

UN FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUE CONCEPT NOTE FOR GHANA

;
;

© 2021, THE MEALS4NCDS PROJECT



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction, provided the original work is properly credited.

Cette œuvre est mise à disposition selon les termes de la licence Creative Commons Attribution (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>), qui permet l'utilisation, la distribution et la reproduction sans restriction, pourvu que le mérite de la création originale soit adéquatement reconnu.

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

CONCEPT NOTE: GHANA

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON THE CURRENT CHALLENGES AND THE FUTURE OF GHANA'S FOOD SYSTEMS

1.0 Introduction

With over 800 million people estimated to be hungry globally; nearly 2 billion estimated to be overweight or obese, and approximately 2 billion suffering from micronutrient deficiencies, the world is undoubtedly malnourished. Facing multiple burdens of malnutrition, recent analysis and predictions indicate that the world is not on track to achieve the Global Nutrition Targets as set by the World Health Assembly¹, let alone eradicate malnutrition in all its forms – as envisioned in Agenda 2030.

The food and nutrition security situation in sub-Saharan Africa is dire with serious consequences for public health and sustainable development. Thus, Food, Nutrition and Agriculture are integrated and transcend other sectors. The FAO State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI, 2020) report on food and nutrition security once again confirmed the growing number of hungry populations worldwide. The report complements the usual assessment of food security and nutrition with projections of what the world may look like in 2030. Projections show that the world is not on track to achieve SDG 2 - Zero Hunger by 2030 and, despite some modest progress, most indicators are also not on track to meet the Global Nutrition Targets by 2025. The food security and nutritional status of most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the report estimates that almost 690 million people went hungry in 2019 - up by 10 million from 2018, and by nearly 60 million in the last five years. High costs and low affordability of food also means billions cannot eat healthily or nutritious diets. Anemia in women is on the rise worldwide: in Ghana, one in every three women of childbearing age is anemic which begins the vicious cycle of undernutrition in children, jeopardizing the achievement of the Zero Hunger Goal by 2030.

Undernutrition coupled with the effects of climate change, does not only affect food production and consumption patterns, but overall development and this call for the urgent need to review our food systems, to ensure food and nutrition security and promote sustainable development.

Like other countries in the sub-region, Ghana is grappling with multiple burdens of malnutrition. While food insecurity, undernutrition (e.g. stunting, micronutrient deficiencies) persists, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases are rising alarmingly. An analysis conducted by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation of the University of Washington revealed a 1400% increase in rates of adult obesity in Burkina Faso, and over 500% increase in Ghana, Togo, Ethiopia and Benin – between 1980 and 2015². For Ghana, the 500% increase is comparable to that reported among Ghanaian women by the Demographic and Health Survey between 1993 (10%) and 2015 (40%)³.

Confronting the problem of malnutrition will require inputs from all sectors. For instance, good nutrition results from a healthy diet as well as proper hygiene and healthcare. Access to a healthy diet depends on decent employment, education, and transport and connections to a thriving, resilient, sustainable food system. Proper hygiene and healthcare likewise rely on income, education, and transport, along with provision of quality health services, safe water, and adequate sanitation. Thus, effort to address these problems would require a system's approach - a food system's approach. The food system has been conceptualized to *encompass the entire range of activities involved in the production, processing,*

