



The 9TH JOINT MULTISECTORAL NUTRITION REVIEW (JMNR)



Strengthen Food Systems for Better Nutrition Outcomes and Human Capital Development

MEETING REPORT
November 2023

THE 9TH ANNUAL JOINT MULTISECTORAL NUTRITION REVIEW

MEETING REPORT

25TH - 26TH NOVEMBER, 2023

MOUNT MERU HOTEL

ARUSHA CITY COUNCIL

THEME; "To Strengthen Food Systems for Better Nutrition Outcomes and Human Capital Development"

Acknowledgement

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ABOUT THE 9th JMNR

The Joint Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Review (JMNR) meeting is an event that brings together nutrition stakeholders to review progress and challenges concerning implementing nutrition interventions stipulated in the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAPII). TFNC organizes this event in collaboration with PMO. This annual event also serves as a platform for knowledge and experience sharing on the best practices acquired during the implementation process. The 9th JMNR for the financial year 2022/23 is the second multi-sectoral joint review of the NMNAP 2021/22 – 2025/26 implementation.



Date: 25th to 26th of November, 2023

Place of the Event: Arusha City Council at Mount Meru Hotel.

The Guest of Honour: Honourable Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa (MP), The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Theme: *"Strengthening food systems for better nutrition outcomes and human capital development".*

Day 1: Technical Review Meeting (TRM)

The event was officiated by **Dr. Jim James Yonaz**, the Permanent Secretary from the PMO.

The Technical Review Meeting (TRM) was organized into three sessions, which included presentations and plenaries;

- i. Opening session
- ii. Implementation status of NMNAP II
- iii. Learning and sharing by nutrition stakeholders

About, **150 participants** from the Government, NGOs, CSOs, UN agencies, Academia and Private sectors.

Prof. Jamal Katundu, the PS from Ministry of Water, delivered the closing remarks.



Day 2: The 9th JMNR climax

The **high-level political meeting** graced by **Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa (MP)**, The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT).

Over 450 nutrition stakeholders attended the conference.



Activities of the day

- i. Launching of locally made dosifier
- ii. Remarks from PS, DPGN, PORALG, MS PMO
- iii. Guest of Honour speech and directives
- iv. Exhibitions of nutrition products

DAY ONE: TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETING

OPENING SESSION

The meeting was called into order at around 09:33 am, followed by an official introduction of participants. Among those introduced were representatives from Sectoral Ministries, the UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs, Research and Academic Institutions, representatives from the Regional Secretariat in Arusha Region, Regional Nutrition Officers from Northern Zone regions, and District Nutrition Officers from Arusha Region. The session was moderated by the Chief Moderator CEO from Uchumi Institute and the chair of TFNC board Mr. Obey Assey.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 9TH JMNR



Dr. Ray Masumo, the Acting Managing Director of TFNC, presented the meeting's goal, objectives, and expectations. He informed the participants that the primary goal of the meeting was to increase stakeholders' commitment and investment in the implementation of the NMNAP II to address the

existing and emerging nutrition challenges in the country.

He emphasized further that the main objective of the meeting was to bring nutrition stakeholders from various sectors at all levels together ***to review the progress in the implementation of nutrition interventions in the country as per NMNAP II year two plans.*** Specifically, he highlighted that the 9th JMNR meeting aimed to strengthen monitoring and evaluating the accountability framework for NMNAP II, elevating motivation and commitment to act and contributing to end all forms of malnutrition in the country. This is achieved through learning and sharing success stories, innovative approaches, research findings and challenges.

Opening remarks



Dr. Jim James Yonaz, the Permanent Secretary PMO, officiated the technical meeting by delivering the opening remarks. The PS emphasized that JMNR is a routine meeting to discuss and agree on implementing nutrition interventions in the country. In his speech, he pointed out nutrition implementation's successes,

challenges, and bottlenecks in the country. He highlighted that ***the country/government has significantly reduced the national prevalence of stunting (30%) and wasting (3.4%) in children, adolescents, and pregnant women, according to TDHS, 2022.*** Dr. Yonaz insisted that, while the prevalence has dropped, the case differs in all regions. Some regions have an increased prevalence of stunting, wasting, and anemia, while others are doing well, significantly reducing the mentioned health conditions.

Therefore, he called upon stakeholders to research why some regions are not doing well and, if possible, enable them to learn from the well-performing regions. ***The PS alerted the audience about an alarming increase in overweight and obesity, which is a potential risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country, and called upon immediate actions towards addressing such problems.*** He further pointed out that, through the event, the stakeholders had to come up with nutrition implementation deliberations to be presented in the following day's event.

