Status of Routine Information Systems (Health, Education, Nutrtition, other sectors): Malawi

24–27 October 2023
Kigali, Rwanda

Republic of Rwanda
National Child Development Agency

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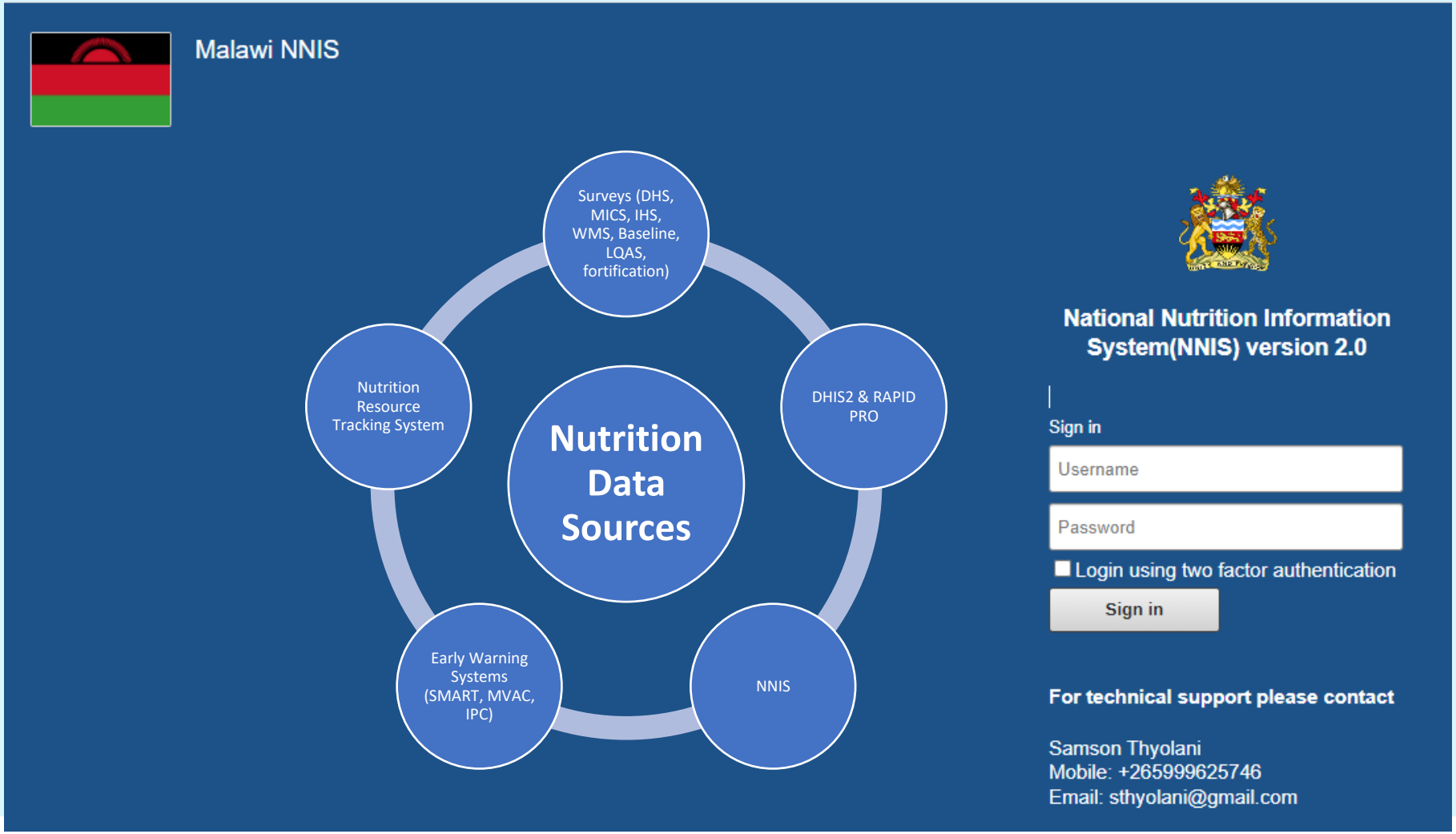
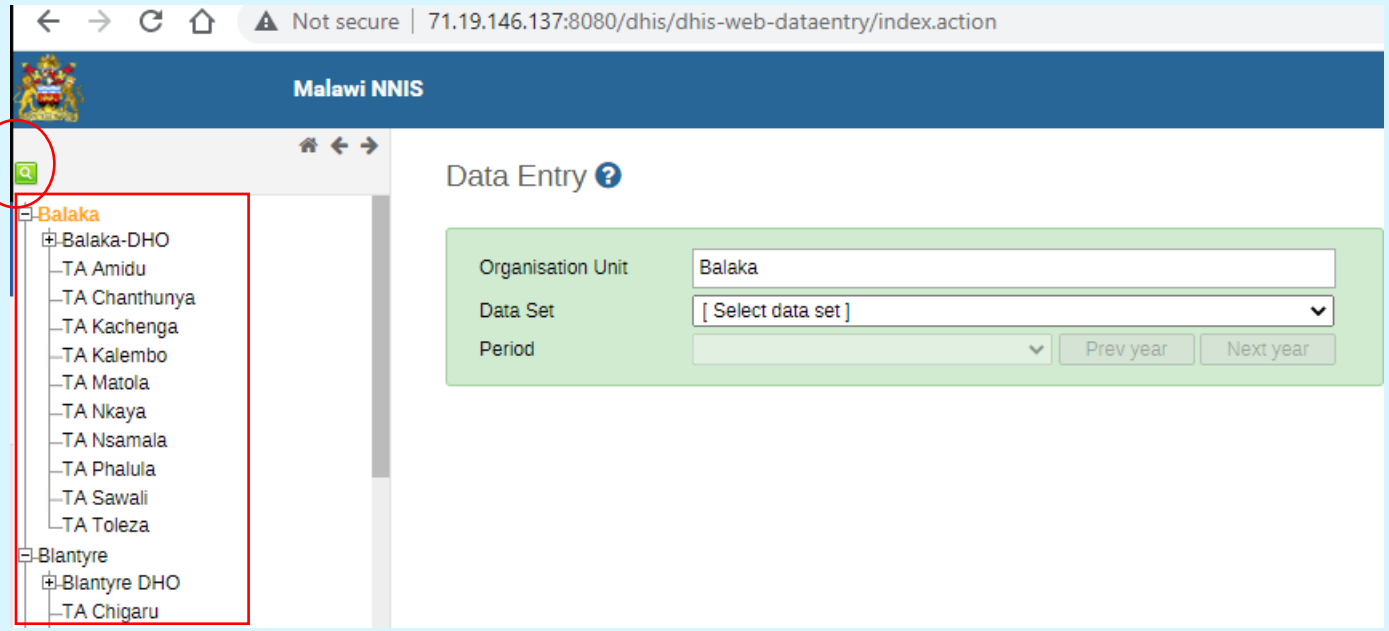
CURRENT STATUS AND CONTEXT OF NATIONAL NUTRITION INFORMATION SYSTEM

