

Mid-Term Review of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MNAP) 2018-2025

May 2023



**Harnessing “Grey Matter Infrastructure”
to Unlock the Human and Economic Potential
of Africa: Catalysing nutrition-smart investments
to support a 40% stunting reduction in Africa
by 2025.**



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPPEMENT

**Human Capital, Youth and Skills
Development Department (AHHD)**

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Key terms

Grey Matter Infrastructure:

The brainpower of a population, with ‘grey matter’ referring to brain tissue.

Main-streaming nutrition:

The explicit consideration and incorporation of nutrition goals across all levels of an organisation including general programming, strategy, and investments to ensure maximum nutritional impact and contribution to nutrition outcomes.

Nutrition-smart investments:

Investments that orient programs in sectors such as food and agriculture, education, health, gender, social protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to increase impact on nutrition, and therefore social and economic returns.

Nutrition-smart project:

A project is classified as nutrition-smart when it inclusively meets 3 standards, namely: i) nutrition is incorporated as part of the project goal/objective; ii) the logical framework includes a nutrition outcome indicator(s); and iii) the project has 1 or more nutrition-related activities or interventions.

Project pipeline:

A set of projects being submitted and/or awaiting approval.

Stunting:

A failure to reach linear growth, which is defined as less than 2 standard deviations from the WHO Child Growth Standards median height for age. Stunting is typically associated with poor socioeconomic conditions, repeated episodes of illness, and poor feeding and hygiene practices, particularly in the 1,000 days from conception to age 2.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AHHD	-	Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department	MT	-	Metric Tonnes
ALN	-	African Leaders for Nutrition	NSO	-	Non-Sovereign Operations
AU	-	African Union	PEC	-	Policy Enabler Compact
AUC	-	African Union Commission	RDGE	-	East Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office
BMGF	-	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	RDGS	-	South Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office
BoN	-	Banking on Nutrition	RISP	-	Regional Integration Strategy Paper
CNAS	-	Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard	RMC	-	Regional Members Countries
CSP	-	Country Strategy Paper	SCN	-	Steering Committee on Nutrition
DHS	-	Demographic Health Surveys	SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goal
EAC	-	East African Community	SUN	-	Scaling Up Nutrition
ECA	-	Economic Commission for Africa	TAAT	-	Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	ToR	-	Terms of Reference
H5	-	High 5	UA	-	Unit of Account
HIB	-	High Iron Beans	UN	-	United Nations
ICT	-	Information and Communications Technology	UNGA	-	United Nations General Assembly
KII	-	Key Informant Interviews	UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
LMS	-	Learning Management System	USD	-	United States Dollars
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation	WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
MEAL	-	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning	WB	-	World Bank
MNAP	-	Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan	WHA	-	World Health Assembly
			WHO	-	World Health Organisation

Executive summary

Background

In 2018, the African Development Bank (the Bank) launched an ambitious Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2018-2025 (MNAP) as a catalyst for achieving the goals of the Bank's equitable growth agenda in supporting the Grey Matter Infrastructure¹. The MNAP is inextricably linked to the Bank's High 5 priorities and sets out a vision, strategic priorities and actions for nutrition. It seeks to leverage additional financial resources through nutrition-smart² investments across 5 key sectors to support a 40% stunting reduction across the continent by 2025. These sectors include health, agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), social protection as well as education and skills development which account for 30% of government spending in Africa and serve as the underlying drivers for nutrition. The MNAP focuses on 3 areas of intervention:

- i) Leveraging the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition across Africa;
- ii) Mainstreaming nutrition in the Bank's portfolio, pipeline, and workplace; and
- iii) Increasing production and consumption of safe and nutritious foods.

Purpose

The Bank contracted Le Centre d'Études, de Recherches et de Formation pour le Développement Économique et Social (CERFODES) to undertake a Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the MNAP. The main objective was to assess and evaluate the progress made so far in the implementation of the MNAP, document the lessons learned, and identify areas for mid-term correction and alignment for the remaining period in order to achieve a significant reduction of stunting and realisation of additional nutritional outcomes.

Methodology and approach

The MTR used a mixed-methods approach involving collection of qualitative and quantitative data. A participatory approach involving guidance and working closely with a technical team drawn from the Bank and the Banking on Nutrition (BoN) partnership was used. Data was collected through a review of key documents, key informant interviews with Bank staff, BoN partners and key stakeholders including Development Partners and UN agencies. The report made use of data from different sources including the Bank's Nutrition Dashboard. Data was analysed using a combination of quantitative and qualitative techniques. Qualitative data, obtained from key informant interviews and document review was analysed using thematic, content and discourse analysis techniques.



Key findings



Progress in leveraging the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition across Africa

The MTR found that in Phase 1, the Bank had established and instituted the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) into the African Union Commission (AUC), with a declaration mandated to deliver policy dialogue in high-level settings across Africa. By end of 2020, ALN had overseen the organisation of 4 high-level side events at the African Union (AU) to discuss the status of malnutrition on the continent and facilitate leaders to review the progress being made. Discussions with leaders also focused on opportunities to leverage investments towards achieving the continental and World Health Assembly (WHA) nutrition targets by 2025 through the development of a Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard (CNAS). The CNAS was launched at the 32nd African Union Summit in 2019. From 2018-2020, ALN champions grew from 11 to 193 and strategic opportunities were used to engage the champions to amplify nutrition on the continent.

The Bank and BoN partners have done considerably well in disseminating knowledge products through events, developing technical sector briefs and a CNAS, and creating the ad-hoc Presidential Dialogue Group on Nutrition. These initiatives have contributed to nutrition awareness and evidence-based decision-making by key stakeholders in the nutrition eco-system and, with the support of ALN champions, helped to influence the announcement of 2022 as the African Union Year of Nutrition.

Though some of the knowledge products that were to be developed at the beginning of Phase 2 of the MNAP were not developed, such as the Economic Investment Case for Nutrition, the development of an Economic Investment Case for Nutrition was re-programmed owing to the existence of similar knowledge products developed by other partners, such as the World Bank Investment Framework for Nutrition and the Global Nutrition Report.



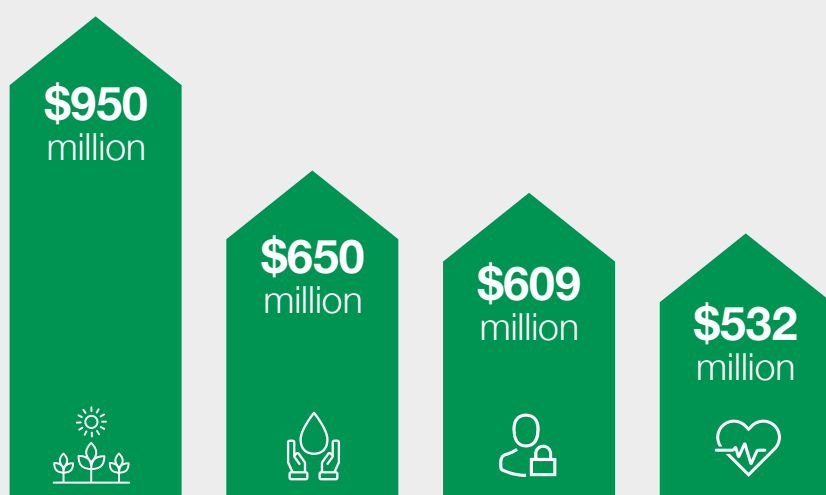
From 2018-2020, **ALN champions grew from 11 to 193** and strategic opportunities were used to engage the champions to amplify nutrition on the continent.



Progress in mainstreaming nutrition in the Bank's portfolio, pipeline, and workplace

A series of efforts aimed at building the capacity of the Bank's staff to implement the MNAP were undertaken. The Bank, through support from the BoN partnership, developed a nutrition toolkit for Bank staff to inform sectoral opportunities to mainstream nutrition. In November 2019, regional staff trainings were conducted at the East Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office (RDGE) in Nairobi (where 15 participants were trained) and at the South Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office (RDGS) in Johannesburg (where 18 participants were trained). The participants included project task managers, key experts from the Bank's priority sectors for nutrition, and representatives from country offices. In March 2022, another staff training was conducted in Nigeria. Over a 2-day period, this training attracted 90 participants both in person and virtually, including Bank staff from country offices, representatives from the BoN partnership, government, and development partner representatives. However, the Bank did not extend the capacity building and training on nutrition-smart programming to private sector entities. This delayed private sector involvement, which would have contributed to the achievement of better results for nutrition-smart investment requests, had these entities been incorporated from the outset.

The MNAP aligns with the Bank's Results Measurement Framework 2016-2025, particularly under the Feed Africa 2025 target indicators of reducing the number of malnourished people in Africa towards 0 and reducing stunting from 25.2% to 17.5%. A Nutrition Dashboard was developed to enable the Bank to monitor its nutrition-smart investment portfolio. The findings show that, from 2015 to 2018 (baseline figures, n=23 nutrition-smart projects), nutrition-smart investments totalled \$40.70 billion⁵. By 2021, nutrition-smart investments increased, totalling \$2.1 billion (n=39 additional nutrition-smart projects from baseline). By the end of this review, the Bank had leveraged \$2.85 billion for nutrition-smart projects (total of 62 projects). As of 2021, the agriculture sector constituted the bulk of the Bank's nutrition-smart projects (\$950 million), followed by WASH (\$650 million), social protection (\$609 million), and health (\$532 million). Investments peaked in 2019, with 22 nutrition-smart projects valued at \$1.3 billion in 23 countries, 9 of which have a high-burden of malnutrition⁶. Most of the nutrition-smart projects were in West Africa (n=8), followed by Central Africa (n=5), East Africa (n=5), North and Southern Africa (n=2 each). The peak in 2019 followed the launch of the MNAP, which clearly defined the nutrition agenda for the Bank and laid the foundation for nutrition-smart projects. In 2020, there were 12 new nutrition-smart projects, with a decrease in the number of nutrition-smart projects to 3 in 2021. This reduced momentum of the MNAP implementation was partly due to the shifting priorities of the Bank to instead focus on the COVID-19 response as well as a gap in human resources (nutrition technical staff) at the headquarters and regional hubs.



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Progress in increasing production and consumption of safe nutritious foods along the food value-chain

The focus of the MNAP was to integrate nutrition sensitive activities into the agriculture pipeline through Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) and Staple Crop Processing Zones (SCPZ) Programs. TAAT 1 had a clear nutrition pathway to mainstream nutrition, particularly to promote the consumption of safe and nutritious foods. For instance, the Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) and High Iron Beans (HIB) compacts aimed to facilitate access to nutritious food through quality seeds and processing technologies. The TAAT aquaculture compact increases fish production, consumption, and incomes of Aquaculture Value Chain Actors (AVCA) leading to better nutrition and livelihoods. In collaboration with National Agriculture Research and Extension Services (NARES) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), TAAT 1 deployed improved climate-smart crop varieties that could do better than indigenous varieties. It also developed a diverse and accelerated seed production and delivery system which was supported by pest control strategies. Some of the countries that adopted TAAT technologies include Benin with TAAT rice technology, Chad adopted the bio-fortification of sorghum/millet while Cameroon adopted the orange-fleshed sweet potatoes toolkit and the rice technology kit. However, TAAT 1 did not have a specific nutrition goal, declassifying it as nutrition-smart.

The SCPZ concept was designed to provide a comprehensive solution to the challenges facing African agriculture, including low productivity, post-harvest losses, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to markets, and low value addition. In Nigeria for example, a marked increase in the production of 3 staple crops (rice, cassava and sorghum) was observed as a result of the 4 SCPZs that were set up.

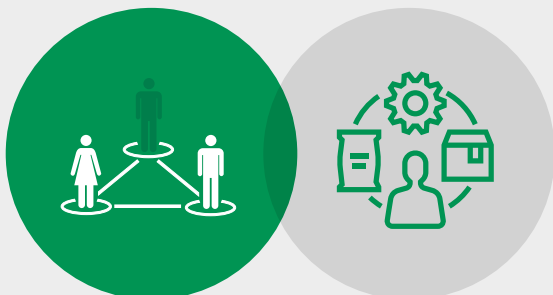


Management review of institutional arrangements

The implementation of the MNAP is a function of the Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department (AHHD) which resides in the Agriculture, Human and Social Development (AHVP) complex. The overall nutrition strategy guidance, coordination, and monitoring was initially set to be the responsibility of a high-level and cross-sector Steering Committee on Nutrition (SCN), consisting of senior management from the regional hubs of the relevant RDGS and the Office of the Bank's President, chaired by the Vice-President of AHVP and supported by a Nutrition Taskforce chaired by the director of AHHD. In tandem, the MNAP through ALN, in operationalising its mandate, was to utilise this structure to ensure cohesive delivery of the outward facing nutrition agenda of the Bank.

However, the review found that the planned structure of managing the MNAP was not fully functional, affecting the Bank's wide multi-sectoral business generation for nutrition. Additionally, in terms of capacity, the review noted that the existing structure experienced challenges such as inadequate staffing and logistical issues to maintain effective coordination of the SCN and Nutrition Taskforce, where the responsibility to coordinate and mainstream nutrition rests on a single staff member. Due to absence of a functional steering committee on nutrition as a coordination framework for the MNAP, there is a lack of awareness by sectors and/or task managers on their roles and contribution to the nutrition agenda as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI). The efforts of the ALN are not streamlined, hindering cohesive and efficient implementation of the MNAP.

The Bank is moving in the right direction, though. For instance, the placement of ALN in the AHVP Front Office has been pivotal in stimulating high-level decision-making to advance the MNAP's area of intervention on leveraging the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition across Africa.



The review noted that the existing structure **experienced challenges** such as **inadequate staffing** and **logistical issues** to maintain effective coordination of the SCN and Nutrition Taskforce.

Lessons learned

- a) **Strong leadership within the Bank to institutionalise nutrition.** The Bank's President is a true champion for nutrition. His Presidency has been influential in moving the dial to view nutrition as a viable investment opportunity and a development priority for African governments.
- b) **Coordination of nutrition within the Bank is critical in ensuring the Bank speaks with 1 voice in implementing the MNAP.** The coordination mechanisms put in place to support the MNAP can bridge the gap between the BoN and the ALN.
- c) **The development of the private sector toolkit to harness the critical role that the private sector can play in increasing the consumption of safe and nutritious foods.** The private sector toolkit provides an entry point for the Bank's staff working with the private sector to adopt elements of nutrition-smart programming when designing private sector projects.
- d) **Robust results-tracking mechanisms and learning materials.** Nutrition toolkits and results-tracking tools have been instrumental in building sustained capacity within the Bank and driving progress on the MNAP goals. The use of the dashboard in reporting made it easy to update the top leadership on the progress of the MNAP and to course correct areas where progress was stalling.
- e) **Robust and relentless advocacy by the ALN.** Sustained advocacy efforts are critical to influence and accelerate progress towards eliminating stunting across the continent. The ALN is commended for the relentless high-level political advocacy that is crucial for attaining global and continental nutrition commitments. However, more can be done to make the ALN more impactful, such as targeted engagements with Heads of State and mobilisation of grassroots structures to build in-country momentum.
- f) **Targeted and strategic technical assistance to countries through the Bank and TA providers accelerated decision-making for countries to adopt nutrition-smart programming elements during project appraisal and project review processes.**

High-burden countries on the continent make up **70% of childhood stunting** burden in Africa

Considerations going forward

Overall, the MTR revealed good progress in most of the MNAP indicators. Some of the targets have been surpassed, while others are on course to be achieved (as evidenced by the increased nutritional-smart requests made to the Bank). The following recommendations have been suggested for consideration to accelerate the achievements and ensure that 2025 targets are met.