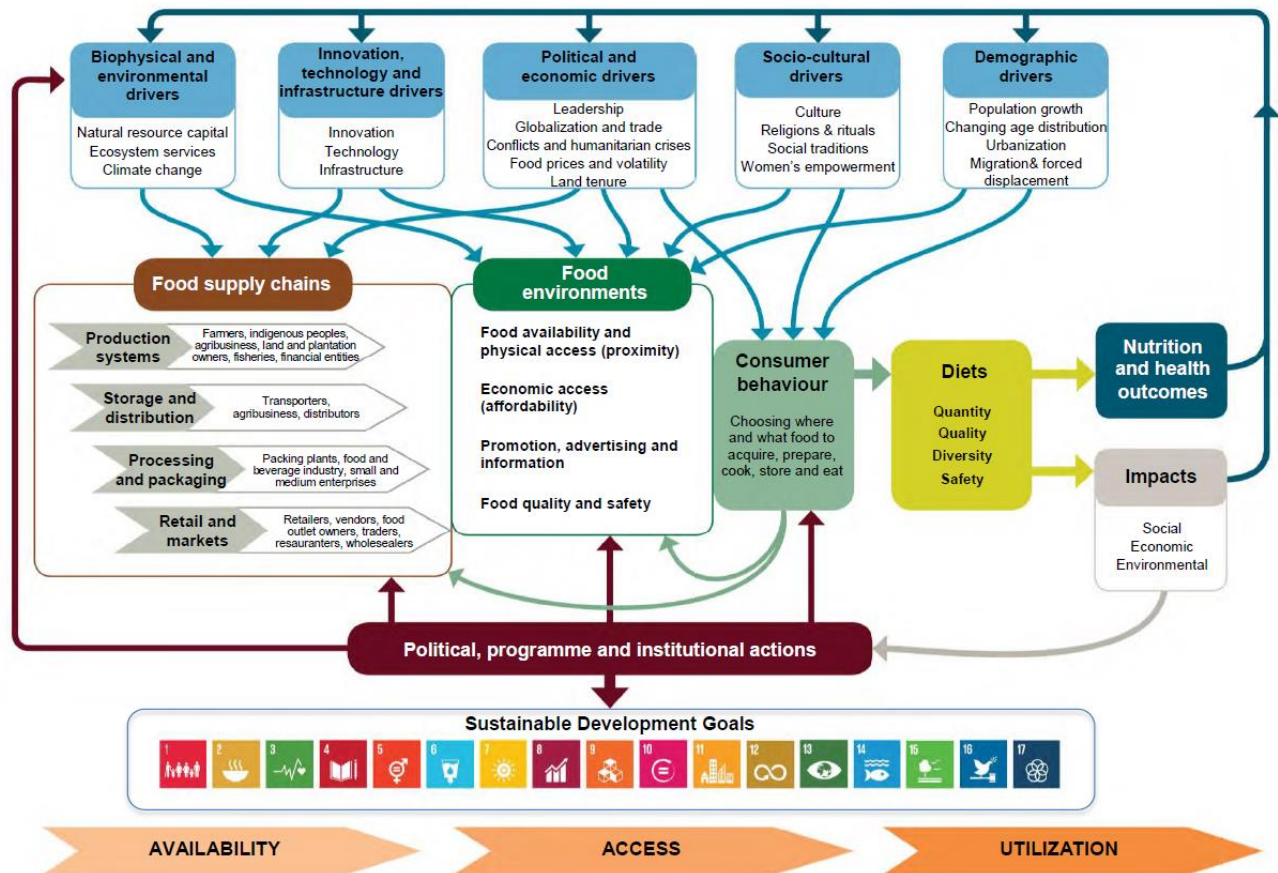
marketing, consumption and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, including the inputs needed and the outputs generated at each of these steps". Food systems also involve the people and institutions that initiate or inhibit change in the system as well as the socio-political, economic and technological environment in which these activities take place⁴. The food supply subsystems comprise the entire "farm to fork" food chain, namely agricultural production; food storage, transportation, and trade; food transformation; and food retail and provisioning.

These subsystems influence the food environments in which people make their dietary choices as follows:

- **Agricultural production subsystems:** *may affect food availability and relative prices via investment agendas, for example by prioritizing a small number of staple cereals over legumes, indigenous grains, and other crops.*
- **Food storage and transport subsystems:** *may encourage or restrict domestic availability of affordable, nutrient-dense foods through export and import policies or influence toxin and pathogen-borne contamination through food safety regulations.*
- **Food transformation subsystems:** *may increase availability of nutritious foods through fortification and limited processing (e.g. canning), or may reduce the nutrient content of foods through heavy processing (e.g. extrusion and addition of free sugars).*
- **Food retail subsystems:** *may increase or reduce availability of highly processed foods relative to whole, nutrient dense foods through food promotion*^{5,6}.
- Across these four sub-systems, the food environments mitigate the impact of these subsystems on individual diet choice and diet quality via a variety of factors, including **food labelling, food promotion, food prices, physical access and nutrient quality and taste.**

The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) 2017 goes further to elaborate on the food system as in Figure 1 below. A food system gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes, the Experts note.

