



COMPACT  
2025

# Malawi

Ending Hunger and Undernutrition:  
Challenges and Opportunities

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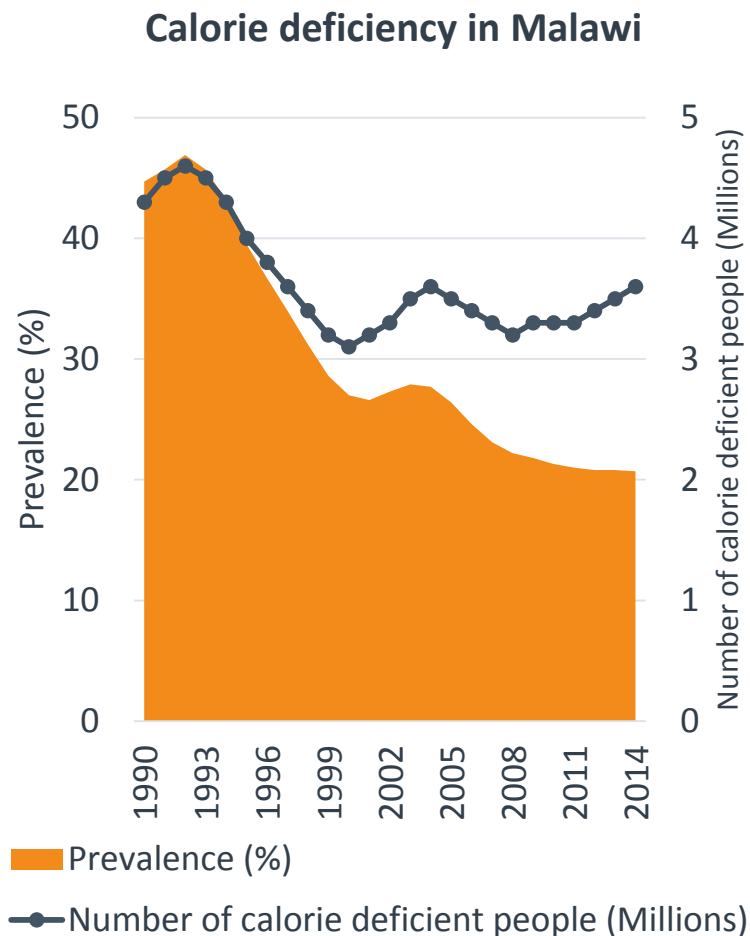
Roundtable Discussion

May 26, 2016 | Lilongwe, Malawi



# Progress in reducing hunger, but more to be done

- Hunger fell from 45% to 21% (1990/02-2014/16)
  - Number of hungry people fell from 4.3 to 3.6 million in same period
- Malawi food deficit: 139 kcal/day
- Poor spend 77% of income on food



# Food availability increasing with room for improvement

Change in production, area, and yield for selected crops, 2000 to 2013/14 (%)

