



### Executive Summary

Political leadership and technical experts from Southern Africa came together in Lesotho on October 2-3, 2018, for a high-level forum, Early Childhood Nutrition in Southern Africa: Investing in Healthy Children for Healthy Countries. The event focused on the severity of child malnutrition across Southern Africa, its long-term implications, and the linkages between poor human capital outcomes and unrealized economic growth. The two-day, multi-stakeholder event included over 300 participants from Southern African countries, regional economic communities, development partners, donors, and other key cooperating partners. It was jointly hosted by Government of Lesotho, World Bank, and UNICEF with financial support provided by the World Bank and Government of Japan.

The two-day event included technical sessions on the first day and the high-level forum convening senior political leaders on the second day. A nutrition exhibition was held on both the days. The technical sessions on October 2 brought to light the science of child stunting, the different approaches to address the issue, the critical nature of multi-sectoral coordination in effectively combating stunting, and evidence on how increased investments can improve childhood nutrition. On October 3, senior political leaders, technocrats, development partners and invited guests stressed the importance of addressing early childhood malnutrition through proper investment and accelerated action in Southern Africa.

The event closed with a statement by His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho on the multifaceted aspects of child nutrition and importance of collaboration, co-operation and coordination among stakeholders to improve child nutrition. The King announced a Call to Action to accelerate regional efforts, particularly with a focus on achieving SDG 2.2 on ending malnutrition. The Call to Action is attached as Annex 1.

Both the days had a wide range of speakers and moderators in attendance from the Government of Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Panelists from partner organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), South African Development Community (SADC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and World Vision International among many other stakeholders, also participated. A list of all speakers is included as Annex 2.

Financial support for this work was provided by the Government of Japan through the Japan Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition.

The event webpage includes the agenda and presentations:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2018/10/02/early-childhood-nutrition-in-southern-africa-investing-in-healthy-children-countries>

## Technical discussions

The technical session on the first day addressed the “science” of early childhood nutrition, the rationale to address malnutrition in the first 1,000 days and the consequences of malnutrition in the early years of a child’s life. There were multi-country presentations on the multi-dimensional drivers of stunting, as well as sector-specific evidence on the role of agriculture, education, health, social protection, and water and sanitation for health (WASH) on early childhood nutrition. In addition to the presentations, panel discussions were held with technical teams from other countries in the region to discuss country specific experiences. The panel discussants included representatives from the governments, development partners and civil society.

Mr. Paul Noumba Um, World Bank Country Director for Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, gave the opening remarks for the first session. He stressed that the goal for the two-day event was to highlight the serious and immediate implications of poor childhood nutrition, explore ways to improve early childhood nutrition in Southern Africa and bring the governments of these countries together to commit and accelerate action towards the reduction of child stunting. Mr. Paul Noumba Um raised the point that pervasive malnutrition in Africa undermines Africa’s economic progress at a massive scale - an estimated cost of at least US\$25 billion annually to governments in sub-Saharan Africa. Echoing Mr. Paul Noumba Um was Hon. Temeki Phoenix Ts’olo, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Lesotho whose opening remarks touched upon the elusive nature of early childhood development in Southern African region, its impact on developmental outcomes and overall well-being.