There were multiple information systems- RONDOMS, NURTS, DHIS2, RAPID SMS, SUN MIS (excel based), CMAM DATABASE (MS access based) used for collecting nutrition data from the health facilities and community.

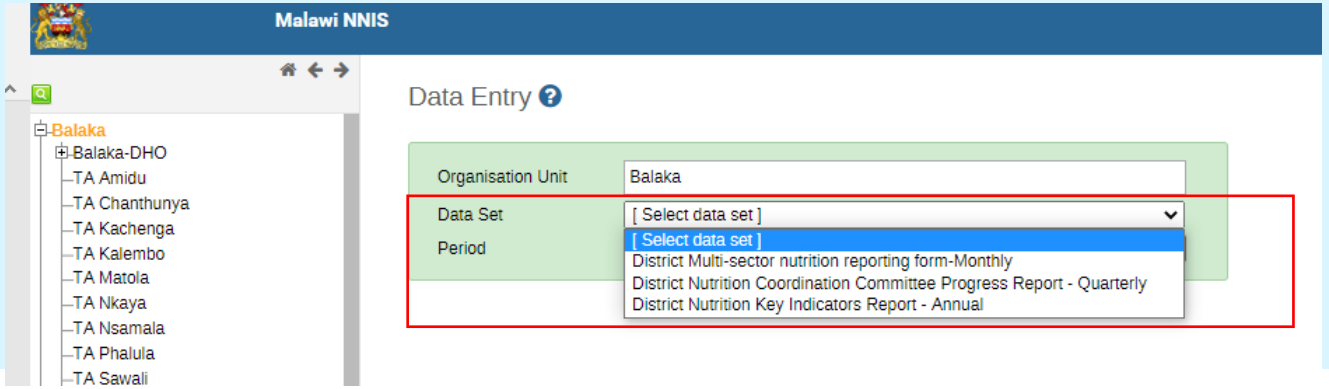


Data Entry in NNIS

3. Selecting the data entry form

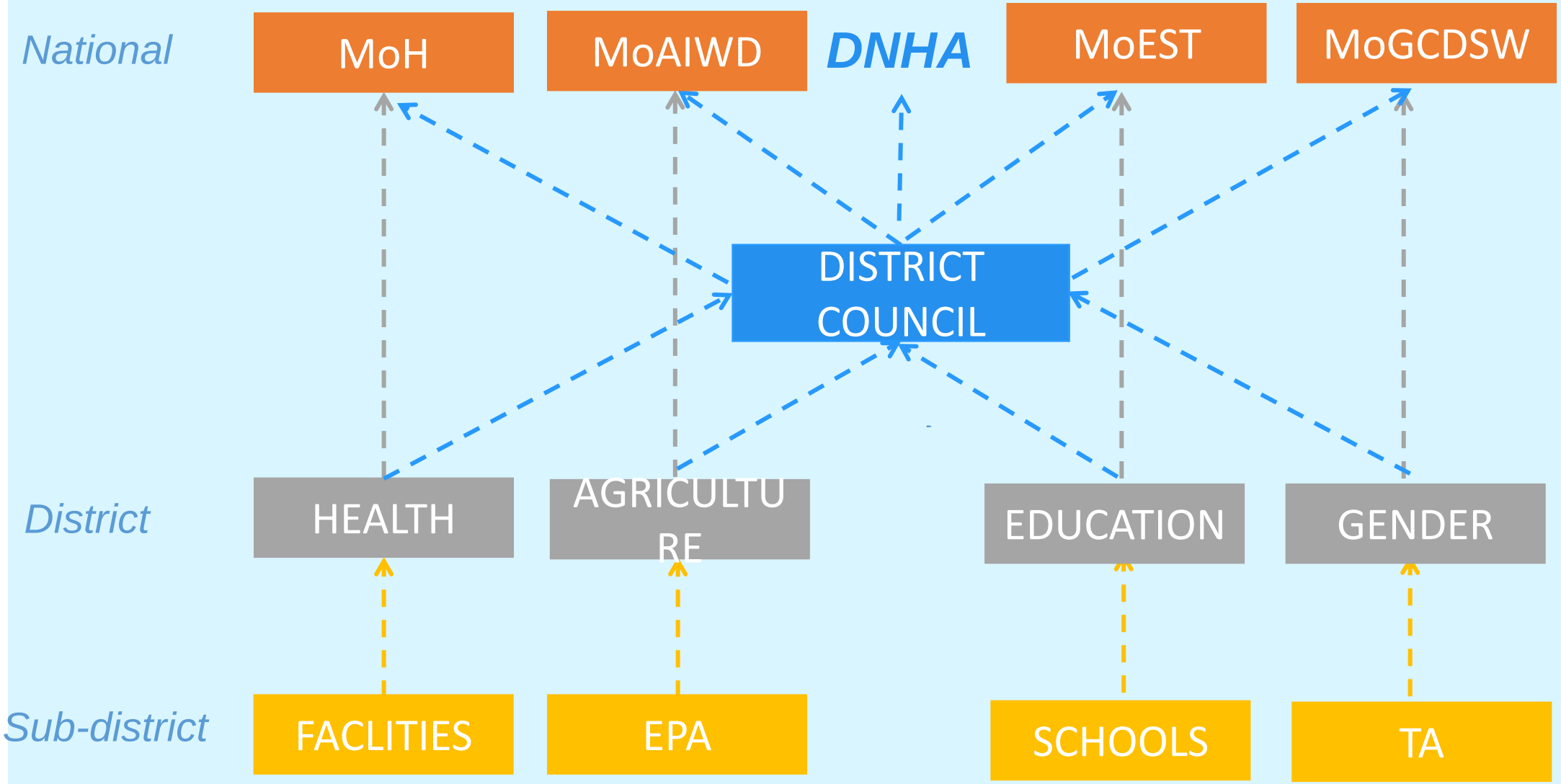


i. Locate organization unit



ii. Select a dataset from the drop down

Reporting of the Nutrition Data



Driving force for Multi-Sector Nutrition Information System

- The FIVE ONES PRINCIPLE (Policy, Strategy, M&E framework, Coordinating office, SBC)
- To address multiple and scattered information systems under one single application
- To provide simplified analytical and reporting system at district and national level to strengthen planning and evidence-based decision making.
- To provide real time data for decision making
- To create a HOME for nutrition data

