



Priority Areas to Focus Towards Ending Hunger in Tanzania: Status and Strategic Directions

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I. Introduction

- This brief presentation is a summary of food and nutrition security strategic review that ESRF undertook for the World Food Programme and finally Endorsed by Government of Tanzania through PMO as the coordinating champion after intensive validation workshop with relevant stakeholders at the end on November 2016.
- **The review had three main components, namely:**
 - **Situation analysis** of food and nutrition security in Tanzania
 - **Gap analysis** with respect to Tanzania's past interventions in addressing food and nutrition insecurity
 - **Identification of future strategic interventions** needed to improve food and nutrition security in Tanzania.
- This presentation only highlights some of the key messages from that strategic review.



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2. Background

- Narrowly defined, the concept of food security includes aspects of **food availability, food accessibility and food utilization (or food nutrition)**
- In the case of food security at sub-national levels, food security includes an aspect of management.
 - This entails the distribution of management tasks between the central government and district government and communities,
 - whereby the central government functions as a provider of services, a supporter, a facilitator and an advocator, and the communities are the main actors of food security development.
- **The main problem of food security goes beyond** the narrow definition shown above. Other important factors contributing to food and nutrition insecurity are **poverty, lack of stable employment, low productivity** and, **lower regular cash income**. Hence it is important to strategize on addressing food insecurity along with, among others, poverty alleviation programs.



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Main findings from the situation analysis on food and nutrition security :

- Growth in Tanzania has failed to tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality and hence food insecurity, therefore strategic interventions to address the failure is needed.
- Growth therefore needs to be seen as an **intermediate objective, or more properly a tool, in achieving wider results.**
- What is crucial is to address the quality of growth and in particular to **improve its inclusiveness.**



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- **Inclusive growth starts from the position that:**
 - The relationship between **growth, inequality, poverty and unemployment** should no longer be assumed inevitably to be trickling down or a trade-off.
 - The inclusive growth strategy recognizes that efforts to tackle poverty, inequality and unemployment and promote growth and their linkage to food and nutrition security can be mutually reinforcing, but this is not automatic and active government is needed to reinforce and manage these relationships among the three.
 - Inclusive growth **requires sustainable growth**, which is intimately/closely linked to the **overall concept of sustainable development**.
 - The current scale of threats to sustainable development from climate change and other forms of environmental degradation means that economic growth now needs to be both socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable to achieve long-term human development benefits.



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3. Broader Strategic Directions:

- With this broader understanding of food and nutrition security, strategic directions for improving food security, **requires at least five major aspects** of poverty and hunger alleviation policies to be taken into account.

These are:

- i. Focusing on agricultural and rural development complemented with effective implementation of poverty alleviation programs especially expanding employment opportunities to increase incomes;
- ii. Implementing pro-poor trade policy, investing in Research and Development (R&D), and considering a fair, open and rule-based trade system;
- iii. Enhancing the role of informal sector, gender mainstreaming and legal empowerment of poor people;



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- iv. Accelerating structural transformation and inclusive growth of agricultural and rural transformation and;
- v. Improving poor people's productive capacity by improving education and health sector that are complemented by improved access to wide economic opportunities;

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4. Recommended Strategic Directions 2017-2025

On the basis of the above structure of discussion we make recommendations on prioritized intervention both in the long-term and short and medium terms.

We recommend two main areas of strategic directions and present criteria for prioritization of interventions to improve food and nutrition security.

- The **first strategic area** focuses on the needed **long-term strategic framework** to tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality, all of which have a bearing/connection on food and nutrition security.
- The **second area** focuses on addressing **short to medium-term strategic frameworks** targeted towards food and nutrition security in line with the three pillars of food security, namely **food availability, food accessibility and food utilization.**



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I. First recommendation: **Long-term strategizing on inclusive growth and sustainable development goals.**

- Given that the growth in Tanzania has failed to tackle poverty, unemployment and inequality and hence food insecurity, strategic interventions to address the failure is needed.
 - Growth therefore needs to be seen as an intermediate objective, or more properly a tool, in achieving wider results.
 - What is crucial is to promote the quality of growth and in particular to improve its inclusiveness.