He extended a word of thanks to all who, in one way or another, contributed to preparing and organizing the 9th JMNR event. ***The PS also extended a word of thanks to the stakeholders working together to foster the interventions focusing on nutrition.*** He gave his speech a word of thanks to the development partners and finally announced the meeting to be officially opened.

Remarks from Development Partners Group for Nutrition



Mr. Patrick Codjia, Chief of Nutrition UNICEF and the chair of Development Partners Group Nutrition (DPGN), conveyed his greetings to the audience on behalf of the DPGN. The DPGN chair started by first acknowledging the leadership of PMO for coordinating nutrition response in the country. He stated that **"coordinating multisectoral response is**

not easy, but it is vital". He thanked the PMO for convening stakeholders to take stock of implementation of the second year of NMNAP II. He insisted that the platform could be used to discuss key issues that deprive realization of the nutrition of key vulnerable groups, particularly newborns, children below five years of age, adolescent boys and girls, women, and the entire population at large. Mr. Codjia emphasized the need for **effective coordination within sectors to foster multisectoral approach, data and evidence management, prior community engagement, and participation** in addressing malnutrition in the country.

On the second note, Mr. Codjia commended and recognized TFNC's contribution over the decades for providing technical support on nutrition.

To conclude his remarks, he **reiterated DPs commitment to support the Government in reducing all forms of malnutrition in Tanzania**. He further stated that all DPs want to be part of the success story that will soon be realized on the accelerating effort toward reducing childhood stunting and all forms of malnutrition. He assured that **DPs will continue to mobilize resources to support nutrition responses to the best of their capacity**.

*Let's make JMNR a moment where the whole world can come and learn what Tanzania is doing, and we have resources for that. **Mr. Patrick Codjia** UNICEF*

Keynote speech on Transforming food systems



The JMNR keynote speaker **Dr. Geoffrey Kirenga, the CEO of SAGCOT**, gave an exhilarating and inspiring speech based on his experience as an agriculture and food systems expert.

He started his speech by sharing his background in agriculture and highlighting some key progress the country made

within the sector that is crucial for rolling nutrition agenda, including food sufficiency in the fast-growing horticultural sector. He increased the exploration of value addition for dairy and livestock products.

Mr. Kirenga took participants on a powerful and poignant journey of his life full of rural and urban experiences from where he was born, raised, studied, served, and interacted to his first job as a “*hotelia*” and later as an agricultural extension officer, which exposed him to different practices that added up to his understanding of food systems.

He elaborated on how fast our food systems are transforming, to the extent that some of the foods consumed by our elderly no longer exist or consumed such as *finger millet ugali*, *indigenous fruits and vegetables*. He emphasized the food transformations by sharing the story of insects who live in two different seasons that may have different stories to tell if they happen to die and meet in heaven, considering their life span.

He mentioned some challenges existed due to food preparations and cooking methods. Again, he gave a story of a maize dish by emphasizing that the product is being prepared differently by different ethnic groups; probably, some prepare it correctly while others abuse it, but nobody knows. For example, Mbulu people do prepare stiff porridge “ugali” differently, just like Ethiopians and it is closely just like porridge and not stiff porridge “ugali” we are used. In doing so very little amount of maize flour with more water is used so less maize/carbohydrate is consumed when compared to those who consume stiff porridge “ugali” and the metabolic process for stiff porridge “ugali” and the porridge is quite different.

He insisted further that, ***we have even forgotten and neglected our ancestor's/indigenous foods and ways of preparing some foods*** and come up with our own ways of doing things. Further, with a sad story that our indigenous crops, fruits and vegetables are now kept at the museum in World vegetable center Arusha.

In his speech he stressed the importance of the indigenous crops that have been neglected and its potential to address some nutrition challenges that we faced today. He clearly stated ***that the world is now turning towards the contribution of indigenous food in the system, and we are on the blink of forgetting foods that benefitted humanity for 1000 of years.*** In addition, he insisted that we have to recognize and appreciate the history of food and culture, we need to consider investing on indigenous foods and cultures around food. He ended his key note speech by encouraging participants ***to be more investigators of food systems and document findings in the reputable peer reviewed journals.***

Food for thought from the key note speaker

- ❖ ***What kind of food are we consuming?***
- ❖ ***As we transform the food system, how many nutrients are we missing by consuming what we are consuming?***
- ❖ ***How can we contribute to PMO, TFNC, MoH by showing them these other nutrients that we are missing?***

SESSION 2: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE NMNAP II

Session objective

This was the main session where the implementation status of NMNAP II was presented, reflecting the performance of MDAs, Regional secretariat (Rs), and Local Government Authorities (LGAs). The session was moderated by Mr. Bernard Makene from Nutrition International (NI), and Ms. Joyce Ngeba from UNICEF. This session brought presenters from PMO, PORALG and TFNC who jointly shared the implementation status of the second year (2021/22 of NMNAP II).