Products of Nutrition Data

DASHBOARDS

WEBSITES

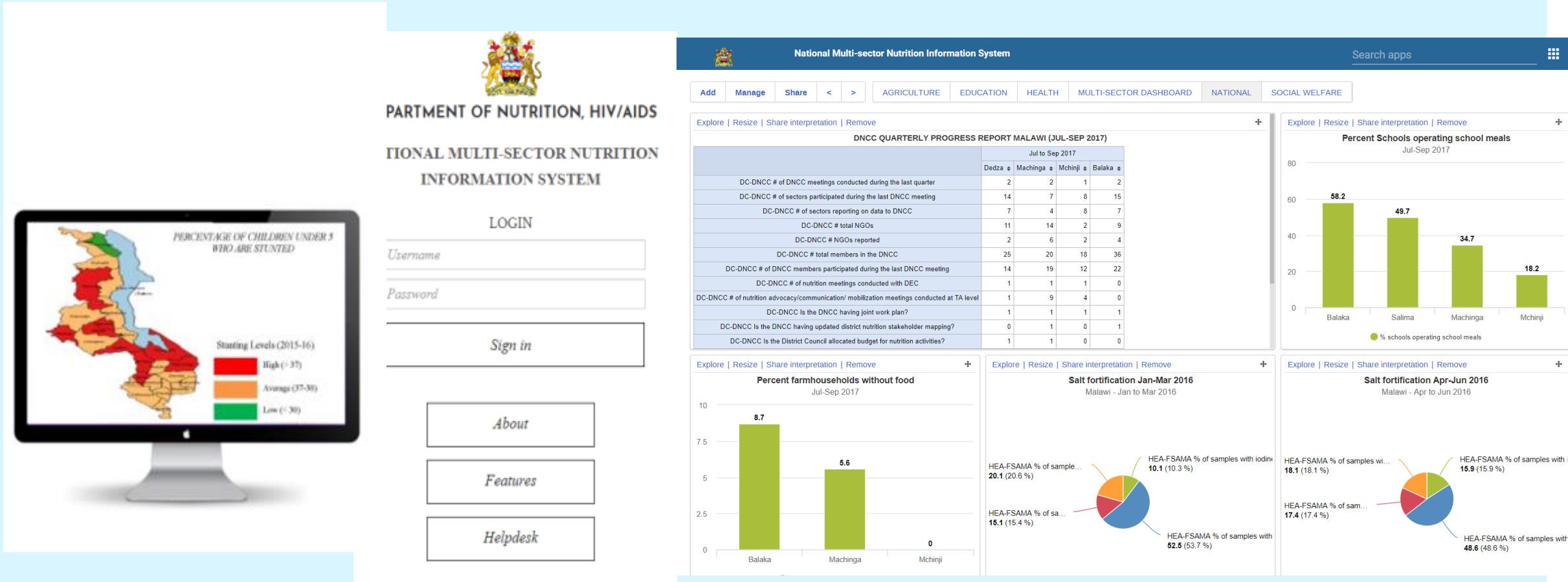
WEBAPP

BULLETIN

REPORTS

www.dnha.gov.mw
http://41.87.6.124/dhis/

NNIS Dashboard



Nutrition Dashboard and Website

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION, HIV AND AIDS

HOME ABOUT US GOVERNANCE NUTRITION RESOURCES

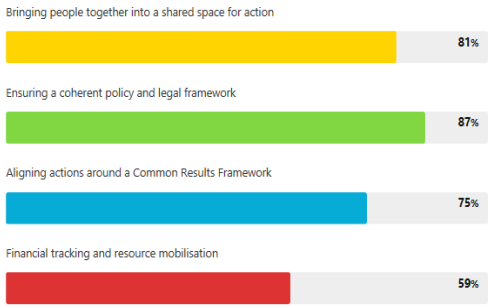
SCALING UP NUTRITION

On 15 March 2011, the Republic of Malawi joined the SUN Movement with a letter of commitment from the Permanent Secretary. At the time, Malawi had established a National Nutrition Committee, chaired by the Secretary for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS in the Office of the President. The main function was to mobilise resources and support the implementation of interventions in line with the countries Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2005) and the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (2007 – 2015). Malawi was also focused on community-based action, with the 1,000 Special days National Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy (NECS), prioritised for the period 2012 – 2017 to reduce stunting though behaviour change and awareness raising.

