



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**Food and Nutrition Security Strategy
2019 –2023**

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DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	III
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	VII
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	X
OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS.....	XIII
DECLARATIONS/COMMITMENTS.....	XVII
1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT	1
1.1 Context for the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy	1
1.2 Scope of work	2
2 METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 Consultations	3
2.2 Literature Review	3
2.3 Analysis and Synthesis	3
3 REVIEW OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY.....	5
4 STATUS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE EAC.....	6
4.1 Food and Nutrition Security	6
4.2 National Nutrition Indicators in the EAC Region	7
4.3 Key Socio-demographic and Economic Factors in the Region.....	8
4.3.1 Life Expectancy	8
4.3.2 Poverty and Income Dimensions	9
4.3.3 Literacy.....	9
5 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY.....	9
5.1 Climate Change and Natural Resources Challenges	9
5.2 Rapid Urbanization and Income Growth.....	10
5.3 Food Security, Political Instability and Conflict.....	11
5.4 Policies and Processes of Globalization	11
5.5 Demographic Change.....	12
5.6 Continued Gender Inequalities	13
5.7 Prevalence of Pests, Diseases and Mycotoxins.....	13
5.8 Land and Land Tenure.....	13
5.9 Technology Related Factors.....	14
5.10 Agriculture Sector Constraints.....	14
5.11 Political Economy Aspects Impacting Food and Nutrition Security.....	15
5.11.1 Historical Perspectives	15
5.11.2 Limited EAC Institutional Capacity.....	15
5.11.3 Weak Policy Implementation	16
5.11.4 Authority of Partner States over the EAC Secretariat	16
5.11.5 Slow Implementation of Regional Commitments at National Level	16
5.11.6 Partner States Ambitions and Funding Commitments Mismatch	17
5.11.7 Governance, Transparency and Accountability Challenges	17
5.11.8 Reliance on External Funding.....	17
5.11.9 Political Support and Biased Loyalty.....	18

5.12	Opportunities for Agricultural-led Growth.....	18
5.12.1	Mobile, Digital Technology, and Finance Opportunities	19
5.12.2	Regional and Global Integration	19
5.13	SWOT Summary	20
5.13.1	Strengths.....	20
5.13.2	Weaknesses	20
5.13.3	Opportunities	20
5.13.4	Threats.....	21
6	VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES.....	22
6.1	Objectives.....	22
7	STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS FOR F&NS	23
7.1	Rationale for Strategic Interventions	23
7.2	Programming Principles.....	24
7.3	Strategic Interventions	25
7.3.1	Results Framework	27
7.3.2	Objective 1	28
7.3.3	Objective 2.....	32
7.3.4	Objective 3.....	35
7.3.5	Cross-Cutting Intermediate Results (CCIR)	36
8	INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.....	37
8.1	Policy Oversight	37
8.2	Technical Implementaion	38
8.2.1	Sectoral Council of Ministers.....	38
8.2.2	Multi Sectoral Technical Working Group on Food and Nutrition Security.....	38
8.2.3	The EAC Secretariat.....	39
8.2.4	National Governments.....	40
8.2.5	Private Sector	40
8.2.6	Research and Academic Organizations.....	41
8.2.7	Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society.....	41
8.2.8	Development Partners	41
9	MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING	42
9.1	Intergrating Learning into the Monitoring and Evaluation Process	44
9.2	Logical Framework.....	45
9.3	F&NS Implementation Plan	49
10	ANNEXES I: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWED	53
10.1.1	Burundi.....	53
10.1.2	Kenya.....	53
10.1.3	Rwanda.....	54
10.1.4	Tanzania	54
10.1.5	Uganda.....	55
11	REFERENCES	56

List of Tables, Figures and Text Boxes

Table 1: Categorization of Stakeholders Interviewed	4
Table 2: EAC Partner States budget allocation to agriculture.....	7
Table 3: EAC status nutrition status against critical indicators.....	7
Table 4: Highlights of Food and Nutrition strategies and policies for EAC Partner States	8
Table 5: EAC annual population growth	12
Table 6: Factors Contributing to Poor Performance of Agriculture in the EAC region.....	14
Table 7: EAC SWOT Summary.....	21
Table 8: Summary of strategic interventions and intermediate results	26
Figure 1: The policy formulation/oversight institutional framework.....	37
Figure 2: The Technical Implementation Institutional Framework.....	39
Text Box 1: Excerpt of SDGs 1 and 2	1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EAC Agriculture and Food Security Policy and other agricultural sector policies are based on the policies and programs of the Treaty establishing the East African Community (1999) and the EAC Agriculture and Rural Development Policy (EAC-ARDP). Programs and projects for achieving intended objectives are captured in the 25-year (2005-2030) multi-year EAC Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (EAC-ARDS). These core policy frameworks provided the basis for developing the East African Community Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) that was adopted by the 7th Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security in September 2014. Also important is the EAC Common Market Protocol (approved in 2010). The EAC Vision 2050 and the EAC 5th Development Strategy, further underscore agriculture as the sector that will drive industrial transformation and economic prosperity in region.

The overall goal of the EAC FSNP is “to attain food and nutrition security for all the people of East African Community throughout their life cycle, for their health as well as their social and economic well-being”. With the adoption of the FNSP, EAC Partner States are expected to integrate the policy in their respective national policies and agriculture investment plans to achieve food and nutrition security.

A common EAC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (FNSS) is to provide a unified approach to implementation, coordination and monitoring of the food and nutrition security programs at national and regional level. Development of the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (FNSS) involved two phases:

- i. literature review - provided a broader and better understanding of the context of and helped to establish key issues and trends regarding food and nutrition security in the region, generated understanding of what has worked or failed with regard to food and nutrition security in the region and why; and to identify main gaps and challenges that have to be addressed and domesticated international experience in addressing them; and
- ii. field work (consultations with stakeholders) - working in close collaboration with the EAC Secretariat staff/Department of Agriculture and Food Security, a series of interviews/discussions with diverse strategic stakeholders covering both state and non-state actors in five EAC Partner States. South Sudan, the latest entrant to join the EAC trade block was not covered during the consultations, however the key issues identified including priority intervention areas are adaptable to the country. The consultations helped validate the issues identified in literature review, to develop recommendations on the way forward, and most importantly to promote ownership of the findings and recommendations of the strategy by stakeholders. These in-depth discussions helped generate key information and inputs for ensuring a participatory, ground-level, evidenced-based constructive and diverse perspective on the EAC food and nutrition security sector, focusing on identifying key challenges and strategic priority interventions to address the identified gaps.

Important common constraints to achieving food and nutrition security in the region can be summarized as: low adoption of high-yielding and pest-resistant/tolerant varieties/breeds; low quality of produce; poor access to inputs; negative environmental and climate change impacts, and climate variability; inability of smallholder producers to meet stringent market requirements due to low produce and low quality of produce; inadequate integration of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) into existing, cross-border value chains; poor pre & post-harvest management and market linkages; among others. Food insecurity is still rampant in some parts of the region as a result of high dependence on rain-fed agriculture,

that is subject to vagaries of weather, low use of technologies, high post-harvest losses (averaging 30-40%), prevalence of pests and diseases and poor infrastructure. All these factors have constrained availability, accessibility and utilization of food.

The FNSS's vision is; *a region free of hunger, malnutrition and extreme poverty*. The mission is; *to attain food and nutrition security through policy harmonization, sustainable agricultural production, diversification, marketing and utilization of adequate nutritious food for health as well as social and economic well-being of the EAC regional population*.

The goal of the strategy is *to contribute to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region by the year 2023*. This will be achieved through three interrelated objectives.

- (i) Improving sustainable and inclusive agricultural production, productivity and trade of crops, animal and animal resources, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products by 2023,
- (ii) Strengthening resilience among households, communities and livelihood systems by promoting sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental conservation and uptake of disaster risk reduction with enhanced post-harvest value addition by 2023, and
- (iii) Improving access and utilization of nutritious, diverse and safe food by 2023.

Under each of the 3 objectives, a set of intermediate results is proposed. The strategy elaborates 6 intermediate result areas necessary for achieving the objectives of the East African Community Food and Nutrition Security Policy over the next 5 years. The result areas relate to improving food and nutrition, while giving priority to multi-sector coordination, synergistic and regional integration efforts to strengthen and expand interventions related to addressing hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the region. The Strategy deliberately provides integrated and inclusive objectives for broad programming through a mix of interventions (on and off-farm) under the same objective to tackle the intention of multi and cross sector coordination and synergy. This is a deliberate tactic of moving away from siloed implementation in as far as food and nutrition security to recognizing and fostering interconnectedness between the objectives and the role of multiple state and non-state actors. The Strategy also proposes an institutional framework necessary for the achievement of the 3 objectives including coordination, a monitoring and evaluation framework and a regional implementation plan.

Key considerations for the successful implementation of this strategy include, complementarity of interventions at national and regional level - interventions at the regional level should be in tandem with national initiatives, broad participation and consultation – based on broad participation and consultation to ensure ownership and commitment at all levels and subsidiarity (suitability of implementation) – recognizing the need to ensure that programs, activities and associated structures are delivered at levels where they can be best handled and managed.

The EAC Secretariat will facilitate implementation and promote partnerships with other regional institutions outside EAC structures to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy. This will include but not limited to: (i) strengthening strategic coordination to mobilize and align resources of the diverse partners and stakeholders - including private sector and civil society needed to achieve common objectives; (ii) ensuring a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of hunger and poverty, while also bridging humanitarian relief and sustainable development efforts; (iii) leveraging the benefits of multilateral institutions so that

priorities and approaches are aligned, investments coordinated, and financial and technical assistance gaps filled; and, (iv) delivering on sustained and accountable commitments, phasing in investments responsibly to ensure returns, using benchmarks and targets to measure progress toward shared goals, and holding the Secretariat and other stakeholders publicly accountable for achieving results.

Implementation of this Strategy will require resources in the form of human, material, technical and financial capital provisionally estimated at US\$ 28,557,500 over 5 years at the Secretariat level. Strong commitment from Partner States, Development Partners and other stakeholders will be necessary for realization of the EAC food and nutrition objectives.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AGOA	African Growth Opportunity Act
ARD	Agriculture and Rural Development
ARDP	Agriculture and Rural Development Policy
ARDS	Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BDHS	Burundi Demographic Health surveys
BMI	Body Mass Index
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CCIR	Cross Cutting Intermediate Result
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers
CMP	Common Market Protocol
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAFS	Department of Agriculture and Food Security
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc.
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development.
DP	Development Partners
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAC	East African Community
EAFF	Eastern Africa Farmers Federation
EAGC	Eastern Africa Grain Council
EAHRC	East African Health Research Commission
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EATIH	East African Trade and Investment Hub
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FNS	Food and Nutrition security
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
FNSS	Food and Nutrition Security Strategy
FSAP	Food Security Action Plan
FY	Financial year
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Programs
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAPProgram	Integrated Approach Program
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPAs	Investment Promotion Agencies
IR	Intermediate Results
ISABU	Institut des Sciences Agronomique du Burundi
KAM	Kenya Association of Manufacturers
KDHS	Kenya Demographic Health Surveys
KIE	Kenya Innovation Engine (Feed the Future)

LOGFRAME	Logical Framework
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MIGEPROF	The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINALOC	Ministry of Local government – Rwanda
MINISANTE	Ministry of Public Health and Fight against HiV and Aids - Burundi
MINAGRIE	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Animal Resources – Rwanda & Burundi
MoAFSC	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives
MALF	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoHCDEC	Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children
MoTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MoW	Ministry of Water
MS	Partner States
MSMEs	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plan
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFNP	National Food and Nutrition Policy
NFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTBs	Non-Tariff Barriers
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PPPs	Public Private Partnerships
R&D	Research and Development
RDHS	Rwanda Demographic Health Surveys
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
ReSAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and knowledge Support System
REWG-FNS	Regional EAC Working Group on Food and Nutrition Security
SADC	South African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
TDHS	Tanzania Demographic Health Surveys
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
UCCO-SUN	Uganda Civil Society on Scaling Up Nutrition
UDHS	Uganda Demographic Health Surveys
UN	United Nations
UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WEF	World Economic Forum

WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Adequate Nutrition – a state of sufficient quantity and quality food in terms of variety, diversity, nutrient content and safety to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, coupled with a sanitary environment

Agriculture - the science and practice of activities related to production, processing, packaging, transporting, trade, marketing, consumption, and use of food, feed, and fiber including aquaculture, farming, wild fisheries, forestry, apiculture and livestock keeping

Agricultural value chain - the set of actors and activities required to bring agricultural products from production to consumption, including processing, storage, transportation, marketing, and retail. As a product moves through an agricultural value chain, each step adds monetary and quality value to the product

Anemia - a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their hemoglobin content is insufficient to meet physiological needs, which vary by age, altitude, gender and physiological status. The most common cause of anemia globally is iron deficiency, but other causes include deficiencies in folate and vitamin B12