		
<p>Presentation 1</p> <p>Implementation of the 8th JMNR Resolutions</p> <p>The presentation was delivered by Mr. Paul Sangawe from PMO. It highlighted the extent to which 4 resolutions made from the 8th JMNR were implemented.</p>	<p>Presentation 2</p> <p>Implementation status for MDAs</p> <p>Presented by Mr. Geoffrey Chiduo from TFNC, this presentation highlighted the activities planned by MDAs, budget allocation for nutrition and challenges in the implementation.</p>	<p>Presentation 3</p> <p>Implementation status for RS and LGAs</p> <p>Presented by Ms. Neema Kweba from PORALG, this presentation highlighted the status of implementation of NMNAP II at LGAs</p>

Implementation of the 8th JMNR Resolutions

Four main resolutions were made during the 8TH JMNR, which was held in Musoma Council, Mara region from 5th to 6th December 2022.

Resolution 1: Inclusion and execution of "Objective Y" for nutrition intervention during planning and budgeting in all MDAs for FY2023/24.

The Ministry of Finance has established a specific objective for nutrition (objective Y), which guides MDAs and RS in planning and budgeting for nutrition through the CBMS. The objective Y has improved financial tracking within MDAs, through this objective it was realized that 0.11% (46 billion TZS) of the Government budget was allocated for nutrition through 46 out of 100 votes.

Resolution 2: Nutrition research and survey findings need to be disseminated to all levels through nutrition committees at Ward, District and Regional Levels. It was reported that to effectively ensure the research conducted are beneficial for Tanzanians, nutrition stakeholders

have agreed to develop nutrition research priorities for Tanzania, which will provide directions of relevant research that are needed.

Resolution 3: Instructions on the consumption of fortified foods in public institutions such as schools and prisons should be emphasized

It was reported that the Ministry of education in collaboration PORALG, GAIN and Sanku have launched a project to increase access to fortified foods in schools, where 240 schools and 120,000 students from the six regions of lake zone (Mara, Mwanza, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Geita and Kagera) will benefit from this project. On the same note it was reported that the Ministry of Health have reviewed Fortification regulations, and the draft of the regulation is already developed to align with current demands. The MoH is on the process of developing a guideline on provision of foods in public institutions including hospitals, schools and prisons.

Resolution 4: Strengthening the government supply chain to ensure sufficient and timely availability of nutrition commodities.

The Ministry of Health has already included five (5) nutrition commodities in the MSD list which are *rapid test kit (RTK), concentrate minerals and vitamins (CMV), resomal, child growth monitoring booklet, and length/height board*. Through this initiative, health facilities can purchase nutrition commodities through MSD. Also, there are ongoing efforts to ensure that height/ length board are locally produced by SIDO, which will increase the accessibility of such tools.

NMNAP II Implementation Status for 2022/23 – MDAs

The implementation status for 2022/23 resulted from scrutinizing plans and budget from key line Ministries that are sensitive to nutrition. The template was provided to all the ministries through nutrition focal persons to fill in the activities implemented by the sector as per MTEF. Out of 13 Ministries that were given the template, the responses were received from eight ministries which were Ministry of Education (MoEST), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Community Development (MCDGWS), Ministry of Water (MoW), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), Ministry of agriculture (MoA) and PORALG.

Activities implemented by MDAs

A total of 88 activities were reviewed from MDAs, of which 47% of the activities were not in line with NMNAP II KRAs and strategic outcomes. 70% of activities implemented contributed to NMNAP II KRA 4 which is to strengthen enabling environment this include training, supportive supervision, and development of guidelines. In line with strategic outputs of NMNAP II, only 7% of activities implemented targets to strengthen multisectoral and private sector engagement.

