

Webinar series on rolling out and implementing multi-system frameworks to improve young child diets in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2021

CONCEPT
NOTE

Background and rationale

The quality of children's diets remains a major concern globally and in ESAR. The State of the World's Children report 2019 shows that only 13% of children 6-23 months in ESAR receive a minimum acceptable diet and 24% receive a diet that meets the minimum standards of diversity. In order to understand the drivers, determinants and variations behind this situation, from 2018-2020 UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) collaborated with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Global Alliance for Nutrition (GAIN) to generate a range of evidence that can provide insights to Member States in the region on trends and risk factors related to the quality of IYCF practices across multiple countries in East and Southern Africa as well as evaluation of policies and programs that have been implemented at scale. The landscape analysis was undertaken in 10 countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and various studies on nutrient gaps, food affordability, modeling of food policy options and ethnographic studies were conducted in sub-sets of these countries.

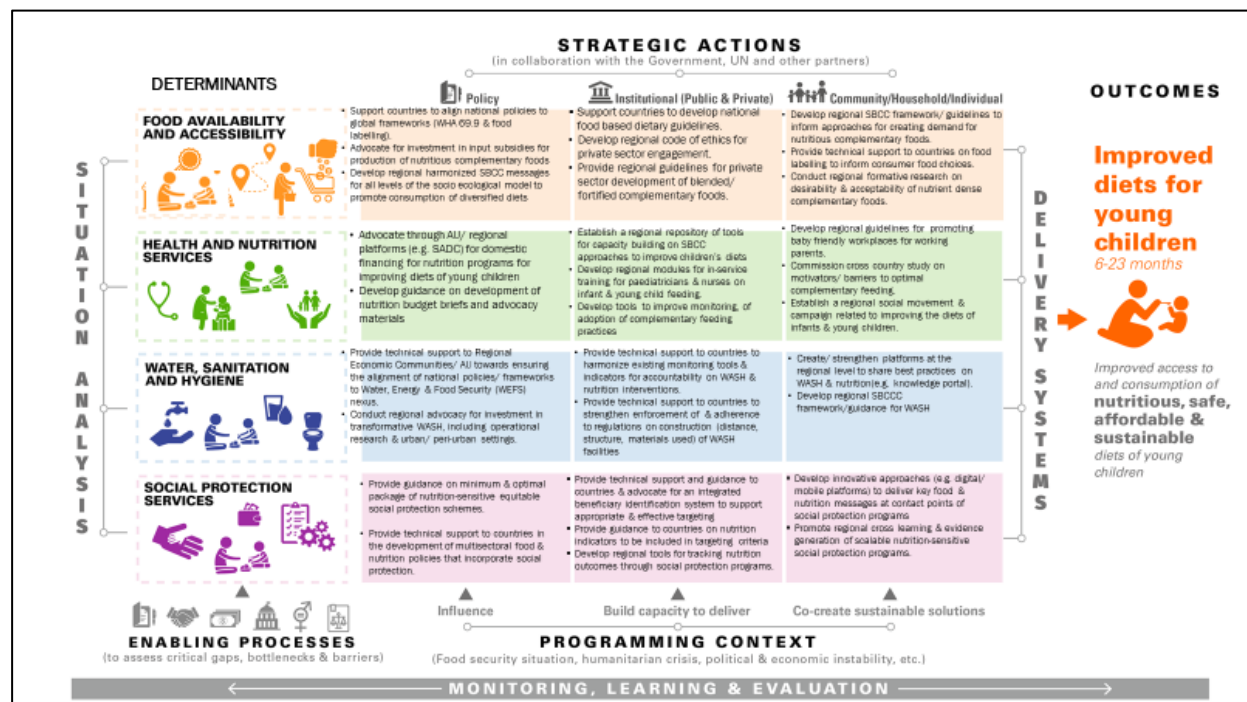
In June 2019, participants from 7 countries, SADC, IGAD, UN agencies and partners gathered in Johannesburg for a consultative meeting on improving young child diets, which had the following objectives:

- Disseminate findings of the ESA regional Complementary Feeding Landscape analysis results
- Provide an overview of the UNICEF Global Framework to improving young children's diets during the Complementary stage
- Present and discuss the evidence base on critical actions for Health, Food, WASH, Education and Social protection systems, through sharing global evidence and best practices from the region.
- Identify critical actions to accelerate progress in improving young children's diets in the Health, Food, WASH, and Social protection systems
- Adapt and draft a Regional Framework for improving young children's diets for ESA region

Results included a draft Regional Framework for Improving Young Children's Diets for ESA region, consensus on the critical actions required to accelerate progress in improving young children's diets in the Food, Health, WASH, and Social protection systems, and priority actions identified by country teams. Member states represented by Government teams included:

1. Kenya
2. Ethiopia
3. Malawi
4. Zimbabwe
5. Namibia
6. South Africa
7. Tanzania

Regional action framework to improve young child diets for Eastern and Southern Africa