- a) **Review nutrition staffing and capacity building across the Bank.** Currently, the responsibility to coordinate and mainstream nutrition rests on a single staff member, which is neither practical nor sustainable in the long run. The proposal to have nutrition specialists within the 5 regional hubs as well as nutrition technical staff at the Headquarters should be pursued by the Bank to ensure sustained capacity for nutrition programming across the Bank's offices. The Bank should also implement targeted capacity building activities for task managers by institutionalising regular refresher trainings on nutrition integration.
- b) **Strengthen the M&E system for data quality.** It was also observed that in the M&E logframe of MNAP 2018-2025, some indicators at output and outcome levels did not have baseline values and neither were mid-term nor end-term targets set. Although a 2017 Situational Analysis Report was published, it missed out some indicator values for quantitative indicators. Therefore, the Bank should strengthen the M&E system and structures in relation to the following: data collection, data processing, access to the Nutrition Dashboard, generation of progress reports and dissemination to both (internal and external stakeholder) by developing specific M&E tools to track all indicators in the logframe.
- c) **The Bank should formalise the SCN and Nutrition Taskforce.** This will allow regular engagement with senior management of the Bank and partner organisations to provide reporting on progress, appropriate guidance to address challenges and decision-making for the implementation of the MNAP.
- d) **Conduct a situational analysis study to inform the portfolio target for the education sector.** This will enable the Bank to achieve the outputs and outcomes that were planned for under Action 2.1.3 in the MNAP logframe.
- e) **Conduct Economic Investment case studies for each of the 5 priority sectors.** Aside from other knowledge products, the ALN should prioritise the development of Economic Investment case studies as they act in complementarity with the CNAS to highlight where countries are spending more or less on cost-effective interventions for nutrition, with the focus on the 5 priority sectors and the effects of COVID-19. The Economic Investment case studies to be conducted with a focus on sectors with higher impact on stunting should inform the redefinition of nutrition investment targets for all the sectors, given that the final targets set for sectors such as WASH and social protection have been surpassed while agriculture and health are on course at mid-term.
- f) **Focus on countries with the highest burden of malnutrition (stunting).** In 2021, the Bank prioritised 10 high-burden countries based on their stunting burden and borrowing headroom based on the Grey Matter Infrastructure Index. High-burden countries on the continent make up 70% of childhood stunting burden in Africa. This demonstrates how the Bank can make a strong impact in reducing stunting through portfolio allocations in these countries. Once in the high-burden countries, the focus should be on the vulnerable regions.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and objective of the Mid-Term Review

1.1.1. Background and context

Global stunting rates decreased from 33.1% to 22% between 2000 and 2020, yet prevalence rates in Africa remain significantly higher than other regions at 30.7% in 2020. The levels of malnutrition in Africa remain unacceptably high while progress to reverse them is slow. The burden of malnutrition is a direct threat to the economic gains being made on the continent and has the potential to compromise the development and productivity of Africa's future generations. African economies are losing 11% of their annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to malnutrition-related costs. The World Bank Group indicates that a 1% loss in height due to stunting is associated with a 1.4% loss in economic productivity.

In 2016, as part of the response to the rising challenge of malnutrition on the continent, the African Development Bank (the Bank) reviewed its sectoral portfolios and undertook evidence synthesis to identify country needs and approaches to address those needs. In 2018, the Bank launched an ambitious Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2018-2025 (MNAP) under the Banking on Nutrition (BoN) partnership as a catalyst for achieving the goals of the Bank's equitable growth agenda in supporting the Grey Matter Infrastructure. The MNAP is inextricably linked to the Bank's High 5 priorities and sets out a vision, strategic priorities, and actions for nutrition. It seeks to leverage additional financial resources through nutrition-smart investments across 5 key sectors to support a 40% stunting reduction across the continent by 2025. These sectors include health, agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), social protection and education which account for 30% of government spending in Africa and serve as the underlying drivers of nutrition. The action plan focuses on 3 areas of intervention: i) Leveraging the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition across Africa; ii) Mainstreaming nutrition in the Bank's portfolio, pipeline and workplace; and iii) Increasing production and consumption of safe and nutritious foods.

Following 3 years of implementation of the MNAP and as highlighted in the action plan, it was prudent for the Bank to undertake a mid-term review of the action plan. The MTR aims to assess and evaluate the progress made by documenting lessons learned and refine the implementation approach for the rest of the MNAP's period. The MTR report presents assessment results at the outcome and output levels, as per the 3 MNAP intervention areas.

1.1.2. Objective of the MTR

The main objective of the MTR was to assess and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Bank's MNAP, document lessons learned, and identify areas for mid-term correction and alignment for the remaining period in order to achieve a significant reduction of stunting and realisation of more nutritional outcomes. Specifically, the assignment aimed to achieve the following steps.

- a) Assess the implementation of the Bank's MNAP in the first phase with robust performance gap analysis that identifies specific actions across the 3 core intervention areas and recommendations for course-correction from 2022 to 2025.
- b) Review progress made by African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) in leveraging the Bank's convening power and leadership to catalyse greater efforts towards scaling up nutrition action on the continent and recommend areas of focus in line with prevailing thinking in nutrition programming.
- c) Undertake a management review including the institutional arrangements, capacity, and supportive environment for effective coordination of the Bank's nutrition agenda.
- d) Assess the progress made in terms of proportion of investments that are nutrition-smart in the 5-priority sectors, challenges, and gaps to accelerate nutrition-smart investments, as well as the relevance and appropriateness of the MNAP's ambition.
- e) Undertake a bottleneck analysis of the coordination and implementation arrangements as well as provide recommendations to create synergies and complementarities between BoN and ALN that can be optimised within the Bank's organisational structure to achieve greater impact.
- f) Assess the relevance and appropriateness of the MNAP in the context of the current thinking and approaches to nutrition programming and the impact of emerging threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- g) Draw lessons learnt at the level of (a) overall design of the MNAP, (b) operationalisation and implementation, and (c) institutional arrangements for monitoring implementation.
- h) Document best practices in the implementation of the MNAP focusing on nutrition-smart projects particularly in the 5-priority sector operations namely: agriculture, education, health, social protection, water and sanitation (WASH), and make recommendations for action.

1.2. MNAP 2018-2025

1.2.1. Background and the MNAP: 3-part approach

The MNAP was launched under the BoN partnership. The BoN partnership was launched in May 2016 with a membership comprising the Bank, Big Win Philanthropy, and the Aliko Dangote Foundation. The partnership intends to generate long-term inclusive economic growth across Africa by unlocking the nutrition potential of the Bank's investment portfolio. It involves delivering technical support to the Bank to redesign its investments in the 5 priority sectors. This will help it to become nutrition-smart and deliver greater social and economic returns alongside achieving nutrition impact, thus representing a double win. The proportion of nutrition-smart investment targets set by the Bank per sector was 50% for health, 50% for agriculture, 15% for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and 10% for social protection.

The 3 areas of intervention in the action plan include:

a) Area of Intervention 1: Leverage the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition. The intended objectives are to:

- Accelerate and strengthen political momentum, accountability, and advocacy for nutrition at the regional and country levels and by hosting the ALN Secretariat, which was launched in January 2018 and adopted by the African Union (AU);
- Accelerate nutrition-smart investments on the continent across stakeholders;
- Advance research and knowledge generation for nutrition at the continental and regional levels.

b) Area of Intervention 2: Mainstream nutrition in the Bank's portfolio and pipeline. The intended objectives are to:

- Increase nutrition impact through the Bank's current portfolio and existing pipeline;
- Incorporate and mainstream nutrition into the Bank's metrics and build capacity within the institution;
- Provide a nutrition-sensitive workplace at the Bank's headquarters and its regional hubs.

c) Area of Intervention 3: Contribute to an increase in the production and consumption of safe, diverse and nutritious foods to provide more children and pregnant and lactating women with appropriate minimum dietary diversity.

The intended objectives are to:

- Mainstream nutrition-smart investments through the Feed Africa strategy by taking a nutrition-sensitive agricultural value chain framework to safe, diverse and nutritious food systems that leverage flagship initiatives including Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), the Staple Crop Processing Zones Program, and Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks.
- Catalyse and leverage private sector capital to contribute to the goal of increasing the production and consumption of safe, diverse, and nutritious foods.

1.2.2. Roll-out of the MNAP

The MNAP is implemented in 2 phases as described below:

a) Phase 1 - Inception phase (2018):

- This phase focused primarily on strengthening the Bank's convening power for nutrition (*ie* Area of Intervention 1) and building capacity for nutrition across the Bank as well as mainstreaming nutrition into the institution's culture and workplace (*ie* Area of Intervention 2) as shown in Table 1. During Phase 1, the Bank was to mainstream nutrition in a prioritised set of appropriate nutrition-sensitive projects in health, agriculture, water and sanitation, and social protection, except education. Phase 1 was intended to refine approaches, build partnerships, and mobilise adequate resources in line with the Bank's investment agenda.
- Phase 1 was to be used to build nutrition-related capacity and awareness in the Agriculture and Agricultural Finance teams and integrate nutrition-sensitive activities into agriculture pipeline projects (*ie* Area of Intervention 3) through flagship programs such as the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) and Staple Crop Processing Zones Program. The lessons learned from Phase 1 were to inform the smooth transition to Phase 2.

- b) **Phase 2 (2019-2025)** is a full roll-out phase of all 3 areas of intervention, building on the progress made during, and learnings from Phase 1 (2018). Phase 2 started in 2019. Table 1 shows the high-level activities under Phase 1 and Phase 2 per area of intervention in the MNAP (2018-2025):

	Phase 1: inception phase (2018)	Phase 2: full roll-out phase (2019-2025)
<p>Area of Intervention 1: Leverage the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition across Africa [Page 33 of M&E Framework].</p>	<p>Strengthen Bank's convening power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the ALN. • Champion nutrition and Grey Matter Infrastructure. • Identify opportunities to accelerate movement for nutrition at the country level. 	<p>Leverage the Bank's convening power by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the ALN Secretariat to deliver key activities eg publishing knowledge products. • Continue to champion nutrition and Grey Matter Infrastructure at high-level events and support the development of key knowledge products. • Convene partners at the country level to accelerate the momentum for nutrition.
<p>Area of Intervention 2: Mainstream nutrition in the Bank's portfolio, pipeline, and workplace [Page 41 of M&E Framework].</p>	<p>Build awareness and capacity for nutrition at the Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity within the Bank to deliver nutrition-smart impacts. • Promote a nutrition-sensitive workplace at Bank HQ and regional offices. • Assess the Bank's portfolio and pipeline for nutrition potential. 	<p>Mainstream nutrition at the Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further expand the Bank's capacity in nutrition. • Maintain a nutrition-sensitive workplace at the Bank's HQ and Regional Offices. • Incorporate nutrition more fully into the Bank's metrics and normal operations. • Increase nutrition impact through the Bank's portfolio and pipeline.
<p>Area of Intervention 3: Increase the production and consumption of safe, diverse, and nutritious foods. [Page 46 of M&E Framework].</p>	<p>Refine implementation plan for Areas of Intervention 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise objectives and actions. • Build partnerships and mobilise resources. • Begin to implement select projects in the pipeline. 	<p>Increase the production and consumption of safe, diverse and nutritious foods in Africa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement prioritised objectives and actions for Area of Intervention 3 (Aol3). • Leverage partnerships and use resources to realise the Bank's ambitious agenda. • Ensure that the Bank leverages its voice and leadership to promote safe, diverse, and nutritious foods agenda through Area of Intervention 1.

Table 1: The 2 Phases of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2018-2025

Source: MNAP 2018-2025 by AfDB June 2018

1.3. Scope of the MTR

The terms of reference (ToRs) for the MTR are prescriptive in outlining the level of effort, specific direction, and expected deliverables of the review. These provided the framework for the MTR assignment and final report. The ToRs required that CERFODES examines key documents

related to the MNAP implementation and its enabling environment, obtain the perspectives of relevant partners such as the BoN, identify opportunities to advance the Bank's work on nutrition across the continent as well as the required technical capacity, and resource needs.

2. Approach and methodology

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) covered the period 2018-2021, and was inclusive and participatory in nature. The execution of the assignment followed a 4-phased approach *ie* inception, data collection, data analysis and synthesis and lastly, reporting and closure. The following activities were undertaken during the MTR.

2.1. Planning and inception meeting

The MTR process began with an inception meeting between CERFODES and the BoN partnership. The meeting clarified, among other things, the scope of work, methods, work plan, progress monitoring and the key stakeholders to be consulted. This was followed by the preparation of an Inception Report which was approved by the BoN partnership and adopted as the basis for the execution of the assignment.

2.2. Data collection methods

Data was collected using the techniques below:

- a) Review of key documents obtained from the BoN partnership and key actors (such as UNICEF, WFP, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) in the nutrition eco-system. Other relevant nutrition-related literature was reviewed. Statistics from the Bank's Nutrition Dashboard and other databases (eg statistics on stunting in Africa by UNICEF) were extracted. Data on the Bank's portfolio and project pipeline (2015-2022) per sector per country including stunting levels were downloaded from the Bank's project portal and reviewed.
- b) Key informant interviews with key stakeholders identified in consultation with and agreed upon/ validated by the BoN representatives. A list of the key informants engaged is annexed to this report (Annex 3).

2.3. Data analysis and synthesis

Data was analysed using a combination of quantitative and qualitative techniques. Quantitative data (secondary statistics) - for example, statistics (project portfolio per sector) downloaded from the Nutrition Dashboard in a spreadsheet for the period 2018-2021 and stunting levels per Bank's Regional Member Countries (RMC) - were analysed to generate descriptive statistics (ie mean, percentages, proportions, totals, and absolute numbers) using MS-Excel. The results were disaggregated by the 3 Areas of Intervention and 4 priority sectors (health, agriculture, WASH, and social protection) where nutrition-sensitive projects were funded.