Major challenges experienced during the scrutinization exercise from MDAs include incomplete filling of the reporting template in almost all sectors; defining and identifying nutrition sensitive activities within the plans. Some of the activities included did not qualify as nutrition sensitive

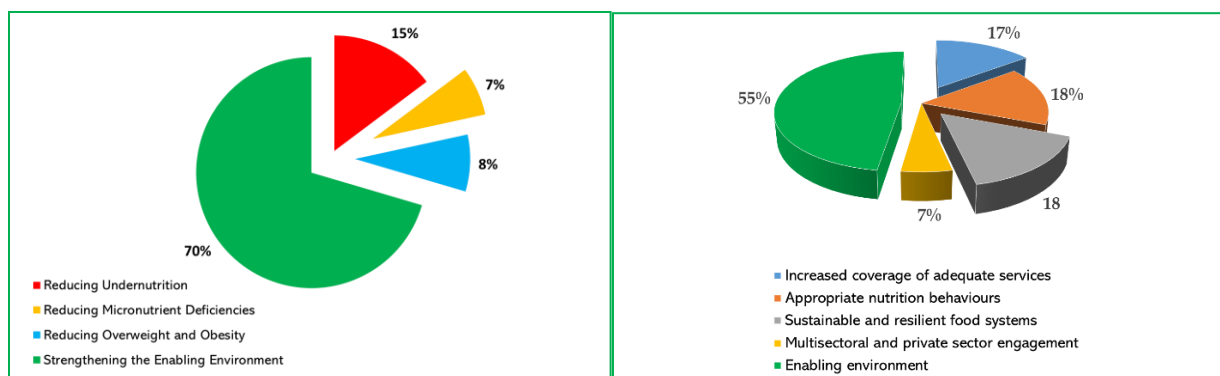
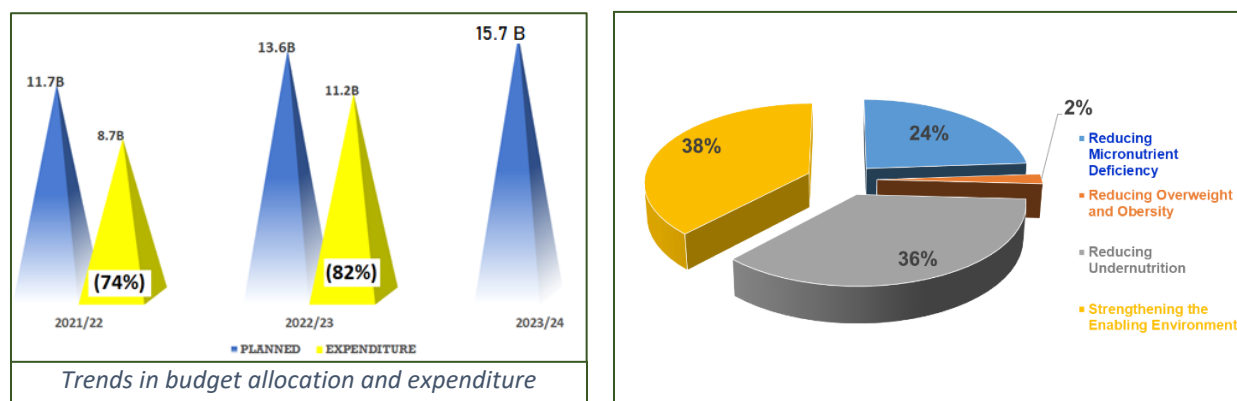


Figure 1 & 2: Proportion of activities implemented per NMNAP II KRAs and strategic outcomes

NMNAP II Implementation Status for 2022/23 – RS and LGAs

Nutrition budget allocation and expenditure

The overall budget allocated for nutrition at RS and LGAs has increased as indicated in Figure below. 82% of the planned budget has been executed, this has improved from 74% in 2021/2022. This indicates that LGAs are on track in terms of expenditure for nutrition. Most of the budget was used for KRA 4 of NMNAP II which focuses on strengthening enabling environment for nutrition, KRA 2 which targets overweight and obesity is the least funded area.



Figures 3 & 4: Trends in budget allocation and expenditures as per the four KRAs

Alignment of activities with the NMNAP II

Activities alignment with NMNAP II is at 53% at the MDAs, while at RS and LGAs, there are a number of activities that are included in the nutrition budget are nutrition activities.

Inclusion of activities that are neither nutrition specific nor sensitive in the budget of nutrition have been noted as a challenge.

Challenges

Overall plan and budget scrutinization exercise is still a challenge, there are no data from development partners, which hinder the ability to track the implementation progress.

Lack of finance to support plans and budget scrutinization exercise on time.