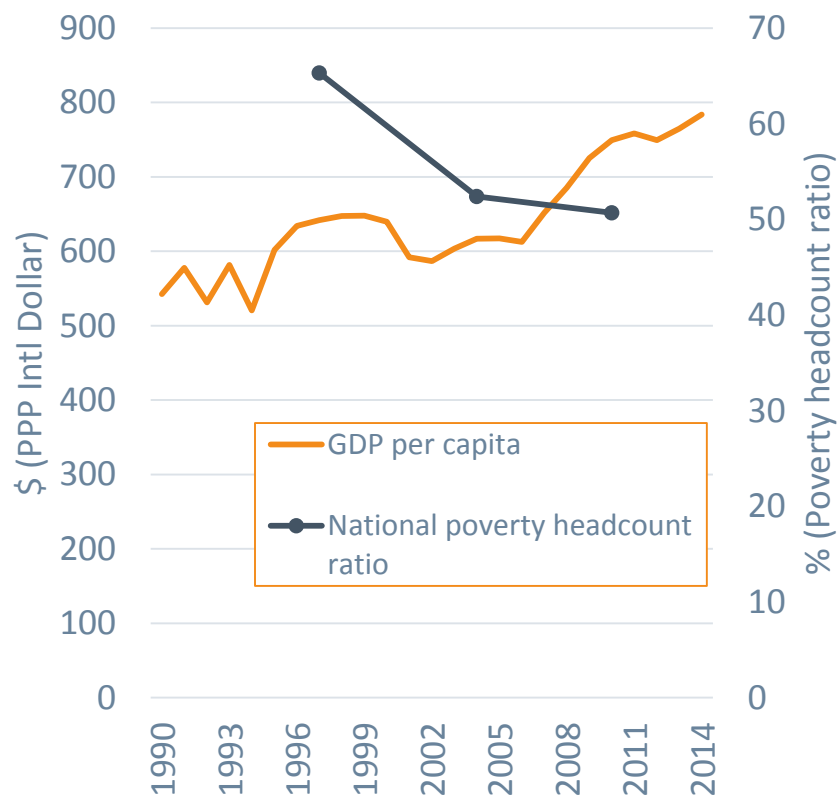
	Production	Area	Yield
Cereals	60	22	31
Roots & Tubers	98	34	48
Pulses	155	71	48
Vegetables	44	103	-29
Fruits	48	7	38

- Progress varies across crops; from 2005-2011
  - Per cap. supply increased for pulses (44%), roots and tubers (13%), but decreased for fruits (-7%)
  - Per cap. consumption of maize increased from 40 g/day to 60 g/day

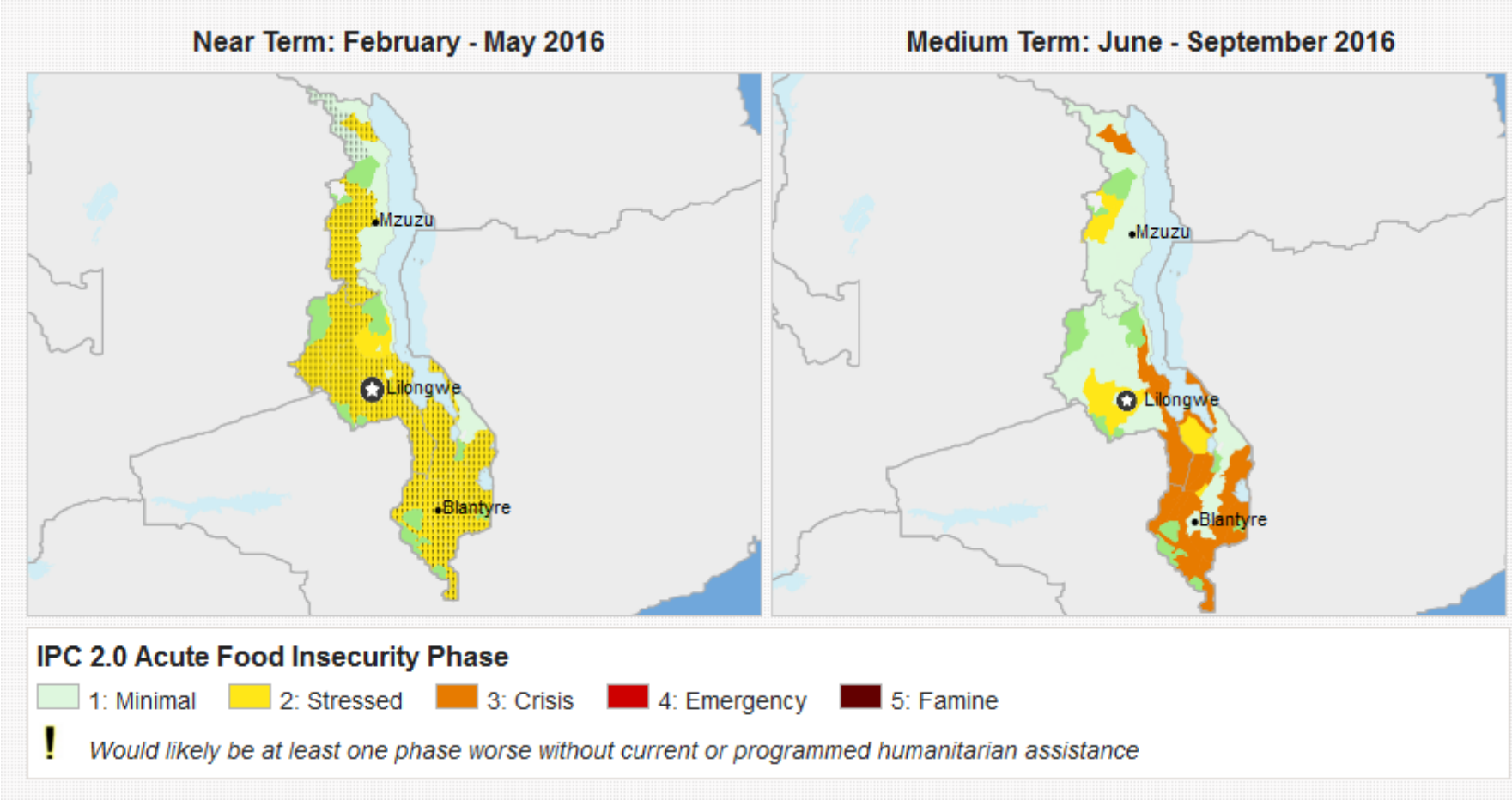
# Poverty persists despite strong economic growth