Apiculture - rearing and management of colonies of honey bees for production of honey and other products of the beehive

Aquaculture - farming of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants

Capacity Development - the process by which people, organizations and society systematically stimulate and develop their abilities over time to achieve social and economic goals, including through improvement of knowledge, skills, systems and institutions

Chronic Malnutrition - a form of growth failure that occurs over time. It may start before birth and is caused by poor maternal nutrition, poor feeding practices, poor food quality as well as frequent infections that slow down growth making children shorter than normal for their age and is irreversible after 18 months of age

Climate change - a change of climate that is attributed to the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural variability observed over comparable time periods. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forces

Climate smart agriculture - an integrated approach to address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change that explicitly aims for three objectives: (i) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, to support equitable increases in farm incomes, food security and development; (ii) adapting and building resilience of agricultural and food security systems to climate change at multiple levels; and (iii) reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture (including crops, livestock, and fisheries), either in absolute terms or by reducing emissions intensity in the context of Low Emissions Development

Ecosystem services - the benefits that flow from nature to people; for example, nature's contributions to the production of food and timber; life-support processes, such as water purification and coastal protection; and life-fulfilling benefits, such as places to recreate

Extreme poverty - the inability to meet basic consumption needs on a sustainable basis. People who live in extreme poverty lack both income and assets and typically suffer from interrelated, chronic deprivations, including hunger and malnutrition, poor health, limited education and marginalization, discrimination, or exclusion. The extreme poor often lack the resilience to cope with economic setbacks, natural disasters, or illnesses. In October 2015, the international poverty line that is used to measure extreme poverty moved from US\$1.25 based on 2005 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day per person to US\$1.90 based on 2011 (PPP) per day per person

Food Security – the state when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, enabling them to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life

Food consumption - the intake of any substance containing nutrients ingested by people to be metabolized for energy and body functioning

Food Safety – the handling, preparation and storage of food in ways that prevent food borne infections and illness. It includes a number of routines normally based on certified standards that should be followed to avoid potentially severe health hazards

Food sustainability – a dynamic process that aims at using diets with low environmental impacts to food and nutrition security and to a healthy life for present and future generations. Sustainable diets are protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy while optimizing natural human resources

Food Systems – the compact/whole unit consisting of interrelated components of people, behaviors, relationships, and material goods that interact in the production, processing, packaging, transporting, trading, marketing, consumption, and use of food, feed, and fiber through aquaculture, farming, wild fisheries, forestry, and livestock keeping. The food system operates within and is influenced by social, political, economic, and environmental contexts

Fortified foods - foods that have micronutrients trace elements and vitamins added to improve their nutritional quality

Foundational/structural factors - factors whose influence maybe impossible or hard to change such as historical, demographic, economic and geographic characteristics

Gender - the socially constructed definition of women and men, determined not only by the biological characteristics but by the conception of tasks, functions and roles ascribed in society and in public and private life.

Gender Equality - the state of equal access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender

Good agricultural practices – practices that address environmental, economic and social sustainability for on/off farm processes and results in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products.

Inclusive agriculture – mechanisms to include and build capacities for smallholders, women and youth and other marginalized people/groups to participate effectively in global agricultural value chains

Indigenous food - is composed of food items that have their origin in the local natural environments that are culturally acceptable

Indigenous knowledge – consists of systems developed by a country or region that form a basis for local level decision making mainly in rural areas.

Malnutrition – a condition resulting when a person’s diet does not provide adequate nutrients for growth and maintenance or if a person is unable to fully utilize the food eaten due to illness; this consists of both under - (insufficiency) and over- (excess) nutrition

Monitoring - the ongoing and systematic tracking of data or information relevant to programs and strategies, projects, and activities. Relevant data and informational needs are identified during planning and design, and may include output and outcome measures that are directly attributable to or affected by EAC and Partner States interventions, as well as measures of the operating context and programmatic assumptions

Nutrition – the ability to maintain natural body capacities such as growing, resisting infection and recovering from diseases, learning and physical work including, pregnancy and lactation in women

Nutrition Security – access by all people at all times to the adequate utilization and absorption of nutrients in food, in order to live a healthy and active life.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) –businesses of any form of trade or service that are formal/informal privately owned and which directly engage less than 100 employees

Nutrition-sensitive interventions – interventions that indirectly address causes of malnutrition, including food security/availability, food safety and processing, resources for feeding and caregiving, and access to health services. These interventions are often addressed in sectors such as agriculture, education, social development and trade

Nutrition-specific interventions – interventions that directly address causes of malnutrition, including care, health, and feeding practices and are often addressed within the health sector

Resilience - the ability of people, communities or systems to withstand, adapt and quickly recover from stresses and shocks in a timely and efficient manner without compromising their long-term prospects

Shock(s) - acute, short to medium-term episode or event that has substantial, negative effects on people's current state of well-being, level of assets, livelihoods, or their ability to withstand future shocks. A shock’s onset may be slow or rapid and may affect select households (idiosyncratic shocks) or a large number or class of households (co-variate shocks) at the same time

Social clusters – as used in Rwanda; Social Cluster ministries include Ministry of Health (MINISANTE), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Livestock Resources (MINAGRI), Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA), Ministry of Public Service and Labor MINFOTRA)

Smallholder producers - farmers, livestock keepers, foresters, beekeepers and fishers that have a low asset base and limited resources, including land, capital, skills, and labor and are characterized by family-focused motives such as favoring the stability of the farm household system, using mainly family labour for production and using part of the produce for family consumption.

Stress(es) - a longer-term pressure that undermines current or future vulnerability and well-being, including but not limited to, climate variability and change, population pressure, and environmental degradation

Stunting - a form of growth failure that occurs over time due to diets that do not provide adequate nutrients for growth and maintenance (including poor maternal nutrition and poor infant and young child feeding) or inability to utilize food due to illnesses making children shorter than normal for their age and is irreversible after 18 months of age. It is measured by a height-to-age ratio that is more than two standard deviations below the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards. At a population level, stunting is associated with long-term poor health, delayed motor development, impaired cognitive function, and decreased immunity.

Sustainability - the ability of a target country, community, implementing partner, or intended beneficiary to maintain, over time, intervention outcomes achieved, from an institutional and programmatic perspective without further donor assistance. It is also the maintenance of the factors and practices that contribute to long-term outcomes and productivity, including financial, environmental, and social sustainability

Traceability – the ability to follow by documented records the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution

Under nutrition - the various forms of poor nutrition caused by a complex array of factors including dietary inadequacy, infections, and sociocultural factors. Underweight, stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies are forms of undernutrition

Wasting – the state when an individual is very thin for their height. It happens when a person loses weight rapidly or a growing child does not gain adequate weight relative to their growth in height. It may be caused by inadequate food intake, such as a drop-in food consumption or sub-optimal infant and young child feeding practices, by disease or infection, including HIV or tuberculosis or a combination

Youth - a life stage that starts in adolescence and continues through young adulthood. The specific age range associated with those stages may vary by country definitions, socio-cultural context, programmatic context, and the organization funding or implementing a program.

DECLARATIONS/COMMITMENTS

AU's Agenda 2063	A strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the African continent over the next 50 years. Its builds on, and seeks to accelerate implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development including among others the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).
Maputo Declaration, July 2003	Commitment to the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years
	Increased agricultural growth, towards the Maputo target of 6% per annum.
Malabo Declaration June 2014	Transforming Africa's Agriculture for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods through harnessing opportunities for Inclusive growth and sustainable development. Also, marking the tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)
Malabo Declaration on Nutrition, July 2015	Increased investment in nutrition in order to "end all forms of malnutrition" as articulated in the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
SDGs	Sets a shared global agenda for achieving global food security and raises the bar from halving hunger, a target that was under the Millennium Development Goals, to eliminating hunger and malnutrition in all their forms everywhere by 2030.
SUN Movement	A global collaborative push for action and investment to improve maternal and child nutrition by 2030

I BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

I.1 Context for the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization bringing together six Partner States, namely: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda. The vision of the EAC is “to attain a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa’. Its mission is ‘to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments”.

The EAC Treaty of 1999, Article 105, Chapter 18 Article 110 provides for: “Harmonizing food supply, nutrition and food security policies and strategies” relating to stimulating agricultural development, eliminating hunger, eradicating poverty, and ensuring food security. This points to cross-sector linkages necessary for implementation of chapters 11, 12, 14, 18, 21, 22, 25, and 26, inter alia of the 1999 EAC Treaty), the Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (2005-2030), the EAC Common Market Protocol (July 2010) as well as the 5th EAC Development Strategy (2017-2023 Under formulation).

The key legal and policy framework established by the EAC was in the development of the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP), accomplished by its adoption in September 2016 by the Council of Ministers. The FNSP aims at achieving food and nutrition security in the region through pursuit of appropriate policy measures that target causal factors to food and nutrition insecurity in the region. The overall goal of the FSNP being “to attain food and nutrition security for all the people of East African Community throughout their life cycle, for their health as well as their social and economic well-being”.

The FNSP is anchored on the 2010 EAC Common Market Protocol (CMP) that provides a framework to operationalize it through commercialization of production, intra-regional cross-border trade; leading ultimately to exports of value-added surplus EAC food products. The EAC CMP framework is geared towards realizing increased food production through enhanced investment in agriculture and agro-technology; development of effective agricultural markets and marketing systems; promotion of agro-processing; and through value-addition by exploiting modern technology and economies of scale. The effect of the foregoing is achievement of sufficiency in food and nutrition security for people in the EAC region.

More importantly, adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sets a shared global agenda for achieving global food security and raises the bar from halving hunger, a target that was under the Millennium Development Goals, to eliminating hunger and malnutrition in all their forms everywhere by 2030. The adoption of the EAC Vision 2050 in 2016 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the consequent domestications for Africa, presented a turning point for development of food and nutrition security policy frameworks.

Text Box 1: Excerpt of SDGs 1 and 2

The Strategy will contribute to SDG 1 and SDG 2

- **SDG 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- **SDG 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

EAC's Vision 2050 (The Vision), situates agriculture, food security and rural development as the second pillar; a recognition of the importance of the sector in the development of the region. The Vision's goal for the sector is increased investment and enhanced agricultural productivity for food security and a transformation of the rural economy.

Given the adoption of the FNSP, Partner States are expected to integrate the policy in their respective national policies and agriculture investment plans, to achieve food security and adequate nutrition for people in the East African region. This necessitates a common strategy of implementation for effective coordination and monitoring. The purpose of this EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy Implementation Strategy (The Strategy) is consequently to provide a framework to operationalize and effectuate the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy subsequent to its publication in January 2016.

It is against this background that the EAC Secretariat requested technical assistance from the USAID-funded project The East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (The Hub) implemented by Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) – in the development of the EAC The Strategy. Consequently, DAI contracted Legacy Consulting Limited to develop the Strategy.

I.2 Scope of work

Development of this strategy was achieved by addressing the following 8 broad areas:

- i. Analyzing the current situation of food and nutrition security in the EAC with specific focus on recent developments, challenges and opportunities;
- ii. Analyzing political and economic challenges in the implementation of EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy at regional and national levels;
- iii. Reviewing EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy, and identifying the highlights and strategic direction/issues;
- iv. Prioritizing activities that need to be undertaken, with critical targets that need to be achieved in the next 5 years, based on the strategic issues/objectives in the policy document;
- v. Identifying specific interventions needed to address EAC Food and Nutrition Security situation through stakeholder consultations;
- vi. Developing an implementation plan, that includes strategic objectives, interventions, activities, time frame, targets to be achieved, implementing agency(ies) (Lead and supporting), indicative resources required;
- vii. Ensuring that issues of gender, youth, environment, climate change, value addition, market access, post-harvest technologies, among others are adequately addressed in the plan; and,
- viii. Developing a monitoring and evaluation plan for implementation of the strategy including a log frame.

The strategy highlights activities and critical targets for the next 5 years (2019 – 2023), while also providing guidance on coordination and implementation of individual and joint programs and projects emanating from the FSNP in the EAC Region.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Consultations

Client Consultation - A number of consultative meetings involving the EAC and the Hub's agriculture and agribusiness teams were held throughout the phases of development of this strategy. The meetings provided clarification and alignment of the strategy with other EAC policy frameworks under agriculture and food security sectors.

Stakeholder Consultations – Discussions were held with key stakeholders in the food and nutrition sectors in five Partner States. They included representatives from relevant government ministries and agencies, UN agencies, private sector, academia/research, farmer organizations, and NGOs. The consultations were designed to generate insights on the most important issues and identify specific interventions relevant to addressing the EAC Food and Nutrition Security (F&NS) situation. Face-to-face discussions as well as telephone interviews were used. Table I presents a broad categorization of the stakeholders interviewed per country.