The qualitative data obtained from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and document review was analysed using thematic, content and discourse analysis techniques with support of MS-Word. The differences in the output, outcome, and impact indicator values are explained and corroborated with findings from the qualitative analysis.

2.4. Limitations

- a) Although the MNAP 2018-2025 was designed to support a 40% stunting reduction in Africa by 2025, it was not possible to conduct an impact assessment at mid-term because the period is short and most of the nutrition-smart projects are still being implemented by RMCs. Therefore, detailed empirical impact assessment studies have not been done to absolutely determine the current stunting levels as a result of the contribution of the MNAP. An informative detailed impact assessment will only be feasible at the end of implementation of the MNAP.
- b) The RMCs conduct nutrition studies at different times of the year and at different intervals. For example, the Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) which have a component on nutrition are conducted every 4 years but at different specific periods (months and year). In addition, some RMCs have not updated their data on stunting levels, with some countries having very old statistics which date back 10-15 years and are still included in the Nutrition Dashboard. This makes it difficult to determine the current stunting level per country and analyse the contribution of the MNAP.

3. Findings

The performance of the MNAP was assessed by examining to what extent it achieved its objectives over the 4-year period 2018-2021.

3.1. Leverage the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition (Area of Intervention 1)

During the period under review, African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) was mainly tasked with i) broadening the evidence-base and encouraging accountability and ii) strengthening the political engagement and building partnerships to spark dialogue on the need to address malnutrition.

3.1.1. Broadening evidence and encouraging accountability

Cognisant of the ALN goal and objectives, the ALN initiative uses a set of strategies/approaches such as the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard (CNAS) and the Economic Investment Case for Nutrition as advocacy tools to highlight individual country progress and provide a high-level snapshot of continental progress on globally-agreed and Africa-specific targets.

a) Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard

The ALN Initiative developed a static CNAS for policy makers and stakeholders to track Africa's progress and to easily make investment decisions. The CNAS was launched at the 32nd AU Summit in February 2019. The MTR noted that the CNAS was instrumental in driving ALN's agenda. For instance, it provided the basis for ALN's advocacy work on addressing nutrition challenges across the continent, served as a tool for enabling the ALN to obtain endorsement from the major nutrition actors, served as a tool for galvanising the debate around the core areas on addressing malnutrition in Africa, and rendered a framework for leaders at the country levels to consistently shape national dialogues on policies and strategies to reduce childhood malnutrition. The MTR noted that while a digital version for the CNAS platform was in the works, it was still a static document which limited countries' use of the tool in more robust and interactive ways.

b) Economic Investment Case for Nutrition Report in Africa

One of the key results of the ALN Initiative was the development of the Economic Investment Case for Nutrition Report as well as an updated investment framework highlighting the most cost-effective nutrition interventions. These were envisioned as advocacy tools. The Economic Investment Case for Nutrition Report intended to *"articulate the status on economic losses from under-nutrition, as measured by available data including GDP and the potential economic gains from scaling nutrition investments,*

as measured by proxy indicators of income and compound rates of return". However, the ALN did not develop the Economic Investment Case for Nutrition Report in Africa as other similar pieces of work had already been developed by other partners such as the World Bank Investment Framework for Nutrition, the Global Nutrition Report, Cost of Hunger Studies, and country case studies.

During the implementation of the MNAP, a number of factors emerged or changed in relation to cross-cutting issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the geo-political climate, inflation, etc. These compelled some Regional Member Countries (RMCs) to refocus their attention, priorities, and resources towards response and recovery. This is why there is the call for a new Economic Investment Case Study for Nutrition in Africa 2023, covering each of the priority sectors of the MNAP to update the existing investment case study report of 2018 and informing the next course of action. Recent developments related to an executive decision by the African Union (AU) in July 2022 to develop a nutrition financing target as an indication of opportunity towards developing the Economic Investment Case for Nutrition.

3.1.2. Strengthening political engagement and building partnerships

a) ALN Champion Engagement

These are clear examples of progress in establishing political dialogue that advances nutrition objectives.



The number of ALN Champions increased from 11 eminent founding champions drawn from the public, private, and non-government sectors to 19 by the end of 2020. The ALN in collaboration with the AU developed engagement plans to facilitate and guide the dialogues with influential high-level political leaders. The engagement plans detailed the opportunities for using the Champions' voice and convening power to raise the importance of increasing investments to address malnutrition.



There was established dialogue with African leaders on the need to make nutrition a development imperative on the continent through increased investments. The ALN organised 4 high-level side events to discuss the status of malnutrition on the continent and facilitate leaders to review the progress being made and opportunities to leverage investments towards achieving the continental and World Health Assembly (WHA) nutrition targets by 2025.



The ALN, together with the African Union Commission (AUC), supported King Letsie III, to present a position paper on 'Embedding Nutrition within the national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic' as a way of prioritising the nutrition funding landscape on the continent in the face of COVID-19.



The Multi-Sectoral Approach for Stunting Reduction Project (MASReP) in Ethiopia was the result of the high-level political dialogue between the Bank's top leadership and the Ethiopian Government. The ALN's continued dialogue with political leaders on financial and political commitments aimed at improving nutrition may be attributed to this engagement.



A Presidential Dialogue Group on Nutrition was launched in September 2022 during the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with the aim of ALN amplifying dialogue and establishing a platform to secure high-level political commitments and directly engage Presidents of the countries with high stunting burden and other leaders who may have not been enlisted as Nutrition Champions. This presents an opportunity to link high-level political leadership with nutrition-smart lending requests for African leaders, spearheading the development of multi-sectoral nutrition programs in their respective countries. The Presidential Dialogue Group will also act as a platform for showcasing the impact of nutrition-smart programs that can be replicated to eliminate continent-wide stunting.



The box below provides a summary of progress towards galvanising support for increased investments in nutrition in Africa:

Progress towards galvanising support for increased investment in nutrition in Africa:

ALN successfully engaged and supported the Nutrition Champions to advocate for increased investment in nutrition in major events including the African Union Summit and the Bank's annual meeting in Malabo in 2019. In preparation for the Japan Global Nutrition Summit in 2020, ALN supported some Heads of State to use their influence to galvanise financial and policy commitments for nutrition at the 7th Tokyo International Conference of Africa's Development (TICAD7) in Yokohama, Japan. At this important global meeting, ALN supported the First Lady of Ghana and President Roch Christian Kaboré of Burkina Faso in outlining and making commitments on policy agendas in their respective countries.

Following this successful high-level advocacy at the TICAD7 meeting, nutrition was acknowledged in the Yokohama Declaration and a Plan of Action was agreed. Further, the Japanese government made a commitment to improve the nutritional status of 200 million African children through the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) and other measures, as well as hosting the key Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020. The Bank made a financial commitment at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2021.

To facilitate dialogue with influential high-level political leaders, ALN developed an engagement plan in collaboration with each champion that details the opportunities for using their voice and convening power to raise the importance of increasing investments to address malnutrition. At the continental level, the champions have played a vital role in calling for necessary policy execution accompanied by increased budgetary allocation to address nutrition.

3.1.3. Assessment of Drivers and Challenges

- a) High-level political engagements and commitments increased buy-in of the nutrition agenda by the Governments of the RMCs. The MTR of the MNAP noted that many heads of state and ministries across the continent, both Nutrition Champions and non-Nutrition Champions, have increased their commitment. For example, the MASReP project in Ethiopia was as the result of the high-level dialogue between the Bank's President and the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia.
- b) The Bank uses the ALN's CNAS, which is sent out every year. However, the scorecard is not updated regularly as it relies on secondary sources of data such as population-based surveys which are not conducted every year. In addition, the CNAS targets heads of state, however, it is not entirely up to the heads of state to do better. The Bank should therefore critically look at how best to work with countries and heads of state to improve the monitoring system and mutual accountability.
- c) Delay in approval and disbursement of funds by the Bank. For instance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation approved a grant for the ALN in June 2022 and by October 2022, ALN had not accessed these funds due to bureaucratic hurdles that had to be resolved at the Bank. By implication, the ALN was not able to implement activities planned for that period.

Box 1: Summary of progress towards galvanising support

ALN 2020: Biennial Report on Implementation of the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative 2018-2020, October 2020.

3.2. Mainstreaming nutrition into the Bank's portfolio and pipeline (Area of Intervention 2)

3.2.1. Nutrition-smart investments by the Bank

Recognising the importance of multi-sectoral planning and programming, the Bank has been a pioneer in mainstreaming nutrition within its portfolio. An analysis of statistics between the baseline period (2015-2018) and the mid-term period (2019-2021) revealed that the Bank together with its BoN partners achieved the following over the period 2015-2021:

- The Bank's nutrition-smart projects increased from 23 at baseline (2015-2018) to 39 by end 2021 (a nearly 70% increase from baseline). This increase was out of 211 projects covering all priority sectors except education.
- The Bank's portfolio for nutrition-smart projects increased from \$704,293,701 (for 23 nutrition-smart projects in 2015-2018, baseline figures) to \$2,143,328,344 (for 39 nutrition-smart projects in 2019-2021).
- Overall, a cumulative total of \$2,847,622,045 (for 62 nutrition-smart projects) was leveraged for nutrition-smart projects over the period 2015 to 2021, representing 40.6% of the \$7 billion endline target of the Bank by 2025.

Overall, the marked increase in nutrition-smart projects can be attributed to the launch of the MNAP which formally established the nutrition agenda for the Bank leading to increased nutrition mainstreaming of Bank projects, and the high-level ALN advocacy which encouraged the RMCs to prioritise nutrition.

a) Distribution of nutrition-smart portfolio per sector

All the 4 sectors, agriculture (39.2%), health (29.8%), WASH (67.5%) and social protection (38.8%) had at least 30% of their portfolio designated as nutrition-smart projects in 2018-2021 period. Figure 1 shows the proportion by percentage of nutrition-smart projects supported by the Bank at baseline (2015-2018) and the MNAP implementation period (2019-2021).

It is evident from Figure 1 that the proportion of nutrition-smart investments for WASH, Agriculture and Health had increased except for education. The proportion of nutrition-smart investments for social protection dropped from 60% at baseline to 38% during period 2019-2021 of the MNAP implementation although the portfolio allocations increased by 87% (from \$283,371,169 at baseline to \$326,170,799 during period of MNAP portfolio allocation). The highest increment was registered in the WASH sector from 3% at baseline to 90% during period of MNAP portfolio allocation. The World Health Organization (WHO) Report on stunting in Africa cited WASH interventions as the only efforts that resulted in a significant impact on the reduction of child stunting.

Over the period 2018-2021, 34% of total Bank investments (\$6,912,389,793) were leveraged towards nutrition.

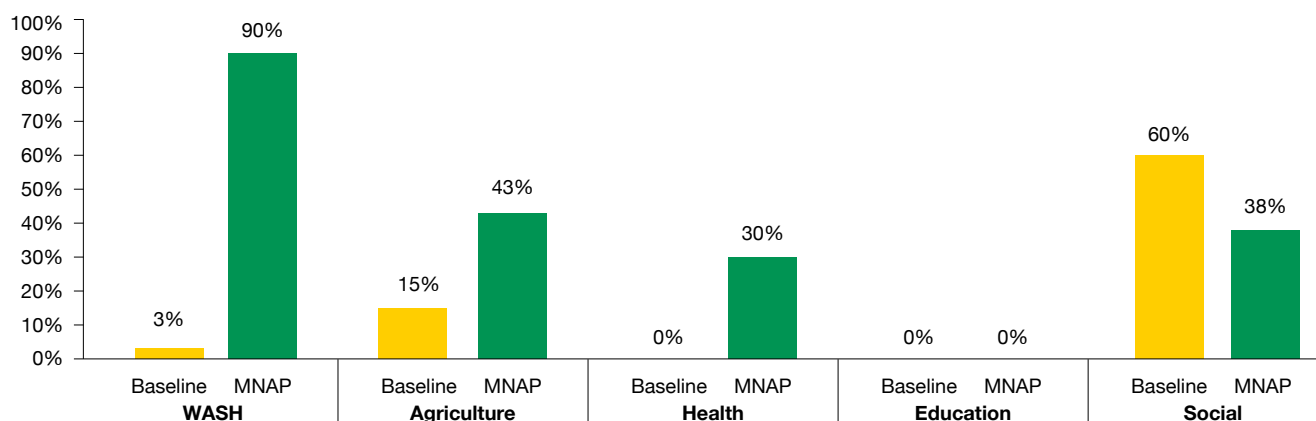


Figure 1: Percentage value of nutrition-smart projects of the Bank

Source: AfDB Nutrition Dashboard (October 2022)

b) Percentage of investment portfolio against target per sector as compared to the baseline

The portfolio allocation to health (29.8%) and agriculture (39.2%) surpassed the mid-term target and is on track towards achievement of the 2025 end-term target of 50% for health and agriculture. WASH (67.5%) and social protection (38.8%) surpassed the 2025 target of 10% and 15% respectively (Figure 2). The awareness events on the MNAP, the use of Nutrition Champions and the CNAS by ALN in advocacy initiatives may have contributed to increased awareness in the RMCs to make nutrition-smart requests to the Bank. The nutrition-smart portfolio allocation to social protection was high, reflecting the increasing focus on provision of social safety nets by the RMCs in response to the food insecurity and poverty especially at the household level in addition to the COVID-19 response efforts by the Bank.

It was envisaged that the number and value of nutrition-smart projects would increase with time. The year 2018 kicked off the MNAP with 8 nutrition-smart projects followed by 24 nutrition-smart projects in 2019 (Figure 3). The sharp rise in the number of nutrition-smart projects was attributed to the launch of the MNAP in 2018 which clearly defined the nutrition agenda for the Bank and laid the foundation for nutrition-smart projects, the endorsement of the ALN by the AU, the use of Nutrition Champions, recruitment of a nutrition expert at the Bank and the technical assistance provided by Nutrition International. Moreover, the technical assistance provided by Nutrition International enabled business continuity during recruitment of the Bank's Nutrition Officer between 2019 and 2021. There was a reduction in the number of nutrition-smart projects

from 24 in 2019 to 12 in 2020. This was attributable to an emergency shift in the classification of nutrition-smart funding during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consideration was instead given to projects with COVID-19 responses with nutrition indicators mainly at the output level contrary to the Bank's Nutrition Marker which classifies impact and/or outcome level indicators as constituting the criteria for nutrition-smart projects. Thus, most nutrition-smart projects were not categorised as nutrition-smart.