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• The key elements of inclusive growth include:

- Ensuring macroeconomic stability and economic openness- $(\text{Exports} + \text{Imports}) / (\text{Gross Domestic Product})$.
- Having broader objectives (**e.g. tackling poverty and inequality**) than increasing income and GDP and require the government to proactively work to achieve those objectives.
- Reducing poverty inequality and unemployment
- Benefiting all groups, including the **most marginalized**.
- Translating into gains in human development and increased well-being.



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2. The second major recommendation is continuation, on a priority basis, of short to medium-term interventions;

- It is very important to continue strategizing on **short to medium term interventions** that can reduce poverty and increase food security.
 - In this regard, we note that:
 - The achievement of food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation has a direct link with **agriculture and rural development**.
 - The main problem of food security is not food availability, but the **purchasing power of the disadvantage people**.



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i. Addressing food insecurity

- Achieving agriculture and rural development that impacts on poverty and food security calls for:
 - accelerating agricultural growth in a wider range of subsectors than those currently leading to the growth process can strengthen growth's effectiveness in reducing poverty.
 - Various interventions are required to improve smallholders' crop yields; they include **investing in rural infrastructure, researching and adopting improved seed varieties, and providing extension services to smallholders.**
 - **Agriculture's value added** can grow not only through expansion of area or increase in yield, but through change in the composition of output that shifts production out of activities with low or negative value added into existing or new activities with higher profitability.



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ii. Addressing extreme poverty:

- In order to support poverty alleviation, the government has to initiate a **multi-sector community development** in order to:
 - Make the poverty reduction agenda relevant, contextual and sustainable by considering the characteristics of the poor and **involving them (poor) in decision-making processes**;
 - **Encourage and support transparent and accountable poverty reduction activities at the community levels;**



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- Reposition the role of poverty reduction-related parties from development agents to community empowerment facilitators.
- **In addition to the reorientation of the poverty alleviation initiatives, it is essential to strategize on:**
 - Synergetic economic activities and programs to support economic growth, empowerment and a social safety net system.
 - Implementing a **combination of conditional direct cash transfer with compulsory basic education programs and family health and nutrition programs that particularly focus on children under five years.**
 - Strengthening the capacity, authority and mandate of sub-national level institutions dealing with enhancing food security and poverty reduction.



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To address poverty reduction along with food security issues, there is a need to:

- Improve the production capacity, agricultural and rural infrastructure.
- **Improve agricultural productivity and market system**
- Promote the diversification of agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities and employment.
- Increase the availability and distribution of productive assets, and improving access to them, particularly access to land for marginal farmers.
- Acknowledge and ensure the participation of the private sector in R&D, infrastructure development, and market efficiency improvement.



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Short and medium-term strategic directions for food security pillars:

- **Prioritization** of food and nutrition insecurity interventions is to some extent difficult because the three pillars of food security are quite interdependent.
 - Food must not only be available, but it must **also be accessible and in nutritious form to all people**
 - Further the complexity of causes that underlie malnutrition calls for a multi-sectoral strategy to address the three key issues of food availability, food accessibility and food utilization.



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iii. *Interventions to address food nutrition:*

- According to the National nutrition strategy, priority areas could be categorized into three on the basis of causality of malnutrition.
 - **Actions that address the immediate causes** (In adequate dietary intake and diseases).
 - **Actions addressing the underlying causes** (*Insufficient household food security, inadequate maternal and child care, Insufficient health services and unhealthy environment*)
 - **Actions addressing the basic causes** (Poor education, health, nutrition services, water and sanitation).
- The National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) should go beyond the focus on the immediate and underlying causes to include paying adequate attention to the **basic causes malnutrition**. Something which will require political commitments and actions that goes beyond formulation of favorable policy, strategy, programs, governance structure and legal environment.



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iv. Institutional Arrangements

- Multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach is needed at all levels of designing policies and strategies to implementation of planned programs/interventions and to monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop a clear implementation strategy that adhere to the principle of **THREE ONES** i.e.
 - One plan to be followed by all nutrition Stakeholders at all levels
 - One coordinating Mechanism that effectively enhance multisectoral approach
 - One M&E framework that is usable and track progress regularly within common results, resources and accountability framework.
- Strengthen advocacy, Communication and social mobilization for nutrition to create awareness among policy makers and the public at all levels.



THE END

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