2.2 Literature Review

Comprehensive literature review was conducted to ascertain the current situation of food and nutrition security in the region, appreciate the political economy situation in the EAC and ongoing interventions that could be leveraged for purposes of developing and implementing the Strategy. Previous analytical studies such as the 2013 EAC Institutional architecture for food security policy change, the 2015 European Union funded Food Security in the East African Community - Impact of Regional Integration under Customs Union and Common Market Policies were reviewed. Also reviewed were various EAC policy frameworks relevant to food and nutrition security sectors including the FNSP, the ARDP 2006, ARDS 2005 - 2030, the EAC Food Security Action Plan 2011-15 and 2017-2021 (underdevelopment), Treaty for the Establishment of EAC, EAC Vision 2050, among others. key African Union documents were reviewed including Africa's Agenda 2063 and the Africa 2030 which domesticate the SDGs. A full list of reviewed documents is provided in references in section II

2.3 Analysis and Synthesis

Analysis and synthesis was based on evidence gathered from key informants and secondary sources. The evidence was shared, peer-reviewed, and discussed through consultations with the EAC, The Hub and expert views from National and regional consultation sessions. Building from the conceptual framework, learning from the situation analysis, and taking into consideration emerging trends, the Strategy identifies strategic issues that inform its approach going forward.

Table 1: Categorization of Stakeholders Interviewed¹

Assessment area	Burundi	Kenya	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uganda
1. Food Standards & safety	MINISANTE - Ministry of Public Health and Fight against HIV AIDs				Uganda National Bureau of Standard (UNBS)
2. Nutrition & health	MINISANTE - Ministry of Public Health and Fight against HIV AIDs	Ministry of Health, Human Nutrition and Dietetics unit	Ministry of Local Government – Nutrition coordination Secretariat	Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC), Organic Consumers Alliance – NGO, Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC)	Ministry of Health
3. Food Production and climate change	MINAGRIE - Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage (Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock), MINAGRIE – Directorate of Planning	State Department of Agriculture, State Department of Livestock, State Department of fisheries	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Directorate of Animal Resources, Ministry of Local Government – Nutrition coordination Secretariat	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (MoAFSC), UN FAO, Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement - NGO	Ministry of Agriculture Kilimo Trust
4. Food Distribution	East African Farmers' Organization		Ministry of Local Government – Nutrition coordination Secretariat		
5. Development partners	One Acre Fund	Rockefeller Foundation, AGRA	USAID, Association of Private sector	CARE International in Tanzania Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement - NGO	Kilimo Trust
6. Private Sector and Civil Society	East African Farmers' Organization	Kenya Association of Manufacturers,	Chamber of Agriculture and livestock, Private Sector Federation		Uganda Civil Society on Scaling Up Nutrition (UCCO- SUN)
7. Gender & gender equality			Ministry of Local Government – Nutrition coordination Secretariat		
8. Policy and Development	Ministry to the Office of the President Responsible for East African Community Affairs,	State Department of Livestock	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources –Directorate Strategic Planning and Programs Coordination	National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and fisheries (MAAIF)
9. Academia and Research	ISABU - Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi	UoN, Food Technology Department, CAVS,	Ministry of Local Government – Nutrition coordination Secretariat		

¹ Full list of respondents per country provided in section 10

3 REVIEW OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY

The EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) provides a basis for strategic and programmatic directions for EAC Partner States to use for managing food and nutrition security issues. It recognizes that “food security and nutrition” is an evolving term. As used in the policy document, “Food and Nutrition Security” has two components: i) food security and ii) nutrition security. It is aligned to the recommended terminology by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that has spelt out four dimensions of food security as (i) availability, (ii) access, (iii) utilization, and (iv) stability. Nutrition security on the other hand refers to access to food, care, health and sanitation. These dimensions of food and nutrition security have been recognized to determine accepted terminology of food and nutrition security at the regional level.

key highlights of the FNSP are:

- i. Cognisance that malnutrition is a complex challenge requiring broad approaches that incorporate broad-based interventions addressing immediate, underlying and basic causes of malnutrition, in the short, medium and long terms. It has therefore adopted multi-sectoral and integrated approaches towards improvements of the food and nutrition security situation in the region. These include strengthening health, agriculture, and social protection systems as well as harmonizing policies, legislation, guidelines and regulatory systems;
- ii. Provides for a linking of humanitarian assistance with development to help build resilience to shocks in vulnerable communities;
- iii. Recognition that achieving food and nutrition security is cross-sectoral requiring both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions for attainment of food and nutrition security in the region;
- iv. Recognition that good nutrition starts during pre-pregnancy years and continues after delivery and through to a child’s second birthday. Proper nutrition continues through stages of early childhood years, during schooling years, to adolescence, adulthood and finally into the elderly years;
- v. Recognition that coordination and collaboration between sectors linked to nutrition (education, agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene, gender/youth inclusiveness/norms, etc.) are key for multi-sector food and nutrition programing and execution;
- vi. Appreciation of the many challenges posed by globalization, regional market integration, demographic change, urbanization, income inequalities, climate change and increasing pressure, on and demand for natural resources. Accordingly, the policy addresses broad-based approaches associated with issues of chronic, poverty-based food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as the perpetuity of acute food insecurity and malnutrition due to frequent and recurring emergencies and the critical linkages thereof; and,
- vii. Affirmation that strong institutional structures are needed for the implementation of food and nutrition security actions. These structures include food and nutrition security leadership, governance and management, coordination, integrated and multi-sectoral linkages for its operationalization. It also provides guidance for increased advocacy, investments and partnerships to advance food and nutrition security. The policy also underscores the importance of measuring impacts of interventions through a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.

Based on the review of the FNSP, the Strategy elaborates 3 objectives to improving food and nutrition security, while giving priority to multi-sector coordination, synergistic and

regional integration efforts to strengthen and expand interventions related to addressing hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the region. It deliberately provides integrated and inclusive objectives for broad programming through a mix of interventions (on and off-farm) under the same objective to tackle the intention of multi and cross sector coordination and synergy. This is a deliberate tactic of moving away from siloed implementation in as far as food and nutrition security to recognizing and fostering interconnectedness between the objectives and the role of multiple state and non-state actors.

4 STATUS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE EAC²

4.1 Food and Nutrition Security

Climate change notwithstanding, the EAC region is endowed with a wide range of resources including land, water, favorable climate, human resources and market outlets that provide for potential food security within the region. Food insecurity remains rampant in some parts of the region as a result of high dependence on rain-fed agriculture that is subject to vagaries of weather, low use of technologies, high post-harvest losses (averaging 30-40%), pests and diseases prevalence and poor infrastructure. These, among other factors have constrained availability, accessibility and stability of food. The status of food insecurity within the region can be gleaned from the rates of hunger index which in 2017 stood at 35.6% for Burundi³ (WB 2014), 21.0% for Kenya, 31.4% for Rwanda, 28.8% for Tanzania and 32.0% for Uganda (GHI 2017). Notably, February 20th, 2017, so famine declared in parts of South Sudan, the first to be announced anywhere in the world in six years. This formal declaration of famine in South Sudan meant that people were already dying of hunger (GHI, 2017).

Effects of food insecurity include poor nutrition, hunger and starvation, inability to work effectively and stress on women in finding food for their families. Food insecurity and malnutrition give rise to many consequences for health and development with mothers and children being the most vulnerable to the devastating effects. Malnourished mothers are at a greater risk of dying in childbirth and of delivering low-birth-weight babies who fail to survive infancy. On the other hand, undernourished babies who make it through infancy suffer stunting that cripples and shortens their lives. Subsequently, they transfer the broad economic disadvantages of malnutrition in their own lives to the next generation, thereby perpetuating the vicious cycle of low human development and destitution. All these factors lead to further poverty. For most households, increased yields, increased incomes, access to cash and strategies to alleviate periodic food shortages, improved storage and processing would assist in increasing food security. Issues of food and nutrition security will therefore remain concerns of high priority in the region.

Pursuant to Maputo Declaration on Food Security and Agriculture, as well as the Malabo Declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods, the region is committed to spending at least 10% of national budgets on agriculture development. Specifically, the African Union's (AU) commitments on agricultural transformation are expressed within the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP)⁴ framework that mandates African Governments to aim at

² Individual country reports in annexed 9.2

³ Data for all four indicators (undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality) in the GHI formula are not available hence GHI scores could not be calculated for 2017

⁴ The AU Assembly of Heads of State in recognition of the persistent food insecurity, malnutrition, and escalating poverty adopted the CAADP in Maputo 2013. CAADP focuses on expanding agricultural growth that will benefit rural communities through increasing income with stronger agricultural markets both nationally and globally and ensuring farmers access to the market economy, improved infrastructure, expanded agricultural research to be disseminated to farmers, promoting and implementing sustainable agriculture and improved food security.

achieving annual agricultural growth of 6% and ensure at least 10% of the annual budget is allocated to agriculture. Currently, only the Republics of Burundi's and Rwanda's budget allocations to the agricultural sector stand at 10% and above for FY 2015/2016 and 2016/17 (table 2 below).

Table 2: EAC Partner States budget allocation to agriculture

Budget allocation 2015/2016 and 2016/17	Burundi ⁵	Kenya ⁶	Rwanda ⁷	Tanzania ⁸	Uganda ⁹
Total Budget US (\$)	0.8 Billion	22.4 Billion	2.6 Billion	13.5 Billion	7.9 Billion
% allocation to Agriculture	>10%	3 %	7.4 %	7.2 %	3.1 %
% Agricultural Sector Growth Rate ¹⁰	4%	3.3%	8%	2%	3.1%

Source: compiled by consultant from various sources (see footnotes)

Agricultural growth rates in Partner States were below the CAADP target of 6% FY 2015/2016. The only exception was the Republic of Rwanda that reported 8% in the same period.

4.2 National Nutrition Indicators in the EAC Region

The nutrition situation of a population is defined by the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations, mainly children under the age of five years and women of reproductive age. Table 3 below outlines nutritional status of women and children in the region. It provides a synopsis for each EAC member state, apart from South Sudan based on standard indicators. The main focus being nutritional status of children under five years of age and on key micronutrients of public health significance.

Table 3: EAC status nutrition status against critical indicators

Critical /standard Indicator	Burundi ¹¹	Kenya ¹²	Rwanda ¹³ ¹⁴	S/Sudan ¹⁵	Tanzania ¹⁶	Uganda ¹⁷
Nutritional Status in Under 5s						
Stunting	57.5%	26.0%	37.9%	31	34.4%	34.2%
Wasting	6%	4.0%	2.2 %	23%	4.5%	4.3%
Underweight	29%	11%	9%	28	13.7%	11%
Vitamin A deficiency	28%	9.2% ^{18,19}	6% ²⁰		33%	14
Anemia	56% ²¹	26.3%	37 %		58.6%	53%

⁵ Burundi Budget determination, 2015/16

⁶ Kenya National budget framework (FY 2016/17)

⁷ Rwanda Agricultural expenditure review, 2016

⁸ Tanzania National budget framework (FY 2016/17)

⁹ Uganda National budget framework (FY 2016/17)

¹⁰ EAC Facts & Figures (2015)

¹¹ GNR 2015¹¹

¹² KDHS, 2014

¹³ RDHS, 2014-15

¹⁴ GHI 2017

¹⁵ WHO 2017 (Global Health Observatory)

¹⁶ TDHS, 2015 – 16

¹⁷ UDHS, 2016

¹⁸ Based on retinol binding protein (<0.07 µmol/L)

¹⁹ Kenya National Micronutrient Survey 2011-unpublished report

²⁰ Global Nutrition report. Rwanda Nutrition country profile, 2014

²¹ EDS, 2017

Population classification of iodine nutrition (age group 6–12) ²²	12% ²³	9%	7%	1%	11%	9%
Nutritional status in Women of Reproductive age						
Wasting	12%	9%	7%		11%	9%
Overweight	14.7%	22.7%	17%		18.4%	21.8%
Obesity	3.7%	10.1%	4%		10%	5%
Anemia ²⁴	20.9%	21.9%	17.4 %		45%	32%
Adult obesity²⁵						
Overweight & obesity	15.5%	32.8%	19.8		28.4%	26.8%
Population Undernourished ²⁶	69%	24%	34%		32%	24%
Budget						

Source: compiled by consultant from various sources, see respective footnotes

This data indicates that at least 30% of the population of EAC is undernourished and between 5 and 7% of children under 5 years of age wasted. The implication being that about 15 million children in EAC countries are chronically malnourished. The social and economic cost of malnutrition is high. Investments to improve the food and nutrition situation have been shown to provide high returns and benefits for national social and economic development.