Then in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic happened, and for many of the countries, progress in rolling out the framework at national level and implementing the identified actions slowed as countries were focused on dealing with the response to the pandemic and its secondary effects, including on nutrition. Ethiopia was one country which was able to implement a national workshop in October 2020 to adapt the framework for federal level actions

While the COVID pandemic continues to affect countries, in 2021 it is proposed to reengage on the efforts to improve child diets, building on the 2019 consultation outcomes. Improving young child diets has become more important and urgent as the effects of the pandemic continue to worsen the quality of diets and drive progress on nutrition backwards. One of the ways in which it is proposed to reengage is to hold a series of webinars with Government representatives from all SADC and IGAD member states, SADC, IGAD, UN agencies and partners. The webinars will be conducted over a period of 5 months and the duration of each webinar will be less than 2 hours to avoid information overload and to give country offices time to synthesize webinar information into actions.

Overall objectives of the child diets webinar series

1. Refresh participants on the regional action framework on improving child diets
2. Summarize the findings and implications of the landscape analysis and subsequent studies
3. Disseminate the global guidance on improving complementary feeding (2020)
4. Deep dives on actions in selected systems that have received less attention – e.g. social protection, food systems
5. Refresh participants on the priority actions identified by the country teams at the 2019 child diets workshop

6. Exchange country experience on adapting the framework and identifying and implementing country actions
7. Define priority actions that countries will plan and implement in 2021
8. Disseminate the SADC SBCC strategy and toolkit, Tanzania experience with piloting the toolkit and identify countries which may wish to use the toolkit
9. Discuss learning from the COVID response adaptations, e.g. on SBCC, counseling and online training that may be mainstreamed into routine programmes
10. Disseminate the results of the ESAR research and analysis on the effects of COVID on diets and services

Target audience: UNICEF Country office staff (Nutrition and other sections), Government (MOH, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social Welfare), SADC and IGAD member states, Other UN agencies, academia and implementing partners,

Proposed topics and structure for the webinars

<u>Webinar</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Participants:</u>
Webinar 1- Improving Young Children's Diets.	11 February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh participants on the regional action framework on improving child diets • Summarize the findings and implications of the landscape analysis and subsequent studies • Disseminate the global guidance on improving complementary feeding (2020) 	90mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All SADC and IGAD member states, Government and UNICEF country offices • UNICEF HQ & RO • SADC and IGAD colleagues • UN agencies • NGO partners
Webinar 2- Taking Action to Improve Young Children's Diets.	16 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh participants on the priority actions identified by the country teams at the 2019 child diets workshop • Exchange country experience on adapting the framework and identifying and implementing country actions (e.g. Ethiopia) • Define priority actions that countries will plan and implement in 2021 	90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and UNICEF country offices from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethiopia 2. Kenya 3. Malawi 4. Namibia 5. South Africa 6. Tanzania 7. Zimbabwe • UNICEF HQ & RO • SADC and IGAD colleagues • UN agencies • NGO partners
Webinar 3- Taking Action to Improve Young Children's Diets (II).	13 April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the types of actions identified by the country teams which participated in the 2019 consultation child diets workshop • Exchange country experience on adapting the framework and identifying and implementing country actions • Define priority actions that countries will plan and implement in 2021 	90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and UNICEF country offices from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angola 2. Madagascar 3. Mozambique 4. Rwanda 5. Uganda 6. Zambia • UNICEF HQ & RO

<u>Webinar</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Participants:</u>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SADC and IGAD colleagues • UN agencies • NGO partners
Webinar 4- Leveraging Social Protection Programs for Improving Young Children's Diets.	18 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep dives on actions in selected systems that have received less attention – social protection 	90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All SADC and IGAD member states, Government and UNICEF country offices • UNICEF HQ & RO • SADC and IGAD colleagues • UN agencies • NGO partners
Webinar 5- Engaging with Food Systems for Improving Young Children's Diets.	15 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep dives on actions in selected systems that have received less attention – food systems 	90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All SADC and IGAD member states, Government and UNICEF country offices • UNICEF HQ & RO • SADC and IGAD colleagues • UN agencies • NGO partners
Webinar 6- Countries Experiences on Improving Young Children's Diets.	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate the SADC SBCC strategy and toolkit, Tanzania experience with piloting the toolkit and identify countries which may wish to use the toolkit 	90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and UNICEF country offices from all SADC/IGAD member states • UNICEF HQ & RO • SADC and IGAD colleagues • UN agencies • NGO partners
Webinar 7- Effects of Covid-19 on	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss learning from the COVID response adaptations, e.g. on SBCC, counseling and online training that may be mainstreamed into routine programmes 	90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and UNICEF country offices from all SADC/IGAD member states • UNICEF HQ & RO • SADC and IGAD colleagues

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diets and services.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disseminate the results of the ESAR research and analysis on the effects of COVID on diets and services		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN agencies• NGO partners