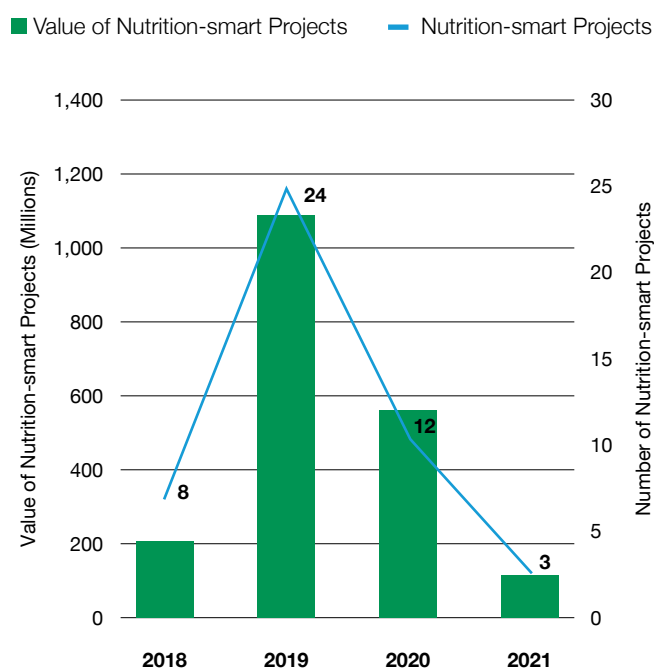


Figure 3: Number of nutrition-smart projects Vs value of nutrition-smart projects per year
Source: AfDB Nutrition Dashboard (October 2022)

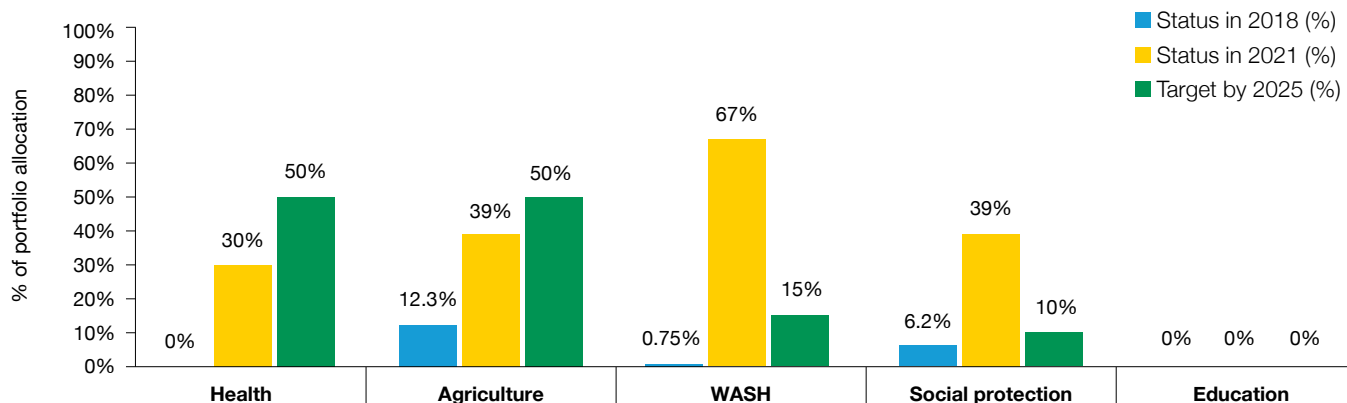


Figure 2: Achievement status in allocations across various targeted sectors
Source: AfDB Nutrition Dashboard (October 2022)

c) Regional distribution of nutrition-smart portfolio and projects (2018-2021)

In 2018, out of a total \$7208,592,418 nutrition-smart portfolio issued, West Africa received the highest proportion (54%), followed by Southern Africa (25%), and East Africa (20%) whereas North Africa did not have a nutrition-smart project funded by the Bank. In 2019, out of the total \$1,313,782,422 nutrition-smart portfolio issued, West Africa received 46% of the portfolio followed by North Africa (25%), and Central Africa (22%). In 2020, out of the total \$710,235,781 nutrition-smart portfolio issued, East Africa received the highest portfolio (76%), followed by West Africa (22%) whereas Central and North Africa did not have any nutrition-smart project funded by the Bank. In 2021, out of the total \$117,235,897 nutrition-smart portfolio issued, North Africa received 72.6% followed by East Africa (27%) whereas Central Africa and South Africa did not have any nutrition-smart project funded by the Bank.

Cumulatively, by 2021, 35% of the \$2,847,622,045 nutrition-smart investments were in West Africa, 20% in East Africa, and 17% in North Africa while Central Africa and Southern Africa had 15% and 13% of the nutrition-smart investments respectively.

Between 2018 and 2021, there were 47 nutrition-smart investment projects with all the 5 regional hubs receiving nutrition-smart projects. West Africa had 17 nutrition-smart projects, followed by 13 in East Africa, 8 in Central Africa, 5 in Southern Africa, and 4 in North Africa. It should be noted that 12% of the world's children live in West and Central Africa and the region bears a disproportionate share of global burden

of child rights deprivation. This includes stunting and could have signalled the RMCs in those regions to make more nutrition-smart requests to the Bank. For instance, West Africa was home to 20.2 million out of 61.4 million children who were stunted in 2020 while central Africa was home to 11.3 million bringing the total to almost half (31.5 million) of stunted children residing in West and Central Africa alone. The per capita income in Northern African countries is higher than other regions meaning that people in those regions have more disposable income and can afford varied and nutritious diet hence improved nutrition outcomes which intrinsically lower the demand for nutrition-smart projects.

Overall, there has been a remarkable coverage of the nutrition-smart investments in Africa with at least 41 out of 54 countries (75%) receiving nutrition-smart investments, including high-burden countries. Of the 41 countries that received funding for nutrition-smart projects by 2021, 14 countries⁹ were from high-burden countries with the exception of Mozambique, with a total of 27 nutrition-smart projects. High-burden countries in the East Africa region registered 10 projects followed by 8 in high-burden countries of Southern Africa, 6 in the West Africa, and 3 in the Central Region of the continent.

A total of 13 countries (ie 5 in the Southern hub, 2 in the Eastern hub, 3 in the Northern hub, 2 in the Western hub and 1 in the Central hub) did not benefit from nutrition-smart investments. This could be attributed to failure to meet the borrowing headroom to make nutrition-smart requests to the Bank, or they were not successful in their lending requests.

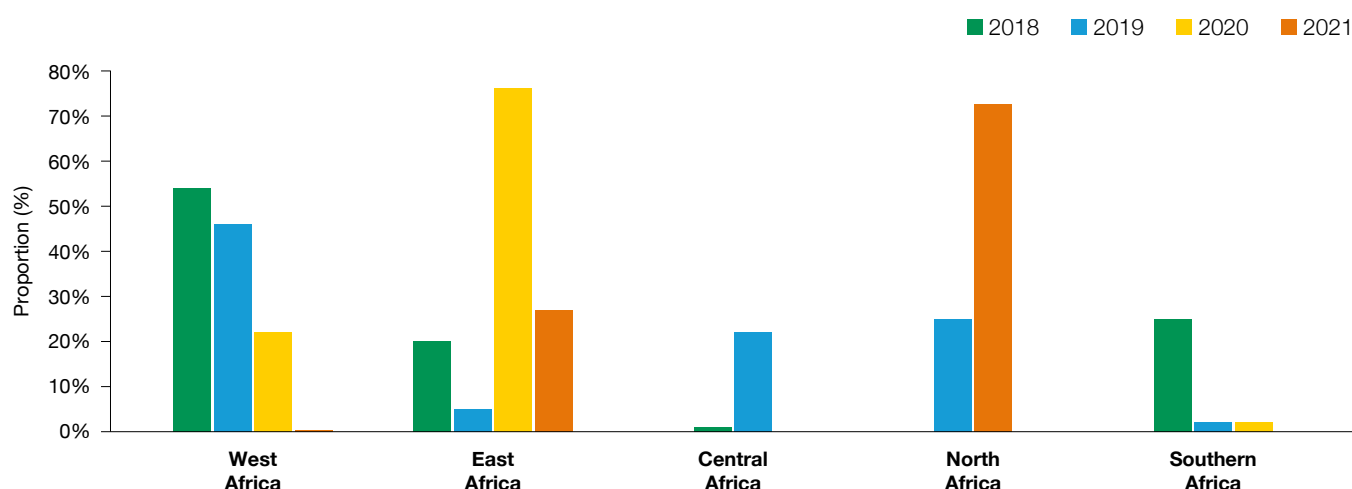


Figure 4: Nutrition-smart investments per regional hub of the Bank

Source: Nutrition Dashboard (October 2022)

3.2.2. Embedding nutrition into the Bank project cycle

a) Nutrition toolkit of the Bank

The Bank, with technical support from Nutrition International, developed customised multi-sectoral nutrition toolkits which are uploaded on the Learning Management System (LMS) platform of the Bank. The capacity-building toolkit has a set of material and resources that Bank staff can use to understand how to program nutrition into the Bank's investment processes, pipeline, and projects. During the MTR, discussions with Bank staff revealed that although nutrition content is available on the LMS, it is not fully utilised by current and new Bank staff in all departments and regional hubs. Currently, there is no Bank policy or mechanism to make the toolkits mandatory for staff to complete. The Bank should consider strengthening its communication, technical support and advocacy to encourage the Bank staff to utilise the toolkit on the LMS, as well as accessing a number of blended concessional funds to support the MNAP in the next phase.

b) The Nutrition Marker

The Bank's Nutrition Marker was developed in August 2019. It aims to help project managers and decision-makers to design and categorise nutrition-smart projects in view of their potential contribution to accelerating stunting reduction in Africa. The

Nutrition Marker serves as a quick guide for project teams, for highlighting key features to make projects nutrition-smart. It is a reference tool for peer reviewers and a benchmark for categorising and tracking nutrition-smart projects⁹ in line with the MNAP. However, during the MTR consultative discussions, it was revealed that currently, the Nutrition Marker is not a mandatory prerequisite in project appraisal but rather a matter of choice. This is contrary to the way the gender marker is used within the Bank. The Bank has not made the Nutrition Marker a mandatory policy nor has it instituted incentives to ensure the use of the marker in all project design and appraisal in the 5 priority sectors.

c) Nutrition in Country Strategy Papers and Regional Integration Strategy Papers

Over the MTR period of 2018 to 2021, at least 24 CSPs, 5 RISPs, 3 Country Briefs and 2 Interim CSPs have been prepared by the Bank (Annex 5). Of the 25 CSPs prepared, at least 4 had nutrition outcome indicators, *ie* Burundi - Country Strategy Paper 2019-2024, Cabo Verde - Country Strategy Paper 2019-2024, the Gambia - Country Strategy Paper 2021-2025 and Mozambique - Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022.



3.2.3. Nutrition capacity within the Bank

a) Nutrition staffing

The Bank has staff with expertise and experience in various fields but with only 1 nutrition expert. This necessitated the training of staff (task managers) in this domain. There is inadequate staffing of nutrition technical officers at the Bank. Currently, the Bank only has 1 Nutrition Officer. This increases the workload during project missions particularly appraisal in the RMCs. The Bank has not recruited nutrition experts for each of the 5 regional hubs as envisaged by the BoN partnership due to budget constraints at Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department (AHHD) where the MNAP is housed. The Bank was supposed to create staff positions for regional nutrition specialists in its regional delivery hubs, however, this had not been accomplished by the end of Phase 2 of Technical Assistance (TA) support in 2021.

Nevertheless, technical and staffing gaps were addressed in the short term by BoN partnership through Nutrition International which provided TA to the various Bank processes and projects. Specifically, Nutrition International provided TA by deploying 2 nutrition specialists to support nutrition integration at the Bank. The TA aimed at increasing the nutrition capacity of the Bank and to support task managers in nutrition integration.

The Nutrition International provided TA from 2019-2021 when the Bank was recruiting the position of the senior nutrition and social protection officer which was vacant at the time. The first Nutrition International nutrition specialist, an Anglophone (English speaking) commenced TA delivery in February 2020. In June 2020, the second nutrition expert, a bilingual (French/English) was recruited to ensure effective TA delivery and support thereby increasing the number of the Bank's projects in Francophone countries. In addition, the second nutrition expert also supported the Bank in extracting data from approved projects in 2020 and migrating it into the Bank's Nutrition Dashboard. Overall, besides strengthening the knowledge and skills transfer component, the 2 nutrition officers from Nutrition International enabled business continuity in the absence of the Bank's senior nutrition and social protection officer.

b) Capacity building and training in nutrition

Capacity building is considered a key requirement for effective implementation of the MNAP. Under this approach, the Bank planned to raise awareness on the importance of nutrition to ensure adequate inclusion in project pipelines, CSPs, and RISPs. The BoN partnership planned to support the development

and roll-out of accompanying operational tools and guidelines to enhance the capacity-building activities for participating departments and field offices. Capacity building was provided by Nutrition International to the Bank's staff to enable them to accelerate nutrition integration into the institution's investments across priority sectors. Capacity building was purposed to support MNAP operations and more specifically to equip Bank project task managers with the necessary knowledge and skills to design, manage and track nutrition-smart investments as part of the Bank project portfolio.

Capacity building took such forms as i) context-driven technical assistance informed by results of a capacity needs assessment of the Bank's staff; ii) technical guidance for the design and implementation of evidence-based and cost-effective multi-sectoral nutrition interventions with appropriate core sector and project-level nutrition indicators for monitoring nutrition progress; (iii) developing a package of nutrition resources for the Bank workplace; iv) in-person staff workshops at the Bank's regional hubs (East Africa, Southern Africa, West, and Central Africa) with a focus on integrating nutrition in the Bank's investments; v) customisation of nutrition resources of the Bank's multi-sectoral programming; vi) direct technical support to task team managers in designing nutrition-smart projects; and vii) supporting the Bank to create an interactive nutrition dashboard to strengthen internal capacity on tracking its nutrition-smart investments, among other areas of capacity building.

Two regional staff trainings were conducted at the East Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office (RDGE) in Nairobi with 15 Participants from 18th-20th November 2019, then at the Southern Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office (RDGS) in Johannesburg from 25th-27th November 2019, with 18 participants. These 2 workshops, delivered under the theme 'Integrating Nutrition into the Bank's Investments', were a continuation of the Bank's capacity-building efforts that started in June 2019 at staff training for the West and Central Africa regions, in Abidjan.

In March 2022, a virtual capacity-training workshop was conducted for the Nigeria Country Office staff and government counterparts on nutrition-smart investments and how to integrate nutrition into country portfolios across the 5 priority sectors. The training provided first-hand opportunities for the Bank's staff in Nigeria to explore how to use the institution's Nutrition Dashboard to design, track and monitor progress in nutrition-smart investments across the Bank's sectors and regions.

A package of resources was created to support workplace breastfeeding, healthy eating tips and guidance specifically for food services during Bank meetings and events.