Notably, each of the EAC Partner States (except South Sudan) has food and nutrition strategies and policies as highlighted in Table 4 below;

Table 4: Highlights of Food and Nutrition strategies and policies for EAC Partner States

Country	Main objective of food and nutrition strategies or policies
<i>Burundi</i>	To improve resilience to food crises by transforming agriculture into a highly productive and income-generating sector
<i>Kenya</i>	All Kenyans, throughout their life cycle enjoy at all times safe food and water in sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy their nutritional needs for optimal health
<i>Rwanda</i>	To improve the household food security and nutritional status of the Rwandan people, to substantially reduce chronic malnutrition in children under two years of age and to actively identify and manage all cases of acute malnutrition
<i>Tanzania</i>	Attain adequate nutritional status, which is an essential requirement for a healthy and productive nation. This will be achieved through policies, strategies, programs and partnerships that deliver evidence-based and cost-effective interventions to improve nutrition

4.3 Key Socio-demographic and Economic Factors in the Region

4.3.1 Life Expectancy

The life expectancy at birth in the region is on average 59.2 years, slightly higher than that

²² Global Nutrition Report 2014

²³ Adequate iodine intake in school-age children corresponds to median UIC values in the range 100-299 µg/L, and includes categories previously referred to as "Adequate" (100-199 µg/L) and "More than adequate" (200-299 µg/L) GoB, 2015. National report on mid-term review of the NAIP

²⁴ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2016. Global Nutrition Report. From Promise to Impact. Ending Malnutrition by 2030. Washington, DC

²⁵ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2016. Global Nutrition Report. From Promise to Impact. Ending Malnutrition by 2030. Washington, DC

²⁶ Global Nutrition Report, 2014

for Africa standing at 58.1 years. The under-five mortality rate per 1000 stood at an average of 71.4 (WB, 2016) while average maternal mortality (per 100,000 of the population) is 446, slightly below the Africa average of 460 (UNSD, 2015). The state of Health systems in the region is a contributing factor to the current life expectancy and mortality rates.

4.3.2 Poverty and Income Dimensions

In 2012, the average EAC regional population living below US\$1.90 a day was 20% for those living in urban areas and 45% for the rural population (World Bank, 2016). There is wide variability in this data but the fact is that poverty levels in the region remain a big challenge. Women and children constitute majority of the most affected groups. EAC's vision 2050 recognizes that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in the region is a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, emphasis on economic transformation will be complemented through the Strategy by an enabling environment aimed at expanding development opportunities for citizens of the region.

Further, there is an expansion of the middle class in the EAC countries implying growth of incomes needed to grow out of poverty and malnutrition. While income growth among low income consumers help to reduce malnutrition, in the middle class it is enabling consumption of excessive calories, ultra-processed foods and excessive consumption of meat, creating new problems relating to overweight and obesity and associated Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Based on current trends, deaths from NCD's are projected to overtake communicable diseases to account for 42% of all deaths by 2030 (East African Non-Communicable Disease Alliance. This means that while diets will improve in terms of calories and some micronutrients, the balance in the intake of foods that contribute to high-quality diets in only small quantities will tip over into excessive consumption.

4.3.3 Literacy

The region has an average adult literacy rate of 74.4% lower than the world average of 86.3%. EAC's youth literacy rate stands at 85.1% comparable to the global average of 91% in 2015 (UNICEF, 2014, World Bank 2017). Literacy being such a critical enabler for food and nutrition with considerable multiplier effects demands that EAC Partner States continue to invest more in quality and relevant education as part of the Strategy for enhancing food and nutrition security.

5 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

According to the U.S. Intelligence Community Assessment on global food security (2015) and the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (2016)²⁷, instability and conflict, changes in climate, agricultural disease outbreaks, environmental degradation, illegal fishing and overfishing, demographic changes, intensifying urbanization, and rising food demand will all have major impacts on progress against global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Some of the most important drivers of food and nutrition security are analyzed below;

5.1 Climate Change and Natural Resources Challenges

The intensifying challenge of changing climate patterns and extreme weather including droughts, floods, and extended periods of extreme temperatures pose major challenges to

²⁷ Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, Food Systems and Diets: Facing the challenges of the 21st century published in 2016

global food security, necessitating new food production practices. Exacerbating the climate challenge is the continued stress on ecosystems (marine environments, fisheries, land, water, and natural resource base upon which productive agriculture relies, and the complex intrastate governance challenges related to water resources. Ocean acidification is a further consequence of climate change, leading to a fall in the availability of oceanic calcium carbonate used by marine species to build their shells. Consequences of acidification include a reduction in the availability of shellfish and losses of habitat offering coral reefs leading to reduced availability of high-value nutrient-rich seafood.

East Africa depends heavily on rain-fed agriculture making both urban and rural livelihoods highly vulnerable to climate variability. The region was adversely affected by El Nino with enhanced rainfall and subsequent flooding in 2009/2010. The enhanced rainfall caused delayed harvesting of the maize crop and contributed to significant pre-and post-harvest losses and additionally massive cases of aflatoxin reducing the consumable portions of the harvest. El Nino was followed by the protracted drought of the La Nina phenomenon in 2011 dissipating any gains made during the El Nino season. In Kenya for instance, 23 out of its 47 counties were affected with crop failures in 11 agricultural counties and reduced pasture and browse in 12 pastoral counties. The number of food insecure people more than doubled – from 1.3 million to 3.2 million in less than 2 months. Overall inflation soared reaching a five-year high of 11.7 per cent with staple food commodities, especially maize prices escalating beyond the reach of poor people in rural and urban areas. The Drought was declared a national disaster by the Government of Kenya on 30th of May 2011.

Considering this background, it is important that the EAC region engages a more strategic and cooperative approach to address climate change. The EAC Policy on Climate Change illustrates the commitment of Partner States to address the challenges of climate change, for both the present and future generations. Responding to these challenges further requires research to provide new tools and approaches for increasing agricultural productivity, monitoring and managing threats and risks, better managing and governing natural resources related to food supply, adapting to the effects of a changing climate, and mitigating greenhouse gases, where possible.

5.2 Rapid Urbanization and Income Growth

The urban population of the EAC region is projected to increase rapidly in the next decades, reaching about 44% in 2050 from the current levels. It is projected that the growing population in the region will continue to happen in urban slums with associated challenges of youth unemployment and low incomes. These trends make investments in other aspects of the food system beyond farms and rural areas increasingly important in order to foster inclusive economic growth that enhances food security and reduces poverty. Rapidly growing secondary and tertiary cities, where majority of urban growth will concentrate, and megacities offer important opportunities for enhancing food security.

The challenge is to find ways of strengthening the positive links between urbanization, diet quality and food safety while maintaining its ability to reduce hunger and undernutrition. For producers, the spatial concentration of urban populations provides markets for food, provided there is sufficient land and water available to meet this increased demand and internal transport and market infrastructure costs are not prohibitive.

On the other hand, the region is experiencing increasing incidences where land or water resources are being converted from farm to residential or industrial use. With high costs,

domestic production will struggle to respond to the increased demand for food. This gives room for competing imported food that may be cheaper and preferred if its quality is higher and its processing makes it more convenient to the consumer.

It is important therefore that the EAC through a strategic and cooperative approach address issues of land use, water use and investments in infrastructure for transport, storage and other logistics needed in line with maximizing livelihood opportunities for domestic farmers and diet quality opportunities for all.

5.3 Food Security, Political Instability and Conflict

Food security is a development and humanitarian issue that also presents major national security challenges. Increasing loss of livelihoods and food scarcity, exacerbated by effects of climate change, environmental degradation and demographic trends threaten the region's security, leaving countries and communities vulnerable to increased instability, conflict, and the potential for violence. According to Regional Overview of Food Insecurity in Africa, the overall risk of food insecurity in many countries will increase during the next 10 years, contributing to social disruptions and political instability (FAO, 2015). The number of displaced people from some of the EAC states neighboring countries such as Somalia and Congo is already a major source of concern for the region.

The refugee situation is critical for the EAC region, which is already finding it difficult to feed its own populations adequately. Governments in the region are being forced to increase food availability, maintain or create strategic grain reserves and to prioritize getting food to populations most affected by displacement. International assistance in providing food, medicine, shelter and basic health care is essential to enable them render basic services to refugees. However, even when refugees or displaced persons are protected from starvation, they are often exposed to micronutrient deficiencies because they depend on just a few selected foodstuffs.

Kenya and Uganda, for example, have in the recent past experienced an increase in the number of refugees fleeing their war-torn countries, adding an extra burden to the overstretched economies of the two countries. The refugee population in the region today is at an estimated 1.2 million (UNHCR, 2015). Kenya remains the largest refugee-hosting country, with refugees coming in from Somalia and recently from South Sudan – countries that have been affected by conflict for a long time. The resurgence in 2013 of a Ugandan rebel group in the eastern areas of the DR Congo – the Allied Democratic Forces, forced some 66,000 refugees across the border into southwestern Uganda. The eruption of violence in South Sudan in December 2013 resulted in 1.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and more than 450,000 new South Sudanese refugees, who fled to Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia (UNCHR, 2014). Tanzania has been receiving refugees from the DRC and Burundi, while Rwanda has an average of 166,000 refugees and asylum seekers mostly from Burundi. (UNHCR fact sheet 2017).

5.4 Policies and Processes of Globalization

Policies implemented to drive forward economic globalization have wrought changes throughout the food system with significant implications for diet quality. Policies, notably the process of trade liberalization, have influenced national food production, transport, processing and imports and exports and investments between countries. This in turn has influenced food availability, prices, promotion and safety in different ways.

There is potential for both coherence and incoherence between trade policy and nutrition outcomes. For forms of malnutrition associated with excess and imbalance, evidence indicates that trade liberalization and foreign direct investment, facilitated by advances in information and communication technology, have made it easier to make certain food and drink products (e.g. fats and oils, ultra-processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages) more available to consumers in low- and middle-income countries. A cross-country analysis estimated that low- and middle-income countries that enter free trade agreements with the US have a 63% higher level of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption per capita than countries that did not. This has led some to argue that globalization has been a driver of the obesity epidemic. Thus, globalization offers investment opportunities for food businesses to generate incomes, activity and employment but also makes foods high in sugar, salt and fats more available.

5.5 Demographic Change

Population dynamics are among factors driving aggregate food consumption trends in the EAC region. The region is characterized by strong demographic trends with population increasing at a rate of about 3% (table 6) per annum compared to 1.2% for the world. The current population of approximately 150 million is projected to increase to 184.3 million by 2025 and 278.4 in 2050. The region's population under 15 years is estimated at over 45% compared to world's average of 26%. Food demand is projected to double by 2030 with 20% of the increase being attributed to population growth. This represents a daunting challenge for EAC member countries in meeting present and future food needs.

On the other hand, the youthful EAC population can potentially be a demographic gift; under favorable development policies. A young workforce can be a driver of growth, generating wealth to sustain demand for food and other essential goods. These trends make investments in other aspects of the food system beyond farms and rural areas increasingly important in order to foster inclusive economic growth that enhances food security and reduces poverty.

Table 5: EAC annual population growth

Country	Annual population growth rate %				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Burundi	3.0	2.9	3.12	3.1	3.1
Kenya	2.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Rwanda	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4
Tanzania	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Uganda	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3

Source, Compiled from World Bank data bank data.worldbank.org and EAC facts and figures

Life expectancy at birth in the region is on average 59.2 years, better than Africa's 58.1 years. Declines in birth rates, due to lower fertility rates, are positive for maternal and child nutrition. Under five mortality rates per 1000 in the region stands at an average of 71.4 (WB, 2016), while maternal mortality (per 100,000 of the population) is 446, slightly below Africa's average of 460 (UNSD, 2015). Particular effort is needed to improve infant and young children's diets to support their cognitive development and help them capitalize on work opportunities. This will require focus on improving the nutrition of adolescent girls and women of child bearing age.

5.6 Continued Gender Inequalities

While limited access to resources and inadequate nutrition affect billions of women, men, girls, and boys, inequalities in resources, power, and roles in food and agriculture systems tend to affect women and girls more greatly. Although women comprise 43²⁸ percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, on average, they have disproportionately less access to resources (such as land and financing), markets, technologies and information, positions of influence, and means to manage risk. Lack of access to credit, limited group membership, and high workloads are among the most pressing constraints for both women and men in agriculture, although the burden of disempowerment in these constraints is almost twice as much for women.

Social norms about women's and men's roles and responsibilities compound gendered barriers to resources and institutions, often limiting women's ability to earn income, manage risk, or influence how earnings are spent or what foods are available to feed young children. Where women do not have sufficient resources or power to act for their own and their children's health, nutritional outcomes suffer.

5.7 Prevalence of Pests, Diseases and Mycotoxins

High incidence of pests and diseases limits production and trade in agricultural products. Increasing temperatures lead to changes in the location and incidence of pest and disease outbreaks exacerbating the situation. Foot and mouth disease, Rinderpest, Anthrax, Rift Valley Fever and other notifiable diseases have often caused significant livestock losses. The occurrences of tsetse flies in large areas of the region limit the utilization of grazing lands. Crops pests such as army worms, larger grain borer, bacteria, fungal and viral diseases destroy crops and pastures. Control measures are limited and expensive and the challenge for the region is to forge joint efforts to control and eradicate trans-boundary pests and diseases. There exist opportunities within and outside the region for improved surveillance, diagnosis and control of trans-boundary pests and diseases.