Conceptual Framework of food systems for diets and nutrition



Source: High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) 2017

Thus, the food system is composed of sub-systems (e.g. farming system, waste management system, input supply system, etc.) and interacts with other key systems (e.g. energy system, trade system, health system, etc.). Therefore, a structural change in the food system might originate from a change in another system; for example, a policy promoting more biofuel in the energy system will have a significant impact on the food system. Cognizant of the above, and in response to calls for partnership and collaboratively delivered solutions, the Food Systems Summit of September 2021, has been convened. The Summit will articulate and adopt actionable, integrated plan for food systems transformation.

2.0 Background to the UN Food Systems Summit

The Summit will be convened by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to launch bold new actions to transform the way the world produces and consumes food, delivering progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The specific objectives are to:

1. ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all;
2. shift to sustainable consumption patterns;

3. boost nature-positive production at sufficient scales, advance equitable livelihoods and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses.

Expected Outcomes

It seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Generate significant action and measurable progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit will succeed in identifying solutions and leaders, and issuing a call for action at all levels of the food system, including national and local governments, companies and citizens.
2. Raise awareness and elevate public discussion about how reforming our food systems can help us all to achieve the SDGs by implementing reforms that are good for people and planet.
3. Develop principles to guide governments and other stakeholders looking to leverage their food systems to support the SDGs. These principles will set an optimistic and encouraging vision in which food systems play a central role in building a fairer, more sustainable world.
4. Create a system of follow-up and review to ensure that the Summit's outcomes continue to drive new actions and progress. This system will allow for the sharing of experiences, lessons and knowledge; it will also measure and analyze the Summit's impact.

Rationale for the Dialogues

The dialogue is critical to the Food Systems Summit process as it offers the following:

- Offers a purposeful and organized forum for stakeholders to come together to share their roles in food systems, consider their impacts on others and find new ways to come together in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- An opportunity for all citizens to engage as stakeholders in the world's food systems; they bring people together at a time when so much is pushing us apart.
- The success of this Summit depends on the engagement of citizens all over the world, across a diversity of viewpoints and sectors.
- The Dialogues will facilitate this engagement in a way that is guided by the values of sustainable development and informed by both science and experience.
- Dialogues are an opportunity for anyone to engage with the Summit in a meaningful way.
- The Dialogues aim to respect a healthy diversity of viewpoints, encourage shared exploration and reveal promising new ways of working together. .
- Everyone is invited to consider organizing or participating in one of the three types of Summit Dialogues that will take place between now and the Summit.
- All Dialogues will aim to foster new connections and chart a sustainable path forward.

Types/Levels of Engagement

1. **Member State Summit Dialogues:** Organized by national governments.
2. **Global Summit Dialogues:** This will be a collation of all views aligned with major issues like climate, environment, health, economies and jobs, humanitarian aid and water for the member state position paper.
3. **Independent Summit Dialogues:** organized by individuals

4.0 Conduct of Ghana's National Dialogue on Food Systems

4.1 Dialogue Theme

The dialogue will be held under the theme: "Towards Resilience for Improved Food Security and Nutrition".

4.2 Objective of the National Dialogue

The objective of the Food Systems Dialogue is to afford all relevant stakeholders the opportunity to review existing food systems, share their roles and strengthen collective action and new ways to come together in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4.3 Coordination Mechanisms for the Dialogue

1. National Convener

The Food Systems Summit Secretariat recommends a national Convener or co-conveners. In tandem with its coordinating mandate the National Development Planning Commission is designated as the National convener with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture as Co-convener. Two technical staff, Ms. Mary Mpereh of NDPC and Ms. Pauline Addy of MOFA will thus serve as Convener and Co-convener under the supervision of the Director-General of the NDPC Dr. Kodjo Mensah-Abrampa, and a representative of the Office of the Minister of Agriculture or the Chief Director MOFA.