The first session started with an important discussion on **Why early childhood nutrition in Southern Africa matters**. The technical presentation was on the World Bank Report, *All Hands-on Deck: Reducing stunting through multi-sectoral efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa* by Mr. Emmanuel Skoufias, World Bank Lead Economist. The presentation revealed the trends and key determinants of child stunting. The key messages of this presentation were: (i) child stunting continues to be high in Africa despite economic progress; (ii) there are large geographical disparities in the prevalence of child stunting as well as access to adequate food, health, and water and sanitation services. There are wide urban-rural as well as rich-poor differences in access to these services. Within a country many children do not have access to even one of the essential services that can reduce child stunting; (iii) simultaneous access to two or more services for food, health, safe water, hygiene and sanitation has shown to reduce child stunting i.e., probability of child stunting is lowest among children who have access to all the three essential services. The presentation discussed how faster progress toward reducing stunting in sub-Saharan Africa required complementary sectoral interventions to improve nutrition. These include agriculture, health, education, social protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The second session explored **How to deliver high-quality services to effectively reach the poor** through four complementary presentations. The first presentation entitled: *Reaching the poor with health and nutrition services* by Dr. Magnus Lindelow, World Bank Practice Manager for Health, Nutrition, and Population, highlighted that stunting is the highest in the lowest wealth quintile and that there were large disparities in service coverage between the rich and the poor. Despite strong commitments across most countries in the region to key policies (universal health coverage, social protection, community delivery platforms, etc.), improving quality of care remains a major issue that needs to be addressed. The presentation by Ms. Laura Rawlings, World Bank Lead Social Protection Specialist, on: *Ensuring strong*

*human capital outcomes in early childhood: the role of cash transfers* focused on cash transfer programs, and specifically conditional infant grants - impacts in early childhood. This includes: reduced poverty, mitigating negative impacts of early life shocks, improved food consumption and, in some cases, nutritional outcomes (stunting, wasting), improved children's cognitive and language skills, increased use of health services by pregnant women and young children, reduced morbidity, reduced maternal depression and stress, enhanced household environment for child development. Overall, cash transfer programs, such as conditional infant grants, provide demand side platform to reach poor households. Two main types of accompanying measures can boost effects of cash transfers on child development: parenting and nutrition. She also shared multi-country information on how use of health services can be improved through cash transfers. The final presentations in this session gave perspectives from civil society in Lesotho, by Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and World Vision, highlighting strategies used by these development partners to deliver high-quality services to effectively reach the poor to improve nutrition and child development outcomes.

The third session focused on **What services help improve nutrition in Southern Africa**. The first part of this session debunked myths around drivers and impact of agriculture and WASH interventions on nutrition. Findings from the World Bank Report, *Productive Diversification in African Agriculture and Its Effects on Resilience and Nutrition*, revealed how agricultural production can support food security and nutrition through (i) diversifying production systems to make ecosystems more productive and resilient, (ii) creating a diverse food environment and supply markets with nutritious foods, (iii) promoting productive and resilient agriculture to provide incomes to farmers; and (iv) promoting optimal nutrition knowledge and education. For WASH, the discussion focused on expanding its scope beyond building toilets and ensuring safe drinking water. With greater awareness on environmental enteropathy and its impact on child stunting, WASH programs are now addressing community led sanitation to improve individual hygiene behaviors and promote environmental sanitation.

In the second part of the third session, country presentations from Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe explored the role of education to promote optimal early childhood development and nutrition. In Lesotho, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) is 0.07% of their education budget. The government, however, has plans to increase access to ECCD preschools, especially in more disadvantaged areas, increase community outreach and early stimulation programs to target children between 0 and 2 years, improve quality standards for ECCD programs, register more ECCD centers and home-based programs and ensure Early Learning Development Standards are vetted by all stakeholders and adopted. In Zimbabwe, where nutrition is a vital ingredient for growth and education – as part of their Early Childhood Development (ECD) Education Program - the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MOPSE) has adopted several policies and programs as a way of promoting improved health and nutrition in Zimbabwean schools. The Zambia presentation highlighted its integrated low cost ECD model as having great potential for multi-sectoral coordination across sectors specifically, (i) Ministry of Health through growth monitoring, micronutrient supplementation, immunization, and health education; (ii) Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare through community mobilization/ sensitization, and social cash transfer; (iii) Ministry of Agriculture through nutrition-sensitive interventions; promotion of home-grown school feeding programs through the Farmer Support Input program at household and Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers; and (iv) Ministry of Water and Sanitation through provision of clean

and safe drinking water at ECE centers. Achieving this policy goal would require adequate funding to the ECD sector, synergies with existing nutrition interventions such as Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiatives and social protection to leverage resources and strengthening multi-sectoral coordination across line ministries.