5.8 Land and Land Tenure

Most land in the region is still communally owned giving little incentive for permanent improvement and investment in production. This has resulted in deterioration of land through over-exploitation. Access to credit for production has also been constrained by inappropriate land tenure systems that would provide security of ownership to and therefore facilitate the development of a credit system based on land as collateral. The potential for expanding fisheries through expanding fish farming in the region is also not optimized due to insecurity of land tenure.

Productivity and growth of small holder farming is further constrained by restricted access to markets and credit, weak institutions, inadequate infrastructure, inadequate skills and lack of access to technology mainly at national level. Furthermore, trade barriers tend to affect small holder farmers more. Poverty in the region can be alleviated through expansion of small holder farming which can raise incomes of rural farmers, reducing income inequalities as well as reduce food expenditure (ADB, 2010) with positive results on food and nutrition security.

²⁸ UNSCN, 2014

5.9 Technology Related Factors

Technology related factors such as research is key to increasing productivity and returns to farmers. However, development of research continues to face serious constraints due to inadequate funds. Currently, the proportion of public resources devoted to training, research and extension in the region is low and declining. Accelerated investment in agricultural research is particularly urgent because it is difficult to achieve reasonable economic growth and poverty reduction without productivity increases in agriculture.

The challenge therefore for public and private sectors in the Partner States is to increase investment in research, training and extension to improve farmer research /extension, policy linkages and adoption of available and new technologies.

5.10 Agriculture Sector Constraints

The EAC's economy is predominantly agricultural sector based. Its food and nutrition Security policy paradigm thus impacts on its populations in two complimentary strands; as a source of economic livelihood – employment and income generation at primary production, value-addition and trade, and as an anchor of the health and human development of its populations through nutritional intake of agricultural produce; cereals, legumes, meats, dairy, fish etc. The sector contributes up to an average of 36 per cent of the region's GDP. Despite the importance of agriculture, poverty levels are still high particularly in rural areas due to poor performance of the sector. Smallholder farmers dominate the sector, occupy majority of the land and produce most of the crop and livestock products. The key long-standing challenge of the smallholder farmers is low productivity stemming from poor access to farm inputs and the lack of access to markets, credit and technology. This is compounded by volatile food and energy prices. Investments in the sector have remained at relatively low levels and thus unable to spur transformation of the agricultural sector. Despite being the largest employer in the region agriculture continues to lag behind especially in a far as improvements through increased productivity and value addition are concerned.

In general, agricultural production and productivity are largely constrained by natural factors, policy and slow adoption of technologies. Some reasons for the poor performance of the agriculture sector are outlined in table 6 below;

Table 6: Factors Contributing to Poor Performance of Agriculture in the EAC region

Contributing Factors	Issues of focus
Agency Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Legal and regulatory framework • Insecurity • Inadequate access to productive resources • Poor physical infrastructure • Weak institutional framework • Low public expenditure
Technology Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate research, extension services and training • Low adoption and use improved technologies
Nature Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of natural resources base • Low adoption and use improved technologies • Climate change and the attendant consequences • Pests and diseases
Cross-cutting and cross-sectoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High incidence of poverty • Gender imbalances • Inadequate social infrastructure

Source: compiled from EAC instruments (EAC-ARDS, Vision 2050)

These factors have inhibited the rural economy's potential to, (i) alleviate poverty through employment creation and income generation; (ii) meet growing food needs driven by rapid population growth and urbanization; (iii) stimulate overall economic growth, given that agriculture is the most potential lead sector for growth and development; and (iv) conserve natural resources. The main challenge facing the rural sector is to increase productivity and economic growth in order to halt the worsening food security and to reduce poverty.

Further, the region is faced with a number of challenges including: harmonizing various policies and legislations; issues of production and economic growth; transboundary pests and diseases; high poverty levels; HIV and AIDS pandemic; down environmental degradation; rapid utilization of natural resources; a weak early warning system and declining governance, security and political stability.

5.11 Political Economy Aspects Impacting Food and Nutrition Security

This section presents political economy aspects of the EAC, focusing on what drives and constrains the organization in promoting economic integration and in meeting its food and nutrition security objectives. Some of these aspects and their implication on regional integration and food and nutrition security are presented below,

5.11.1 Historical Perspectives

The EAC was originally founded in 1967 with Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as members. This built on, and superseded, a range of other regional communities between the colonial governments of the three countries dating back to the early 20th century. Despite the history of cooperation, the EAC collapsed in 1977 as a result of Kenya's dominance and divergent political positions and ideologies. It was only in 2000 that the EAC was revived.

Since its revival, the EAC has progressed fairly rapidly and integration is now proceeding at a faster rate than any other Regional Economic Community (REC) in Sub-Saharan Africa. With the formal objective of creating a common currency and eventually a political federation, the EAC has achieved a number of notable objectives since reforming including the signing of a customs union in 2004 and the launch of a common market for goods, labor and capital in 2010.

Despite the progress outlined above, policies have encountered implementation challenges at Member State level. For example, the Common Market has been constrained by exemptions, bans and non-tariff barriers. In most cases, political elites in EAC Partner States lack centralized control over rents and the powers to effectively coordinate reforms, including those related to EAC integration for which there can be limited domestic constituency. As such, a number of EAC policies have been prone to lengthy delays and blockages to implementation by divergent interests within Partner States. This is most evident in the implementation deficit of the customs union. Partner States have brought in various restrictions on the free movement of goods, in particular sectors (especially food staples) that some allege are tied to vested interests.

5.11.2 Limited EAC Institutional Capacity

EAC's institutional capacity is low and its institutional arrangements have not been updated to take into consideration the increasing scope of the EAC's goals, for example in relation to agriculture and food security sector. This limits its capacity and authority to monitor implementation challenges and support Partner States to address them. The nonexistence of

a monitoring, evaluation and Learning Unit (MEL) at the EAC continues to be a challenge that needs to be addressed.

The EAC Secretariat and Partner States have relatively good possibilities to access donor financing, e.g., from EU, USAID, SIDA and other development partners. Their weak institutional capacity and absorption capacity is in practice, however, limiting this access significantly. For example, inadequate technical staff in Department of Agriculture and Food Security, and hence limited technical capacity and availability of time, constrains the absorptive capacity of the department to fully harness the existing potential of regional independent think tanks. This limited capacity also constrains their ability to fully use existing available resources.

5.11.3 Weak Policy Implementation

Analyzing EAC policy from the perspective of institutions (formal and informal rules of the game) highlights a number of areas where policy implementation is affected by weak or absent formal institutions, as well as strong emerging informal institutions. For example, a large number of formal rules to provide checks and balances on policy implementation have not been institutionalized. This includes (i) the power provided to the Summit (on the recommendation of the Council) to sanction Partner States over non-compliance with the Treaty, which has not been exercised to date; and, (ii) the monitoring responsibilities accorded to the EAC Secretariat in the EAC Development Strategy 2011/12-15/16, which have not resulted in the specified monitoring and evaluation unit being established. Further, in formal terms power should be distributed between the Summit, Council and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). In reality, however, power is vested in the Summit and Council, which are both composed of national politicians, rather than the Member State representatives found in EALA.

5.11.4 Authority of Partner States over the EAC Secretariat

Actors and agencies at three levels affect EAC policy: (i) within the EAC structures, (ii) within Partner States, and (iii) external actors. Within the EAC and its members there appears to be conflicting opinions as to whether the EAC should have supranational authority. Presently, EAC Secretariat has no authority of Partner States making it difficult to enforce implementation of agreed regional commitments by the Partner States.

At the Partner State level, continued sustained progress towards EAC integration largely depends on dominant players and their interest in fostering deeper integration. Notably, one of the reasons the original East African Community (EAC) collapsed in 1977 was the dominance of one country. Further, private sector actors can both support and constrain EAC integration but also remain a key driver of effective implementation and deeper integration. There is therefore need to ensure balance for sustainability of EAC Integration.

5.11.5 Slow Implementation of Regional Commitments at National Level

Establishing regional protocols and policies give no value add to the East African citizen or society without them being implemented by the Partner States at national level. The problem is partly due to weaknesses in the EAC, but more importantly, that Partner States at regional level tend to deliberate, decide and act more progressively than they do at national level. Experience shows that the process from regional commitment to national implementation is a long-term process. However, for concrete results to be obtained on a reasonable time horizon, much more needs to be done at Partner States level to achieve

ratification, domestication and execution. An accurate food balance sheet for the region needs to be maintained and enforced at the EAC secretariat.

Effective monitoring of these processes, at both regional and national level, is required in order to both support and push the agenda forward. This will have impact not only on effective programming but also on the implementation of the regional integration agenda with consequences for food and nutrition security.

5.11.6 Partner States Ambitions and Funding Commitments Mismatch

The EAC Agriculture and Food Security sector is based on policies and programs of the key documents²⁹ that express a large number of demands, priorities and possibilities without attendant budgetary allocations from Partner States. Over the past few years, the agenda for agriculture and food security has been growing progressively (as reflected in the Annual Operational Plans of DAFS, Sectoral Council proceedings). Some of the key challenges include a large number of activities, for example in FSAP 2011-2011, without corresponding funding level needed to achieve them.

One of the major challenges of the FSAP is the lack or absence of a prioritized implementation plan, with detailed costs and a credible financing plan. It was envisaged during the planning stage that the EAC Secretariat/DAFS would draw up an annual implementation plan indicating financial commitments. This has not been realized because of the varying individual partner state priorities and national commitments and uncertain availability of financing. There is variable quality in the composition of budgetary allocations for the agriculture sector, and there is a need to ensure adequate funds are being provided to support implementation of agreed food security policies by Partner States. There is need for a funding level that better corresponds to the ambition level of the FSAP.

5.11.7 Governance, Transparency and Accountability Challenges

Corruption remains a widespread challenge in Africa, intimately linked to the governance regimes in individual countries and thus taking on different shapes and expressions as a function of how power and resources are allocated in each country or in a regional/local setting. Despite over a decade of consistent international and African effort to raise awareness and develop strategies to reduce and control corruption - including the entry into force of the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption - it is difficult to see any measurable overall impact, although there are positive trends in some individual EAC Partner States. Corruption has huge implications not only as a major risk for misuse of funds and other resources, but also as a major governance and development challenge in itself.

5.11.8 Reliance on External Funding

Central to aid effectiveness is the concept of ownership. The East Africa Community is externally “owned” by Partner States who sometimes have different and even contradictory ambitions about what EAC should do. Decision by unanimity is probably the only way that the ownership of all Partner States can be retained, but this largely reduces effectiveness.

²⁹ E.g. Treaty establishing the East African Community (1999), EAC Agriculture and Rural Development Policy (EAC-ARDP), while the programs and projects for achieving the objectives are captured in the 25-year (2005-2030) multi-year EAC Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (EAC-ARDS). These core policy frameworks provide the basis for developing the East Africa Community Food Security Action Plan (EAC-FSAP, 2011-2015), which provided strategic inputs for the 4th EAC Development Strategy (2011/12-2015/16). Also important is the EAC Common Market Protocol and EAC Vision 2030.

Heavy reliance on external financiers, makes it appear as if Partner States have a low level of ownership as the EAC. In 2013/14 traditional donors contributed over 65 per cent of the budget of the EAC. While donor support to the EAC is important, it carries risks including creating incentives for signaling intent, but encouraging informal practices that potentially undermine the ability of the EAC to undertake its mandate. These include the risk that donor funding to the EAC creates a dependency on such funds disincentivizing Partner State financial contributions.

The challenge remains how the region can work to increase Partner States contribution in order to address potential dependencies on donor funding. Consequently, this will lead to increasing the level of ownership by Partner States of their own development agenda and existing interests and incentives in as far as food and nutrition security.

5.11.9 Political Support and Biased Loyalty

EAC as a regional intergovernmental organization has political legitimacy, and thus the capacity to pull together political decisions that are needed to reduce and control conflicts, to improve regional political relations and to increase regional political and economic integration. EAC is however constrained and directed by the common political denominators Partner States can and do agree upon. A major challenge relates to underfunding and understaffing in relation to their mandates and financial dependence on external aid that contributes to slow execution, mixed messages, and differential responses to various external pressures.

Further, the EAC is primarily a political organization for norm setting and mediation of political agreements and not a technical organization for implementing concrete programs. Its focus is still largely political: to persuade and help Partner States and other actors to do the things they have committed themselves to doing. Staff are therefore often selected on the basis of country representation by quota rather than requisite skills and topped up by temporary staff provided through donor technical assistance that also sometimes suffers a similar selection bias. While this is not necessarily a bad thing, it does not contribute to the sustainability and coherence of management. Given this selection bias, managers have to manage the challenge of biased loyalty to themselves or to their home country interests rather than to the organization.

