

## NUTRITION DIALOGUES TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

### A. Food Systems Coordination

**Objective:** Examine the strengths and weaknesses in coordination at district and national levels, and identify opportunities to strengthen these systems for greater impact.

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1. Introduction and Context (15 minutes):**
  - What does "coordination in food systems" mean in the Malawian context?
  - What are the key roles of stakeholders at community, district and national levels in ensuring effective food systems coordination?
- 2. Current State Assessment (20 minutes):**
  - What are the strengths in food systems coordination at the district level? National level? Community level?
  - What are the common weaknesses or gaps in coordination?
  - How has the lack of coordination impacted food security or nutrition outcomes in Malawi?
- 3. Exploring Opportunities (20 minutes):**
  - What successful coordination models can we learn from (locally or internationally)?
  - How can we align coordination efforts across agriculture, health, education, and private sectors?
  - What role can technology and data sharing play in improving coordination?
- 4. Solutions and Recommendations (20 minutes):**
  - What practical steps can stakeholders take to improve district-level coordination? National-level coordination?
  - What mechanisms can be put in place to ensure sustained collaboration among stakeholders?
  - How can we ensure that local voices are represented in national strategies for food systems coordination?

### B. Nutrition for Growth Commitments

**Objective:** Critically assess how Malawi is turning its Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments into actionable outcomes and identify gaps and accountability mechanisms.

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1. Understanding Commitments (15 minutes)**
  - What are the specific N4G commitments Malawi has pledged?
  - How do these commitments align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national nutrition strategies?
- 2. Assessing Progress (20 minutes)**
  - What progress has been made in fulfilling these commitments?
  - What gaps or challenges have hindered implementation so far?
  - How do stakeholders perceive Malawi's performance on N4G commitments?

3. **Accountability Mechanisms (20 minutes)**
  - What systems are in place to monitor and report on N4G commitments?
  - How can we strengthen accountability for these commitments at district, national, and international levels?
  - What role can civil society and media play in holding stakeholders accountable?
4. **Action-Oriented Solutions (20 minutes)**
  - What innovative approaches can be adopted to accelerate progress on N4G commitments?
  - As we plan future pledges, what lessons can we learn from past commitments?
  - How can we ensure that new commitments are realistic, measurable, and impactful?

## **C. Private Sector Involvement in Food Systems**

**Objective:** Explore innovative ways to involve private sector actors in achieving sustainable food systems.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. **Current Landscape (15 minutes)**
  - What is the current state of private sector involvement in Malawi's food systems?
  - Which industries or businesses have been most active in supporting food systems initiatives?
2. **Challenges and Barriers (20 minutes)**
  - What are the barriers to private sector involvement in food systems (e.g., regulatory, financial, or infrastructural)?
  - How do perceptions of risk affect private sector participation in agriculture or nutrition initiatives?
3. **Opportunities for Engagement (20 minutes)**
  - What incentives can the government or civil society offer to encourage private sector participation?
  - How can partnerships with the private sector contribute to food fortification, distribution, and accessibility?
  - What role can Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) play in food systems transformation?
4. **Innovative Strategies (20 minutes)**
  - What innovative financing models or technologies can attract private sector actors?
  - How can we ensure that private sector contributions align with national nutrition goals and do not exacerbate inequalities?
  - What partnerships can we foster between small-scale farmers and larger private enterprises?

## **D. Fortification in Food Value Chains**

**Objective:** Assess the current state of fortification in food value chains and develop strategies to improve its impact on nutrition outcomes.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. **Current State Analysis (15 minutes)**
  - What progress has been made in food fortification in Malawi?
  - Which food value chains currently prioritize fortification, and what gaps exist?
2. **Barriers to Fortification (20 minutes)**
  - What are the challenges in scaling up fortification efforts (e.g., costs, compliance, or public awareness)?
  - How can we address resistance or lack of compliance by food producers?
3. **Stakeholder Roles (20 minutes)**
  - What roles do government, private sector, and civil society play in advancing fortification?
  - How can we engage more small- and medium-scale producers in fortification efforts?
4. **Vision for 2025 (20 minutes)**
  - What specific steps should Malawi take to ensure that fortification efforts are inclusive and sustainable by 2025?
  - How can we improve public awareness of the benefits of fortified foods?
  - What monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be put in place to ensure accountability?

## **E. Monitoring and Evaluation in Food Systems**

**Objective:** Enhance frameworks for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to ensure accountability and data-driven decision-making.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. **Current M&E Frameworks (15 minutes):**
  - What M&E systems are currently in place for food systems in Malawi?
  - What are the strengths and weaknesses of these systems?
2. **Data Collection and Utilization (20 minutes):**
  - How reliable and comprehensive is the data being collected on food systems?
  - How can data be better utilized for decision-making at district and national levels?
3. **Improving Accountability (20 minutes):**
  - What mechanisms can be put in place to ensure regular reporting and follow-ups?
  - How can communities be involved in monitoring food systems initiatives?
4. **Innovations and Best Practices (20 minutes):**
  - What technologies or tools can enhance M&E in food systems?
  - How can Malawi adopt best practices from other countries to strengthen its M&E frameworks?
  - What partnerships can be established to support robust M&E systems?