- Low income country with modest GDP growth
  - 4.3% average GDP growth (2000-2014)
  - 1.3% average GDP per capita growth (2000-2015)
- Poverty high with 51% living below national poverty line (2010)
  - Majority of poor live in rural areas

GDP per capita and poverty headcount ratio national poverty line

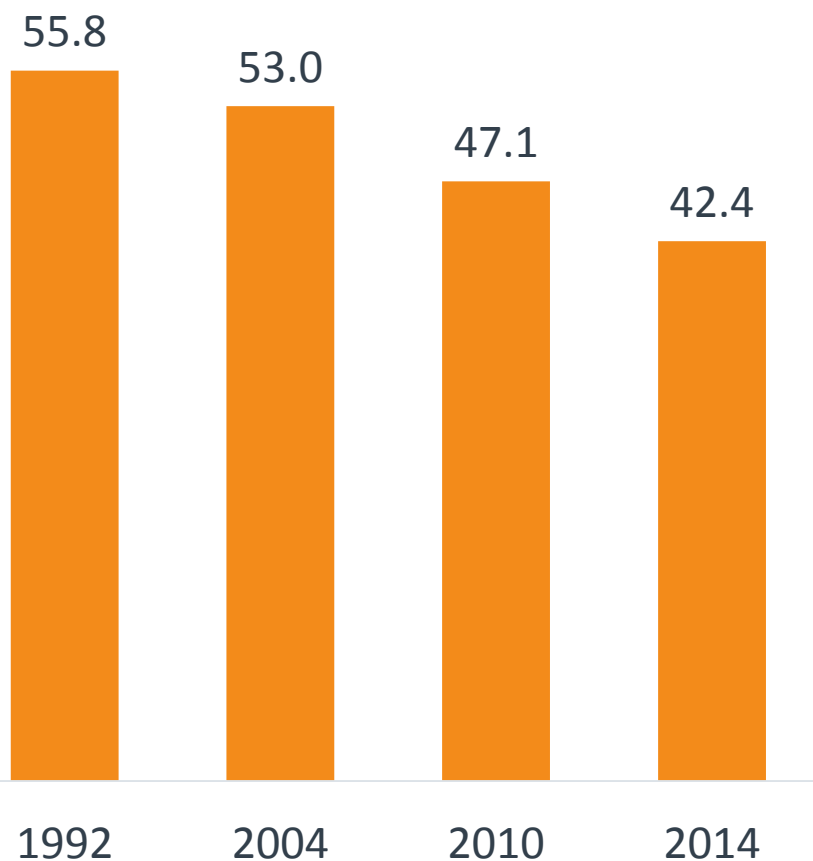


# El Niño, drought, and famine hold back progress

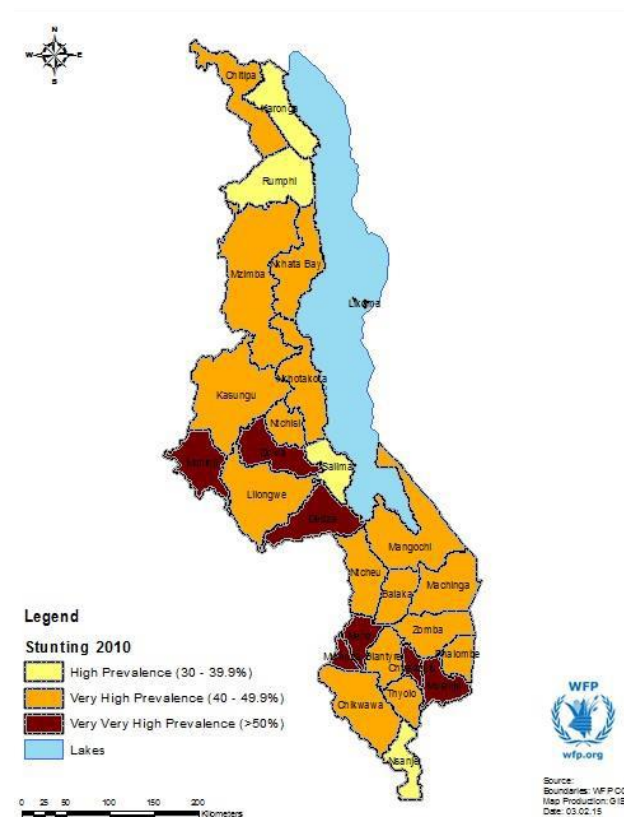


# Despite gains, child stunting is high

Prevalence of under-5 stunting (%)

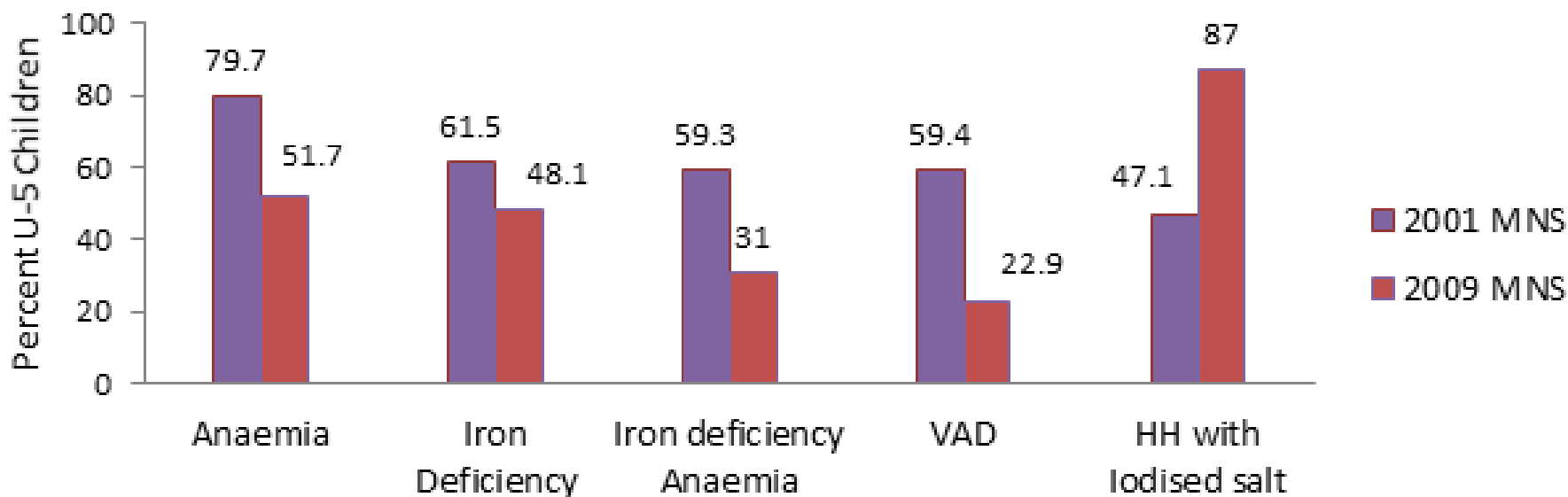


Prevalence of under-5 stunting by district (2010)



