Beyond nice words: learning from past integrated (food and nutrition) governance approaches

Food Systems e-course 2024

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Food system governance

Policy **|** **Polity** **|** **Politics**

Governance is a process, and outcomes will vary depending on which dimensions are considered and overtime

Food systems high on political/development agendas

Food system transformation agendas are 'hot'

United Nations | Food Systems Summit 2021

More than 100 countries sign up to develop national strategies for transforming food systems

Ahead of September's Food Systems Summit, more than half of the UN's Member States have pledged to host Dialogue events to begin conversations about improving food systems.

April 26, NAIROBI – More than 100 countries will be shaping their futures in the coming five months and developing pathways to the food systems they need, in line with the universally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which set out expectations for the state of the world in 2030.

- 126 countries have (integrated) national pathways

- 155 have national food systems convenors

- Overarching frameworks that explicitly set out integrated food (system) policy efforts across an administration's sectors, possibly in interaction with broader governance networks. (Cf. Candel, 2019)

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The story of integrated food and nutrition policies

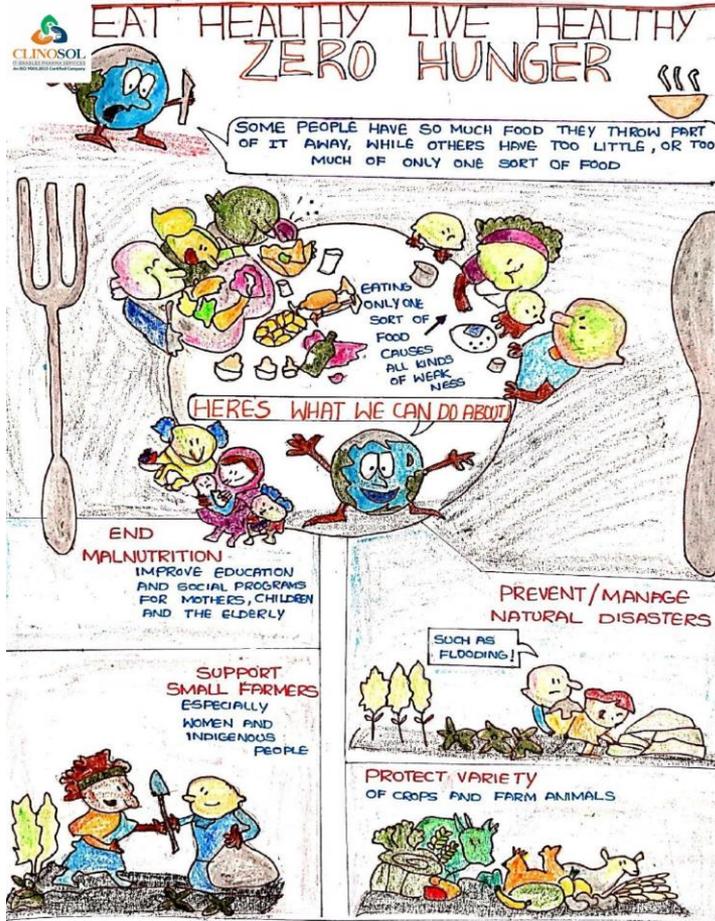# Integrated food and nutrition strategies in SSA

Table 1

Overview of integrated food and/or nutrition security strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa.[2]