The final technical panel of the day explored **How to optimize investments to combat child stunting** by increasing efficiency of nutrition spending through evidence-based investments. Presentations touched upon increasing efficiency of nutrition spending through an evidence-based investment plan, and asked questions, such as: How much it will cost to scale-up essential nutrition services? How to maximize nutrition results for the current investment? How can analytics generate national political commitment? Key questions for a sub-national analysis were also touched upon, such as: which geographical regions should receive priority funding? How might trends in undernutrition change under different funding scenarios? The presentation was followed by technical discussions from Zambia and Lesotho. Zambia shared their experience undergoing the “investment case study”. Mr. Mosunda Mofu from the National Food and Nutrition Commission highlighted that with this exercise Zambia (i) increased the investment on nutrition; (ii) started the pooled donor funding for nutrition to meet the gaps which couldn’t be covered through government funding; and (iii) is now focusing on the most deprived and geographically remote areas through government programs. The Deputy Principal Secretary Ministry of Health in Lesotho highlighted that the health sector within the country worked in silos and often expenditures were duplicated. She mentioned that with the proposed reduction in the government’s health budget in 2019, the country needs support to conduct an exercise which could enhance the nutrition results within the existing resources.

Closing remarks by Ms. Janet K. Entwistle, World Bank Country Representative for Lesotho, and Hon. Tlohelang Aumane, Minister of Development Planning of Lesotho, reflected on the day’s rich presentations on prevention of child stunting and its link to human capital development. Ms. Janet K. Entwistle also highlighted the importance of the Human Capital Project being launched by World Bank President Jim Kim at the Annual Meetings in Bali in mid-October. Hon. Tlohelang Aumane thanked the delegates who journeyed from different countries in Africa and other parts of the world to Lesotho to share their experiences, ideas, concerns, and specific needs for addressing early childhood malnutrition, investing in early years and promoting human capital development. Hon. Tlohelang Aumane further commented on the importance of capable front-line staff who provide key information to people and reiterated that linking them to facilities and communities is critical to provide essential services. He also mentioned the need for health, social protection, education, agriculture and WASH to work together in a collaborative and coordinated manner.

These conversations were the basis for discussions in the forum for October 3.

### High-level Forum on Early Childhood Nutrition in Southern Africa

The goal of the second day was to recapitulate the global knowledge, evidence, profound returns to investment in early childhood nutrition and human capital, and its impact to individual productivity and nations' economic development. The high-level forum was also an advocacy platform to convene the leaders from the Southern African countries to commit to make increased investments in early childhood nutrition within their countries. His Majesty King Letsie III sought to formalize this commitment to accelerate action in the form of a Call to Action as part of his closing speech. The Call to Action is attached as Annex 1.

The Forum was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Right Honorable Dr. Motsoahae Thomas Thabane. The day began with a summary of the main discussions points from the October 2 technical panels and remarks by Mr. Paul Nounba Um.

Her Honor Mrs. Inonge Wina, the Vice President of Zambia, then gave the welcoming address, highlighting the steps undertaken within the country to address child undernutrition. She stressed improved collaboration and co-ordination across sectors, pooled donor funding mechanisms, improving food and nutrition security and providing social protection to the poorest and most vulnerable.

Following Vice President Wina's address, Ministers from Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe spoke to convey their country's commitment to early childhood nutrition. They highlighted national policies and programs to reduce child stunting, as well as the role of development partners, donors and civil societies in addressing this issue. They pledged to work to strengthen their nutrition policies, design programs with adequate budgets, support co-ordination and collaboration across sectors, and convene partnerships.

The first technical session on October 3, **Framing the discussion on early childhood nutrition**, had two technical presentations on global perspectives on the critical window of the first 1,000 days and the returns for economic growth.