# “Hidden hunger” still a problem

Prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies for children under 5 (%)



Despite progress, more interventions needed to control micronutrient deficiencies among women and children.

# Selected determinants of nutrition

- **Diet diversity: Maize-dominated diets**
  - Average proportion of calories from maize: 50% (2013)
- **Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH):** Increased coverage from 1990 to 2015
  - Safe drinking water: 42% to 80%
  - Improved sanitation coverage: 46% to 65%
- **Women empowerment** is shown to improve nutrition, food security
  - Ranks 68 of 146 countries in the WEF Global Gender Gap Index (2015)



# Hunger and undernutrition are costly

- **Child undernutrition imposes social and economic costs via**
  - Impaired physical and cognitive development
  - Productivity losses; direct healthcare costs
- **Malawi loses an estimated US\$ 597 million (10.3% of GDP in 2012) due to child undernutrition**
  - Highest element of cost: Loss in potential productivity from undernutrition-related mortalities
- **BUT returns to investing in nutrition are high**
  - Global estimate: Every \$1 invested yields \$16 in returns

# National frameworks and plans for food security and nutrition

Strategy/Plan	Relation to food security, nutrition
<b>Vision 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims for all members of all households to have access to adequate and safe food at all times of the year to meet their nutritional requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centers on economic growth and poverty reduction</li> <li>• Agriculture and food security are among main priority areas</li> </ul>
<b>National Agricultural Policy and National Nutrition Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forthcoming</li> </ul>

# National Nutrition Policy

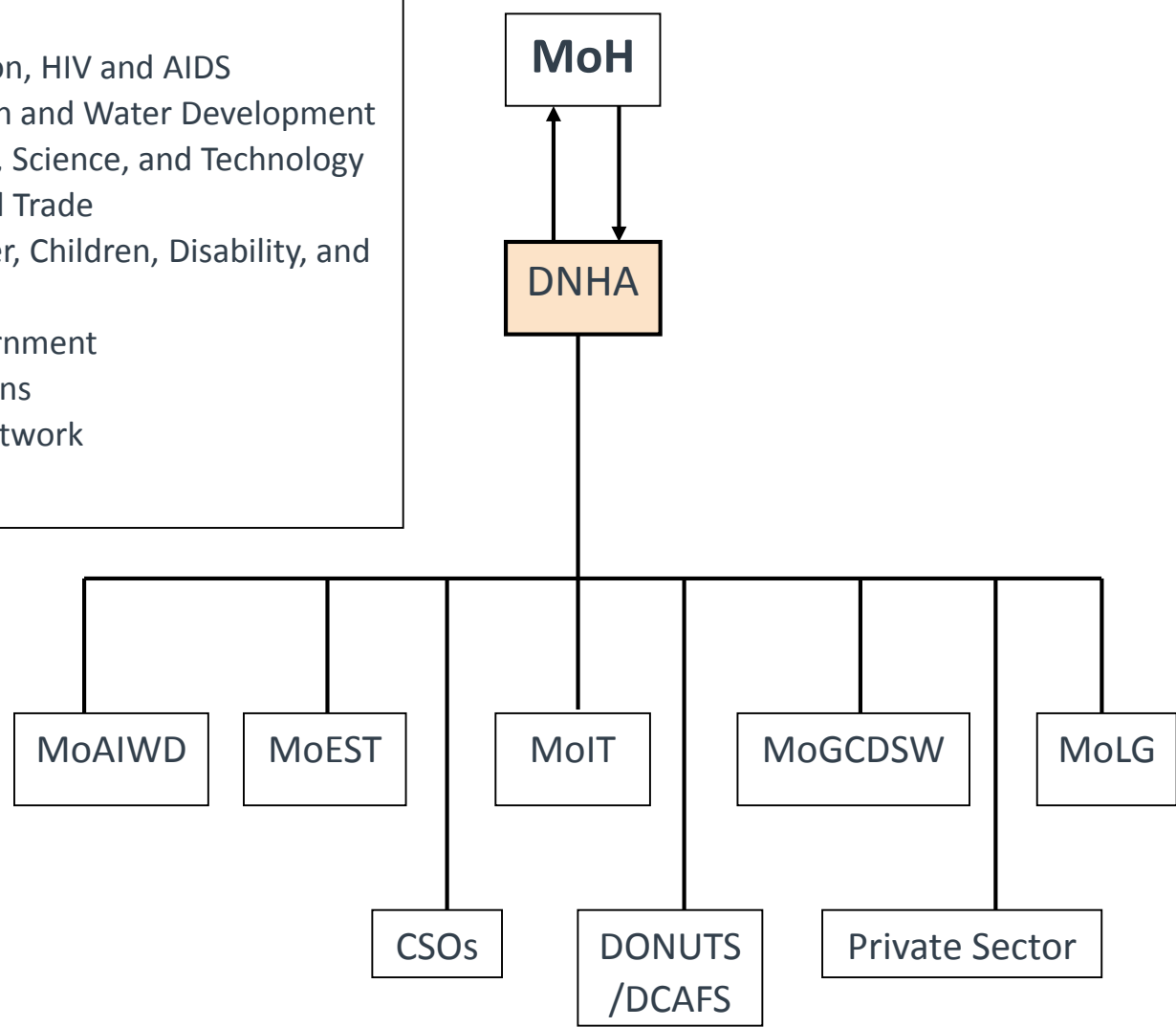
**Goal:** To attain optimal nutrition for all Malawians by 2020 with emphasis on children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, other vulnerable groups