Country	Strategy	Years	Country	Strategy	Years
Angola	National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy	2009–2013	Madagascar	Plan National d'Action pour la Nutrition	2012–2015
Benin	Plan Stratégique de Développement de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition	2009-?	Malawi	Food Security Action Plan	2008–2013
Botswana	?		Mali	Programme national de sécurité alimentaire; Politique Nationale de Nutrition	2006–2015; 2012–2021
Burkina Faso	Politique Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionelle	2013-	Mauritania	Stratégie Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire pour la Mauritanie; Plan d'Action Intersectoriel de Nutrition	2012–?; 2012–2015
Burundi	Programme national de sécurité alimentaire; Multi-sectoral Food and Nutritional Security Strategic Plan	2009–2015; 2014–2017	Mauritius	Food Security Plan	2008–2013
Cameroon	Politique et Programme Nationale d'Alimentation et de Nutrition	2007–2011	Mozambique	Multisectoral plan for chronic malnutrition reduction; Food Security and Nutrition Strategy	2011–2020; 2007–2012
Cape Verde	Estratégia Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional	2015–2020	Namibia	National Food and Nutrition Policy; Strategic Plan for Nutrition	1995–?; 2012–2015
Central African Republic	Programme national d'investissement agricole, de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionelle; Politique Nationale de Nutrition de la République Centrafricaine	2013–2018; 2013–?	Niger	Plan National D'Action Pour La Nutrition	2007–2015
Chad	Programme National de Sécurité Alimentaire	2013–2020	Nigeria	National agriculture and food security strategy; National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition	2010–2020; 2014–2019
Comoros	?		Rwanda	National Food and Nutrition Policy	2013–2018
Congo	Cadre Stratégique de Lutte Contre la Malnutrition au Congo horizon 2025	2015–2025	São Tomé and Príncipe	Programme National de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionelle	2012-
Côte d'Ivoire	Plan national de nutrition; Programme National de Sécurité Alimentaire et de	2016–2020; 2009–?	Senegal	Plan de Réponse à l'Insécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionelle	2014-

What can we learn?

- Common (wholistic) visioning and framing
- Organize horizontal and vertical policy integration
- Understand facilitating/inhibiting mechanisms
- Going beyond paper realities
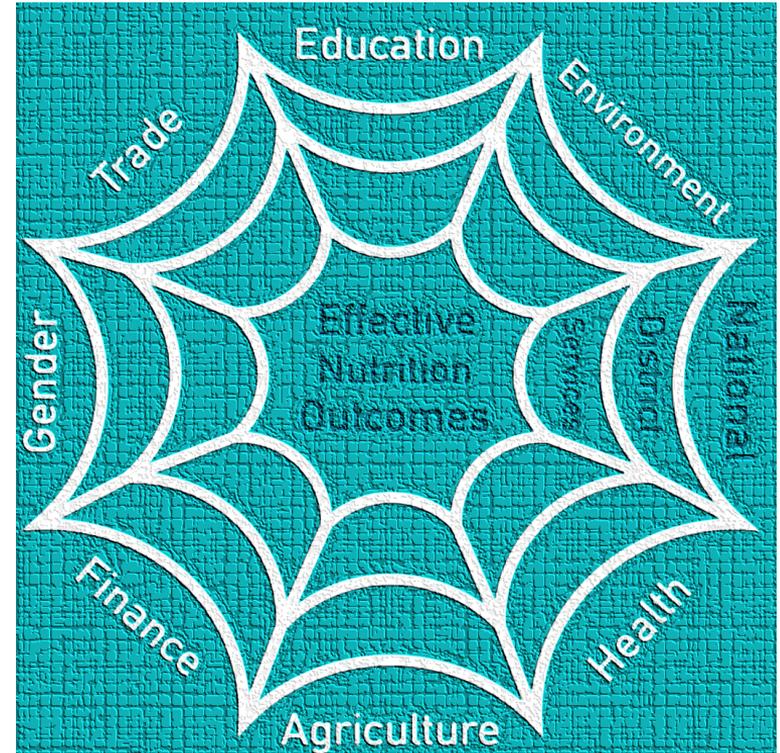- Policy discrepancies in practice

Common visioning/framing nutrition

- Ambiguous framing of nutrition

- Coexistence of competing frames in same context

- Reinterpretation at different governance level, reducing legitimacy

Organise horizontal and vertical policy integration

- Connect policy goals with concrete policy actions

  - *Policy dimensions shift at different paces, varied directions*

- Coherence across governance levels, regions
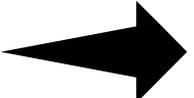
- Understand conditions determining integration