Dr. Mohamed Ayoya, UNICEF Representative for Zimbabwe, highlighted UNICEF's strategy to address child stunting and highlighted four key areas of focus to reduce child stunting. These are (i) implementing at scale evidence-based cost-effective solutions for preventing malnutrition with a focus on the first 1,000 days; (ii) co-ordination across multiple sectors in government working with partners and communities; (iii) bringing mother and children at the center of all interventions whilst ensuring that affordable, diverse and nutrient rich foods are available especially to vulnerable children and their families. Their focus also includes ensuring that countries formulate selective and integrated programs regions and ensuring programmatic effectiveness, operational efficiency and knowledge leadership for countries to accelerate actions.

Mr. Kenjiro Ban, Chief Official at the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) Secretariat, introduced IFNA's objectives on food and nutrition security and highlighted their policy for accelerating nutrition actions across African countries over a 10-year period (2016-2025). As of June 2018, IFNA countries include Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan. IFNA, he mentioned, is not a funding body, but a catalyst to create synergy among stakeholders. IFNA supports nutrition actions on the ground, capacity development of stakeholders,

promotes multi-sectoral approaches with a focus on integrating agriculture, sharing lessons and experiences through peer-learning, generating evidence, and nutrition advocacy.

The second technical session focused on regional and country perspective, **Learning from experience to make nutrition a national priority** and included a number of sub-sections to learn from regional experience, examples of what countries have already achieved to improve early childhood nutrition and what others are committed to doing to realize better outcomes.

Mr. Adrian Gauci, Economic Affairs Officer at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, focused on ensuring homogenous development in tackling malnutrition across sub-regions. He noted that policy mapping is a useful technique and that aligning varying frameworks (e.g. Africa 2015-2025, 2030 Agenda, and Africa 2063) can help optimize financial and human resources. He also stressed the importance of policy coherence across education, health, nutrition and social protection.

Country perspectives from Tanzania, Rwanda and Senegal provided 'on-the-ground' evidence of how their governments have prioritized ECD. How did Tanzania make nutrition central to their development agenda? This involved multi-sectoral coordination through developing a National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan, country involvement in the SUN movement, political commitments, increased government resource allocation for nutrition, increased human resources for nutrition, government and partners commitment and private sector involvement. In Rwanda, there are 4,109 ECE centers mapped around the country reaching over 250,000 children. ECDs importance is further reiterated in the National Strategy for Transformation (2018 - 2023), national policies, such as the 2011 and 2016 ECD policy, and other guiding instruments, as well as increased Government investments in early childhood development and pre-primary education. At decentralized levels, coordination occurs through joint action plans and capacity building of key stakeholders at all levels. ECD ownership and commitment is further built in communities through parents' investment and ownership and the coordinated effort of community volunteers.

Technical presentations from Lesotho and Zimbabwe further echoed the importance of multi-sectoral approaches that were raised the previous day. Both countries showcased the different programs within their countries to reduce child malnutrition. In Lesotho, government structures and systems are in place up to village level for implementing a comprehensive multi-sectoral program and some nutrition program interventions are implemented through the existing ministries and departments. For effective program implementation, vulnerable groups are mapped, district co-ordination structures are in place, work force across all sectors are in position; and program monitoring and information systems are in place for all the sectoral ministries. However, there is a need to operationalize the multisectoral program and ensure that domestic resources are efficiently utilized to get maximum returns. In Zimbabwe, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2013) provides a framework for cohesive multi-sectoral action to improve food and nutrition security. The policy harmonizes sectoral plans and programs which impact on food and nutrition security, provides a framework for sustainable concerted and coordinated multi-sectoral action and defines sectoral roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved in food and nutrition. Zimbabwe's National Nutrition Strategy (2014-2018) and Zimbabwe's Agricultural Investment Plan (2013-2017) contribute to this same objective. There are, of course, policy implementation gaps, including uncoordinated donor funding; the lack of institutionalization of nutrition issues into critical sectors such as agriculture, social services, education and gender; Government departments and ministries working in

silos; and a top-down approach to planning and budgeting. Zimbabwe suggested ways forward, including prioritization of nutrition issues on the development agenda as well as country policies and strategies, promotion and strengthening of nutrition sensitive and specific program and implementation in all sectors, establishment of Food and Nutrition Security Committees (FNSCs) in all rural and urban districts and a multi-sectoral stunting reduction program building on the current stunting prevention program and allocation additional funds for scaling-up.