Key issues from the session

- ❖ 70% of the planned budget at MDAs and 38% at RS and LGAs was directed to KRA 4, which was higher than the budget allocated in other KRAs. Further assessment needs to be done to identify specific activities within the KRA that take huge portion of funds.
- ❖ Ministries should be capacitated on planning and budgeting for nutrition, there is a need to strengthen budget scrutinization process at MDAs and LGAs to improve budgeting for nutrition.
- ❖ Purchase of nutrition commodities is affected by the bureaucracy within the supply chain. It was highlighted that councils allocate funds for nutrition commodities and tools such as height boards, but delays within the system result in poor performance in terms of expenditure of nutrition commodities.
- ❖ The concern was raised on the 1000 TZS allocated for every child under-five years, although it was directed for every council, some councils have huge under-five and therefore to budget this from the own source it become a bit more challenging. This call for discussions on how to better finance nutrition interventions within the councils beyond 1000 TZS from own source.
- ❖ It was also raised that other financial means are needed to support nutrition interventions than relying to 1000 TZS per child. It is about time to start considering some other options indicated in the NMNAP II Resource Mobilization strategy; such as sin tax for unhealthy food products which the discussions are ongoing.
- ❖ Mid-term review of NMNAP II will be conducted next year to address some of the challenges in the implementation and funding issues.
- ❖ Budgeted amount for nutrition is insufficient, and we need to ensure the WHO recommendations of 8\$ are attained.
- ❖ The burden of malnutrition is linked with population growth and poverty, addressing some of these issues has potential to reduce stunting among children, there is a need to ensure social protection sector is on board.
- ❖ **Research and academia were reminded of their** duty and right to identify areas/gaps in nutrition research, review and update preservice, in service and out of service; and propose and advice stakeholders on new ways of doing things. Research findings and scientific papers should be presented in these forums for learning.



SESSION 3: Learning and Experience Sharing

Introduction

This session provided a learning experience platform for nutrition stakeholders to present best practices or efforts related to the meeting theme, followed by plenary discussions. The session moderators were Ms. Vera Kwara from WFP and Ms. Temina Mkumbwa from USAID; four presentations from UNICEF, FRESH, Save the Children, and Rikolto were presented.



Presentation 1: Transforming food systems for children



Ms. Joyce Ngegba from UNICEF gave the first presentation, titled "Transforming Food Systems for Children." During her presentation, she emphasized the importance of food systems and how it affects people's health and well-being, particularly young children. Food systems transformation is required to enable the sustainable and equitable distribution of healthy, safe, and nutritious foods. It impacts diets, human health, and other consequences such as economic growth, natural resources, and environmental resilience. Climate change and environmental issues also weaken the food chain, putting children at risk.

From the presentation, she narrated the key issues to show how Tanzania achieved progress on food system pathways with transparent, sustainable food systems in different sub-sectors. She winded her presentation by pointing out three areas of focus that need joint efforts which are;

- ❖ Improving the quality of food provided to children through mandatory standards for children's foods,
- ❖ Improve children's food environment by restricting unhealthy foods in schools and place where children spend most of their time.

- ❖ Improving feeding practices for children by promoting, supporting and protecting breastfeeding and encouraging healthy foods consumption.

Presentation 2: A Scoping Review on Nutritional Status, Diets, and Consumption Patterns of Fruits and Vegetables in Tanzania



Ms. Dorcas Amunga of the CGIAR-FRESH program presented preliminary findings of a study titled “A Scoping Review on Nutritional Status, Diets, and Consumption of Fruit and Vegetable Patterns in Tanzania. The findings revealed that fruit and vegetable consumption is suboptimal, resulting in a high incidence of micronutrients deficiencies such as anemia, and diet-related disorders. The goal of the study was to generate demand for more stakeholders to invest in interventions to promote intake of fruits and vegetables. Among others, the specific

objectives were to provide the nutritional profile for different populations as well as existing data on the consumption of Fruits and vegetables. Others included provision of nutritional profiles for various groups and data on fruit and vegetable consumption.

Based on the study findings, the consumption of fruits and vegetables is relatively low. The study recommended that, increasing fruit and vegetable consumption for a healthy diet in a population requires different interventions including home gardening and consumers engagement across various demographic groups among other things.

Presentation 3: Best practices and opportunities to integrate nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions



Ms. Mariam Mwita, a Project officer from Save the Children Organization, presented about a project titled; "Best practices and opportunities to integrate nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions." Save the Children works with the government and partners to strengthen nutrition services using evidence-based interventions to meet the specific needs of children, Adolescents, youth, and other community members. To ensure improved nutritional status, the following best practices were implemented;

- The multi-sectoral approach to promote multi-level response in addressing immediate and underlying causes of undernutrition.
- Private sector engagement to contribute to improved nutrition efforts.
- Delivery of timely and quality nutrition counseling with education to the mothers/ caregivers of under two years while reinforcing interpersonal counseling during agriculture training on GAP.
- The 1000-day beneficiaries adopt improved MIYCAN practices through nutrition education, GAP education in village health days, adolescent school clubs, support groups during household visits, practical cooking sessions, and supportive family and community structures.