2. Political Focal Points

At the political level, Ghana's Minister of Agriculture and the SUN Focal Point for Ghana will engage with relevant sector Ministers and seek cabinet approval and commitment for the outcome, also known as the commitment statement of the National Food Systems Dialogue

3. National Technical Working Group / Task Team

A National Technical Working Group, comprising representatives of relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the private sector and academia will coordinate the conduct of the dialogue with the national conveners as chair and co-chair. Sector representatives will include the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Industries, Health, Local Government, Environment Science and Technology, Lands and Natural Resources, Gender, Children and Social Protection, Finance, among others. The team will collate the results of the thematic dialogues and public consultations into Ghana's commitment statement for cabinet approval.

4. Thematic Working Groups

Thematic working groups (see appendix 1 for membership lists) with clear terms of references will be convened around the five

Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit, namely:

Action track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all

Action track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns

Action track 3: Boosting nature-positive production at scale

Action track 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods

Action track 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses

Terms of reference for the working groups will take into consideration, on-going work on Food Systems involving NDPC, JAK Foundation, the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems, AGRA, USAID, WFP, CANADA, the Measurement, Evaluation, Accountability, and Leadership Support for NCDs (MEALS4NCDs) Coalition currently being supported by the International Development Research Centre's (IDRC), Canada, the Rockefeller's Nourish People and Planet Initiative etc. Membership of the working groups will include relevant public sector institutions, Academic/research institutions, private sector, civil society organizations, grassroots organizations and development partners.

Thematic Dialogues will be led by NDPC and MOFA staff and relevant sector co-leads with the support of thematic resource persons, who will review and contextualize the discussion starter papers for the five action tracks to kick-start dialogues.

5.0 Dialogue Work Programme

1. Inception Meeting

The national dialogue will commence with an inception meeting which will lay out the modalities for the national dialogue, calendar and estimated cost.

2. Sensitization Workshops for MDAs and MMDAs

Sensitization of MDAs, MMDAs in preparation for the dialogues. This will specifically target PPMED directors of agriculture and regional and district development planners on the Food Systems Summit and Dialogues; and secondly to solicit their support in engaging with stakeholders at their levels.

3. Public Consultations

Public consultations, especially targeting local actors to secure their views, ownership and commitment to the recommendations of the thematic working groups will be conducted. These will target specialized groups such as the Scientific/academic community; CSOs at the national level and Sub-national consultations at regional, district, sub-district levels, including grassroots organisations.

4. Inter-Ministerial Dialogue and Validation

The Commitment statement from the national dialogues will be validated by relevant sector Ministers to ensure commitment to its implementation and its defense in cabinet.

5. Cabinet Review and Approval

Approval for the commitment statement will be sought at the highest level of Government to ensure political commitment and accountability in the implementation of the recommendations.

5.0 Expected Outcome

The outcome of the national dialogues will be a cabinet-approved and ministerially endorsed Commitment Statement by the Government of Ghana.

6.0 Time Frame

The dialogues will commence in March and end in June. Ghana's cabinet-approved commitment statement is expected to be ready by June in readiness for the pre-summit meeting in July.

7.0 Budget

The total budget for convening the national dialogues and development of Ghana's Commitment Statement will be about **GHS_____**. This includes consultancy fees and data allowances for participants of the meetings among others. See attached budget.