His Royal Highness Prince Masitsela of the Kingdom of eSwatini discussed the need to review eSwatini's current national development framework to ensure the inclusion of key nutrition interventions, such as promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, optimal infant and young child feeding practices, and prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition. He also highlighted the crucial role of the World Bank and other development partners and donors in improving nutrition security for the SADC population. His Royal Highness also reiterated the value and need for countries in the Southern African region to commit to developing strong nutrition policies and appropriate financing to address child malnutrition, as well as addressing issues of WASH and food safety.

In her remarks, Ms. Diduzile Simelane, Director for Social and Human Development, South African Development Community (SADC) noted the importance of bringing the countries of the region together on this important issue and expressed interest in continuing this regional dialogue on nutrition under the SADC umbrella.

The forum ended with closing remarks by His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho expressing the urgent need for interventions and action to improve early childhood nutrition. His Majesty's closing touched on the multi-faceted and cross-cutting of nutrition interventions, which require collaboration, co-operation and coordination between all the stakeholders that are involved in this field. His statement concluded:

*At this juncture, I wish to place before you a Call to Action that is inviting us and our respective governments to renew the commitment to combat malnutrition and set a strong foundation for the lifelong human capital development of our peoples. The call envisions that together, we act to ensure optimal growth and develop their full potential. To this end, our governments must do more to honor our global commitment, particularly under SDG 2.2 that aims to end all forms of malnutrition and reach zero hunger for all by 2030.*

*Let us endorse this call, because it is only through redoubled efforts - working in a multidisciplinary fashion and engaging diverse stakeholders - that we will prevent malnutrition among our vulnerable children.*

The Call to Action is attached as Annex 1.

### Summary of Oct 2-3 Nutrition Fair

The nutrition exhibition, held on October 2 and 3 in parallel to the technical sessions and forum, provided a platform to showcase key nutrition programs and messages to a broader audience. The exhibition featured 16 thematic booths, organized under the broader framework of nutrition-sensitive programming, nutrition-specific programming, and enabling environment. The booths were staffed by representatives from the Government of Lesotho, the National University of Lesotho, UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector.

Annex 3 has a list of the thematic areas and organizations presented under each topic.

### Media Coverage

The two-day event was widely covered in national and regional media. At a press conference following the end of the Forum, Hon. Temeki Phoenix Ts'olo, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Lesotho, commented on October 3, "being a momentous day in the history of Southern Africa where nations came together to pledge their commitment to tackling the menace of childhood malnutrition." A five-point action plan, based on the King's Call to Action and best practices from around the world, was presented at this press conference. The press conference also indicated the World Bank's commitment to invest at least US\$12 million on nutrition work in Lesotho, both through new IDA financing as well as with support from the Japan Policy and Human Resources Development Fund.

Annex 4 provides a more detailed overview of the media coverage.

## Annex 1 A Call for Action

### INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

#### ADDRESSING CHILD MALNUTRITION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Combating malnutrition in all its forms is one of the greatest global development challenges. In Africa, about 56.6 million children under age five suffer from stunting (low height-for-age or chronic undernutrition) and 13 million children suffer from wasting (low weight-for-height or acute undernutrition)<sup>1</sup>. This means that more than 1 in 3 children in the continent are at high risk of not reaching their full growth and developmental potential due to irreversible physical and cognitive damage caused by persistent nutritional deprivations.