- Harmonization of interventions and messages across community platforms of different sectors has shown an impact on our programs.
- Improved household income and dietary quality.

The presenter highlighted that, investing in adolescents will prepare future mothers and fathers to be knowledgeable about nutrition. In addition, capacity building on adolescent nutrition to improve knowledge and skills using SBCC materials is necessary.

Presentation 4: Driving consumers` demand for pigeon peas



Ms. Hilda, a project coordinator from Rikolto presented their project on Improving Access to Healthy, Nutritious, and Sustainable (HNS) food through promoting acceptable pigeon pea-based nutrient-rich food recipes. The project covers five Regions: Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Manyara, & Morogoro. From the project, 20 new recipes from pigeon peas were developed, where hotels, food vendors, and caterers were trained as the main actors to promote pigeon pea consumption by adopting the developed new recipes. Cooking Demos were done in prisons, hospitals, schools, and different exhibitions to increase consumption, of which about 13,791 people were reached. Hence, the beneficiaries have adopted pigeon peas recipes in their businesses and households since they are cheaper compared with other food such as meat.

Key takeaways and lessons from the session

- ❖ Improve the school food environment by improving the quality of foods sold by food vendors surrounding schools.
- ❖ Ensure food quality by having mandatory standards for children's food, policies and programs on healthy diets, and supply-chain interventions to fortify staple foods.
- ❖ Promoting diet diversification by encouraging production and consumption of fruits and vegetables within a population is crucial.
- ❖ Improve child feeding practices in early childhood.
- ❖ Different actors should improve post-harvest handling of perishable.
- ❖ Private sectors should be engaged in contributing effort towards improving nutrition.
- ❖ Addressing nutrition challenges need to consider interventions focusing on food systems.

CLOSING SESSION

Resolutions and Recommendations made from the technical review meeting

The overall output of day one presentations and discussion sessions was to come up with resolutions for implementation in year three. The following resolutions were proposed as highlighted here under;

1. To strengthen scrutinization of budgets from MDAs, and LDAs to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the nutrition interventions.
2. To evaluate, discuss, and review the 1000 TZS budget located to children under-fives for implementation of nutrition interventions in LDAs and consider allocating more than what is currently allocated.
3. To ensure an enabling environment for the supply of nutrition commodities through MSD supply chain.
4. To conduct a Midterm, Review the NMNAP II as per year three implementation plans.
5. To review and promote the implementation of resource mobilization strategies to ensure alternative sources of funds for the implementation of nutrition interventions at LGAs.
6. Research and academia to consider researching on food and nutrition issues to address nutrition challenges of the country, inform policy and planning processes, and present their findings in every JMNR event.

Closing remarks – PS Ministry of Water



The Permanent secretary from Ministry of water, Prof. Jamal Katundu, delivered the closing remarks on the Technical Review Meeting. He started his remarks by appreciating the knowledge gained from the organized sessions and delightfully shared his intention to start growing indigenous crops "*kisamvu*" in his home garden after learning its nutritional benefits.

Prof. Katundu thanked participants for their active participation and patience during the sessions reflecting the highest level of commitment towards achieving the objective of the 9th JMNR.

He acknowledged the commendable work done by the organizing committee, all presenters and moderators of the sessions and the participants for achieving the targets of the event and for the resolutions made.

He insisted that it is our responsibility to ensure that NMNAP II is effectively implemented by allocating funds for implementation of nutrition interventions. As for MDAs he reminded that the Government has established the objective Y specifically for allocating funds for implementation of nutrition interventions across the country. He urged DPPs to ensure the funds allocated are used appropriately considering the intended purposes.

Prof. asked further, all stakeholders to continue providing nutrition education to the community, to ensure awareness on the importance of healthy diet.

DAY TWO: The 9TH JMNR CLIMAX

Introduction: Participants in groups

The 9th JMNR climax brought together stakeholders from Government Ministers, Government officials' representatives from MDAs, all Regional Nutrition Officers from northern zone regions, selected District Nutrition Officers, representatives Arusha Security Committee led by Hon RC, representatives of SUN Networks (UN Agencies, Donor Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Private sectors and Academia), other Research and Academic Institutions, the Media houses and representatives Arusha RS, all councils in Arusha and few small holders involved in horticulture production . A maximum of 460 participants attended the meeting physically.

