

MEETING PRESENTATION 3

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IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 108983-001-Measuring the healthiness of Ghanaian children's food environments to prevent obesity and non-communicable diseases

Action Group 4: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

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Ghana-Netherlands Food Partnership Coalition – Online Exchange. February 25, 2021

MANY WAYS TO KILL A CAT

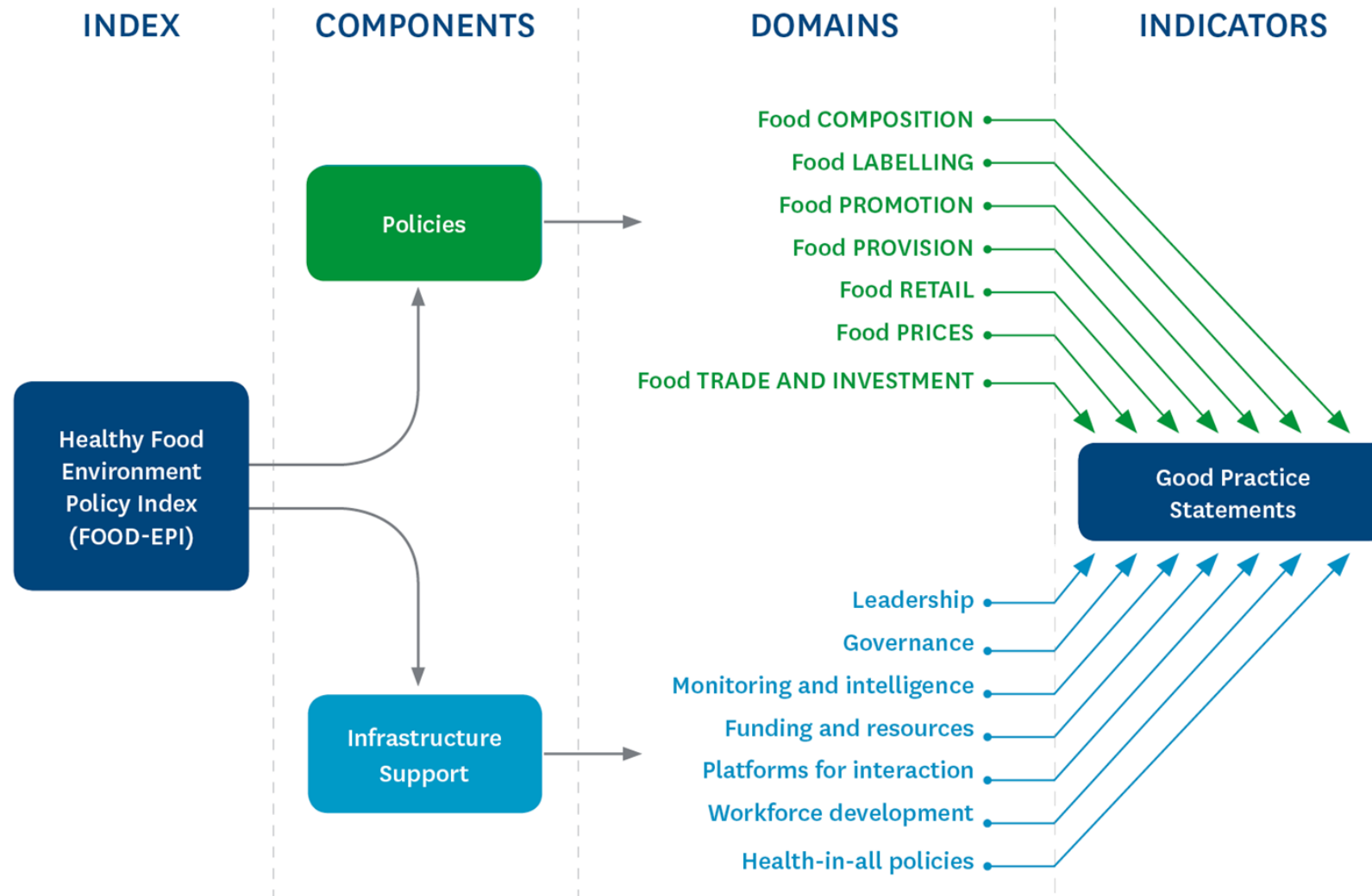


APPROACH is one among many

Traditionally focused on “improving **healthiness of food environments** and reducing obesity and diet-related NCDs”