Being malnourished in early childhood elevates the risks of infant and child morbidity and mortality, increases healthcare costs and social safety nets expenditures, lowers the efficiency of investments in education, decreases lifelong income-earning potential and labor force productivity resulting in a vicious cycle of poverty, ill health and poor nutrition which can be transmitted across generations.

Poverty further amplifies the risk of, and risks from, malnutrition. The poor are likely to be affected by different forms of malnutrition and affected by the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and deprivation(s).

**The developmental, economic, and social impacts of malnutrition, especially in the early years of life are serious and lasting for individuals, their families, communities and countries. As a result, the costs of child undernutrition in Africa and Asia have been estimated to range from 4 percent to 11 percent of their GDP<sup>1</sup>.**

#### BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

Focused investments in nutrition, especially during the 1,000-day period (i.e., pregnancy to a child's second birthday) can alter an individual's development trajectory and are also highly cost-effective in terms of their returns. The Investment Framework for Nutrition shows that greater investments in early childhood nutrition can save lives, optimize physical growth and brain development, enhance education, human productivity and can boost a country's GDP by as much as 4-11 percent<sup>1</sup>.

In Africa, the current expenditure for nutrition-specific interventions is around US\$0.7 billion. To scale-up a package of high-impact nutrition-specific interventions and address the global nutrition targets, an additional US\$2.7 billion per year i.e., about US\$8.50 per child per year over the next 10 years is required. Further investments are needed for scaling-up nutrition-sensitive actions, such as conditional cash transfers which, if designed carefully, have the potential to increase the uptake of nutrition and health services<sup>2</sup>.

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#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Shekar, Meera, Jakub Kakietek, Julia Dayton Eberwein, and Dylan Walters. 2017. An Investment Framework for Nutrition: Reaching the Global Targets for Stunting, Anemia, Breastfeeding, and Wasting. Directions in Development. World Bank Group. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-1010-7, available at <https://tinyurl.com/InvestmentFrameworkNutrition>.

<sup>2</sup> Eozenou, Patrick Hoang-Vu, Shekar, Meera. 2017. Stunting reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa (*English*). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

The event webpage includes the agenda and presentations:

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## CALL FOR ACTION

In Southern Africa, together, we envision that all our children in the region achieve optimal growth and develop to their full potential. To ensure the life-long well-being and productivity of our youngest citizens, our countries must do more to honor the global commitments under SDG 2.2, the World Health

### SDG Target 2.2

By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.

Assembly's global targets of reducing the number of stunted (chronic undernutrition) under-fives by 40 percent, wasting (acute undernutrition) to less than 5 percent by 2025 and the World Bank's call for human capital development.

Intensifying efforts to accelerate progress towards reduction of child malnutrition is central to the optimal development of this region. We propose five essential actions that all countries in the region should undertake to address the persistent challenge of early childhood malnutrition:

1. High-level political commitment, vision and leadership for nutrition towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal 2.2;
2. Dedicated national budgets, strong institutional capacities to deliver and monitor programs, and effective multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms across relevant ministries<sup>3</sup>;
3. Implementing and managing large-scale national programs at national, regional and community level(s) with a focus on delivering a comprehensive package of high-impact interventions with quality<sup>4</sup>;
4. Strong partnerships with private sector, civil society, and development partners to find innovative local solutions to address child malnutrition;
5. Comprehensive monitoring of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive inputs to measure progress and evaluate impact(s).

*Together we can eliminate child malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 for optimal human capital development and a more prosperous Southern Africa!*

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<sup>3</sup> Ministries of Finance, Health, Agriculture (including livestock, fisheries and Livelihoods), Water and Sanitation, Education, Planning, Social Affairs and Welfare, Trade and Transport.

<sup>4</sup> A standard package of high-impact interventions includes promoting infant and young child nutrition, growth monitoring and promotion, micronutrient supplementation (vitamin A + deworming and iron and folic acid supplementation), food fortification, adolescent and maternal nutrition.