Launching of locally made dosifier

During the climax of the 9th JMNR a locally made dosifier was launched by the Prime Minister of URT. The dosifier is used to mix micronutrients in flour during milling. The dosifier was made by SIDO and DIT with support from the GAIN. Being able to locally manufacture dosifier is among very important achievement toward increasing access to fortified flour hence combating micronutrients deficiencies.



Remarks from Permanent secretary PMO

Dr. Jim James Yonazi presented an overview of technical review meeting which was organized in day one of the JMNR and attended by about 164 nutrition and related experts. He informed that during the TRM various technical issues were discussed in a view to strengthening the implementation of nutritional interventions. He also informed that generally the state of nutrition in the country has continued to improve due to the decrease in the levels of malnutrition in some indicators. In the conclusion of the TRM participants proposed the following resolutions: -



- i. To strengthen the analysis of plans and budgets of Ministries, Regional Secretariats and Local Government Authorities to ensure that nutritional issues are considered and in adherence to MNAP II.
- ii. To evaluate and start a discussion about the allocation of 1,000 shillings for each child under five years of age to implement nutritional interventions in the Council.
- iii. Creating an enabling environment for improving access to nutritional products through the supply chain of the Medicines Stores Depot (MSD).
- iv. Reviewing the NMNAP II to improve its implementation.
- v. To review the implementation of the NMNAP II RMS to strengthen its implementation.
- vi. Institutions of higher education and research to conduct nutrition studies and present the results of those studies at stakeholder meetings as well as use those results to strengthen the implementation of the NMNAP II.

Dr. Yonazi also stressed issues of allocation of funds in high-impact areas, the timely delivery and use of funds planned for nutrition interventions, strengthening the continuity of activities planned in the budget for nutrition and access to nutrients.

Dr. Yonazi concluded his remarks by thanking the leadership of Arusha Region for agreeing to host the JMNR and also for the cooperation given.

Remarks from DPGN

The Deputy Country Director of UNICEF Tanzania, Mr. Ousmane delivered remarks on behalf of the DPGN.

He commended the Government of Tanzania for progress in reducing malnutrition prevalence in the country. He highlighted some significant efforts including deploying nutrition officers, strengthening investment in nutrition, and strong partnerships.

Mr. Ousmane highlighted some challenges in nutrition, specifically severe wasting referred as a deadly form of malnutrition among children under five years has doubled between 2015 - 2022 as per TDHS 2022. This indicates the urgent need to identify and treat around 220,000 lives that are at risk at the moment.

He emphasized the necessity to accelerate investment and efforts to ensure the delivery of multisectoral nutrition services and provide diversified diets for all children aged 6 - 59 months and young women for survival and growth.

He stressed three key issues to consider towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

- ❖ Strengthen policy and guidelines, especially on restricting the marketing of unhealthy foods, especially in areas where children and young people spend most of their time such as schools.
- ❖ Strengthen food systems to deliver healthy, affordable, and sustainable diets for the population while addressing the nutrition needs of the population (current and future generations)
- ❖ Enhance rollout of quality community platforms such as Village Health and Nutrition Days for comprehensive coverage using multisectoral interventions; WASH, agriculture etc.

He also emphasized the readiness of the development partners to collaborate with the Government to innovatively initiate and deliver high quality nutrition interventions which are based on context solutions such as local productions of supplies and equipment including nutrition commodities to increase accessibility and affordability.

He concluded his remarks by affirms DP's commitment to support the Government of Tanzania as strive to achieve human centered development.

Remarks from PORALG

The Deputy Minister PORALG, Hon. Deogratius Ndejembu (MP), had an opportunity to deliver remarks and statement of commitment. In his statement, Hon. Ndejembu reaffirms PORALG's commitment to continues overseeing the implementation and coordination of nutrition interventions in RS and LGAs by planning and implementing nutrition sensitive and specific interventions in reducing malnutrition and its consequences.

Remarks from the Minister of State Prime Minister's Office

She began by expressing sincere gratitude to all nutrition stakeholders who contributed to the success of this meeting. In particular, she recognized the following: UNICEF, WFP, USAID, GAIN, SANKU, Save the Children, Hellen Keller International, ACF, CRS, ASPIRES, World Vision, R4D, CGIAR/World Vegetable Center, and Global Communities. She also thanked all the participants and distinguished guests who attended the meeting. moreover, she thanked the organized committee for the good preparation that enabled the meeting to be a success. .