3.2.4. Nutrition coordination within the Bank

The AHHD Department is directly responsible for the implementation of the MNAP. While nutrition is a cross-cutting agenda, focusing on the 5 priority sectors (Health, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Social Protection and Education and Skills Development) necessitated the involvement of several departments of the Bank. The coordination of this agenda should be placed at the highest offices of the Bank for effective coordination and ownership among relevant sector departments.

The design of the MNAP foresaw the overall strategic guidance, coordination and monitoring to be a responsibility of a high-level and cross-sector Steering Committee on Nutrition (SCN) consisting of senior management from the regional hubs of relevant RDGs and the Office of the Bank's President, chaired by the Vice-President of Agriculture, Human and Social Development (AHVP). The SCN was to be supported by a Nutrition Taskforce chaired by the Director of AHHD. However, the MTR found no evidence of the formation, existence nor functionality of such a structure that had been proposed during the design of the MNAP. The MTR consultations revealed that the committees have not been as active and functional as they ought to have been due to coordination challenges and competing priorities among committee members. The absence of functional committees deprived the MNAP of an additional monitoring layer. This presented significant challenges related to establishing an effective resolution framework for which the responsibility to coordinate and mainstream nutrition rests on a single staff member. Furthermore, there is a lack of awareness by sectors and/or task managers of their role and contribution to nutrition/MNAP as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and the efforts of the ALN are not streamlined, hindering cohesive and efficient implementation of the MNAP.

3.2.5. Nutrition in the workplace

The Bank promoted healthy eating patterns and lifestyle within its facilities. The Bank's Medical Centre recruited a consultant in November 2017 to work with its canteens to improve hygiene conditions and the quality of the menu of meals provided within its offices in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and to provide nutrition counselling and dietary advice at the Medical Centre. Over a period of 12 months, the consultant registered a total of 132 consultations, most of the clients were either overweight or obese. The consultant introduced healthier products at the vending machines with a traffic light classification according to their health impact. The consultant organised a nutrition week in October 2018. Posters on healthy lifestyle were printed and disseminated at the Bank's offices. The Bank's canteens introduced healthier options on the menu and measures were taken to ensure hygiene and quality control during preparation and conservation of food. Healthier options were also included in the bidding document for the recruitment of the Bank's catering service providers. A package of resources was created to support workplace breastfeeding, healthy eating tips and guidance specifically for food services during Bank meetings and events.

By 2020, a total of 5 actions were completed to promote exclusive breastfeeding among Bank staff, hence surpassing the mid-term target of 4 actions and 1 at baseline that were set in the MNAP logframe. In addition, by 2020, a total of 10 actions were also completed to promote the consumption of healthy foods and healthy lifestyle within the Bank's complexes, hence surpassing the end-line target of 5 actions and 1 at baseline that were set in the MNAP logframe. Examples of actions included i) a room was demarcated for Bank staff to breastfeed their infants at the Head Office and ii) a menu was integrated with nutrition-smart options. However, Bank offices closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19 shutdowns.

3.2.6. Nutrition progress tracking and monitoring within the Bank

With technical assistance from Nutrition International, the Bank developed and currently uses a Nutrition Dashboard for tracking and reporting nutrition-smart investments across the sectoral portfolio per project and by region. The dashboard provides a spreadsheet of the stunting levels per country in Africa although the statistics on stunting levels of some countries are outdated (*ie* over 10-15 years old). This could be attributed to the frequency at which national statistics on stunting are captured and updated by the countries. The dashboard is updated regularly. However, it was not designed to track progress on implementation of several indicators at the output and outcome levels in the MNAP logframe. The Bank is currently integrating the Nutrition Dashboard into its internal systems, to further institutionalise its use.

Some of the indicators such as percentage of Bank staff with the perception that the workplace has become healthier, had data collection tools but no data was collected due to other competing priorities. Consequently, the BoN progress report 2021 did not track and report on performance of some of these indicators in the MNAP logframe (Annex 2).

3.2.7. Private sector nutrition programming toolkit

A private sector nutrition programming toolkit was developed as an additional operational resource to the previously developed 5-part sector brief series on the importance of multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition. The toolkit provides guidance to the Bank's Non-Sovereign Operations (NSO) and Private Sector Support Department (PINS) on how to harness and increase impact on nutrition via private sector interventions and actions. The role of the Bank's NSO and PINS is to support the promotion of private sector development in the RMCs, particularly through transaction structuring advisories to ensure bankable transactions, as well as project and corporate portfolio management. The private sector toolkit consists of 6 modules, each module includes objectives and context for the topical issue, case studies and examples of good practices, monitoring and evaluation information, suggested stakeholders and additional resources.

Given the important role that the private sector plays in the food value chain from investment in nutrition-sensitive agriculture to ensuring availability and access to nutritious foods that meet the nutritional needs of children, it was prudent for the BoN partnership to develop a tool that would harness the crucial role of the private sector towards reducing stunting in Africa. Further, the BoN partners together with Nutrition international developed, designed, and translated the toolkits in French to increase their uptake across the Bank.

3.2.8. Assessment of drivers and challenges

- The AHHD Department, which is directly responsible for the implementation of the MNAP is only in charge of 3 (*ie* higher education, health, and social protection) out of the 5 priority sectors of the MNAP. Agriculture and WASH are under different departments. This poses implementation and coordination challenges which are further exacerbated by a non-functional Steering Committee on Nutrition.
- Although the nutrition toolkits are available on the Bank's Learning Management System (LMS)/platform, they are not fully and widely utilised by Bank staff to strengthen the nutrition programming capacity across all departments and regional hubs. The under-utilisation of the LMS will likely limit the strengthening of nutrition capacity of new Bank staff in the next period (2022-2025) of MNAP implementation.
- The Bank still relies on nutrition consultants who do not have long-term contracts with the Bank which affects the sustainability of the achievements of technical assistance within the Bank. The lack of nutrition expert(s) per department or sector within the Bank affects longevity and institutional knowledge for mainstreaming nutrition into the institution's processes as shared KPIs. The Bank should imitate its own gender department to leave a footprint in mainstreaming nutrition into its portfolio, pipeline, and workplace. In addition, the fact that the ALN Secretariat consists of consultants, it faces additional challenges related to hiring and management of the initiative in line with the Bank's procedures.
- The Bank did not fully adopt and implement some of the recommendations such as recruitment of nutrition technical staff at the regional hubs and institutionalising the use of the Nutrition Markers by incorporating its use in the routine program appraisal reports as highlighted in the staff training workshop reports of 2019 and March 2022 developed by Nutrition International. Consequently, this slowed down the efforts to institutionalise nutrition at the Bank.

3.3. Contribution to increase the production and consumption of safe and diverse nutritious foods (Area of Intervention 3)

The MNAP links to all 5 of the Bank's High 5 priorities with emphasis on the Feed Africa strategy. The Bank is committed to mainstreaming nutrition-smart investments in line with the implementation of the Feed Africa strategy, in order to increase the production and consumption of safe, diverse, and nutritious foods by taking a nutrition-sensitive agricultural value chain framework.

3.3.1. Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)

In 2018, the TAAT was launched as part of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy of 2016-2025. The main objective was increasing agricultural productivity and household incomes by expanding access to climate-resilient and productivity-increasing technologies in low-income RMCs across Africa by 2025. This was done through the deployment of proven and high-performance agricultural technologies along selected value chains such as rice, maize, cassava, wheat, sorghum, millet, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, High-Iron Beans (HIB), livestock, and aquaculture. It should also be noted that although TAAT 1 had several nutrition compacts, nutrition-smart indicators were not included to measure increased awareness or behavioural change on nutritional foods and diet, thereby declassifying it as being nutrition-smart as per Nutrition Markers.

- a) With regard to food production, TAAT 1 has been instrumental in addressing the food production deficits in different parts of the continent, for instance:



In 2018, outreach campaigns to raise wheat productivity were conducted in 7 countries reaching about 41,200 farmers which resulted in an increase in wheat productivity from 2 tons per ha to around 4-6 tons per ha.



Mechanisation to improve rice productivity was conducted in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Mali through the mobilisation of 5 threshers and 5 paddy cleaners and by 2020, rice productivity had increased by 0.21 MT per ha (10%) with an increase in production by 148,223 MT per year.



31 improved HIB varieties of bio-fortified bean varieties rich in iron and zinc and resistant to root disease were identified and deployed in 8 countries (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, and Malawi) in 2018 and by 2020, bean productivity had increased by 0.45 MT per ha (56%) with an increased production of 26,471 MT per year.



8 new varieties of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes were released in Ghana and Nigeria; demonstration plots of multiplied cuttings were established in 6 countries and 310 locations in order to promote Good Agricultural Practices of which 296,000 beneficiaries with over 86 million cuttings had been reached by end of 2018, with over 5 million tons of additional harvested sweet potato expected. By 2020, orange-fleshed sweet potato productivity had increased by 5.3 MT per ha with a 104,927 MT per year increase in production.

Generally, by 2020, a substantial impact on 8 commodities: rice, wheat, maize, sorghum, millet, cassava, sweet potatoes, and beans was achieved. This was attributed to the accelerated deployment of various technologies by TAAT 1 across 28 countries. Overall average productivity had increased by 1.33 MT per ha (58%) with an increase in production of more than 12,012,238 MT per year.

- b) A number of post-harvest technologies were deployed and technology packages (toolkits) demonstrated, from 2018 and by 2020, at least 8,231 farmers had adopted and started using improved post-harvest technologies. For instance, mechanisation to reduce post-harvest loss were conducted in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Mali through the mobilisation of 5 paddy cleaners. Additionally, quality parboiled rice was promoted in Côte d'Ivoire where the GEM parboiling system was installed at different sites. It only uses rice husks as parboiling fuel, resulting in great fuel savings.
- c) Increased willingness and ability to purchase and consume safe and nutritious foods: by the end of 2020, TAAT had reached and organised 5,317 promotional and outreach campaigns. For example, a food basket outreach was organised through which TAAT linked with its partner groups to facilitate youth participation in agribusiness and community nutrition along with 9 commodity value chains of TAAT.

In Ethiopia, about **475 youth** received entrepreneurial training in sheep fattening and production

- d) Consumer education, preferences, and demand: by 2020, over 10,000 crop campaigns addressing malnutrition had been conducted in addition to the deployment of the food basket concept that supports dietary diversity. For instance, farmers and processors across 42 villages in Benin appreciated and commended the TAAT 1 program for introducing the yellow cassava and other nutritious varieties accessible to them.
- e) Women and youth empowerment: TAAT 1 has been influential in upskilling women; for instance, by 2020, 1,593 small ruminant producers including 674 women developed skills in profitable small ruminant fattening in Mali. In Ethiopia, about 475 youth received entrepreneurial training in sheep fattening and production. The program engaged youth and women across the wheat value chain of which 39 youth and women groups received training in seed production, business development, and entrepreneurship skills in 5 countries.
- f) TAAT has also been influential in the advancement and support for policy, regulatory, and institutional reform interventions. Through its Policy Enabler Compact (TAAT-PEC), TAAT 1 championed reforms towards building robust institutional and policy frameworks, TAAT 1 in collaboration with the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat provided technical assistance that resulted in domestication and implementation of harmonised guidelines which have seen EAC member countries revise their pesticide regulations.

Overall, TAAT deployed numerous and diverse improved climate-smart crop varieties and seed production as well as delivery systems supported by pest control strategies, and post-harvest handling systems among others. Some of the countries that benefited from TAAT technologies included Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Niger, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Uganda, Cameroon, Mali, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Togo, Zambia, Central Africa Republic, Rwanda, Ghana, and Malawi among others.

3.3.2. Staple Crop Processing Zones Program (SCPZ)

The SCPZ initiative is part of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy. The SCPZ was launched and implemented in several countries which include Nigeria, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Togo, Zambia and Ghana. In Nigeria, the SCPZ was adopted in 4 zones and in 7 States with emphasis on 3 major staple crops (Rice, Cassava and Sorghum) under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program Phase 1 (ATASP-1) Program. By 2020, ATASP-1 reported an overall increase in production of 3 staple foods under the program. Rice production increased from 46 bags per ha to 64 bags per ha, sorghum production increased from 37 bags per ha to 57 bags per ha, and cassava production increased from 6597.5 Kg per ha to 9328.3 Kg per ha.

3.3.3. Assessment of drivers and challenges

- Under TAAT 1, the new varieties have been approved by accredited research institutions and partners which usually takes long, consequently slowing down the rate at which the intended beneficiaries (farmers, subsequently lactating mothers and other beneficiaries) access the final products of the new varieties. The approved varieties in some instances required adjustments to be compatible with the country conditions. For example, the orange-fleshed sweet potatoes Seed systems required adjustment in 2 of the 6 countries to fit the needs and capacities of these countries.
- Whereas TAAT 1 had several nutrition compacts as indicated in the section above, nutrition-smart indicators were not incorporated, hence declassifying it as being nutrition-smart and as such, going forward there is need to review TAAT 2 (ENABLE TAAT) to ensure nutrition-smart indicators are incorporated.

3.4. Success factors

The good working relations and synergies amongst the BoN partners. These relationships gave strategic direction, provided initial resources to catalyse investment to advance the vision of growing Africa's Grey Matter Infrastructure, and brought on board other stakeholders at the global, continental, regional and country levels (eg WHO and WFP, AU, RECs, RMCs and the private sector). Nutrition is cross-cutting, spanning different sectors and as such, adoption of a multi-sectoral approach for the MNAP, which was also in line with the Bank's High 5 (H5) was visionary.

The lobbying and support by Nutrition Champions under the ALN as well as individual heads of state and high-ranking government officials. As a result, there is evidence that some RMCs integrated nutrition into their country strategy papers and also made nutrition-smart requests to the Bank.

The technical assistance provided by Nutrition International under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the implementation of the MNAP. This helped to fill the capacity gaps in nutrition within the Bank and accelerate the delivery of key activities that pushed the nutrition integration agenda forward. Furthermore, the deliberate capacity development component of the technical assistance has helped in increasing capacity for nutrition integration among the Bank's staff, something that needs to be sustained.

The Nutrition Dashboard and Nutrition Marker established performance monitoring and reporting mechanisms for nutrition-smart investments at the Bank. In addition, the various capacity building and training activities for Bank staff on the use of the dashboard, as well as integration of the dashboard into the Bank's existing IT enterprise architecture (with administrative oversight by the internal IT team) have created institutional ownership necessary for long-term sustainability.

The Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard (CNAS) provided (and continues to provide) heads of states with an advocacy tool and a forward snapshot of where action is needed to meet continental and globally-agreed nutrition goals that advance the nutrition agenda.