Appendix 1: Proposed List of Facilitators and Sector Leads

	Priority Action Track	Facilitators	Sector Leads	Development Partners
5.0	Action track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all	1. Professor Anna Lartey aalartey@hotmail.com 2. Professor Amos Laar alaar@ug.edu.gh	My suggestions: MOFA-Crops/Livestock FDA NDPC	FAO/GIZ/ USAID
6.0	Action track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns	1. Professor Professor Francis Zortor francisfirst@gmail.com 2. Richmond Aryeetey rnokai@yahoo.co.uk 3. Ms Angela Dannson adannson@gmail.com	MOFA – Directorate of Crop Services/EPA NDPC	WFP/ UNCCD/JICA
7.0	Action track 3: Boosting nature-positive production at scale	1. Professor Eric Danquah of UG edanquah@ug.edu.gh 2. Professor Saa-Dittoh saaditt@gmail.com 3. Mr Daniel Ohemeng Boateng danboat60@gmail.com	MOFA NDPC	AGRA/IFPRI/CANADA

		4. Mr Kofi Biney kbiney@agra.org		
8.0	Action track 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods	1. Professor Paul Amuna Of UHAS Hohoe pamuna@uhas.edu.gh 2. Dr. Kingsley Pereko of UCC kpereko@gmail.com 3. Klutse kudomor	MOFA Extension/Gender and Social Protection NDPC	IFAD/UNICEF/AFD
9.0	Action track 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses	1. Dr. Robert Ackatia-Amarh of WFP robert.ackatiaarmah@wfp.org 2. Dr. Reginald Annan of KNUST regyies@yahoo.com 3. Mr Joseph Faalong jofaalong2013@gmail.com jofaalong2000@yahoo.co.uk 4. John Sitor johnsitor@wfp.org	MOFA/ All relevant directorates Ministry of Fisheries	UNDP/DFID/SNV

Appendix 2: Proposed Participants List for the Five Tracks

	Tracks	Proposed Participants
1.	Action Track 1: Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food and Drugs Authority 2. Ministry of Food and Agriculture 3. Ministry of Finance 4. Ministry of Health 5. Ghana Health Service 6. Ministry of Fisheries and Aqua Culture Development 7. Ministry of Trade and Industry 8. Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research 9. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation 10. Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations 11. Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection 12. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Food/Crops/Animal/Savanna/Plant Genetic Resources/Industrial Research Institute) 13. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 14. Roads and Transport/Energy/Local Government & Rural Development 15. World Bank 16. World Health Organization (WHO) 17. World Food Programme (WFP)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Association of Ghanaian Industries 19. Ghana Standards Authority/ Codex Alimentarius Commission 20. <u>Private sector Agencies in Value Addition and Distribution</u> 21. <u>Ghana Statistical Services</u>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Action Track 2: Shifting to Sustainable Consumption Patterns</p>	<p>Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Food and Agriculture 2. Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development 3. Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development 4. Food and Drugs Authority 5. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Related Agencies) 6. Ministry of Health 7. Ghana Health Service 8. Ministry of Trade and Industry 9. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation 10. Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations 11. Ministry of Education 12. Lands and Natural Resources/Energy 13. Ghana Education Service, SHEP 14. Ghana Statistical Services 15. Regional/District Nutrition Officers 16. Regional and District Agriculture Depts 17. Ministry of Information 18. National Commission for Civic Education 19. Ministry of Finance 20. National Development Planning Commission 21. School of Public Health, University of Health and Allied Services 22. School of Public Health, University of Ghana 23. School of Public Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology 24. Ghana Association of Nutritionists and Dietitians (GAND) 25. Ghana Medical Association 26. Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association 27. Community Health Nurses Association, Ghana 28. Farmers Organisation Network in Ghana 29. Traditional Leaders (Including Queen mothers) 30. Hunger Alliance Ghana 31. Trades Union Congress 32. John Agyekum Kufuor (JAK) Foundation 33. World Health Organisation 34. International Food Policy Research Institute 35. World Food Programme

