

Developing and implementing a food-based policy bundle to assure healthier diets in Ghana: An exploration of political economy factors

The HD4HL Project Multi-stakeholder Technical Task Team (M3T) Retreat

|| Capacity Building | **Stocktaking | **Policy Dev't** ||**

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Research Team

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Background

- Political economy analysis is recommended for studies related to the ‘how’ of nutrition policy
- Looks beyond technical solutions and recognises role of politics, economics, institutions in shaping policy decisions
- Shapes policy decisions considering role of factors such as:
 - Power
 - Institutions
 - Incentives
 - Stakeholder interests
 - Ideas

Objectives

1

Describe existing policy across sectors that is relevant to the policy bundle

2

Analyse relevant institutions, ideas and influence/power that may support or be in tension with the implementation of the policy bundle

3

Identify opportunities to address potential policy tensions, improve policy coherence, and inform strategic engagement towards the adoption and implementation of the policy bundle

Data Collection & Analysis Approach



Phase 1: Documentary analysis of relevant policy documents



Phase 2: Qualitative interviews with relevant stakeholders



Phase 3: Integrated analysis of documentary and qualitative data

What has been done so far?

Documentary analysis of policies from sectors relevant to HD4HL policy bundle – using a matrix to systematically extract content relevant to best-practice nutrition policies

- Planning/Central Government Agency
- Health
- Commerce/Industry
- Agriculture
- Finance
- Trade
- Social Welfare
- Education
- Local government (sub-national)

Insights and Suggestions

Understanding existing policy content and structures offer opportunity for food retail, food marketing and food labelling to build on existing policy and law, rather than creating new policies/institutions

Policy success will require strategic engagement across sectors; understanding existing mechanisms and engagement will help identify opportunities to strengthen cross-sectoral coordination

Identifying competing priorities can help identify and manage trade-offs and potential tensions between nutrition policies and economic sector policies

Integration of gender considerations is an important principle to underlie initiatives across sectors

The planned in-depth interviews will help to identify the underlying beliefs, perceptions, interests and influences, and institutional structures shaping policy content, and provide insights for strengthening strategic engagement, policy and governance

Thank you