The Ghanaian and several other settings require double/triple/multiple duty actions

Overview



Policy area 1 - Food composition

There are government systems implemented to ensure that, where practicable, processed foods minimise the energy density and the nutrients of concern (salt, saturated and *trans* fats, and added sugars)



Policy area 2 - Food labelling

There is a regulatory system implemented by the government for consumer-oriented labelling on food packaging and menu boards in restaurants to enable consumers to easily make informed food choices and to prevent misleading claims



Policy area 3 - Food promotion

There is a comprehensive policy implemented by the government to reduce the impact (exposure and power) of promotion of unhealthy foods to children across all media



Policy area 4 - Food prices

Food pricing policies (e.g., taxes and subsidies) are aligned with health outcomes by helping to make healthy eating choices the easier, cheaper choices



Policy area 5 - Food retail

The government has the power to implement policies and programs to support the availability of healthy foods and limit the availability of unhealthy foods in communities (outlet density and locations) and in-store (product placement)



Policy area 6 - Food provision

The government ensures that there are healthy food service policies implemented in government-funded settings to ensure that food provision encourages healthy food choices, and the government actively encourages and supports private companies to implement similar policies



Policy area 7 - Food trade and investment

The government ensures that trade and investment agreements protect food sovereignty, favour healthy food environments, are linked with domestic health and agricultural policies in ways that are consistent with health objectives, and do not promote unhealthy food environments



Infrastructure support 1 - Leadership

The political leadership ensures that there is strong support for the vision, planning, communication, implementation and evaluation of policies and actions to create healthy food environments, **improve population nutrition, and reduce diet-related inequalities**



Infrastructure support 1 - Governance

Governments have structures in place to ensure transparency and accountability, and encourage broad community participation and inclusion when formulating and implementing policies and actions to create healthy food environments, **improve population nutrition, and reduce diet-related inequalities**



Infrastructure support 1 - Monitoring and intelligence

The government's monitoring and intelligence systems (surveillance, evaluation, research and reporting) are comprehensive and regular enough to assess the status of food environments, population nutrition and diet-related NCDs and their inequalities, and to measure progress on achieving the goals of nutrition and health plans



Infrastructure support 1 - Platforms for interaction

There are coordination platforms and opportunities for synergies across government departments, levels of government, and other sectors (NGOs, private sector, and academia) such that policies and actions in food and nutrition are coherent, efficient and effective in improving food environments, population nutrition, diet-related NCDs and their related **inequalities**