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36. Food and Agriculture Organisation 37. Codex Alimentarius Commission 38. Private sector in Seed/Breed/Storage and Value Addition: Eden Tree/BorisB/Premium Foods/Yedent/NASTAG/
3.	Action Track 3: “Boost Nature-Positive Food Production at Scale.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Food and Agriculture 2. Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development 3. Ministry of Finance 4. Ministry of Fisheries and Aqua Culture Development 5. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation 6. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Ghana (Food/Crops/Animal/Savanna/Plant Genetic Resources/Industrial Research Institute) 7. Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations 8. Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection 9. Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority 10. Environmental Protection Agency 11. Water Resources Commission 12. Forestry Commission 13. National Food Buffer Stock Company 14. University of Ghana – SPH 15. Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana 16. Food and Agriculture Organization 17. World Food Programme 18. International Food Policy Research Institute 19. AGRA 20. IWMI 21. Ghana Irrigation Development Authority 22. National Seed Trade Association (NASTAG) 23. Ghana Statistical Services 24. IDRC/Rockefeller Foundation – The FS-TIP
4.	Action Track 4 – Advance Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Food and Agriculture 2. Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development 3. Ministry of Fisheries and Aqua Culture Development 4. Ministry of Finance 5. Ministry of Trade and Industry 6. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation 7. Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations 8. Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection 9. National Board for Small Scale Industries 10. Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Roads and Transport 12. CSOs) Media 13. Private sector in inputs and food distribution
<p>5.</p>	<p>Action Track 5 – Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Food and Agriculture: Women in Agricultural Development Directorate (WIAD)/Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA)/Agricultural Engineering Services/Animal Production/Directorate of Crop Services/Plant Protection and Regulatory Services/Veterinary Services/Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services/MoFA Projects 2. Ministry of Fisheries and Aqua Culture Development 3. Ministry of Local Government 4. Ministry of Finance 5. Ghana Statistical Service 6. Ministry of Health 7. Ghana Health Service 8. Food and Drugs Authority 9. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation 10. Environmental Protection Agency 11. Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection 12. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Food Research Institute) 13. National Board for Medium and Small-Scale Enterprise 14. Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources 15. Ministry of Roads and Highways 16. Ministry of Interior 17. National Disaster Management Organization 18. Ministry of youth and sports 19. National Youth Authority 20. Youth Employment Agency 21. Ministry of Trade and Industry 22. Ministry of Information 23. National Commission for Civic Education 24. Information Services Department 25. Parliamentary Select Committee on Agriculture 26. Hunger Alliance 27. Farmer-based Organisations 28. Traditional Authority 29. Selected MMDAs 30. UNICEF 31. International Food Policy Research Institute 32. Food and Agriculture Organization

		33. World Food Programme 34. World Health Organisation 35. GIZ 36. JICA 37. United States Agency for International Development 38. International Fund for Agricultural Development 39. NDPC 40. Tony Blair Institute 41. Akademiya2063
--	--	--

Appendix 3: Proposed Work Plan

	ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME						RESPONSIBILITY
		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
1.	Meeting of NTWG	■						
2.	Inception Meeting	■						SUN Technical Focal Point/NDPC
3.	Sensitization Meetings		■					NDPC
4.	Convening of Thematic Dialogues		■	■				NDPC/Facilitators
5.	Public consultations – national (Scientific groups, CSOs, DPs)		■	■	■			NTWG
6.	Public consultations- regional/district		■	■	■			NTWG
7.	Analysis and collation of report (Commitment Statement)				■	■		NTWG
8.	Inter- Ministerial Dialogue/ Cabinet Approval					■		SUN Technical Focal Point
9.	Review and Posting on Dialogue Gateway					■		NTWG
10.	Preparation of Ghana’s Presentation and Modalities for Participation						■	NTWG

Appendix 4: Proposed Budget

DRAFT

References

1. Hawkes C, Fanzo J. Nourishing the SDGs: Global nutrition report 2017. 2017.
2. GBD Obesity Collaborators. Health effects of overweight and obesity in 195 countries over 25 years. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2017; **377**(1): 13-27.
3. Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) GHSG, and ICF International. Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014. Rockville, Maryland, USA: GSS, GHS, and ICF International., 2015.
4. Ingram J, Aggarwal P, Ericksen P, et al. The state of food and agriculture 2013. Food systems for better nutrition.
5. GLOPAN. Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. Food systems and diets: Facing the challenges of the 21st century. London, GLOPAN. 2016.
6. Lartey A, Hemrich G, (2016) LA. Influencing food environments for healthy diets. FAO, Rome, Italy, 2016. Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6484e.pdf>. 2016.

DRAFT