## Eight priority areas

1. Prevention of undernutrition
2. Gender equality
3. Treatment & control of acute malnutrition
4. Overnutrition & nutrition-related NCDs
5. Social mobilisation & behaviour change communication
6. Nutrition in emergency situations
7. Creating an enabling environment for nutrition
8. Nutrition research & surveillance

# Architecture of nutrition coordination

MoH – Ministry of Health  
 DNHA – Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS  
 MoAIWD – Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development  
 MOEST – Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology  
 MoIT – Ministry of Industry and Trade  
 MoGCDSW – Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability, and Social Welfare  
 MoLG – Ministry of Local Government  
 CSOs – Civil Society Organizations  
 DONUTS – Donors Nutrition Network  
 DCAFS – Donor Committee



# Selected policy gaps

- Investing in development/resilience programming while addressing humanitarian crises
- Leveraging agriculture for growth, reduced poverty, and better nutrition and health
- Developing continuity of policies and M&E systems to reform, improve policies
- Enhancing multisectoral approach through nutrition mainstreaming in all relevant sectors

# Selected implementation gaps

- Boosting institutional capacity for designing, implementing, and monitoring policies and programs
- Improving coordination and capacity across sectors, stakeholders, AND levels of government
- Reducing inefficiencies and leakages of otherwise effective policies
- Implementation of national agriculture and nutrition strategies and policies

# Selected knowledge gaps

- Moving from early warning to early action
- How to break the cycle of annual crises and humanitarian response
- Linking agriculture, nutrition, and health
- Improving systems to collect, compile, organize, and disseminate information

In summary

# Challenges and opportunities

## Strengths

- Government commitment to ending hunger and undernutrition

## Weaknesses

- Weak agriculture-nutrition linkages
- Vulnerable groups left behind
- Relatively weak enabling environment for private sector

## Opportunities

- Momentum from MDGs/SDGs and commitment from development partners
- Highly suitable for investment in diversified food systems

## Threats

- Land degradation, natural disasters and climate change
- Population growth/changing demographics
- Lack of youth in agriculture