5.12 Opportunities for Agricultural-led Growth

East Africa has significant irrigation potential that remains unexploited, yet irrigation can play an important role in increasing agricultural productivity, expanding the area under production and stabilizing agricultural production in situations of adverse weather conditions. Opportunity to expand irrigated agriculture exists to boost agricultural production and productivity.

Urban growth and accompanying diet changes provide new opportunities for enhancing food security in both urban and rural areas. Urban, and increasingly, rural communities, purchase much of their food, which continues to be produced predominantly in rural areas. Urbanization, population and income growth are also creating new opportunities related to dietary transformation, as consumer demand for processed foods and more resource-intensive, higher-value food products increases. In addition, population growth also creates opportunities for increased labor force while good climate conditions in the region need to be harnessed for full agricultural potential. One of these opportunities is to focus efforts on building strong and resilient food and agriculture systems that can have a transformational

effect on people's lives and societies as a whole, not in the least by creating jobs and spurring growth in rural and urban economies.

Strengthening linkages between rural producers and growing population of urban consumers through the development of input and output markets and related infrastructure (e.g., roads, ports, cold storage, and wholesale markets, as well as electricity, water, and information and communications technology) is key to assuring the availability and affordability of sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. Soft infrastructure, such as an enabling environment and education for producers and other members of the agriculture and food system workforce, is also needed to operate a more sophisticated, inclusive, sustainable, and diversified agriculture and food sector and to provide new growth and employment opportunities.

5.12.1 Mobile, Digital Technology, and Finance Opportunities

EAC has witnessed incredible changes in market dynamics fueled by the explosive growth of mobile and digital technologies over the past five years. These forces have redefined economic growth models, empowered poor people with new, powerful communication tools, and facilitated more productive interactions and financial transactions among actors across agricultural value chains. Lately, Information Communication and Technology (ICT) has played a role, mostly in supply chain management and is increasingly being included in farm management and even food development. ICT is already being applied in established food systems to improve efficiency and productivity; this could be the key to sustain food systems³⁰. Recent developments of telephone applications that employ short text messages to link farmers to markets, farm inputs, access to credit and mobile banking facilities are increasingly making agriculture related activities more attractive and less cumbersome especially in market access and attracting youth to the sector. Urban growth and accompanying diet changes provide new opportunities for enhancing food security in both urban and rural areas. By strengthening linkages between rural producers and growing numbers of urban consumers through the development of input and output markets and related infrastructure, enabling environment, education for producers' new growth and employment opportunities.

In particular, with the rapid proliferation of digital payments, including mobile money for example MPesa in Kenya, we now have the tools and knowledge to invest in financial infrastructure that fits the needs of rural households, providing them with the financial tools necessary to both weather shocks and seize economic opportunity. This is critical since more than two billion people worldwide - who are predominantly female and live in rural areas and are critical to food security - currently lack relevant financial products that would enable them save, in order to mitigate shocks that impact consumption, investment and profitability.

5.12.2 Regional and Global Integration

Globalization and regional integration offer opportunities for rural development by providing new markets for rural products. EAC Partner States are signatories to the treaties on regional integration through EAC, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which facilitate entry into the European market, and have moved fast to take advantage of opportunities offered by the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) that opens up the American Market to imports from Africa.

³⁰ Giaime Bert and Catherine Mulligan ICT & the future of food and Agriculture

Partner States have the opportunity to exploit regional and international markets for crop, live animal, and animal products. However, utilization of these markets will depend on the adequacy of pest and disease control measures and compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

The opportunity to utilize the potential for crops and livestock products will propel rural development by enhancing the role of these commodities in raising farm income, employment and food security. Enhanced access to information on inputs, outputs and markets will facilitate planning and implementation of the Strategy. With vast biodiversity, particularly wildlife resources, Partner States have the potential to increase foreign exchange earnings through tourism.

5.13 SWOT Summary

5.13.1 Strengths

Among EAC's strengths include it being one of the largest regional economic blocs in the continent further enhanced by the recent entry of Southern Sudan. It is home to 45 percent of Africa's livestock and endowed as with the great lakes region. Moreover, EAC, together with SADC and COMESA have taken unprecedented and historical steps towards the integration of the African continent with the establishment of a Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) spanning a large part of the continent—from the Cape (South Africa) to Cairo (Egypt). This potentially brings with it the advantages of a larger pool of skilled and educated workers a factor that is key in exploiting the large natural resource base in the region for food and nutrition security. Existing political will to pursue economic integration, and political stability is vital for the implementation of the Strategy. The region is also experiencing increased but suboptimal investment in industry and infrastructure.

5.13.2 Weaknesses

Some of the weaknesses as far as achieving FNS for the EAC include lack of regulations to deter the conversion of arable land to non-agricultural use. The landlocked nature of four of the Partner States (Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Southern Sudan) mainly affecting trade and business is further compounded by other weaknesses like poor road network and insufficient road infrastructure connecting to the ports. Being landlocked hampers access to inputs for production, increases cost of imported food where a country has to cover production deficits and also increases costs of exporting surpluses where available, with consequences on F&NS. On the capacity side, the region has a low level of industrialization, high unemployment rate that perpetuates poverty, and a low capacity to mobilize resources for its development. Literacy and poor access to food and nutrition knowledge is a serious weakness that could change the dynamics of nutrition if adequately addressed.

5.13.3 Opportunities

The EAC Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy (2005-2030) addresses issues of food insecurity and poverty reduction in the region through improved agricultural production and farm incomes to ensure availability and access of food to all households. On the other hand, Vision 2050 emphasizes promotion of sustainable agricultural production and productivity in the region. This would include opening space for inter-state trade of agricultural commodities and ensuring improved functioning of cross-border trading and strengthening regional cooperation, by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development.

The integration of new members like South Sudan in the Community presents opportunity to expand the region's internal market and agricultural land. Eighty percent of South Sudan's land alone is considered arable with the potential of becoming a breadbasket for the region. This could contribute to increasing agricultural production and intra-regional trade. There are also more capacity related opportunities including enhancing value addition that would create jobs; skills development; expansion of trade and market access for manufactured and agricultural products.

5.13.4 Threats

Like most of Africa, the region is faced with the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, which ultimately is affecting agriculture and perpetuating food and nutrition insecurity through extended droughts and heavy floods in some parts. Massive unemployment, especially among the youth puts the EAC at risk of social instability hampering investments. Internal and cross border insecurity threatens peaceful co-existence of communities destabilizing food production and the food systems including increased losses due to destruction of farm produce as well as increasing post-harvest losses. Moreover, the region is experiencing more and more terrorist threats especially in Kenya. Additionally, neocolonial land grabbing in the region has greatly affected food and nutrition security.

Table 7: EAC SWOT Summary

Strengths:	Weaknesses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political commitment to achieving F&NS, including signing up to SUN • A multi-sectoral approach that recognizes F&NS as a cross-cutting issue • Fairly well coordinated food and nutrition sectors besides other established and functional organs and institutions • Multiple key sectors that can contribute to poverty reduction • Agriculture as one of the key drivers of FNS and poverty reduction • Growing population hence market and labor force • Alignment of national F&NS plans with key poverty reduction and wealth creation visions in the region • F&NS well anchored in the EAC policy framework • Regional EAC integration including prior experience in regional integration and cooperation • Rich endowment of natural resources, conducive climate and rich cultural heritage • A relatively well educated and trained human resource base • Growing intra-regional trade • High and growing potential for value addition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTBs that constrain cross border movements • Poor adoption of production, post-harvest and value addition technologies • Weak institutional systems for mutual accountability and coordination • High dependence on rain fed agriculture • Weak M&E system for F&NS with minimal and fragmented synergy among sectors and development partners • Inadequate gender and youth mainstreaming • Political, demographic and social constraints to accessing arable land • Uncoordinated institutional implementation mandates for food and nutrition security • Low transparency and accountability • Poor and unbalanced infrastructure • Weak national currencies and financial systems • Weaknesses in the business environment, regulatory and institutional framework • Lack of legislation to control the conversion of arable land to nonagricultural uses • Low investment in agriculture • Some land locked countries leading to high costs of imports • Low exploitation of resources • Poor knowledge on nutrition
Opportunities:	Threats:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large regional market • Goodwill and support from development and implementing partners • Increasing external investment in key sectors • Supportive global initiatives including SDGs, NEPAD, SUN movement etc. • Availability of several regional blocs e.g. COMESA, SADC, EU, NAFTA etc • Growing youthful population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High dependency on donor funding • Climate change and natural disasters • Globalization and Competition from cheap imports • Global economic crises leading to volatile food and energy prices • Conflict, social unrest, insecurity, political instability • Human and livestock epidemics • Weak competitive global positioning • Competing regional blocs and overlapping membership

Source, Compiled by Consultant from various sources and stakeholder interviews

6 VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision Statement: A region free of hunger, malnutrition and extreme poverty.

Mission statement: To attain food and nutrition security through policy harmonization, sustainable agricultural production, diversification, marketing and utilization of adequate nutritious food for health as well as social and economic well-being of the EAC regional population.

Goal: Contribute to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region by the year 2023.

6.1 Objectives

1. *To improve sustainable and inclusive agricultural production, productivity and trade of crops, animal and animal resources, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products by 2023* - Agriculture is the largest employer in the East African region, providing livelihoods for between 70% and 80% of the populations within Partner States. It is the largest source of income and jobs for poor rural households and provides most of the food consumed in the region. Prudent improvements in sustainable and inclusive agriculture provides pathways to poverty reduction, job generation and reliable incomes, directly across agricultural value chains and indirectly through multiplier effects across the broader economies of which they are a part. Developing and investing in the agriculture sector also increases the availability of affordable, diverse, and nutritious food, thereby contributing to eliminating hunger and malnutrition.
2. *To strengthen resilience among households, communities and livelihood systems by promoting sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental conservation and uptake of disaster risk reduction with enhanced post-harvest value addition by 2023* - the region continues to increasingly experience frequent and intense drought events and stresses that threaten food and nutrition security. Over 4.5 million people were facing severe drought and hunger during the period of this Strategy development in 2016/17. A reduced vulnerability to these shocks and stresses and the ability to reduce, mitigate, adapt to, manage, and recover from them is particularly important to the extreme poor and the most vulnerable. On the other hand, food wastage occasioned by post-harvest losses, was estimated at 40 % (FSAP 2011-2015), this makes uptake of value addition technology one of the pathways to increasing resilience among the EAC population.
3. *To improve access and utilization of nutritious, diverse and safe food by 2023* - food insecurity and undernutrition, particularly during the first 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, leads to lower levels of educational attainment, productivity, and lifetime earnings. Therefore, achieving the goal of this Strategy requires well-nourished populations in which everyone, especially women and children, have the chance to live healthy and productive lives. Nutrition improvements are related to decreased health costs, higher economic productivity, and lower rates of mortality.

7 STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS FOR F&NS

7.1 Rationale for Strategic Interventions

This Strategy proposes to address the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity through several multisectoral interventions in the medium to long-term periods. The focus and emphasis is provided by the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy (EAC FNSP).

According to East Africa Community-Agriculture Rural Development Strategy (2005-2030), about 80% of East Africans live in rural areas and are engaged in agriculture. Development efforts must therefore start with fundamental agricultural development aimed at improving farm and off-farm activities. This makes agricultural growth the catalyst for East Africa's broad-based economic growth and development. Further, agricultural linkages to the off-farm economy will generate employment, income and growth to the rest of the economy. About 50% of East Africa's rural households are involved in off-farm income generating activities and 36% have at least one salary income earner living away from the farm. A third of households receive remittances and therefore a general improvement in the economy will benefit agricultural households. Farm and off-farm sub-sectors have the potential to contribute to growth and poverty reduction at the household level. Both have interdependent processes required to tackle high levels of poverty. Reduction of rural poverty cannot be achieved if both rural and urban sectors are not growing. Rural poverty reduction is about raising farm productivity and improving the overall facilitating environment for development activities including encouraging mobility and enabling resource transfer between sectors. Improving farm productivity will result in higher incomes, that will in turn generate new demand for off-farm products in both rural and urban centers creating incentives for increased economic activities, creating jobs, income and further increase demand for both farm and off-farm production. Off-farm income will help finance improved income growth in agriculture as well as the other way around.

While an enabling institutional environment for farm and off-farm enterprises will help reduce poverty in rural areas, it is also true that in order to construct routes out of poverty, rural families need options for engaging in income generating activities both within and outside of rural areas.

The above pathway predicates that nutritious diverse foods are available and affordable in local markets. Appropriate inputs to grow these diverse foods are also available so that local production can meet demand. Additionally, market and transportation systems must enable year-round and/or seasonal supplies based on consumer preferences and purchasing power. Local supply and demand will also be influenced not only by market prices but also by social behavior change, nutrition knowledge, and social marketing, which may help drive consumer preferences towards food and nutrition security. Reductions in undernutrition will also be achieved through simultaneous cross-sectoral attention to food, care, and health. Hence interventions in the food system can support farm systems and agricultural livelihoods while also improving diets. This is especially true if the interventions do no harm to health or care practices and support integrated and multisectoral programming.