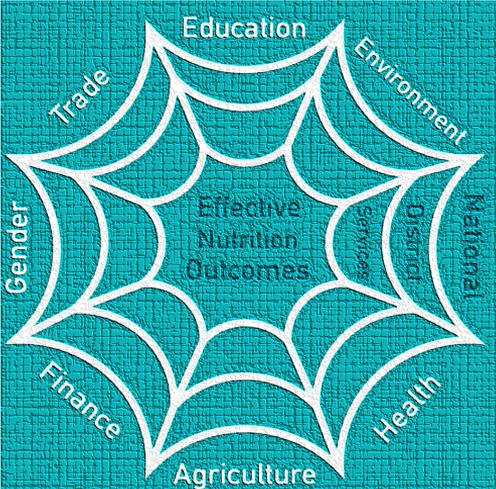# Understand facilitating/inhibiting mechanisms

International policy promotion by donors

Issue promotion by civil servants

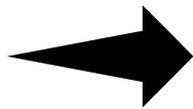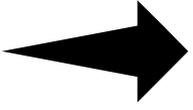Learning from policy implementation

Leadership turnover

Turf wars

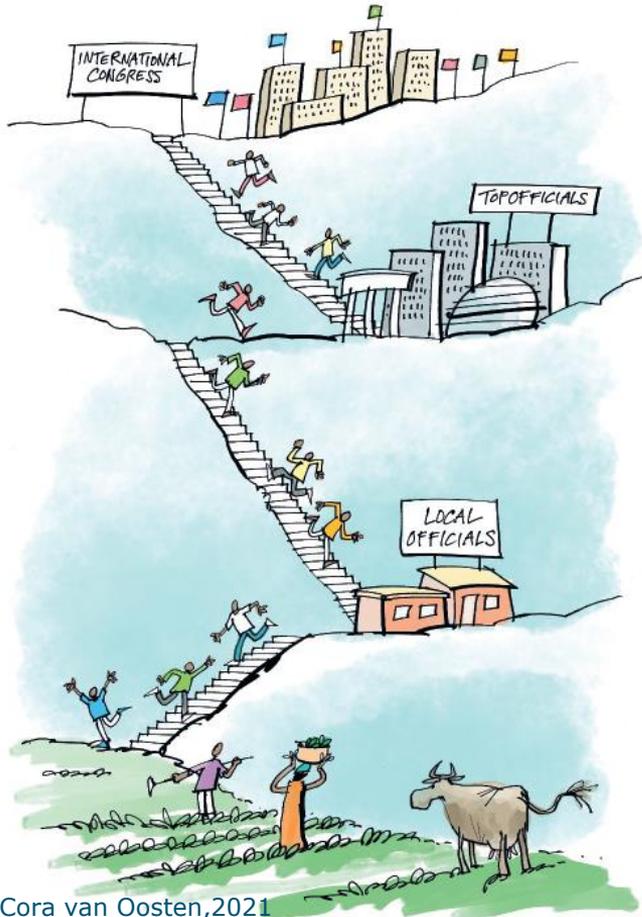Blame transfer

Namugumya et al. 2021

Go beyond the paper policies

Cora van Oosten,2021

- Street level bureaucrats (re)developed integrative policy during implementation

  - Bundling services, Ritual task performance

  - Down prioritisation, Non-involvement

- Leadership and resource allocation are key

- Bottom-up governance reshapes national outcomes

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Going beyond paper policies

- Capacitate agency of food system stakeholders -> invest in technical and functional

- Boundary spanning actors important in navigating technical, sector and spatial boundaries

- Adaptability and responsiveness to uncertainties and volatile pressures supports transformation

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Recap

Challenge 1: Forward looking decisions should learn from the past trajectories

Challenge 2: Moving from nice words to action on the ground

Challenge 3: Sustain commitment in implementation

Challenge 4: Capacitate agency of stakeholders

Q & A