3.5. Gaps, challenges and limitations

3.5.1. Gaps from the implementation of the MNAP

- a) The education sector did not have a nutrition-smart investment target mainly because the scope of the MNAP is limited within the first 1,000 days of life (from conception to 2 years old). The Bank's education sector works with the RMCs to reform and transform higher education systems, including technical and vocational training, but does not include early childhood education and development which consequently challenged the establishment of a value investment target for nutrition.
- b) The Bank has not extended capacity building and training on nutrition-smart programming to private sector entities to stimulate nutrition-smart requests through the Non-Sovereign Operations (NSO) funding arrangement of the Bank. There was a delay in private sector involvement which, if incorporated earlier, would have achieved better results.
- c) The 2019 the ALN logframe and the 2018 MNAP logframe were not well synchronised, for example, the ALN only has output indicators in its logframe matrix whereas the MNAP has indicators at output, outcome, and impact levels. Moreover, some of the indicators in both M&E logframes were neither tracked nor reported on in their progress reports.
- d) Nutrition is not fully institutionalised at the Bank compared to gender. For example, the Bank has only 1 nutrition officer. The Bank has not recruited nutrition officers for each of the 5 regional hubs and/or relevant sectors. The Bank relied mainly on consultants, which may affect the sustainability aspect of the MNAP.
- e) The Bank's use of the Nutrition Markers is not mandatory in project appraisal missions as compared to the way the gender, climate change and fragility markers are used for compliance.
- f) The implementation of the MNAP has majorly taken a country approach (focusing on countries with a high burden of stunting) where it was observed that there has been minimal effort to target the specific districts or regions with disproportionately high stunting burden within high-burden countries. Targeting disproportionately high-stunting districts or regions has provided better economic return on investment and a higher yield to stunting reduction as opposed to the country approach.

The effective delivery of **nutrition-sensitive programs** requires innovation in evidence and analytics.

- g) Lower and less ambitious targets were set for some sectors making it easy to surpass the targets. This was partly because the situational analysis study of 2017 did not generate adequate baseline data to comprehensively cover all indicators in the MNAP and inform the target setting. The Economic Investment Case for nutrition 2018 equally left out some indicators of the MNAP.
- h) The implementation of the MNAP has not maximised the available opportunity to showcase the accomplishments and progress against the MNAP targets and the Bank's leadership on nutrition-smart investments to both internal and external stakeholders.
- c) The narrative needs to be changed; preventing malnutrition has a higher return on investment than treating it. There are still substantial gaps in working across systems/sectors to improve nutrition. Understanding the theories of change to identify evidence-based processes, policies, and programmatic actions for improved nutritional outcomes confirm that there are gaps to be addressed. The ALN could play a significant role in high-level advocacy to cement national commitments to nutrition at the higher levels.
- d) A paradigm shift in nutrition programming towards context-specific and integrated approaches that sustainably improve diets is needed. Strengthening the integration of nutrition outcomes across various sectors (health, agriculture, and social protection) can enhance the uptake of healthy diets and improve nutritional outcomes. The effective delivery of nutrition-sensitive programs requires innovation in evidence and analytics. It also requires strengthened capacity of governments as well as increased engagement and meaningful collaboration of the private sector, both in food fortification and food systems strengthening. More elaborate interventions can focus on pregnant and lactating women to cater for the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

3.5.2. Observed gaps in the nutrition ecosystem

- a) There is a need for evidence generation for a better understanding of what works and what does not for nutrition outcomes. This includes understanding the current gaps in the food system that hinder the availability and accessibility of nutritious foods (supply side) and barriers that prevent individuals and communities from adopting healthy and nutritious diets (demand side). These are crucial for formulating effective strategies, policies, and interventions to address stunting and improve overall nutritional well-being.
- b) There is an over-emphasis on the production of calorie-dense food crops as nutritional staples. This leads to household diets remaining undiversified thereby hindering progress towards reducing malnutrition. A lack of dietary diversity as a result of poor and monotonous diets, high in starch and low consumption of nutrient dense foods such as meats, legumes, fruits, and vegetables has led to poor food consumption and undernutrition in the nutrition ecosystem.
- e) With 3 years left to the end of the MNAP, there is need to intensify approaches for impact. To this end, interventions for enhancing the capacities of national institutions to implement, deliver on planned activities, monitor progress, and report on performance and achievement are critical for the success of nutrition and nutrition-related programs.
- f) The Bank can support multi-year funding for nutrition programs with blended financing and/or catalytic funding to implement high-impact context-adapted nutrition interventions. The Bank's support can drive domestic financing and understanding with governments that nutrition investments are bankable investments for a country's future and development.

3.5.3. Challenges

- a) AHHD is responsible for the implementation of the MNAP and is only directly in charge of 3 (higher education, health, and social protection) out of the 5 priority sectors. Agriculture and WASH are under different departments. This poses implementation and coordination challenges which are further exacerbated by a non-functional Steering Committee on Nutrition.
- b) There are some countries that could not implement nutrition-smart project activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic led many countries reallocating their resources to COVID-19 response and recovery. The pandemic had far-reaching consequences on all sectors and spheres of life. Some of the measures imposed by governments to combat the pandemic such as travel restrictions and lockdowns greatly hampered implementation of nutrition-smart projects.
- c) Conflicts within some countries have had a bearing on the implementation of the MNAP activities. For instance, the conflict in Ethiopia brought the implementation of 1 of the MNAP flagship projects, the Multi-Sectoral Approach for Stunting Reduction Project (MASReP) to a temporary halt with 1 of the project implementation regions (Tigray) being inaccessible to the project team.



3.6. Emerging and cross-cutting issues

During the MTR, it was revealed that some of the key emerging issues had not been anticipated at the design stage of the MNAP, which to some extent, affected the implementation and achievement of the objectives of the MNAP at mid-term. These may re-occur in the next phase (2022-2025) of the MNAP, hence a need for close attention by the Bank in the next phase:

COVID-19 pandemic

During the design of the MNAP, the COVID-19 pandemic was not anticipated among the likely risks that would affect the implementation of the MNAP. The COVID-19 global pandemic which was associated with lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, and dramatic reduction in air travel impacted Nutrition International's ability to join project missions. Furthermore, the Bank's staff were redirected to urgent COVID-19 response activities, which decreased prioritisation of potential projects that were mapped for nutrition integration. Subsequently, there was a drop in the TA support being requested by the Bank and some of the identified projects for nutrition integration were cancelled or had postponed mission dates beyond the support phase. To mitigate the impact, the Nutrition International extended TA delivery to support the Bank's COVID-19 response programs and projects. Travel and anticipated unused funds were also reallocated towards securing additional specialist capacity for Nutrition Dashboard data inputs and technical assistance provision to Francophone country projects.

Despite the mitigation measures adopted, the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on nutrition programs have delayed efforts to check the burden of malnutrition in Africa. This was also evident in 2021 when new waves of COVID-19 led to delayed opening of economies pending vaccination of a critical mass (number of the adult population). Aligned with the ALN AUC position paper on embedding nutrition in the COVID-19 response and recovery, political leaders should spearhead efforts to incorporate nutrition in a country's response to the pandemic, within the health, food and social protection systems in the next phase of implementation of the MNAP (2022-2025).

Global inflation

The on-going global rise in commodity prices as a result of the Russian war in Ukraine is putting additional pressure on countries' fragile fiscal and external balances eg fuel (petroleum products, paraffin, diesel, and coal) and fertilisers which can result in a major food crisis. Upward price pressure is expected to continue as the global fertiliser shortage increases due to the conflict between the 2 major world producers. The current increase in the average prices of goods and services being experienced

by most African countries has affected country-level responses to childhood malnutrition (stunting). The increase in prices of oil, agricultural inputs, food stuffs and raw materials (high cost of production) has driven the most vulnerable groups of the population into deeper poverty and food insecurity because they cannot afford proper nutrition for the children of their household aged under 5.

Geo-politics and political instabilities

The current political instabilities on the continent, specifically in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia (Tigray region), Nigeria (areas under Boko Haram), Burkina Faso, and Mozambique (Northern Province of Cabo Delgado) among other countries, may affect the implementation of nutrition-smart intervention projects, thus exacerbating childhood malnutrition in Africa. Political instability leads to the displacement of people and causes humanitarian crises in African countries. The most affected persons are the vulnerable categories of the population, especially women and children, persons with disabilities and the elderly. The breakdown in service delivery including provision of nutritious goods and services exacerbates childhood malnutrition (stunting) in the war-affected parts of Africa. Therefore, political unrest is likely to negatively affect the progress made in the implementation of nutrition-smart investments and the achievements of the Bank's H5s in the next phase of the MNAP (2022-2025). Project appraisal should take into consideration such risk factors which also affect gender equality and women's empowerment.

Climate change as a cross-cutting issue in all sectors of MNAP

Climate change is a global phenomenon which is threatening the livelihoods of people by rendering them vulnerable to hazards such as floods, landslides, prolonged drought, heat waves, strong winds, and hailstorms. Climate change risks such as floods, landslides and extreme drought among others led to: (i) loss of farmlands and crops resulting in low crop yields and food insecurity; (ii) loss of WASH facilities eg latrine facilities resulting in the pollution of water sources and outbreak of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, etc.; and (iii) loss of road infrastructure and productive assets resulting into low incomes for the affected households as well as low productivity for the affected Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and industries. Over the period of implementation of MNAP 2018-2021, African countries experienced - and will continue to experience - the impact of climate change on health services, WASH, food systems and social protection systems. Therefore, climate change is likely to negatively affect the progress made in the implementation of nutrition-smart investments and the achievements of the Bank's H5s in the next phase of MNAP (2022-2025).

3.7. Best practices

Strong BoN partnership: The partnership entailed technical support delivery to the Bank on redesigning investments in priority sectors that would deliver a greater social and economic return alongside achieving nutrition impact. This represented a double win, a recommendable practice for any institution with such an initiative. The provision of the initial funds catalysed the Bank's intervention and subsequent portfolio allocation to nutrition-smart projects. With only \$2.8 million investment from BoN philanthropic partners, the Bank was able to make a \$2.5 billion nutrition impact on the Bank's portfolio in a 5-year period.

Enlisting Nutrition Champions: The practice of enlisting Nutrition Champions has proved to be an important step to generate interest, raise political voice and galvanise support for increased investment in nutrition.

Coordination of nutrition within the Bank: Nutrition is a cross-cutting agenda and as such, several sectors are involved which are the 5 priority sectors (Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Education, Social Protection, and Health). This necessitated the coordination of such an agenda to be placed at 1 of the highest offices at the Bank for effective coordination and ownership. The convergence of these departments and sectors under the Vice President's Office is essential to coordinate multi-sectoral programs.

Developing tools for capacity building and uploading them on the LMS/platform:

Capacity building tools had to be developed to train and equip staff who were involved in the implementation of the MNAP with the necessary skills for its success. The Bank had staff with expertise in various fields but not necessarily in nutrition. Incorporating nutrition into the day-to-day operations of the Bank required equipping staff with relevant skills on how to incorporate nutrition-related interventions in their day-to-day work.

Identification of the 6 high-burden countries in Africa:

The Bank's President identified Mozambique, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania, and Niger, then subsequently contacted their heads of state, requesting them to be nutrition champions and assign Cabinet Office Coordinators for multi-sectoral nutrition-smart investments, consequently identify 2-5 regions in their countries with the highest burden of malnutrition. This was considered a best practice from the top leadership of the Bank.

4. Key lessons, conclusions, and considerations going forward

4.1. Key lessons

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) has highlighted the following lessons learned.



Strong leadership within the Bank to institutionalise nutrition. The President is a true champion for nutrition within the Bank. His Presidency was noted as influential in moving the dial to see nutrition as a viable investment opportunity and as a development priority for African governments.



Robust results-tracking mechanisms to report on portfolio performance and learning materials are of high importance. The use of nutrition toolkits on the LMS and results-tracking tools (Nutrition Dashboard) have been partly instrumental in building sustained capacity within the Bank and driving progress on the MNAP goals within the institution. The use of the dashboard to report on progress made it easy to update top leadership on the progress of the MNAP and course correct areas where progress was stalling.



Coordination of nutrition within the Bank is critical in ensuring that the Bank speaks with 1 voice when implementing the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MNAP). The coordination mechanisms that were put in place to support the MNAP can bridge the gap among sectors as well as between the Banking on Nutrition (BoN) and the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) arms of the MNAP.



Robust and relentless advocacy by ALN is critical to influence and accelerate progress towards eliminating stunting across the continent. The ALN is commended for being relentless in high-level political advocacy that is crucial for attainment of global and continental nutrition commitments. However, more can be done to make the ALN more impactful through targeted engagement of heads of state and mobilisation of grassroots structures to build in-country momentum.



The development of the private sector toolkit to harness the critical role that the private sector can play in increasing the consumption of safe and nutritious food was commendable. The private sector toolkit also provided an entry point for the Bank's staff who closely work with the private sector to adopt nutrition-smart programming elements when designing private sector projects.



Targeted and strategic technical assistance to countries through the Bank alongside technical assistance providers accelerated the decision to adopt nutrition-smart programming elements during project appraisal and project review processes.

4.2. Conclusion

The MTR examined the level of performance in the implementation of the MNAP over the 2018-2021 period. The MTR also identified gaps and lessons learnt to inform the roadmap for the next phase (2022-2025) of implementation of the MNAP. Overall, there has been a remarkable increase in the proportion of nutrition-smart investments at the Bank, from 8% at baseline (2015-2018) of the total portfolio being nutrition-smart to 40% at mid-term. Other achievements are summarised below:

- The value of nutrition-smart requests to the Bank increased. From 2015 to 2018 (baseline figures, n=23 nutrition-smart projects), nutrition-smart investments totalled \$0.70 billion. By 2021, nutrition-smart investments increased, totalling \$2.1 billion (n=39 additional nutrition-smart projects from baseline). By the end of this review, the Bank had leveraged \$2.85 billion for nutrition-smart projects (total of 62 projects). The mid-term and end-term portfolio targets were surpassed for the social protection and WASH sectors while only the mid-term portfolio targets were surpassed for the health and agriculture sectors.
- The ALN Secretariat was launched in January 2018 and adopted by the African Union. The ALN Champions increased from 11 to 19 resulting in increased generation of interest, raised political voice and galvanised support for increased investment in nutrition.
- Technical assistance provided by Nutrition International helped to address the capacity gaps in nutrition within the Bank and accelerate the delivery of key activities that pushed the nutrition integration agenda forward. Furthermore, the deliberate capacity development component of the technical assistance, which included staff trainings and the development of nutrition toolkits and guides, improved capacity for nutrition integration among Bank staff.

- The creation of an interactive Nutrition Dashboard, for tracking progress on the Bank's nutrition-smart investments and nutrition integration in projects across sectors as well as its integration into the Bank's existing IT enterprise architecture, has engendered institutional ownership necessary for long-term sustainability.
- Nutrition in the workplace was strengthened at the Bank. The Bank promoted healthy eating patterns and lifestyle within its facilities, a package of resources was created to support workplace breastfeeding, healthy eating tips, and guidance specifically for food services during Bank meetings and events.