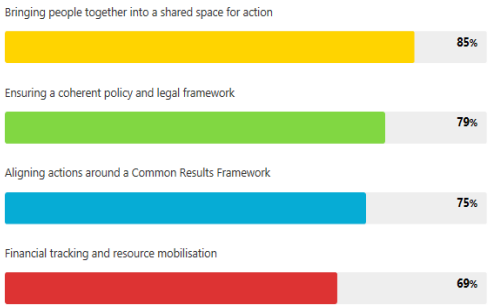
SUN 1000 UNITE TO END STUNTING

Scaling Up NUTRITION ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

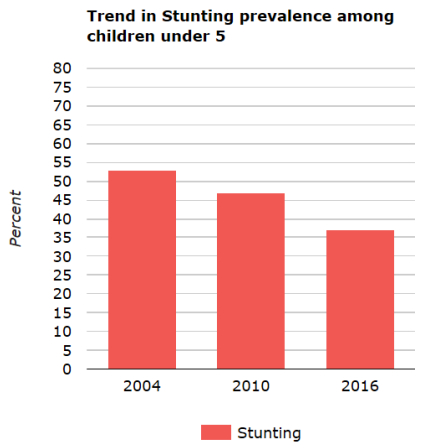
SUN PROGRESS 2016

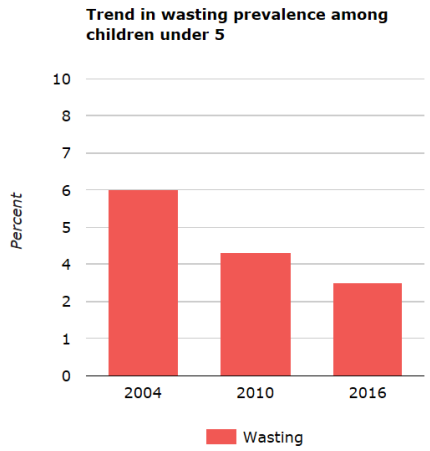


SUN PROGRESS 2017



NUTRITION SITUATION IN MALAWI





How is the data collected used?

Policy

Advocacy

Planning

Feedback

Programming

Resource Mobilization

Key Success facilitators

- Availability of multi-sector Nutrition M and E framework
- Able to monitoring overall nutrition programme performance and coverage
- Identification of high burden areas of malnutrition
- Creation and institutionalization of a coordinating office with clear mandate
- Harmonization of data collection tools and capacity building of nutrition teams key in data quality & utilization
- Placement of 4 nutritionists in districts and 5 nutrition officers in each Ministry strengthened the enabling environment

Key Success facilitators…. Reviewed indicators

TOOLS	2016	From 2017 to date
M&E FRAMEWORK	*117 Indicators*	*60 Indicators*
REPORTING FORMS	*Too many data items*	*Only essential data items*
INFORMATION SYSTEM	*Multiple information systems for nutrition*	*A single multi-sector nutrition information system*

Key challenges with routine information systems

- Web based NNIS requires use of tablets for simplified data collection and uploading
  - Currently it is paper based reporting from community to District to input into NNIS
  - Process leads to delays in reporting and compromised quality of data
- Requires continuous capacity building every time the system upgraded
- Inadequate capacity (M and E officers) at the district level to manage the system
  - Now training all the 4 nutritionists to support the M and E officer
- Limited resources to maintain the subscription for website (Donor dependent)
  - Now Government to allocate resources for sustainability

Efforts to strengthen routine information system to measure progress in ECD

- At nutrition programme delivery level:
  - ECD interventions have been incorporated at all service delivery platforms (Community care groups, antenatal, GMP, NRUs etc)
  - Reviewing indicators to include ECD in the NNIS for routine tracking
  - Review indicators in the NNIS to incorporate the some ECD indicators w following the review of the Nutrition Policy and Strategy
- Periodic capacity building of frontline workers in data collection and reporting
- Placement of nutrition front line workers to support in data collection

What can be done moving forward

- Migrate from paper based to use of tablets for timely reporting and reduce workload
- Simplification data capturing tools and interpretation for use at community level
- Government and Development partners to join hands in financing NNIS for sustainability
  - UNICEF is supporting review of the NNIS to include high frequency ECD indicators

Conclusion

- Robust Information System lead by government is possible if adequate technical and financial support is provided in a sustainable way.
  - Emerging issues must build in the existing systems rather than creating a parallel system to fit specific partner interest.

Thank you

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