7.2 Programming Principles

Food systems³¹ provide for all people's nutritional needs, while at the same time contributing to economic growth. The food and agriculture sector has the primary role of feeding people well by increasing availability, affordability, and consumption of diverse, safe, nutritious foods and diets, aligned with dietary recommendations and environmental sustainability. According to FAO (2015), policies and programs are more likely to have a positive impact on nutrition, and avoid negative impacts, if the following principles are applied:

- i. Incorporate explicit life time nutrition objectives and indicators into their design, and track and mitigate potential harms, while seeking synergies with economic, social and environmental objectives;
- ii. Assess the context at the local level, to design appropriate activities to address the types and causes of malnutrition, including chronic or acute undernutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and obesity and chronic disease. Context assessment can include potential food resources, agro-ecology, seasonality of production and income, access to productive resources such as land, market opportunities and infrastructure, gender dynamics and roles, opportunities for collaboration with other sectors or programs, and local priorities;
- iii. Target the vulnerable and improve equity through participation, access to resources, and decent employment. Vulnerable groups include smallholders, women, youth, the landless, urban dwellers, the unemployed;
- iv. Collaborate and coordinate with other sectors (health, environment, social protection, labor, water and sanitation, education, energy) and programs, through joint strategies with common goals, to address concurrently the multiple underlying causes of malnutrition;
- v. Maintain or improve the natural resource base (water, soil, air, climate, biodiversity), critical to the livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable farmers and to sustainable food and nutrition security for all. Manage water resources in particular to reduce vector-borne illness and to ensure sustainable, safe household water sources;
- vi. Empower women by ensuring access to productive resources, income opportunities, extension services and information, credit, labor and time saving technologies (including energy and water services) and supporting their voice in household and farming decisions. Equitable opportunities to earn and learn should be compatible with safe pregnancy and young child feeding. Further programme should incorporate male engagement as a path to reinforcing sustainability;
- vii. Facilitate research, production, diversification, and increased production of nutrient-dense crops and smallholder livestock (for example, horticultural products, legumes, shoats (sheep and goats) and fish/aquaculture at a small scale, underutilized/traditional crops, and bio-fortified crops). Diversified production systems are important to vulnerable producers to enable resilience to climate and price shocks, more diverse food consumption, reduction of seasonal food and income fluctuations, and greater and more gender-equitable income generation;

³¹ Food systems comprise all the processes involved in keeping populations fed and nourished: growing, harvesting, packing, processing, transforming, transporting, marketing, consuming and disposing of food. They include the inputs needed and outputs generated at each step. A food system operates within and is influenced by social, political, economic and natural environments.

- viii. Improve processing, storage and preservation to retain nutritional value, prolong shelf-life, and food safety, to reduce seasonality of food insecurity and post-harvest losses, and to make healthy foods convenient to prepare;
- ix. Expand markets and market access for vulnerable groups, particularly for marketing nutritious foods or products that vulnerable groups have a comparative advantage in producing. This can include innovative promotion (such as marketing based on nutrient content), value addition, access to price information, and farmer associations;
- x. Incorporate nutrition promotion and education around food and sustainable food systems that builds on existing local knowledge, attitudes and practices. Nutrition knowledge can enhance the impact of production and income in rural households, especially important for women and young children, and can increase demand for nutritious foods in the general population. Promotion and awareness should also include messages on utilization, reducing food wastage and losses occasioned by various factors; and
- xi. At the national level, governments and private sector actors to work together to focus on aligning individual food systems with the goal of attaining healthy diets and improved nutritional outcomes. This will require, amongst other actions, creating incentives for private sector actors throughout the food system so that they can make decisions more favorable to the adoption of higher-quality diets.

In line with these principles the Strategy commits to approaches that promote partnership in: (i) investing in EAC member country-owned plans that support results-based programs and partnerships, so assistance is tailored to the needs of individual countries, through consultative processes and plans that are developed and led by Partner States; (ii) strengthening strategic coordination to mobilize and align the resources of diverse partners and stakeholders including the private sector and civil society needed to achieve common objectives; (iii) ensuring a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of hunger and poverty, while also bridging humanitarian relief and sustainable development efforts; (iv) leveraging the benefits of multilateral institutions so priorities and approaches are aligned, investments coordinated, and financial and technical assistance gaps filled; and, (v) delivering on sustained and accountable commitments, phasing investments responsibly to ensure returns, using benchmarks and targets to measure progress toward shared goals, and holding the Secretariat and other stakeholders publicly accountable for achieving results in as far as Food and Nutrition Security in the region.

7.3 Strategic Interventions

In order to attain food and nutrition security in the EAC region, a number of intervention areas are proposed with a view to achieving the desired goal while contributing to the attainment of the goals and objectives of CAADP. In 2014, in recognition of the 10th anniversary of CAADP, the African Union Commission (AUC) reviewed, strategized and developed goals, actions and targets for the next decade to 2025 to continue the goals of the CAADP. As part of this review, AU Heads of State and Governments adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. Some of the goals within the Malabo Declaration address similar goals to the CAADP, but with more specific targets and goals. The Malabo Declaration goals and targets are, (i) African countries increase annual funding of agriculture to 10% and sustain annual sector growth of by at least 6% as recommended in the Maputo declaration (ii) agricultural productivity doubles by 2025, (iii) increase Africa farms resilience to climate change and weather by 30%, (iv) reduce post-harvest losses by 50% by 2025, (v)

triple intra-African agricultural trade by 2025, (vi) reduce stunting in children to 10% by 2025 and (vii) reduce underweight children to 5% by 2025. With hindsight, this Strategy proposes interventions and intermediate results as summarized in table 6 below.

Table 8: Summary of strategic interventions and intermediate results

	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3
Objectives/ Priorities	<i>To improve sustainable and inclusive agricultural production, productivity and trade of crops, animal and animal resources, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products by 2023</i>	<i>To strengthen resilience among households, communities and livelihood systems by promoting sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental conservation and uptake of disaster risk reduction with enhanced post-harvest value addition by 2023</i>	<i>To improve access and utilization of nutritious, diverse and safe food by 2023</i>
Intermediate Result Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved agricultural production, productivity and income • Improved trade and market access by smallholder producers • Increased farm and off farm enterprise and service job opportunities for youth and women at all levels of the value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened disaster risk reduction management and contingency planning • Improved post-harvest handling, agro-processing and value addition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased investment in nutrition security improvement

Source, Compiled by Consultant

7.3.1 Results Framework

Goal: Contribute to elimination of hunger, malnutrition and extreme poverty in East Africa region by the year 2023					
Objective 1 <i>To improve sustainable and inclusive agricultural production and productivity of crops, animal and animal resources, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products by 2023</i>			Objective 2 <i>To strengthen resilience among households, communities and livelihood systems by promoting uptake of disaster risk reduction and post-harvest and value addition technologies by 2023</i>		Objective 3 <i>To improve access and utilization of nutritious, diverse and safe food by 2023</i>
IR1 Improved smallholder agriculture productivity and income	IR2 Improved trade and market access by smallholder producers	IR3 - Increased farm and off farm enterprise and service job opportunities for youth and women at all levels of the value chain	IR4 - Strengthened disaster risk reduction management and contingency planning	IR5 - Improved post-harvest handling, agro processing and value addition	IR 6 Increased investment in nutrition security improvement
Cross Cutting Intermediate results (CCIRs)					
CCIR 1 - Increased commitments by EAC member states and donors to investing					
CCIR 2- Improved government policies and institutional effectiveness					
Outcome level Activities contribution towards Goal Achievements					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening, inclusive and diverse food value chains and market systems 2. Increasing access by smallholder producers to business development and financial services 3. Improving infrastructure, including digital and other ICT solutions 4. Increasing land efficiency, water and input use 5. Promoting participatory technology and innovation development through adaptive research 6. Increasing investments in agricultural research 7. Increasing access to and utilization of inputs and other technologies and innovations 8. Strengthening agricultural extension systems 9. Improving access to functional and efficient transport systems 10. Improving quality and safety of produce that meets market and consumer standards 11. Improving access to quality inputs including, seeds, breed varieties and other factors of production. 			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) 2. Leveraging investment support for DRR 3. Improving social protection and safety nets 4. Promoting best practices in DRR 5. Promoting diversified livelihood 6. Increasing crop and livestock insurance mechanisms 7. Improving access and use of early warning information 8. Increasing access to natural resources eg. Grazing lands, fodder and water 9. Improving smallholder experimentation and innovation 10. Strengthening safety- nets and community-based groups 11. Promoting utilization of risk reduction technologies eg water management and drought/ floods tolerant crops 12. Increasing support and guidance for member states in advocacy strategies 13. Increasing access to value addition and processing infrastructure including storage, packaging, markets etc 14. Establishing strategic stores/ reserves for people in emergency situations 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Improving access to diverse nutritious foods 2 Increasing public education and awareness on diverse nutritious food and personal and environmental hygiene practices 3 Targeting education for women of reproductive age on balanced nutritious diets 4 Improving foods safety systems 5 Improving school feeding programs 6 Increasing commercial production of safe and nutritious food including fortified food 7 Improving access to clean water 8 Promoting healthy lifestyles 9 Increasing coverage of nutritious sensitive interventions by key development actors
Cross Cutting Intermediate outcomes					
CCIR1			CCIR2		
- Improved bilateral and regional investments platforms			- Increased sensitization and uptake of PPPs and other forms of private sector participation in F&NS		
CCIR2 - Improved FNS institutional coordination structure - Accelerated regional harmonization			- Functional regional information hub ensuring access to market information in the region - Improved sanitary and phytosanitary systems		

7.3.2 Objective 1

To improve sustainable and inclusive agricultural production, productivity and trade of crops, animal and animal resources, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products by 2023

Rationale

Improving inclusive sustainable food and agricultural production and productivity is a critical starting point in designing effective poverty reduction strategies, especially amongst low-income households. Enhancing agricultural growth in tandem with Malabo targets generally will a higher return in terms of poverty reduction. This is due to a higher population that participates in agriculture than an equal amount of growth in other sectors since majority of poor people in EAC countries directly depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Enhanced smallholder agricultural performance, increases producers' income through improvements in productivity and income and can also lower real food prices, thereby improving both producers' and consumers' access to adequate nourishment from one production season to another. Well-functioning food and agriculture systems also spur urban and rural job creation and entrepreneurship opportunities in service delivery, input, transportation, food processing, storage, retail, and trade. Agricultural growth also has spillover effects into other sectors by driving demand for locally produced goods and services, creating additional economic opportunities and jobs for the poor in the countryside, towns, and cities.

Theory of Change

Many food and agricultural producers in the East African region have had success in selling crops, livestock, fisheries and forest products to domestic, regional and global markets. However, without further improvements to their business environments and to the competitiveness of their commodities, they risk being trapped into producing low-skill, low-value products and services and struggling to obtain a significant value-added share in regional and global trade. This is because the relative importance of "traditional" food and agriculture markets is rapidly giving way to increasingly more integrated value chains that connect producers - farmers, pastoralists, foresters, and fisher-folks to markets. This often involves countless firms in agricultural inputs, transportation, logistics, storage, processing, wholesale, and retail.

As this transformation continues, the challenge for Partner States and development partners is to promote agriculture-led growth that is both inclusive and sustainable, economically and environmentally. Transformation can be made more inclusive as smallholder producers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), especially women, youth, and other marginalized groups, access inputs, assets, and services that allow them to participate more effectively in these markets. An inclusive food and agriculture system has opportunities for all. Those with assets and skills will participate as producers or service providers. Others will acquire skills, still others will benefit from the jobs that value chains and supporting sectors generate. Transformation can be more sustainable as producers adopt new approaches that allow production to thrive and adapt to changing climate conditions while prudently managing natural resources.

This transformation of food and agriculture systems into inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth requires comprehensive investments in key aspects of the system, from producers to policies and institutions that result in improvements in efficiency, including through reduced food loss and waste, and affect development across value chains

and markets. To catalyze this transformation, this Strategy proposes that the EAC works with Partner States to strengthen and harmonize policies, institutions, and food and agriculture systems in ways that create and expand economic opportunities for agribusinesses, particularly smallholder producers and MSMEs, while also promoting environmental sustainability. Furthermore, this Strategy proposes that EAC works with Partner States and other stakeholders at various levels to transform the food and agriculture system: supporting producers and other agribusinesses across value chains; boosting linkages to markets; improving the broader enabling environment to leverage responsible private sector investments; and encouraging the adoption of policies to support employment, entrepreneurship, and climate-smart and other ecologically friendly approaches across these systems.