**Annex 2**  
**List of Speakers and Moderators**

**High level delegates:**

- His Majesty the King of Lesotho, King Letsie III
- Dr. Motsoahae Thomas Thabane (The Right Honorable Prime Minister of Lesotho)
- Hon. Monyane Moleleki (Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho)
- His Royal Highness Prince Masitsela (Kingdom of eSwatini)
- Her Honor Mrs. Inonge Wina (Vice President of the Republic of Zambia)
- Hon. Dr. Alfred Madigele (Minister of Health and Wellness, Representing the President of the Republic of Botswana)
- Hon. Susan Shabango (Minister of Social Development, Representing the President of the Republic of South Africa)
- Hon. Professor Paul Mavhima (Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Representing the Vice President of Zimbabwe)

**Government of Lesotho:**

- Hon. Temeki Phoenix Ts'olo (Minister, Office of the Prime Minister)
- Hon. Dr. Moeketsi Majoro (Minister of Finance)
- Hon. Tlohelang Aumane (Minister of Development Planning)
- Mr. Moahloli Mphaka (Government Secretary)
- Ms. Maseithati Mabeleng (Principal Secretary, Cabinet Economic Affairs)
- Ms. Nthoateng Lebona (Principal Secretary, Ministry of Development Planning)
- Mr. Malefetsane Masasa (Principal Secretary, Ministry of Social Development)
- Mr. Malefetsane Nchaka (Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security)
- Mr. Emmanuel Lesoma (Principal Secretary, Ministry of Water)
- Mr. Tieho Mamasiane (Principal Secretary, Basic Education)
- Mr. Peter Muzawazi (Principal Director, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education)
- Adv. Lesimole Moletsane (Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health)
- Mme. Matsepo Ntsaba (Director of Early Childhood Education, Ministry of Education and Training)

**Country delegates and partner organizations:**

- Ms. Zaninka Freya (Head, Early Development, Parenting Education and Child Protection, National Early Childhood Development Program, Rwanda)
- Ms. Nadi Albino (UNICEF Country Representative, Lesotho)
- Dr. Mohamed Ayoya (UNICEF Country Representative, Zimbabwe)
- Mrs. Cecelia Sakala (Director for Early Childhood Education, Ministry of General Education, Zambia)
- Mr. Musonda Mofu (Director, National Food and Nutrition Commission of Zambia)
- Mr. Kenjiro Ban (Chief Official, Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa Secretariat)
- Mr. Adrian Gauci (Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA)
- Dr. Omar Sarr (Directeur de la Santé de la Mère et de l'Enfant, Senegal)
- Ms. Elizabeth Ndaba (Nutrition Officer, Ministry of Health, Tanzania)
- Dr. George Kembo (Director, Food and Nutrition Council, Zimbabwe)
- Ms. Duduzile Simelane (Director for Social and Human Development, SADC)

- Ms. Pontso DuPlessis (Nutrition Officer, CRS Lesotho)
- Ms. Pauline Okumu (National Director, World Vision Lesotho)

**World Bank:**

- Mr. Paul Noumba Um (Country Director for Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe)
- Ms. Janet Entwistle (Country Representative, Lesotho)
- Mr. Emmanuel Skoufias (Lead Economist)
- Ms. Åsa Giertz (Senior Agriculture Economist)
- Dr. Magnus Lindelow (Practice Manager, Health, Nutrition and Population)
- Ms. Laura Rawlings (Lead Social Protection Specialist)
- Ms. Iffath Sharif (Practice Manager, Social Protection and Jobs)
- Mr. Mark Cackler (Practice Manager, Agriculture)
- Ms. Catherine Tovey (Practice Manager, Water)
- Mr. Jonathan Kweku Akuoku (Health Consultant)

**Annex 3**  
**List of Exhibitors at Nutrition Exhibition**

**(I) Nutrition-Sensitive Programming**

Agriculture and Food Security

Product Development

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Research
- National University of Lesotho, Consumer Science Faculty of Agriculture