The Minister of State PMO also informed of the reasons for the 9th JMNR to be organized in Arusha. Among the reasons was to recognize efforts that enabled the region to realize good progress and remarkable achievements in the fight against malnutrition. She cited that recent figures indicate from

2010 the levels of stunting among children under the age of five in the Arusha Region continued to decline from 44% (2010) to 36% (2015) and currently stands at 31%. In addition, the Region has been able to reduce the levels of Wasting from 6.5% In 2015 to 4.5% in 2022.

Even though Arusha has been able to realize significant achievements in reducing levels of stunting and wasting region is one of those with few stakeholders involved in nutrition issues. This implies that great effort in the fight against malnutrition to a large extent remains the responsibility of the Region and its Councils themselves. She called upon stakeholders to come forward and utilize the huge potential available in the region to further increase the production and distribution of diverse food crops such as grains, vegetables, fruits, livestock, and fishing products and thus ensure that the community, especially children, get enough nutrients for their body's needs.

Hon. Mhagama concluded her remarks by commending the ongoing effort to increase the scope of the implementation of the fortification program through the use of low-cost equipment (dosifires). She informed that the government together with stakeholders has made efforts to ensure simple and affordable technology is available in this country. Specifically, she commended efforts taken by the Small Industries Service Organization (SIDO) and Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA), in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) to locally develop simple technology dosifire to facilitate implementation of fortification programs through medium and small producers. She reiterated that this is one of the government's strategies to ensure wider consumption of fortified food to the majority of local citizens. She urged the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to ensure the timely distribution of the dosifires to the intended users and beneficiaries.

Finally Hon. Jenister Mhagama welcomed the Guest of Honor to deliver his closing speech.



Guest of Honor speech and directives

The Prime Minister of URT delivered his closing speech where among others he provided the following directives;

- ❖ All stakeholders should ensure effectively implementation of the 9th resolutions to strengthen the implementation of NMNAP II plans.
- ❖ All stakeholders within the food systems should consider issues around food safety and standards for consumer protection.
- ❖ Ministry, Department and Agencies should make effective use of the budget guideline and ensure nutrition issues are included in their plans, and funds are appropriately allocated.
- ❖ Prime Ministers Office (Policy, Parliament, coordination) should strenghten private sectors participation through implementation of the Country strategy on Scaling up Nutrition Business Network.
- ❖ Regions and Councils to make good use of the National school feeding Guidelines for Primary schools and ensure that fortified foods are used in schools and included in annual plans and budgets.
- ❖ **PORALG** to ensure that nutrition COMPACT agenda between the Honorable President and the Regional commisionners is fully implemented and productive. Close monitoring should be done and provide regular feedback/ report on the implementation.
- ❖ **Research Institutes and academia** should continue to conduct research in nutrition and ensure that the findings are used to improve our policies and strategies.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Health** should complete the review process of the 1992 Food and Nutrition Policy.
- ❖ Organizations, specifically GAIN, SIDO and DIT continue to locally manufacture affordable machines for mixing nutrients in foods in order to reduce operating costs and finally citizens can buy foods with added nutrients at affordable prices.
- ❖ Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Public and Private institutions, Development partners, and Social Organizations should set nutrition goals in their plans as well as allocate funds for implementation every year following the standards we have set for each stakeholder in resource mobilization strategy.

EXHIBITIONS

The event was decorated with exhibitions from various stakeholders within the food systems, who displayed various products, including indigenous vegetables, seeds, processed food products, as well as technologies for food fortification. The exhibitions also showcased various learning materials for early childhood development (ECD).



Exhibitions Day 2



The 9TH JMNR ORGANISING COMMITTEE

TFNC team	PMO team
1. Geoffrey Chiduo – Chairperson	1. Crispin Musiba
2. Julieth Itatiro	2. Abigail Marwa
3. Debora Charwe	3. Nyamagory Omary
4. Samson Ndimanga	4. Noel Mlindwa
5. Erick Kibona	5. Baraka Kachira
6. Elizabeth Lyimo	6. Nzunda
7. Dr. Hoyce Mshida	
8. Rose Msaki	
9. Dr. Dayness Kejo	
10. Dr. Nyabasi Makori	
11. Emmanuel Msaky	
12. Devotha Mshumbusi	
13. Paul Kaboku	
14. Francis Damian	
15. Priscilla Shirima	
16. Veronica Swai	
17. Jackson Monela	
18. Hamza Mwangomale	
19. Gabriel Shayo	
20. Esther Mussa	

