Accelerating Progress: Plan of Action for Compact2025

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Overview

• Rwanda has made progress, but it must be accelerated

• It is possible to accelerate progress

• Compact2025 aims to support key recommendations to accelerate progress in Rwanda
Rwanda is committed to ending hunger and undernutrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy/Plan</th>
<th>Relation to food security, nutrition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision 2020</td>
<td>Includes agric. production, child stunting goals</td>
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<td>2nd Economic Development &amp; Poverty Reduction Strategy</td>
<td>Sets food and nutrition among long-term foundational issues</td>
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<td>Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture</td>
<td>Aims to transform, commercialize agriculture; increase rural incomes; reduce poverty</td>
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<td>Health Sector Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Identifies nutrition indicators (e.g. Reduce child stunting from 44%-18% from 2013-2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Seeks to reduce social, economic vulnerability for poor, vulnerable, &amp; marginalized groups</td>
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Rwanda has clear strategic directions

National Food and Nutrition Policy

• Preventing stunting in children under two years of age at national scale
• Promoting practices that improve household food security
• Preventing and managing all forms of malnutrition

Third Health Sector Strategic Plan

• Reduce by half the number of malnourished children
Progress has been made, but it must be accelerated to end hunger and undernutrition by 2025

Prevalence of undernourishment in Rwanda (%)

Prevalence of under-5 child stunting in Rwanda (%)

Source: FAO 2017

Source: UNICEF/WHO/WB 2017
It is possible to accelerate progress

• Global community has higher priority on ending hunger and undernutrition

• Successful countries have shortened the learning curve

• Greater awareness of cross-sectoral issues
  • Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) associated with lower prevalence of child stunting
  • Women’s empowerment in agriculture → better productivity, agricultural and dietary diversity, food security, nutrition (especially for their young children)

• Promising programs in Rwanda can be scaled up
  • Biofortification: Since 2011, nearly half a million Rwandan farmers have grown high-iron beans, which reduce iron deficiency in women
Compact2025’s approaches for accelerating progress

Engaging countries

Stimulating knowledge and innovation

Supporting initiatives and partnerships

National initiatives, regional commitments (African Union), international partnerships (SUN), global goals (SDGs), and others

Compact2025: evidence-based support
Facilitating South-South learning workshop in Bangkok

• Shared lessons on Thailand’s success and experiences from other countries with over 50 stakeholders from Africa and Asia, including C2025 Focal Countries

• Key points from meeting include
  – Nutrition efforts must be country-driven
  – Research is critical for producing knowledge and policy advice for government
  – Community-led mobilization with M&E, supported by modern technologies, can improve tracking at all levels
  – The private sector can play a key role in supporting nutrition efforts given the right policy environment
  – Mutual learning by bringing together different countries, stakeholders is critical
Recommendations for accelerating progress in Rwanda—and how Compact2025 aims to support them
A look back one year ago
Compact2025 Rwanda Roundtable Discussion (March 24, 2016)

• Convened over 100 stakeholders to discuss how to accelerate progress

• Participants offered five key recommendations
  • Improve coordination
  • Fill data and knowledge gaps
  • Strengthen capacity
  • Communicate and advocate for better nutrition outcomes
  • Enhance successful policies and programs
Improve coordination

National Food and Nutrition Coordination Secretariat

• Designed to coordinate across stakeholders to improve implementation of nutrition programs

• Objectives
  – Provide strategic oversight and ensure efficient and effective coordination for all food and nutrition interventions in Rwanda
  – Provide policy advice in all food and nutrition related matters
  – Raise awareness of key stakeholders on food and nutrition and advocate for resource mobilization
  – Monitor and evaluate all food and nutrition interventions
**Improve coordination**
Compact2025’s plans

**Proposed actions include**

- Conduct review of evidence on effectiveness of food and nutrition interventions, programs, and policies
- Work with the Secretariat and relevant ministries to identify current and potential roles and how to effectively work together
- Support implementation of policies at sub-national levels as part of the District Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition (DPEM)
- Assist the Secretariat to establish an M&E framework for food and nutrition programs and rigorously evaluate at least one flagship program to rigorously evaluate
Fill data and knowledge gaps

• 2016 RTD participants identified a lack of evidence-based programs and interventions as a key constraint to accelerating progress

• More evidence is needed on
  – Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of programs and packages of interventions is needed
  – How to make programs more nutrition-sensitive
  – How to work multisectorally and across different types of stakeholders to design and implement effective food and nutrition programs
  – How to achieve nutrition outcomes at scale
Fill data and knowledge gaps
Compact2025’s plans

Proposed actions include

• Assess
  – Coordination and coherence in nutrition as part of on-going Stories of Change work
  – Prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies among children and predictors of these deficiencies
  – Predictors of child stunting

• Identify effective interventions to address child undernutrition

• Work with implementers to redesign programs to be more nutrition-sensitive
Strengthen capacity

• Greater capacity to plan and implement nutrition strategies across stakeholders and levels of government was recommended

• Training opportunities for students in nutrition, agriculture, and rural development are key

• Dimensions of capacity development include technical knowledge, generating and using evidence, advocacy, and beyond
Strengthen capacity
Compact2025’s plans

Proposed actions include

• Conduct trainings in nutrition for ministry staff, civil society organizations, district health workers, frontline workers, and others

• Work with university teachers to mainstream nutrition coursework into relevant curriculums

• Create fellowships for locally trained nutritionists to work with CGIAR scientists
Communicate and advocate for better nutrition outcomes

• More evidence is needed on the underlying factors of undernutrition and potential strategies to address them to effectively advocate for better outcomes

• Once identified, clear advocacy messages can be generated and disseminated through various media, e.g. TV, radio, and theatre
Communicate and advocate for better nutrition outcomes
Compact2025’s plans

Proposed actions include

• With SNV, expand Voices of Change Partnership (V4CP) program, which
  – Aims to strengthen CSO capacity to use evidence to advocate for better food security and nutrition outcomes
  – Promotes prioritization of nutrition interventions at the district level
Enhance successful policies and programs

- Scaling up and targeting successful nutrition-sensitive programs can contribute to health, nutrition, and well-being outcomes.

Compact2025’s proposed actions include

- Establishing a competitive grants program to enhance effectiveness of programs to achieve nutrition outcomes.
Compact2025 uses research, innovation, and partnerships to help eliminate hunger and undernutrition in Rwanda and beyond.