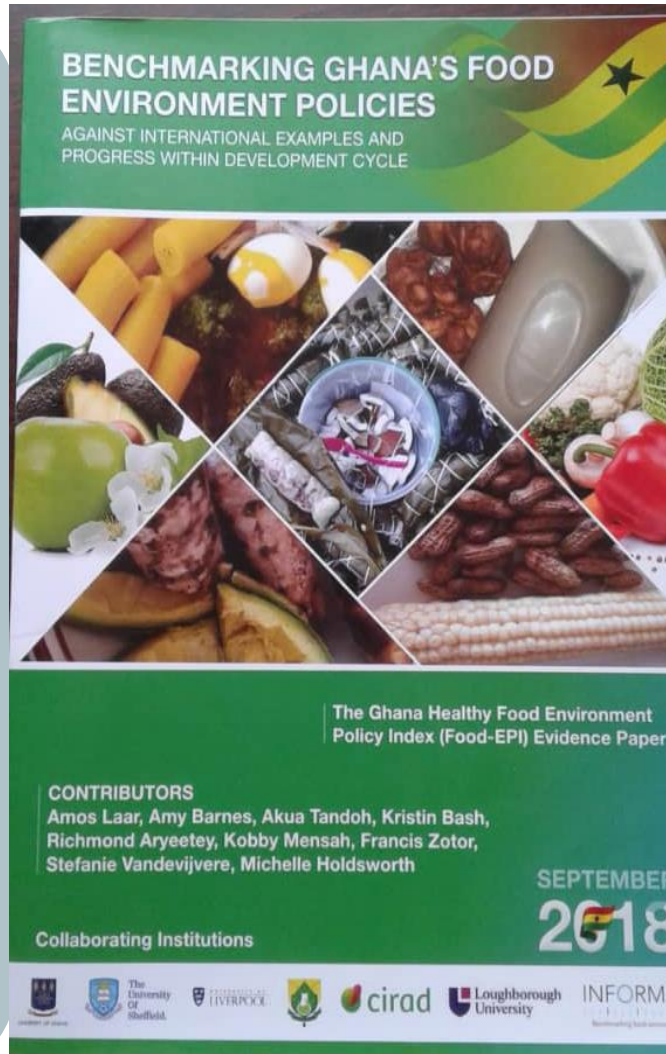


The Ghana Food-EPI exercise Benchmarked Ghanaian FE...

Aims

Assess the extent of Government's implementation of recommended policies to create healthy food environments.

Identify priority actions for the Government to take forward in partnership.





Implementation of healthy food environment policies to prevent nutrition-related non-communicable diseases in Ghana: National experts' assessment of government action

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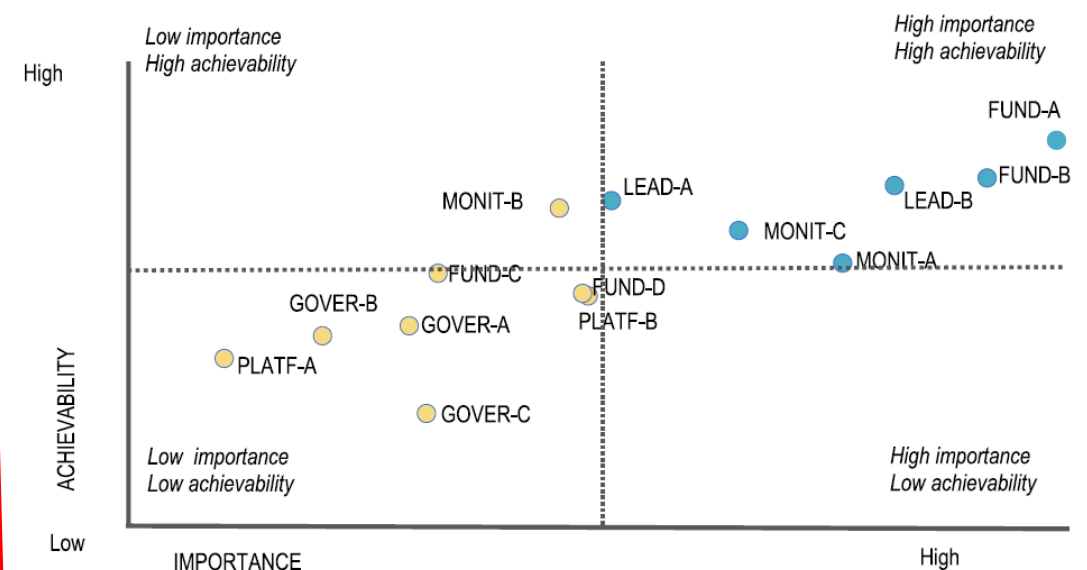
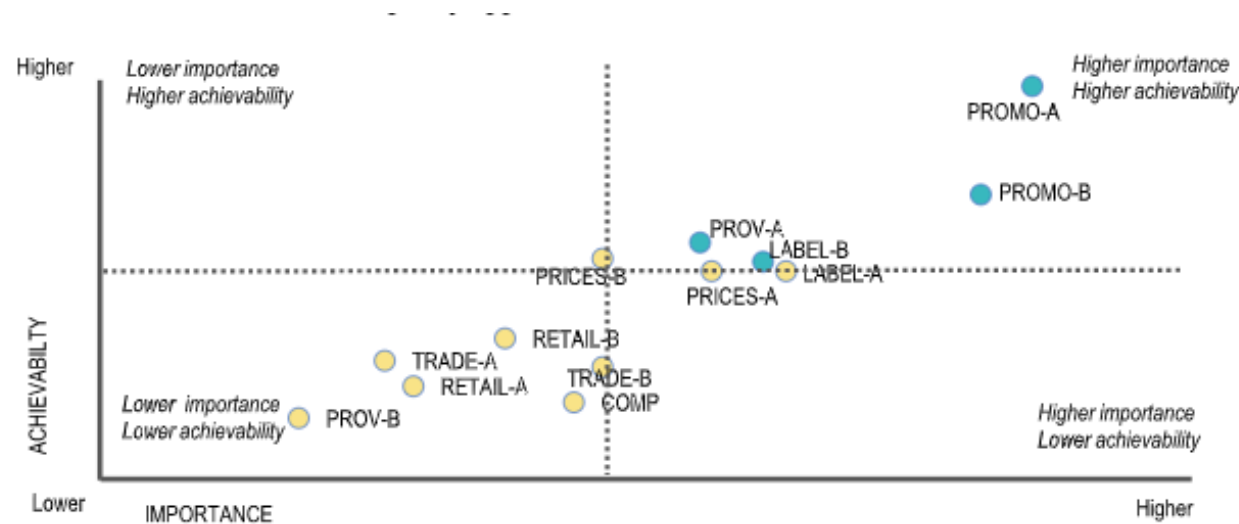