Food Production

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition Division
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Lesotho Agriculture College (LAC)
- National University of Lesotho, Nutrition Department

Processing

- National University of Lesotho, Animal Science Faculty of Agriculture
- Lesotho Flour Mills, in partnership with World Food Program

Preservation

- World Food Program
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Nutrition Division, in partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Program

Education

Display Stimulation

- Ministry of Education and Training, Early Childhood Development

School Feeding

- Ministry of Education and Training, School Feeding Unit, in partnership with World Food Program

Social Protection

Child Grant Program Video

- Ministry of Social Development, in partnership with United Nations Children Fund
- Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and Access to Government Services
- Ministry of Social Development, in partnership with United Nations Children Fund, Food and Agriculture Organization, and Catholic Relief Services
- Orphan and Vulnerable Children Care Models
- Ministry of Social Development, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services

## **(II) Nutrition-Specific Programming**

### Health

#### Tools for Nutrition Assessment

- Ministry of Health

#### Infant and Young Child Feeding

- National University of Lesotho
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Nutrition Division
- Ministry of Health, Nutrition, in partnership with World Food Program

### WASH

#### Sanitation and Hygiene

- United Nations Children Fund
- Technologies for Economic Development
- World Vision Lesotho

#### Water Quality

- Ministry of Health, Environmental Health
- Ministry of Health, in partnership with United Nations Children Fund

### **Enabling Environment**

- Information Hub
- National University of Lesotho
- Nutrition Society
- Catholic Relief Services
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition
- Lesotho Agriculture College

## Annex 4 Selection of Media Coverage

### [Another feather in the cap for King Letsie III \(Sunday Express\)](#)

HIS Majesty King Letsie III is set to assume yet another important international advocacy role, this time as the World Bank Human Capital Champion.

### [Vice President Inonge Wina arrives in Lesotho to discuss nutrition and early childhood policies \(Mwebantu\)](#)

VICE President Hon. Inonge Wina has arrived in Maseru, Lesotho to attend to high level meeting nutrition and early childhood education. The event is being held with support from World Bank and UNICEF, and has attracted leaders, Ministers and experts from sectors of education, health, community development and nutrition.

### [VEEP Wina Expected in Lesotho Today \(Daily Nation\)](#)

Vice President Inonge Wina is expected in Lesotho today to attend a World Bank conference on early childhood education and nutrition

### [WINA CHALLENGES REGION ON NUTRITION \(Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation\)](#)

Vice President, Inonge Wina has called for timely intervention by leaders in the Southern Africa region to address early childhood nutrition. Ms Wina says governments stand to lose, if they do not invest in children's early years of life. She says the more governments delay intervening, the greater the damage to numerous lives of children.

### [Malnutrition cost Lesotho M2 billion \(Sunday Express\)](#)

THE twin challenges of malnutrition and stunting call for urgent interventions as they are costing the government about 7,2 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) which translates to losses of more than M1, 9 billion annually.

### [News Coverage of High Level Nutrition Forum \(Lesotho National Broadcasting Services\)](#)

### [High Level Nutrition Forum Dinner by His Majesty King Letsie III \(Lesotho National Broadcasting Services\)](#)

[Lesotho shines spotlight on child stunting \(SABC News\)](#)

Lesotho is shining the spotlight on child stunting; a condition caused by bad diets, Africa being the worst affected. Several heads of state are gathering in the hope of persuading governments to commit to assisting poorer countries where babies are often under-nourished.

[NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY WORRIES WINA \(Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation\)](#)

Vice President Inonge Wina has expressed concern on nutrition deficiencies among children in Zambia. Mrs. Wina says the entire Southern African region faces the same problem, as countries are dependent on maize as a staple food, which has limited nutrients. She has also pointed out that women, are the managers of nutrition in most homes, need to be empowered for children to have good nutrition.