4.3. Considerations going forward/key recommendations

The following are recommendations that have been proposed in a bid to accelerate the Bank's contribution towards stunting reduction in Africa in the second phase (2022-2025) of implementation of the MNAP. The aim is to consolidate and accelerate the achievement of the 2025 targets set in the MNAP:

The Bank

- a) Nutrition staffing and capacity building across the Bank.** Currently, the responsibility of coordinating and mainstreaming nutrition rests on a single staff member, which is neither practical nor sustainable in the long run. The proposal to have nutrition specialists within the 5 regional hubs as well as nutrition technical staff at the Headquarters should be pursued by the Bank to ensure sustained capacity for nutrition programming across the Bank's offices. The Bank should also implement targeted capacity-building activities for task managers by institutionalising regular refresher trainings on nutrition integration.

The creation of an interactive Nutrition Dashboard has engendered institutional ownership necessary for **long-term sustainability.**

In 2021, the Bank prioritised **10 high-burden countries** based on their stunting burden and borrowing headroom based on the Grey Matter Infrastructure Index

b) Strengthen the M&E system for data quality.

It was also observed that in the M&E logframe of the MNAP 2018-2025, some indicators at output and outcome levels did not have baseline values and neither mid-term nor end-term targets were set. Although a 2017 Situational Analysis Report was published, it missed out some indicator values for quantitative indicators. Therefore, the Bank should strengthen the M&E system and structures in relation to the following: data collection, data processing, access to the Nutrition Dashboard, generation of progress reports and dissemination to both (internal and external stakeholder) by developing specific M&E tools to track all indicators in the logframe.

c) The Bank should formalise the Steering Committee on Nutrition and Nutrition Taskforce.

This will allow regular engagement with senior management of the Bank and partner organisations to provide reporting on progress, appropriate guidance to address challenges, coordination, and decision-making for the implementation of the MNAP.

d) Conduct a situational analysis study to inform the portfolio target for the education sector.

This will enable the Bank to achieve the outputs and outcomes that were planned for under Action 2.1.3 in the MNAP logframe.

African Leaders for Nutrition

- a) Economic Investment case studies for each of the 5 priority sectors.** Aside from other knowledge products, the ALN should prioritise the development of Economic Investment case studies to complement the Continental Nutrition Accountabilities Scorecard, to highlight where countries are spending more or less on cost-effective interventions for nutrition, with the focus on the 5 priority sectors and the effects of COVID-19. The Economic Investment case studies should focus on sectors with higher impact on stunting should inform the redefinition of nutrition investment targets for all the sectors, given that the final targets set for sectors such as WASH, and social protection have been surpassed while agriculture and health are on course at mid-term.

The BoN Partnership

- a) Focus on countries with the highest burden of malnutrition (stunting).** In 2021, the Bank prioritised 10 high-burden countries based on their stunting burden and borrowing headroom based on the Grey Matter Infrastructure Index. High-burden countries on the continent make up 70% of childhood stunting burden in Africa, demonstrating how the Bank can make a strong impact in reducing stunting. This demonstrates how the BoN can make a strong impact in reducing stunting through portfolio allocations in these countries. Once in the high-burden countries, the focus should be on the vulnerable regions.
- b) Technical assistance for implementing the MNAP in the next phase should focus on providing expert support to national governments, particularly countries with a high burden of malnutrition.** Together, they can develop costed, multi-sectoral action plans for addressing stunting, which may then be used to design component nutrition-smart projects for the Bank's investments. This will mobilise domestic and private sector resources for full implementation.

MNAP Roadmap 2022-2025			TIMELINES for the course of action																	
#	Strategic Objective/Task	Action(s)	Deliverables & Milestone(s)	Year 2022				Year 2023				Year 2024				Year 2025				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
6	To roll out nutrition-smart project portfolio investments targets to the private sector through the Non-Sovereign Operations (NSO) funding arrangement of the Bank.	6.1. Extend the knowledge products on the importance of addressing malnutrition to private sector entities.	6.1.1. Knowledge management toolkit to the private sector entities developed and or updated.						●											
			6.1.2. Specific training workshop conducted on private sector multi-sectoral nutrition programming.						●			●				●				
			6.1.3. Value of nutrition-smart portfolio allocated to the private sector entities through the NSO funding arrangement of the Bank.												●				●	
7	To market business generation jointly by Banking on Nutrition (BoN) partners.	7.1. Conduct internal and external showcase of MNAP progress and nutrition integration conducted jointly by BoN partners.	7.1.1 BoN partners' joint events of internal and external showcase of MNAP progress and nutrition integration.						●		●				●			●		
8	To strengthen the M&E system for data quality, monitoring (tracking progress) and reporting/ dissemination.	8.1. Develop a specific M&E tool, apart from the Nutrition Dashboard, to track all indicators in the logframe and consistently reporting of sex disaggregated data.	8.1.1. Automated M&E system developed to track performance on all indicators in the MNAP logframe.						●	●	●									
			8.2. Conduct a system performance review.																	
			8.3. Redefine targets and portfolio allocation for all sectors of MNAP (2022-2025).	8.3.1. New portfolio targets set per sector (Health, agriculture, WASH, Social protection).						●	●									
			8.4. Recruit a MEAL officer to handle MNAP M&E related activities.	8.4.1. Updated M&E logframe.						●										
			8.4.2. M&E Reports.						●		●		●		●		●			
9	To refocus progress tracking efforts of the MNAP to impact on stunting at the country level.	9.1. Leverage existing nutrition impact tracking mechanisms within the Bank to ensure resource allocation results are interpreted in line with nutrition impact results.	9.1.2. Existing nutrition impact tracking mechanisms within the Bank are strengthened to focus on nutrition impact results.														●	●		

Appendices

ANNEX 1: Performance on the 7 Outcomes of TAAT 1

Outcome indicators (as specified in the RLF)	Baseline value [A]	Most recent value as of March 2019 [B]	End target (expected value at project completion) [C]	Progress towards end target (% realised) [B-A/C-A]	Remark
Outcome 1: Increased income (inclusively)	Cassava: \$102,598 Wheat: \$1,560	Cassava: \$2,858 Wheat: \$1,872	Cassava \$3,000 Wheat: \$2,340	Cassava: 64.6% Wheat: 40%	
Outcome 2: Increased agriculture commodity productivity	Wheat: 1.5 tons/ha Forage: 1.5 tons/ha Livestock live weight:	Wheat: 2.2tons/ha Forage: 2.0 tons/ha Livestock live weight: 1.3kg	Wheat: 3 tons/ha Forage: 3.5 tons/ha Livestock live weight: 3kg	Wheat: 46.6% Forage: 25% Livestock liveweight: 15%	For the livestock live weight, it is the live weight for sheep
Outcome 3: Increased employment (inclusively)	0	3,371	450,000	0.75%	
Outcome 4: Increased food production	0	Wheat: 0.6 million MT	Wheat: 2.2 million MT	Wheat: 22.3%	
Outcome 5: Increased food and nutrition security	0	Wheat: 1 new food group/hh	Wheat: 3 new food groups/hh	Wheat: 33.3%	
Outcome 6: Direct TAAT beneficiaries	0	4,797,671	10,340,000	46.4%	The indicator here is no. of beneficiaries with a target of 10.34 million households by 2020 (50% women & 25% youth)
Outcome 7		Wheat \$98 million	Wheat \$0.3 billion	Wheat 3.2%	
Average performance				38%	
Rating on project outcomes	Satisfactory (with a rating of 3)				

Source: TAAT 1 Progress Report March 2019

ANNEX 2: Performance of MNAP against the logframe matrix indicators

Table 3: Results chain reflection of the overall progress under Area of Intervention 1

Results Chain		Performance indicators					Remark
		Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target by 2021	Mid-term actuals 2021	End-term target by 2025	
Area of Intervention 1: Leverage the Bank's voice and leadership to catalyse greater efforts on nutrition across Africa							
Outcome level	Increased political momentum for governance, leadership, investment and for nutrition accountability in African Countries	RMCs increase share of health budget allocated to high impact nutrition-specific programs	0.75% ¹¹	By 2021: 2.5%	No data	By 2025: 7%	
		# of RMCs with multi-sectoral leadership at higher level ¹²	TBD	By 2021: at least 40	No data		Source: ALN reports
Output level	Increase partnerships for resource mobilisation	# of partnerships established to mobilise resources	3	By end 2018 at least 1 more partner mobilised	3 [ie the Bank, Big Win Philanthropy & Aliko Dangote Foundation]		No new partner was added to BoN by 2021
	Support advocacy and accountability for nutrition by hosting the ALN Secretariat	• # of economic case for nutrition publications	0	• 2 per year	• EICN not developed	16	
		• # of annual case studies published	0	• 1 per year	• No annual case studies were conducted	8	
		• # of ALN high level events organised	1	• At least 1 per year	• Most ALN events were organised	8	
	• # of policy briefs developed	0	• 1 per year	• Policy briefs developed	8		

Table 4: Results chain reflection on the overall progress under Area of Intervention 2

Results Chain		Performance indicators				Remark	
		Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target by 2021	Mid-term actuals 2021	End-term target by 2025	
Area of Intervention 2: Mainstreaming nutrition in the Bank's portfolio, pipeline, and workplace							
Outcome level	2.1: Incorporation of nutrition into Banks portfolio and pipelines to achieve nutritional outcomes	% of AfDB project appraisal reports that include nutrition objectives, indicators and budgeted activities in the following sectors: a) Agriculture b) Health & Nutrition c) WASH d) Social Protection/ Poverty Reduction	Overall=TBD Agriculture=12% Health=0% WASH=1% Social Protection=6%		Overall=34% Source: Nutrition Dashboard Agriculture=39% Health=30% WASH=67% Social Protection=39%	Targets calculated as % of financial resources within each portfolio dedicated to nutrition-smart projects. a) 50% by 2025 b) 50% by 2025 c) 15% by 2025 d) 10% by 2025	
		Presence of nutrition in Bank's result management framework and annual development reports	TBD			In each annual development report	
	Incorporation of nutrition into pipeline and project development cycles	% of new CSPs and RISPs including nutrition-smart review	0	Target not set	TBD	100% of new CSPs/ RISPs	Source: CSPs/RISPs
		# of IDEV evaluation activities for nutrition-smart interventions	TBD	Target not set	No data	2 per year	Source: IDEV evaluation reports
	Mainstream nutrition in the Bank's workplace	% of AfDB staff that have the perception that the workplace has become more healthy	TBD	Target not set	No data	Target not set	Source: Staff survey
Output level	Institutional strengthening for capacity development	# of AfDB staff trained on the delivery of nutrition sensitive programs (disaggregated by gender)	0	Target not set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall=92.5% RDGE=85% RDGS=100% Source: RDGE & RDGS staff training workshop report on Integrating Investments into AfDB investments, Nov 2019	TBD	Training report for RDGS and RDGE in did not disaggregate Data by gender of Bank staff

Table 4: Results chain reflection on the overall progress under Area of Intervention 2

Results Chain		Performance indicators				Remark	
		Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target by 2021	Mid-term actuals 2021	End-term target by 2025	
Area of Intervention 2: Mainstreaming nutrition in the Bank’s portfolio, pipeline, and workplace							
Output level		% of AfDB staff trained who reported satisfaction with the training (disaggregated by gender)	0	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall=90.3% • RDGE=85.5% • RDGS=95% <i>Source: RDGE & RDGS staff training workshop report, Nov 2019</i>	80%	The 90.3% achievement at mid-term exceeded the end-term of 80% target. Additional trainings proposed in the 2019 staff training reports should be conducted at regional hubs
		# of meeting reports of the steering committee for multi-sectoral nutrition	0			At least 4 per year	
		% of actions completed as follow up on the steering committee meeting reports	-			80%	
		% of actions completed as follow up on the steering committee meeting reports	0			At least 4 per year	
		# of meeting reports of the multi-sectoral nutrition task force	-			80%	

Table 4: Results chain reflection on the overall progress under Area of Intervention 2

Results Chain		Performance indicators				Remark	
		Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target by 2021	Mid-term actuals 2021	End-term target by 2025	
Area of Intervention 2: Mainstreaming nutrition in the Bank's portfolio, pipeline, and workplace							
Output level	Promotion of healthy eating patterns and lifestyle within the Banks facilities	# of actions completed to promote exclusive breastfeeding among AfDB staff	1		4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A package of resources was created to support workplace breastfeeding Provided nutrition counselling and dietary advice in the Medical Centre Introduced healthier products at the vending machines with a traffic light classification according to their health impact. Organised a nutrition week in October 2018 	5 actions completed by 2025	On track
		# of actions completed to promote the consumption of healthy foods and healthy lifestyle within the Bank's complexes	1		10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Room created for breastfeeding children by bank staff at head office Menu integrated with nutrition-smart 	5 actions completed by 2025	End-term target surpassed at mid-term

Table 5: Results chain reflection of the overall progress under Area of Intervention 3

Results Chain		Performance indicators				Remark	
	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target by 2021	Mid-term actuals 2021	End-term target by 2025		
Area of Intervention 3: Increase the production and consumption of safe and nutritious food to lift at least [21 million] people out of malnourishment.							
Outcome level	Sustainable production and consumption of safe and nutritious foods, leveraging a nutrition-smart value-chain approach, leading to improved dietary intake of micro and macro nutrients	Minimum acceptable diet for children 6-23 months (MAD)	9.9%	20% by 2021	Database not accessed	40% by 2025	Source: UNICEF Infant and Young Child Feeding Global Database (Africa data)
		Minimum dietary diversity for children 6-23 months (MDD)	24.3%	50% by 2021	Database not accessed	65% by 2025	Source: UNICEF Infant and Young Child Feeding Global Database (Africa data)
		% of calories from non-staples in food supply	38.8%		Database not accessed	50% by 2025	Source: Global Nutrition Report (Africa data)
Output level	Increased willingness and ability to purchase and consume safe and nutritious foods	# of nutrition education campaigns supported by the AfDB	10	30 by 2021	No data	70 by 2025	Source: AfDB project reports
	Increased access and availability of micronutrient rich vegetables, fruits and animal-based products	# of SMEs established and engaged in production or processing of nutritious crops and foods through AfDB's support	TBD		No data	100 by 2025	Source: AfDB documents
	Increased technologies for post-harvest handling	# of additional farmers with access to improved storage and other post-harvest loss technologies ¹³	-	By 2021: 1 million	No data	By 2025: 2.1M	AfDB reports FAO reports
	Scale up of food fortification programs	# of RMCs with scale up in food fortification supported by the AfDB	0	By 2021: at least 2 countries per year	No data	By 2025: at least 16 countries involved	AfDB project reports

