



Webinar on Nutrition and School Feeding

Time: 19:30-21:45 (Beijing time) (UTC/GMT +8:00)

Dates: 30 June 2022

Venue: Zoom Conference

Presentation by the Director of School Health and Nutrition, Ministry of Education, Ms. Malalu Muludika

From School Feeding to Home Grown School Meals Programme- the Case of Zambia



Background

Started in the post-independence era by the government ended Mid 1970s due to economic down- turn

Re-started in 2003 due to drought of 2021/2002 to stem huge drop-outs and poor enrolment of learners

Largest Food Social Safety net implemented in 70 out of 116 districts

Benefits approximately 1.9 million children in 10 provinces covering an estimated 5,100 primary schools.

From July 2019, Key transitional activities have been undertaken to transform the HGM programme

Programme is 100% funded by government while WFP provides technical assistance

HGSM Transition and Reform

Why?

Zambia is part of the AU commitment on expansion and national ownership of School Feeding Programmes (2014 Heads of State and Government Summit)

Achievement of 7NDP objectives and targets in Education, Nutrition, Social Protection and Agriculture

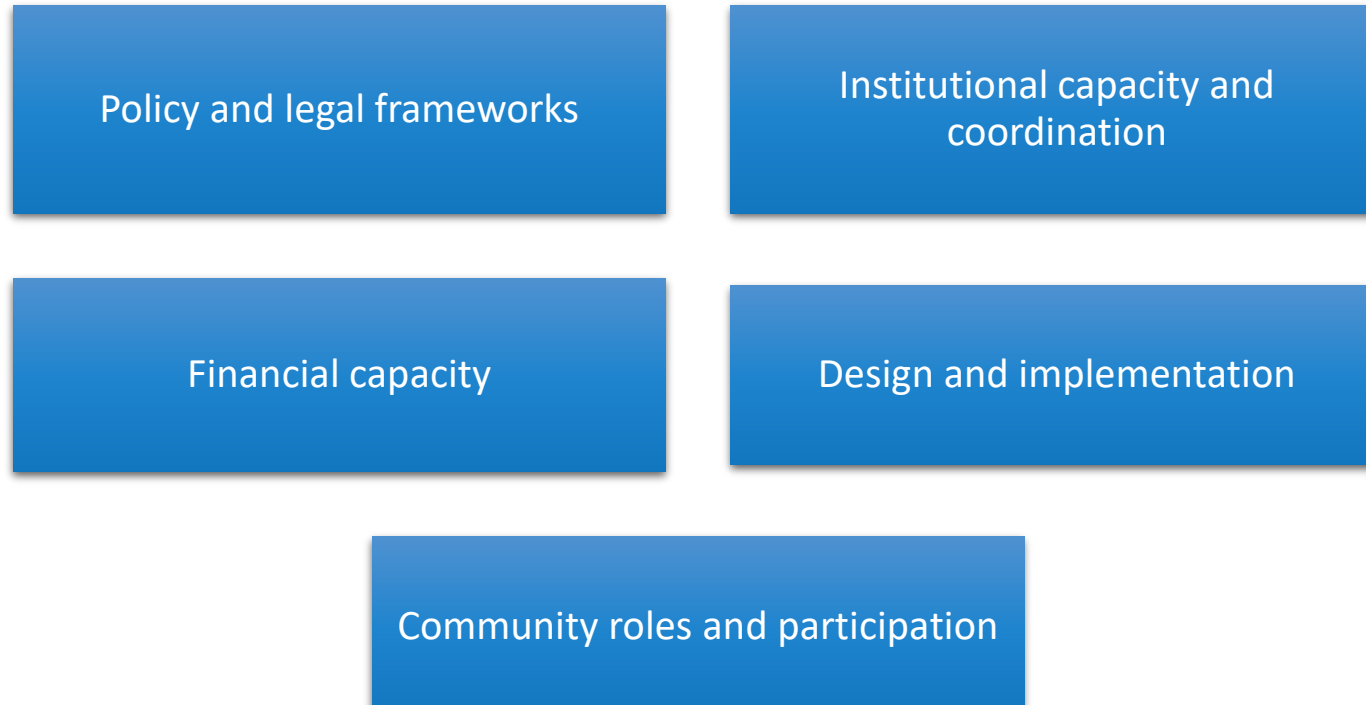
Opportunity to strengthen cross-sectoral linkages. (Agriculture, Health, Community Dev. and others)

Opportunity to mainstream nutrition in HGSM programme. (Diet Diversification)

Reforming the programme to improve effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.