Fig. 5. Recommended and prioritized policy support actions for creating healthier food environment in Ghana

Implications for policy: Dietary transitions in Ghanaian cities



Regulate the location of advertisements of unhealthy options



Healthy foods were widely available, so addressing availability alone not enough-financial accessibility needs addressing



Enforce legislation and regulation around food hygiene standards



Harness the role of local food vendors



Policy to improve neighbourhood environmental sanitation



Policies to ensure food is affordable to enable healthy dietary choices



Food based dietary guidelines to target families

The logo consists of four vertical bars of increasing height from left to right, colored light green, medium green, dark green, and orange.

MEALS4NCDs

Providing Measurement, Evaluation, Accountability
& Leadership Support (MEALS) for NCDs Prevention

- **Current focus:** “supporting public sector actions that create healthy food environments for Ghanaian children” e.g. restricting unhealthy food marketing to children and improving school nutrition environments
- **Gov’t MDAs** (MoH, NDPC, FDA) **UN Agencies** (UNICEF, WHO), **CSO** (NCD Alliance, VALD), **INFORMAS/International Experts**, & **Ghanaian Law makers/ Members of Parliament**
- CAPHA – Activating
- The Ghana & NFP coalition, the MEALS4NCDs coalition, the CHOICES coalition, & others can create common space to work collaboratively

Our proposed strategy

1. Ghana and Accra level

1. Establish link with MEALS4NCDs and Ghana - NFP initiative
2. Develop common understanding which food system actions (e.g. Front of pack labelling, restriction marketing to children, school standards...) should be prioritised.
3. Agree on requirements for a national nutrient profiling system that should support various food system actions.
4. Develop national criteria based on international / regional criteria – leverage Obasimaa
5. Develop coherent set of criteria based food system actions + support implementation
6. Monitoring, evaluation, learning, sharing

2. Global and regional level

1. Use science based approach to incorporate micronutrients standards in global nutrient profiling methodologies.
2. Support country initiatives: knowledge exchange
3. Foster regional collaboration (e.g. through SUN, African Nutrition networks, Rockefeller FS-TIP initiative, IDRC Food, Environment & Health initiative etc)
4. Present commitments and first results at N4G summit 2021