evaluation, research, and surveillance system for effective implementation of the food and nutrition strategy.				
88	Review the monitoring and evaluation framework for food and nutrition within the agriculture sector.	Number of monitoring framework reviewed	1	MoA, DNHA
89	Integrate food and nutrition indicators from the agriculture sector into the National Multi-Sector monitoring and evaluation plan.	Number of food and nutrition indicators integrated into the national multi-sector M&E plan	10	DNHA, MoA
90	Build capacity of food and nutrition service providers on food and nutrition surveillance systems.	Number of service providers trained in food and nutrition surveillance	140	MoA, DNHA
91	Support research on underutilized foods (crops and livestock) and development of bio fortified crop seeds.	Number of researches conducted on underutilised and bio fortified crop seeds	1	LUANAR, DNHA
92	Train M & E officers and sectoral data clerks on food and nutrition indicators.	Number of M&E officers and sectoral data clerks trained	84	DNHA, MoA, MoLG, MoGCDSW
93	Advocate for inclusion of nutrient composition in the criteria for release of new varieties of crops and breeds of animals.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	38	LUANAR, MoA, DNHA
94	Facilitate update of the Food Composition Database.	Number of Food Composition Databases updated	1	LUANAR, DNHA
95	Facilitate development of food availability calendars at district and community level.	Number of food availability calendars developed	232	MoA, DNHA, LUANAR
96	Conduct regular food and nutrition research for evidence-based programming.	Number of researches conducted	1	LUANAR, DNHA, MoA
97	Disseminate research findings on food and nutrition in national and international food and nutrition research dissemination conferences.	Number of dissemination sessions conducted	2	LUANAR, DNHA, MoA
98	Participate in the national and international food and nutrition research dissemination conferences.	Number of food and nutrition dissemination conferences participated	1	DNHA, MoA, LUANAR
99	Document, disseminate and archive information on food and nutrition programmes, projects, progress, success stories, impact reports, etc.	Number of food and nutrition programmes, projects, progress, etc documented, disseminated and archived	7	DNHA, MoA, MoLG, MoE, CSO

100	Conduct joint quarterly review meetings on food and nutrition among all agriculture nutrition sector stakeholders.	Number of review meetings conducted	2	MoA, DNHA, MoLG, NGOs
101	Conduct routine monitoring of the food and nutrition interventions.	Number of monitoring sessions conducted	4	MoA, DNHA, MoLG, NGOs
102	Participate in the national joint planning, monitoring and annual reviews.	Number of planning, monitoring and review meetings participated	4	MoLG
103	Track resources being used on food and nutrition within the agriculture sector.	Number of reports on food and nutrition resources in the agriculture sector	4	DNHA, MoA
104	Advocate for inclusion of all the six food groups into the agriculture and food data system.	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	1	DNHA, MoA
105	Routinely document lessons and best practices to continuously inform programming.	Number of reports on lessons and best practices	2	MoA, DNHA, MoLG, NGOs

Annex II: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The monitoring and evaluation framework is key for implementation of the Strategy. National Multi-sector Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will guide the framework.

Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation Framework									
Priority Area 1: Sustained Availability of Food									
Objective: To ensure stable availability of food from all the six food groups through sustainable and diversified production									
No.	Performance Indicator	Target 2020	Target 2021	Target 2022	Target 2023	Target 2024	Baseline	Source of Verification	
1	%age of children under five years of age who are stunted	34%	33%	31%	30%	28%	37%	DHS	
2	%age of children under five years of age who are wasted	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.2%	2.7%	DHS	
3	%age of households practising Integrated Homestead Farming (IHF)	1%	5%	10%	15%	20%	0.6%	National Nutrition Information System	
4	%age of primary schools operating home grown school meals	19%	23%	26%	30%	34%	15%	National Nutrition Information System	
5	%age of households owned livestock	38%	40%	41%	43%	45%	37%	Integrated Household Survey	
6	%age of children 6-23 months received minimum acceptable diet	18%	22%	27%	32%	37%	8%	DHS	
7	%age of population at risk for food and livelihoods insecurity	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%	17%	MVAC Assessment	
8	%age of households food insecure	14%	10%	7%	5%	5%	31%	National Nutrition Information System	
9	%age of population with food consumption below minimum dietary requirement	20%	18%	16%	14%	12%	21%	Food and Nutrition Security Assessment	
10	Prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity based on FIES	18%	16%	14%	12%	10%	22%	Food and Nutrition Security Assessment	

Priority Area 2: Access to Safe and Nutritious Food							
Objective: To ensure stable access to safe and nutritious foods							
No.	Performance Indicator	Target 2020	Target 2021	Target 2022	Target 2023	Target 2024	Source of Verification
11	%age of households consuming indigenous foods	95%	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%	Integrated Household Survey
12	%age of children 6-23 months of age who consumed iron-rich foods during the previous day	49%	51%	53%	55%	57%	DHS
13	%age of children 6-23 months of age who consumed Vitamin-A rich foods during the previous day	70%	71%	72%	73%	74%	DHS
14	%age of population consuming bio-fortified foods	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	Surveys
15	%age of children under five with diarrhoea	21%	20%	19%	18%	17%	DHS