Institutional Capacity Assessment of HGSM

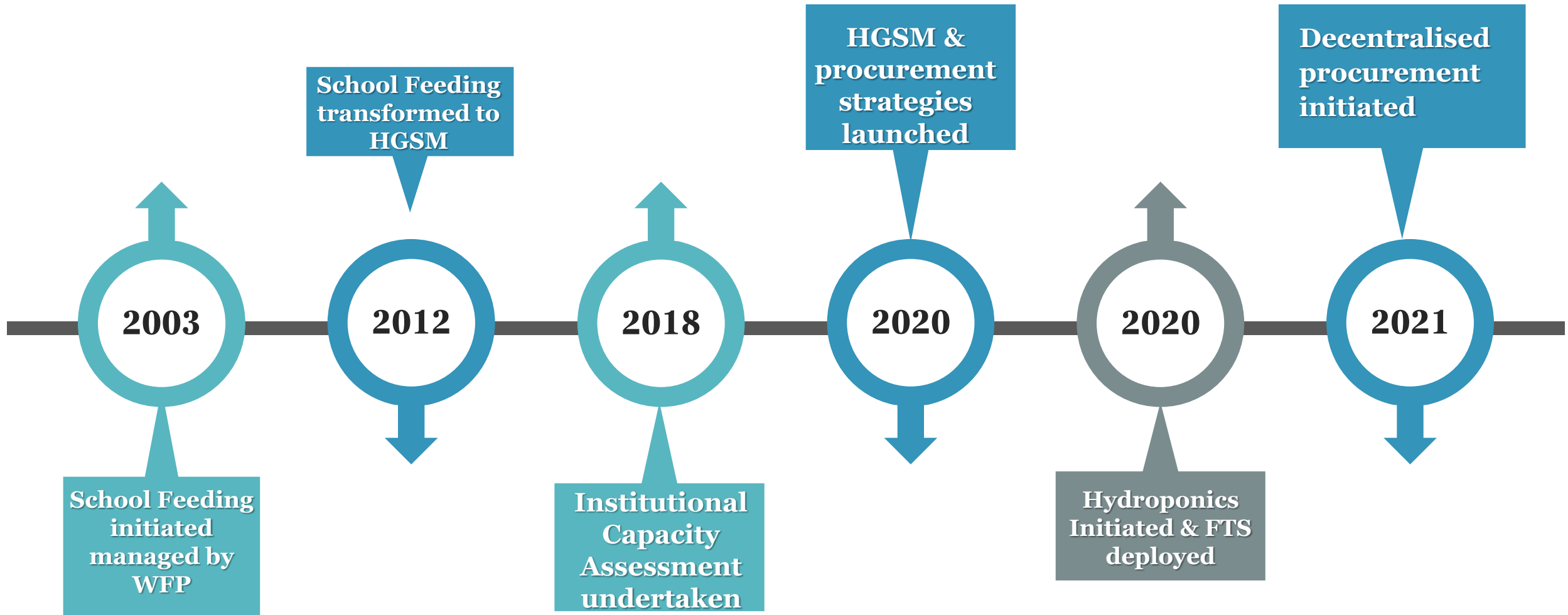
- To support this reform, the government with support from WFP undertook an Institutional Capacity Assessment of the programme.
- Purpose of ICA
 - To identify key gaps in capacity to effectively and efficiently design, manage and implement the HGSM programme.
 - To identify key enablers to support the transition of the programme to full government ownership and sustainability management.
- Scope of ICA focused on



ICA Prioritised Recommendations

- Based on the ICA recommendations, the following key enablers/frameworks have been institutionalized.
 - Set- up of School Health & Nutrition Directorate
 - Development of HGSM strategy
 - Development of procurement strategy
 - Development of food tracking system
 - Development of implementation guidelines
 - Development of financing framework
 - Undertaking of Cost Benefit Analysis

HGSM Transition Timeline





HGSM Coverage 2022

Government Ownership & Sustainability

To sustain the HGSM Programme, the government is pursuing the following principles.

1. Policy and legal framework:

- Institutionalising the HGSM programme within government frameworks which include 7th National Development plan and the soon to be launched 8th National Development plan

2. Financial capacity:

- Including within government regular budgets, predictable and timely disbursement to the Ministry and spending agencies (National, Provincial, District & School levels)

Sustainability

3. Institutional Capacity and Coordination:

- Established clear coordination and clear roles for stakeholder participation to support programme implementation at national, province, district levels
- Provision of trainings and monitoring to improve effectiveness.

4. Design and Implementation:

- Capacity building of government staff in procurement procedures, monitoring and evaluation, accountability roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders.

5. Community Participation and Oversight:

- Developing an engagement strategy to promote community participation and ownership (in stage of finalization).

Outcome of Reform



Decentralised Procurement

- **The most fundamental shift in programming has been the shift from centralised to decentralised procurement.**
- **The government disburses money to the districts to purchase commodities for the programme**
- **This have provided the local government to determine the value chains to be promoted and supported to develop markets for smallholder farmers**



Shift from centralised to decentralised procurement



Resulting in reduced operational transport and logistical costs



Promoting engagement of smallholder farmers



Promoting consumption of diversified school meals as a result of hydroponics and conventional gardens

HGSM programme and the future

- The most encouraging outcome of the reform has been the shift from centralized to decentralized procurement which has resulted in reduced HGSM programme implementation costs, enhanced government ownership, increased community involvement and participation.
- The government and the Ministry of Education desires to ensure that all schools by the end of the 8 National Development Plan have school feeding to enhance to contribute to increased access, inclusive and relevant education
- Leveraging the government decentralized policy to ensure that adolescent youths and learners access education and are provided with skills to support their entrepreneurial enterprises.
- Inclusion of innovations such as hydroponics and modern day gardening techniques facilitate for environmentally friendly and sustainable production technologies which contributes to sustained supply of desirable quantities of fresh vegetables and ensuring a viable food system.

Way forward

- Capacity strengthening to ensure nutrition sensitive programming is mainstreamed in the HGSM programme.
- Institutionalizing the HGSM in government as part of the broader government sustainable food systems agenda that ensures that citizens access nutritious food all the time.
- The above will ensure that the school meals programme is one of the instruments under the school health and nutrition framework that supports the government's agenda of Providing quality, lifelong Education for all which is Accessible, inclusive and relevant.

Thank
You

