

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING

REMARKS BY HON. ERIC SIMIYU WAFUKHO, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING, DURING THE VIRTUAL LAUNCH OF NATIONAL INFORMATION PLATFORM FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (NIPFN) PROJECT AND PRODUCTS ON MONDAY, 19TH APRIL 2021

Principal Secretaries

Board Members, KNBS & KIPPRA

Director General, KNBS

Executive Director, KIPPRA

Chief Executive Officer, Council of Governors

Senior Government Representatives

EU Head of Delegation, Kenya

Representative Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Representatives of Development Partners

Representatives of Non-Government Organizations

All other Nutrition Partners

Distinguished Guests

All protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today at this virtual launch of the National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (NIPFN) project and its products. This platform, which is a big milestone for this country has the overall goal of facilitating multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogue on food security and nutrition through supporting the use of existing data and information to develop or refine policies and programmes. As a Ministry, we are glad to host this launch because of the important role of the project in strengthening national capacity to monitor progress towards reduction in under-nutrition and to implement more cost-effective and evidence-based policies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is envisaged that the initiative will enhance the dissemination and use of information, to better inform the strategic decisions and thereby advance optimal nutrition. This will be achieved through three main result areas namely:

- Creation of capacity within national institutions to operate and maintain a National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition.
- Strengthening capacity to track progress in meeting national objectives to prevent undernutrition and monitor nutrition investments.
- Building capacity of national policy makers and programme planners to make better use of evidence in designing and implementing nutrition-related policies.

Full implementation of this project will support Government investment by unlocking the country's potential for innovations and scale up national and context-specific measures that will hasten progress towards achieving food and nutrition security. As established by the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS, 2014) report, about 26% of children under five years are stunted. This calls for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to reverse the negative consequences of malnutrition which include poor physical and cognitive development of children leading to failure to achieve their full potential in life.

One of the key findings from the reports that we are launching today is that the national rate of stunting among children aged 0-59 months has been decreased at a rate of 1.6 per cent per annum between 1993 and 2014. This progress, though positive, needs to be viewed against the likelihood to attain the nationally and globally agreed targets such as those set in the Big 4 Agenda and by the World Health Assembly (WHA). This means that the country may not attain its target if the current trends are maintained, thus, increased efforts are needed to heighten investments towards reduction in stunting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we work towards realization of the 2030 Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) and the country's blue print, there are growing calls for monitoring and evaluation frameworks for more effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions for all. This includes promoting transparency, access to information and accountability, as well as ensuring decision-making processes are more inclusive and representative. I note that the NIPFN

project provides an ideal platform for contributing to these initiatives, whose aspiration is to achieve food security and improved nutrition.

Ladies and gentlemen

The Government has made a commitment to improve food security and nutrition as articulated in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and in national development plans. The Constitution enshrines the right to adequate amounts of food of acceptable quality as well as clean and safe water in adequate quantities. Further, the Constitution stipulates that every child has the right to basic nutrition, shelter and health care. Kenya Vision 2030, the country's long term economic development plan, aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrialized middle-income country with a high quality of life.

This project is key in tracking progress in meeting food security and nutrition targets implied in our development plans. These targets are broadly enshrined in Kenya's legal framework under article 43 (c) and article 53 (c) of the Constitution. The shared aspiration of the country is contained in the Kenya Vision 2030, which is implemented through Medium Term Plans. Currently the government is implementing the third Medium Term Plan, with emphasis on the ***Big-Four Agenda***, which among other things focuses on food security and nutrition as one of its goals.

Ladies and gentlemen

Malnutrition continues to surge at alarming rates with obesity, undernutrition, and micronutrient deficiency affecting communities, and in particular among the low-income groups, around the world. Women and children are disproportionately affected. One in three women of reproductive age suffer from anemia as a result of malnutrition. Moreover, more than one

in five children under the age of five is stunted. This is a scourge unbecoming of our era and demonstrates the deep structural flaws in our food systems in a world where about one third of all food produced is wasted or lost.

To contribute to sustained reduction of malnutrition, there is need for a coordinated service delivery by both public and non-state actors. This will be achieved through a well-structured collaboration of various institutions with interest in food security and nutrition.

I am glad to note that the project is a collaboration between various key stakeholders from different Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector. This is critical in determining the project success and sustainability. It requires quality collaboration amongst relevant national institutions to ensure efficient implementation of project activities, alignment, compliance with national standards and policies, complementarity, scaling up best practices and minimal duplication.

In addition, efficient coordination between nutrition-sensitive institutions is a process through which organizational capacity for operating and maintaining a food security and nutrition information platform will be realized. I am further pleased to note that the role of research and that of public-private partnerships for sustainability will be given prominence in this framework going forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, let me take this moment to recognize the support that we continue to receive from our development partners for purposes of strengthening country capacity in areas of food security and nutrition. In

particular, I acknowledge with thanks the financial support from the European Union (EU) together with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the project. The country still welcomes such support to ensure that food and nutrition security issues are adequately addressed.

Finally, ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to once again thank representatives from Government, Development partners, Non-Governmental Organizations and all those who spared their time to attend this launch. Indeed, we all need to pull together our efforts for improved and sustainable nutrition outcomes.

It's now my duty and honour to declare the NIPFN Project officially launched

I also declare the following technical reports by the project as officially launched:

- 1. An analysis on nutritional anthropometric trends in Kenya.*
- 2. An analysis of the national progress and household characteristics associated with stunting.*
- 3. Review of Food Security and Nutrition Policies*
- 4. Food security situation during Covid-19 pandemic*

Thank you and God bless Kenya.

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