Table 5: Results chain reflection of the overall progress under Area of Intervention 3

Results Chain		Performance indicators					Remark
		Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target by 2021	Mid-term actuals 2021	End-term target by 2025	
Area of Intervention 3: Increase the production and consumption of safe and nutritious food to lift at least [21 million] people out of malnourishment.							
	Improved women's empowerment for nutrition (cross-cutting)	Additional # of women receiving SME credit for agriculture ²⁵	-	By 2021: 150,000	No data	By 2025: 300,000	Source: AfDB Project reports Gender Reports
	Improved agribusiness environment for safe and nutritious foods (cross cutting)	Average score for Africa in the Enabling Business of Agriculture Index (max:100)	54	By 2021: >68	No data	By 2025: >80	Source: Enabling Business of Agriculture Index
	Increased incorporation of nutrition objectives into agriculture investment plans and policies (cross cutting)	SUN (Scaling up Nutrition) MEAL (Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning) enabling environment performance	58%		No data	By 2025: 80%	Source: SUN MEAL framework (Africa data, based on a set of indicators)
	Enhanced nutrition information and knowledge management for cross-sectoral interventions	# of nutrition-smart surveillance studies supported by the AfDB	0	4	No data	#8 (At least 1 per year)	
		# of Knowledge management products produced or supported by the AfDB	1	4	No data	#8 (At least 1 per year)	

Table 6: Results chain reflection of the overall progress at impact level

Results Chain		Performance indicators				Remark
Impact level	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target by 2021	Mid-term actuals 2021	End-term target by 2025	
Stunting reduction across the African continent by 2025	Stunting reduction of 40% by 2025 from 2016 level	59.0 million ¹⁴ (year 2016) 58.7 million children were stunted in 2017 in Africa Source: CNAS 2019 Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard- CNAS	47.4 million ¹⁵ (19.7% reduction)	47.3 million ¹⁶ stunted children in 2020 (WHO World Health Statistics Report 2022). The prevalence of child stunting in 2020 was particularly high in the WHO African (31.7% [UI 30.9 to 32.6]) [19.83% reduction in stunting prevalence for period 2016-2020 in Africa] • What is the actual number of stunted children in 2021 from the Nutrition Dashboard?	35.4 million (40% reduction)	Mid-term target surpassed by 0.13% in 2020. The number of children with stunting is declining in all regions except Africa (WHO 2021 World Health Statistics Report). The number of stunted children continues to rise, likely reflecting the region's high population growth (UNICEF/WHO, 2020).

ANNEX 3: List of key stakeholders (Institution Representatives) who participated in KIIs

Name	Designation	Organisation
Beth Dunford	Vice President	African Development Bank
Tom Mboya Owiyo	Advisor to the Vice President	African Development Bank
Martha Phiri	Director AHHD	African Development Bank
Martin Fregene	Director AHAI	African Development Bank
Atim Janet	OIC Director AHWS	African Development Bank
Babatunde Omilola	Division manager AHHD2	African Development Bank
Ihedioha Damian Onyema	Division manager AHAI1	African Development Bank
Tapera Jeffrey Muzira	Lead AHHD0	African Development Bank
Andrew Mude	Lead AHFR0	African Development Bank
Tisungeni Zimpita	Nutrition & social protection AHHD0	African Development Bank
Merhatsidk Mulumebet	Socio-economist AHHD1	African Development Bank
Rosemond Offei-Awuku	Development economist AHHD0	African Development Bank
Nana Beth Kgosidintsi	Principal health analyst AHHD2	African Development Bank
Aminata Bakouan-Traore	Social protection officer AHHD0	African Development Bank
Sagal Adam	Consultant AHHD2	African Development Bank
Ouma George	ALN coordinator	African Development Bank
Geoffrey Lanumbi	ALN MEAL officer	African Development Bank
Dr. Kasete Admasu	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Big Win Philanthropy
Edward Muguza	Program director	Big Win Philanthropy
Bonike Bracewell	Legal officer	Big Win Philanthropy
Dr. Tokunbo Oshin	Former program director	Big Win Philanthropy /Gavi
Zouera Youssoufou	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Aliko Dangote Foundation
Maryam Shehu-Buhari	Health and nutrition program officer	Aliko Dangote Foundation
Francis Aminu	Director health and nutrition	Aliko Dangote Foundation
Kefas Samson	Director nutrition international	Nutrition International
Regina Mbochi	Regional manager	Nutrition International
Temitope Akintunde	Deputy director	Nutrition International
Andy Rigsby	Senior program officer	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Kristin Hall	Head of major donors and nutrition for growth strategy	The Power of Nutrition
Anne Walsh	Nutrition specialist	The Power of Nutrition
Augustin Flory	Former staff	Research for Development
Jack Clift	Former staff (R4D)	Research for Development
Divya Mehra	Human capital development officer	WFP
Jean Sebastian Kouassi	Finance officer	WFP

ANNEX 4: List of nutrition-smart projects approved between 2018 to 2021

Country:	Approval year	Sector	Project name	Nutrition goal/objective	Nutrition intervention/activity	Nutrition Indicators (impact / outcome)	Classified as nutrition-smart	Total ADB and AFB funding (US dollars)
Ethiopia	2021	Social	Multi-Sectoral Approach for Stunting Reduction Project (MASREP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	31,685,940
Liberia	2021	Agriculture	Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	430,000
Morocco	2021	WASH	Project to Strengthen Drinking Water Production and Improve Technical and Commercial Performance (PRPTC)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	85,119,957
Burundi	2020	Agriculture	Agriculture and Livestock Value Chains Sustainable Development Support Project (PADCAE-B)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12,957,117.1
Cabo Verde	2020	Other	Porto Ingles and Palmeira Ports Modernisation and Expansion Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	19,994,798.93
Côte d'Ivoire	2020	Health	COVID-19 Response Support Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	115,411,836.8
Côte d'Ivoire	2020	Agriculture	Project to Improve the Livelihoods of Smallholders and Women in the N'ZI Region (PREMOPEF)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2,765,660
Ethiopia	2020	Health	COVID-19 Crisis Response Budget Support Program (ECRBS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	165,939,600
Mauritania	2020	Agriculture	Africa Disaster Risk Financing Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2,074,245
Mauritius	2020	Health	COVID-19 Crisis Response Budget Support Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	205,000,000
Multinational - Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Chad	2020	Health	Support Project for G5 Sahel Member Countries to Combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20,742,450
Rwanda	2020	WASH	Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	135,948,968
Seychelles	2020	Health	COVID-19 Crisis Response Budget Support Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10,000,000
South Sudan	2020	Agriculture	Agricultural Markets, Value Addition and Trade Development Project (AMVAT)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7,647,049.9
Zimbabwe	2020	Health	Zimbabwe -COVID-19 Response Project (CRP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	13,828,300
Benin	2019	Agriculture	Cashew Nuts Sector and Agricultural Entrepreneurship Development Support Project (PADEFA-ENA)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18,121,993.7
Burkina Faso	2019	WASH	Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Project (PEPA-MR)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9,040,135
Burundi	2019	Social	Project to Support the East African Nutritional Sciences Institute - EANSI "PA-EANSI"	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8,344,740
Central African Republic	2019	Agriculture	Resilience, Food and Nutrition Security Support Project in Kemo and Ouaka Prefectures (PARSANKO)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11,126,320
Côte d'Ivoire	2019	Other	Economic and Social Reform Support Program (PARES)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	85,904,969.3

ANNEX 4: List of nutrition-smart projects approved between 2018 to 2021

Country:	Approval year	Sector	Project name	Nutrition goal/objective	Nutrition intervention/activity	Nutrition indicators (impact / outcome)	Classified as nutrition-smart	Total ADB and AFB funding (US dollars)
Côte d'Ivoire	2019	Agriculture	Government Social Program Support Project (PA-PS GOUV)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	125,007,939.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2019	Social	Support Project for Alternative Welfare of Children and Young People Involved in the Cobalt Supply Chain (PABEA-COBALT)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	83,447,400
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2019	Agriculture	Project to Support the Development of Agricultural Value Chains in 6 Provinces in Democratic Republic of the Congo (PADCA-6P)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	27,815,800
Egypt	2019	WASH	Integrated Rural Sanitation in Upper Egypt – Luxor (IRSUE-LUXOR)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	120,925,603.
Equatorial Guinea	2019	Agriculture	Support for the Development of Value Chains in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (PASPA)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	63,205,618.4
Eritrea	2019	Agriculture	Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Program (DRSLP-V)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20,861,850
Gabon	2019	WASH	Drinking Water Supply Network Enhancement in Libreville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	84,423,986.2
Ghana	2019	Agriculture	Savannah Investment Program (SIP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	27,815,800
Guinea	2019	Agriculture	Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Development Program (PDZTA-BK)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8,247,384.7
Malawi	2019	Agriculture	Sustainable Fisheries, Aquaculture Development and Watershed Management Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	13,295,952.4
Morocco	2019	Social	Social Protection Improvement Support Program (PAAPS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	202,692,718
Niger	2019	Agriculture	Kandadji Ecosystems Regeneration and Niger Valley Development Program Support Project (PA_KRESMIN)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	114,044,780
Nigeria	2019	WASH	Nigeria Urban Water Sector Reform and Akure Water Supply & Sanitation Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	105,737,261
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2019	Agriculture	Integrated Agricultural Value Chains Development Project (PRODIVAC)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	82,321,883.2
Senegal	2019	Agriculture	South Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Project (PZTA-SUD or Agropole Sud)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	48,065,702.4
South Sudan	2019	WASH	Strategic Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project (SWSSIP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11,126,320
Sudan	2019	WASH	Sensitisation on sanitation, hygiene and nutrition; Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project for North and South Kordofan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	30,783,745.8
Uganda	2019	Health	Emergency Assistance to Support the National Ebola Viral Disease Preparedness and Response Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	993,592
Zambia	2019	Agriculture	Sustainable Livestock Infrastructure Management Project (SLIMP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10,430,925

ANNEX 5: List of CSPs, RISPs, I-CSPs and country briefs prepared between 2018 to 2021

Country	Year	TYPE	Name
Burundi	2019	CSP	Burundi - Country Strategy Paper 2019-2023
Carbo Verde	2019	CSP	Cabo Verde - Country Strategy Paper 2019-2024 - Country Strategy Papers
Côte d'Ivoire	2018	CSP	Côte d'Ivoire - Country Strategy Paper (CSP 2018-2022) combined with 2018 Country Portfolio Performance Review
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2018	CSP	Democratic Republic of the Congo - Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022
Equatorial Guinea	2018	CSP	Equatorial Guinea - Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022
Eswatini	2020	CSP	Eswatini - Country Strategy Paper 2020-2024
Gambia	2021	CSP	Gambia - Country Strategy Paper 2021-2025
Gambia	2018	Country Brief	The Gambia - Country Brief 2017-2019
Ghana	2019	CSP	Ghana - Country Strategy Paper 2019-2023
Guinea	2018	CSP	Guinea - Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022
Lesotho	2020	CSP	Lesotho - Country Strategy Paper 2020-2024
Liberia	2019	CSP	Liberia - Bank Group Country Strategy Paper 2019-2023
Libya	2019	Country Brief	Libya - Country Brief 2021-2022
Malawi	2018	CSP	Malawi - Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022
Mali	2021	CSP	Mali - Country Strategy Paper 2021-2025
Mozambique	2018	CSP	Mozambique - Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022
Namibia	2020	CSP	Namibia - Country Strategy Paper (CSP) 2020-2024
Niger	2018	CSP	Niger - Country Strategy Paper 2018 – 2022
Nigeria	2020	CSP	Nigeria - Country Strategy Paper 2020-2024
Senegal	2021	CSP	Senegal - Country Strategy Paper 2021-2025
Seychelles	2021	CSP	Seychelles - Country Strategy Paper 2021-2025
Sierra Leone	2020	CSP	Sierra Leone - Country Strategy Paper 2020-2024
South Africa	2018	CSP	South Africa - Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022
South Sudan	2021	I-CSP	South Sudan - Interim Country Strategy Paper (I-CSP) 2022- 2024
Sudan	2021	Country Brief	Sudan - Update of the Country Brief 2017-2019 to December 2021
Tanzania	2021	CSP	Tanzania - Country Strategy Paper 2021-2025
Togo	2021	CSP	Togo - Country Strategy Paper 2021-2026
Zimbabwe	2021	Country Brief	Zimbabwe - Combined Country Brief 2021-2023 And Country Portfolio Performance Review
Western Africa	2020	RISP	West Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper 2020-2025
Eastern Africa	2018	RISP	Eastern Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper 2018 - 2022
Northern Africa	2020	RISP	North Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper (RISP-NA) 2020-2026
Southern Africa	2020	RISP	Southern Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper 2020-2026
Central African	2019	RISP	Central Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper 2019 - 2025

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Endnotes

Executive summary

- 1 Grey Matter Infrastructure is a country's collective brainpower with grey matter referring to brain tissue essential for intellectual capacity.
- 2 The criteria for nutrition-smart projects include integration of all the following: 1 or more nutrition-related objectives/goals; a nutrition-related activity/intervention; and a nutrition-related indicator at the outcome or impact level.

Key findings

- 3 Heads of State from Sierra Leone, Botswana, Lesotho, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Madagascar as well as Founder of HarvestPlus (International).
- 4 \$ refers to US\$.
- 5 Pre MNAP 2015-2017 Nutrition Smart Investments totalled \$0.49 billion from 15 nutrition-smart projects.
- 6 Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Sudan, Burundi, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Eritrea and Zambia.

Findings

- 7 \$ refers to US\$
- 8 Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- 9 A project is classified as nutrition-smart when it inclusively meets 3 standards namely, 1) nutrition is incorporated as part of the project goal/objective; 2) the logical framework includes a nutrition outcome indicator(s); and 3) the project has 1 or more nutrition-related activity or intervention.

Appendices

- 10 All \$ refer to US\$.
- 11 Baseline and 2025 target based on R4D analysis for D'Alimonte et al 2017 in Shekar et al 2017.
- 12 Indicator and target aligned with ALN results framework.
- 13 Indicator and target aligned with Feed Africa results framework.
- 14 UNICEF-WHO-WB joint child malnutrition estimates 2017, downloaded from <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.wrapper.nutrition-2016?lang=en> on 19 October 2017.
- 15 Assumes 2025 target will be reached with constant 7% annual reduction per year, with assumption that 2018 level is same as 2016 level. Given population growth, stabilising the overall number of stunted children at 2016 levels implies a stunting prevalence reduction.
- 16 Globally in 2020, 149.2 million (UI 144.4 to 154.2 million) children under 5 years of age, or 22% (UI 21.3 to 22.7) of all children under 5, were estimated to be stunted (that is, too short for their age) according to the WHO World Health Statistics Report 2022: Monitoring health for the SDGs.

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