Priority Area 3: Social Behaviour Change							
Objective: To promote social behaviour change for improved dietary practices							
No.	Performance Indicator	Target 2020	Target 2021	Target 2022	Target 2023	Target 2024	Source of Verification
16	%age of children age 6-23 months who received foods from 4 or more food groups during the previous day	35%	40%	45%	50%	55%	Care group register/ DHS/ MICS
17	%age of children age 6-23 months who received minimum meal frequency	39%	44%	49%	54%	59%	DHS
18	%age of population using improved sources of drinking water	91%	92%	94%	95%	97%	DHS/ MICS
19	%age of population using improved sanitation facilities	57%	58%	59%	60%	62%	DHS/ MICS

Priority Area 4: Gender Integration, Women and Community Empowerment and Participation									
Objective: Promote gender integration, women and community empowerment and participation for improved food and nutrition security.									
No.	Performance Indicator	Target 2019	Target 2020	Target 2021	Target 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Source of Verification	
20	%age women of reproductive age 15-49 years consuming 4 or more food groups (MDD-W)	31%	33%	35%	37%	40%	27%	MICS	
Priority Area 5: Enabling environment									
Objective: To create and strengthen an enabling environment for effective delivery of food and nutrition programs									
No.	Performance Indicator	Target 2020	Target 2021	Target 2022	Target 2023	Target 2024	Baseline	Source of Verification	
21	%age of budget allocation for nutrition by agriculture sector	3.5%	4.0%	4.5%	5.0%	6.0%	3%	DHS	
22	Number of districts integrated nutrition sensitive agriculture activities in their plans	5	8	10	12	15	0	DNHA reports	
23	%age of care group members trained on nutrition sensitive agriculture activities	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	0%	DNHA reports	
24	Number of food and nutrition research dissemination workshops conducted	0	1	0	0	1	1	DNHA reports	
25	Number of districts produced nutrition sensitive agriculture reports	5	10	15	20	28	2	National Nutrition Information System	

Annex III Summary of Costing of Activities

Priority Area 1: Sustained Availability of Food							
Strategies	Amount (MK) 2020	Amount (MK) 2021	Amount (MK) 2022	Amount (MK) 2023	Amount (MK) 2024	Totals	
Strategy 1: Promote diversified production of nutritious and safe foods.	150,025,280.00	150,025,280.00	150,025,280.00	150,025,280.00	150,025,280.00	750,126,400.00	
Strategy 2: Scale up community seed banks for diverse foods.	176,463,660.00	176,463,660.00	176,463,660.00	176,463,660.00	176,463,660.00	882,318,300.00	
Strategy 3: Promote technologies that reduce post-harvest losses in production, storage, preservation and food processing.	50,676,408.00	50,676,408.00	50,676,408.00	50,676,408.00	50,676,408.00	253,382,040.00	
Strategy 4: Promote Integrated Homestead Farming (IHF).	155,469,600.00	155,469,600.00	155,469,600.00	155,469,600.00	119,178,400.00	741,056,800.00	
Strategy 5: Promote environmentally friendly, labour-saving technologies for improved food security and nutrition.	202,762,592.00	202,762,592.00	202,762,592.00	202,762,592.00	202,762,592.00	1,013,812,960.00	
Priority Area 2: Access to Safe and Nutritious Foods							
Strategy 1: Foster adequate market supply and access of diverse and nutritious foods.	220,460,616.00	220,460,616.00	220,460,616.00	220,460,616.00	220,460,616.00	1,102,303,080.00	
Priority Area 3: Social Behaviour Change							
Strategy 1: Strengthen social and behaviour change communication for improved diets.	201,860,120.00	288,301,480.00	228,176,260.00	272,593,180.00	228,176,260.00	1,219,107,300.00	
Strategy 2: Promote food safety.	39,805,940.00	61,685,940.00	39,805,940.00	61,685,940.00	61,685,940.00	264,669,700.00	

Priority Area 4: Gender Integration, Women and Community Empowerment and Participation									
Strategy 1: Promote integration of gender and social-cultural issues within food and nutrition topics.	65,392,666.00	81,485,466.00	89,324,466.00	81,485,466.00	81,485,466.00	81,485,466.00			399,173,530.00
Strategy 2: Empower women and communities to demand food and nutrition services.	77,139,280.00	77,139,280.00	77,139,280.00	77,139,280.00	77,139,280.00	77,139,280.00			395,696,400.00
Priority Area 5: Enabling Environment									
Strategy 1: Strengthen institutional capacity for to effectively implement food and nutrition interventions at all levels.	118,114,000.00	150,749,200.00	149,914,000.00	134,914,000.00	134,914,000.00	134,914,000.00			688,605,200.00
Strategy 2: Strengthen coordination of food and nutrition implementation structures at all levels.	41,251,700.00	41,251,700.00	41,251,700.00	41,251,700.00	41,251,700.00	41,251,700.00			206,258,500.00
Strategy 3: Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for healthy food systems.	21,642,000.00	21,642,000.00	21,642,000.00	21,642,000.00	21,642,000.00	21,642,000.00			108,210,000.00
Strategy 4: Strengthen food and nutrition monitoring, evaluation, research, and surveillance system for effective implementation of the food and nutrition strategy.	203,131,360.00	268,417,320.00	256,114,360.00	263,717,760.00	256,114,360.00	256,114,360.00			1,247,495,160.00
GRAND TOTALS	1,658,802,556.00	1,865,045,076.00	1,769,901,696.00	1,828,802,016.00	1,740,490,496.00	1,740,490,496.00			8,863,041,840.00



Designed by
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Lilongwe

2020