Within this objective, the Strategy proposes that EAC and its Partner States achieve 3 (three) mutually-reinforcing Intermediate Results (IR), as follows;

IR1: Improved agricultural production, productivity and incomes

Efforts to improving agricultural production, productivity and income depends partly on the broader enabling environment that opens opportunities for all firms, including access to finance, inputs, predictable policies, property rights, agricultural research, rural roads, and reliable electricity. At the same time, smallholder producers and MSMEs face particular constraints to improving their productivity and profitability in particular due to, distance from end markets, lack of information, lower skills, and smaller landholdings or insecure land and marine tenure constraining their access to inputs, financial services, market information, and technical services. Many of these constraints tend to be especially acute for women, youth, the landless, and other marginalized groups.

Effects of climate change such as protracted droughts, floods and *El Nino* pose serious setbacks to food and nutrition security by adversely affecting all aspects of the food chain notably; food availability, access, sustainability and utilization. Climate change leads to reduction in food productivity and besets sustainable food production and food supply systems. The need to strengthen people's resilience to the devastating effects of the changing climate is thus unquestionable.

Such challenges create the need for strengthening the broader enabling environment and supporting efforts of smallholder producers and MSMEs to better connect within their respective value chains are therefore just as important for food and nutrition security as investments that support production. This Strategy proposes that EAC's and Partner States' invest in areas that support smallholder producers' and SMEs' own efforts to raise their production, productivity and incomes.

Activities that will need to be supported to contribute to this result include: (i) promoting agricultural and food systems research, education, and extension that increase productivity and innovation as well as protects consumers, (ii) promoting sustainable and inclusive production and productivity of crops, animal and animal resources, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products, (iii) capacity development of the private sector to produce and add value to goods and services, compete, and deliver innovations, (iv) working across public, private, and civil society organizations to identify, adapt, and scale promising strategies and technologies, including advanced and emerging breeding technologies, to sustainably intensify and diversify local farming, aquaculture, and fisheries production and postharvest systems, (v) improvements to the business environment for smallholder

producers and MSMEs, including through strengthening partner state capacity to develop and enforce science-based regulations, (vi) strengthening relationships between actors in value chains, particularly those that enable smallholder producers and MSMEs to access inputs, supplies, and machinery; and benefit from markets, (vii) commercializing functions across the value chain from input supply to processing and other postharvest functions, (viii) investing in digital technologies for real time data collection, analysis, and exchange that improves agricultural practices and yields, enable nimble market adjustments, and signal new food and agriculture system opportunities, (ix) increasing women, youth, and other marginalized groups' access to productive resources, extension services, and cooperative membership for economies of scale, (x) increasing access to finance, financial inclusion, and financial intermediation throughout agriculture and food systems, including to financial services and digital/ICT tools, particularly among women, youth, and other marginalized groups (xi) strengthening partner state capacities to develop and manage an open, transparent, and accountable cross-border policy environment that supports national commitments to the global rules-based trading system to open markets and thereby reduce costs of doing business, improve predictability of returns on investment, and facilitate inclusive growth, (xii) improving access to quality inputs including seeds, breed varieties and other factors of production, and (xiii) enhancing social safety nets (xiv) supporting integration of regional climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies to food and nutrition security, (xv) supporting development of regional multi-sectoral frameworks on implementation of food security in the context of the changing climatic conditions, (xvi) promoting strengthened regional level capacity, information and knowledge sharing, communication and research on climate change and food and nutrition security, and (xvii) improving access to and management of communal cross-border natural resources.

IR2: Improved trade and market access by smallholder producers

The East African region has valuable agricultural and human resources that remain untapped. Improving value chains and addressing bottlenecks can improve the region's food and nutrition security by unleashing productivity, growth of MSMEs, spur local economic growth and generate employment. Smallholder producer-focused value chains can help rural populations to transition out of subsistence farming and reap the benefits of improved access to nutritious diets and income opportunities that well-functioning value chains offer. More functional markets and trade networks are vital to facilitating the movement of agricultural products from food surplus to food deficit areas, improving food access for areas that may have populations highly vulnerable to food insecurity.

Small producers however face multiple obstacles in entering local, regional and global value chains. Obstacles range from high transaction costs, to insufficient access to financial and other assets such as storage facilities and infrastructure, increasingly demanding consumer and health standards, and traceability requirements. Improving access to higher-value markets and functional trade networks is vital for smallholder producers and MSMEs, including those owned and operated by women, youth, and marginalized groups.

While IR1 focuses on facilitating participation of producers and MSMEs in value chains and diversifying food production, IR2 specifically focuses on strengthening their connections to local, regional, and global end markets, including improving rural-urban linkages and the flow of people, information, and finances. This also involves helping markets link with producers and MSMEs. Since EAC Partner States rely to varying degrees on imports to achieve their food security and nutrition goals, this Strategy recommends that EAC continues to strengthen Partner States' capacities for efficient markets and enabling participation in

regional and international trade. Elimination of NTBs lies at the heart of the EAC integration process, EAC Member States committed to eliminate all existing NTBs in intraregional trade with immediate effect and to refrain from introducing new ones (Monica Hargi, 2010). Activities that will contribute to this result include: (i) advancing efforts by the public and private sectors to improve roads, electricity, water, telecommunications and information services, improved storage systems, basic retail marketing structures, and other infrastructure to better link producers with end markets, (ii) increasing access to both hard and soft infrastructure and services for smallholder producers and MSMEs, including women-owned enterprises, (iii) capacity building for producer associations to improve their skills, negotiating power, and private sector linkages, (iv) investing to link producers and other agribusinesses in the food system to end markets, particularly expanding markets in secondary cities and towns, (v) building capacity to improve production and postharvest practices that help producers become more profitable, reduce food loss and waste, and meet market demands, including for food quality and safety, (vi) organizational capacity building and technical assistance to increase availability of timely and accurate agricultural statistics and market analysis, (vii) implementing regional and multilateral agreements on technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, and trade facilitation (viii) adopting science-based biosafety laws and regulations, and (ix) advancing availability of timely market information.

IR3: Increased farm and off-farm enterprise and job opportunities for youth and women at all levels of the value chains

Concrete examples are beginning to emerge in EAC Partner States that demonstrate engagement of a growing population of smallholder producers in market-based value chains – dairy value chain in Uganda and Kenya, coffee production in Rwanda, livestock value chain in Kenya, Nile perch fish value chain in Uganda, passion fruit processing in Burundi and the rice value chain in Tanzania. These value chains are being used to guide and drive high-impact and sustainable initiatives focused on improving productivity, competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and the growth of MSMEs. Integrating such MSMEs in value chains can help increase economic performance, boost employment creation and improve access to nutritious food by the East African population. These examples of value chains show that transformation of food and agriculture systems, based on underlying productivity drivers, consumer preferences, and market efficiencies, can be a major contributor to poverty reduction through the many multipliers transformation can generate in the local economy. Firms along value chains from input suppliers to producers, processors, and retailers generate much needed jobs, including for women, youth, the landless poor, and other marginalized groups, including for populations in secondary cities, and towns.

This Strategy proposes that EAC and Partner States support such transformation to benefit rural households, in particular, which are increasingly reliant on diversified livelihoods that combine incomes from agricultural production, jobs generated across food and agriculture system value chains, and other rural non-farm employment. Notably, this will also create jobs and business opportunities that increasingly require training, skills, and knowledge that may not be readily available.

Activities under this intermediate result aim to equip small producers, MSMEs and others with the ability to produce goods and services, add value to them, and generate jobs in the process. Key activities will include: (i) increasing employment opportunities for youth and women in the agricultural sector, (ii) boosting and diversifying lending mechanisms for instance partial credit guarantees, cooperatives and asset leasing schemes to improve access

to finance for MSMEs; (iii) vocational and technical training for agribusiness managers and their employees, including for MSMEs especially youth and women; and (iv) analyzing potential for different activities to generate employment across and beyond value chains, particularly jobs suitable for women, youth, landless workers, and rural and urban households without access to land and other productive resources.

7.3.3 Objective 2

To strengthen resilience among households, communities and livelihood systems by promoting sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental conservation and uptake of disaster risk reduction with enhanced post-harvest value addition by 2023

Rationale

The continuing recurrence of extreme shocks; drought and occasional flood events as well as violent conflicts has ignited a growing recognition that more should be done to address the causes of recurrent crises, especially climate change related crises in the East African region. This has generated interest in ways in which resilience to recurrent shocks can be built. Resilient individuals, households, and communities are able to manage adversity and change without compromising their future well-being. They are able to effectively anticipate, manage, and recover from shocks in ways that preserve lives and maintain their food and nutrition security as well as economic wellbeing. They are also able to sustainably escape and remain out of poverty. Thus, building resilience, including resilience of the most vulnerable ensures that investments to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty are inclusive and achieve lasting results.

Left unchecked, these shocks compound risks resulting in recurrent crises and large-scale humanitarian emergencies that threaten the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable, negatively affecting national and regional economies. The end result is high costs to EAC Partner States together with their development partners in recurrent humanitarian spending and emergency food assistance. More broadly, the shocks also account for alarming levels of poverty as relatively wealthy households descend into poverty and the already poor sink further into poverty.

Resilience is an essential condition for achieving the goal to contribute to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region. This also contributes to elimination of reliance on emergency food aid. In order to build resilience in the region, several contexts and shock-dependent resilience capacities need to be strengthened at the individual, household, community, national, and systems levels. When these capacities are successfully strengthened, and maintained, populations will be able to better protect critical assets, food security will be improved and sustained, and populations will be well nourished even in the face of recurrent shocks and stresses.

Theory of Change

Inspiring the theory of change for strengthened resilience is the reality that households and communities in the East African region live in increasingly complex and interconnected risk environments in which shocks are more frequent and stresses ever present. Increasingly, the East African population is experiencing harmful impacts from climate change, droughts, floods, pest infestation (including existing and new pests of biotic and abiotic nature) and environmental degradation on agricultural productivity. The stability and viability of livelihoods, food security, income, and nutrition is exacerbated by parallel risks that may include price spikes, population growth, health shocks, political fragility, conflict, and other

threats. Together, these hazards pose major threats to securing viable livelihoods, reducing market access for populations, and access to opportunities for longer-term, inclusive economic growth.

Cognizant of the vastness of the East African region, its varied contexts and differentiated levels of development, this Strategy proposes a multi-sector, and multi-scale approach of understanding and taking account of differences. It underscores the importance in appreciating risks and proposes that Partner States undertake building of resilience capacities at different levels - individual, household, community, and systems. The resilience capacity building efforts should be as varied as are the types of interventions that will help to strengthen and sustain them. This accentuates the importance of holistic, resilience capacities that exist between and within households, including differences between men and women and male, female and children headed households.

The Strategy proposes that EAC and Partner States design and implement investments that anticipate and treat recurrent shocks and stresses as continuing features, not as unanticipated anomalies. As subsequently outlined under this objective, this demands that EAC and Partner States strengthen capacity of households, communities and governments to proactively anticipate, manage and help people recover from shocks and stresses in ways that preserves lives, maintain viable livelihoods and minimize chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth. It also demands that EAC's and Partner States' investments be shock responsive and flexible in both funding and programming to help mitigate the impact of shocks on households and communities when they do occur.

It is worth noting that the enabling environment - institutional, political, and systemic factors, are necessary conditions for resilience building. The cross-cutting IRs and complementary results outlined in the Results Framework (section 7.3.1) further help realize the desired enabling environment capacity. In its absence, efforts to strengthen resilience will not be scalable or sustainable. Key aspects of enabling environment capacity include women's empowerment, social cohesion, improved governance, and access to local, regional and global markets, quality social services, effectively managed natural resources, information, knowledge, adaptive technologies, and infrastructure. Efforts should also be made to strengthen people's self-confidence and ability to manage shocks.

IR4: Strengthened disaster risk preparedness and management with sustainable utilization of natural resources and environmental conservation under the changing climate

Accounts of risks such as drought and flood events as well as pest and disease outbreaks are not new to the East African region. Such risks which are becoming more frequent and severe due to the changing climate may not always be avoided. However, they can be anticipated and prepared for in ways that can reduce the likelihood of their occurrence and, if they do occur, lessen their negative consequences. This includes matters of soil health, including emerging of biotic and abiotic risks.

IR4 is the pathway to strengthening resilience focused on resources and strategies that enable individuals, households, communities, systems, and governments to anticipate, reduce, mitigate, and manage both potential and realized risks. These resources and strategies will enable buffering and absorbing the impact of shocks and stresses reducing or eliminating their effects or well-being. Activities that contribute to this result include: (i) strengthening capacity of communities and governments to reduce and manage disaster and other risks, including through community early warning and response preparedness systems,

and policy actions including maintaining open trade in times of shocks and stresses; (ii) increasing access to and adoption of crop, livestock, hazard, and other insurance and risk transfer products at multiple scales (from households to governments); (iii) increasing access to other financial services, including savings, credit, and cash transfers, to help mitigate and manage risk and enable productive and profitable enterprise; (iv) increasing asset accumulation and management to prevent a downward spiral of divestment leading to destitution, particularly among the most vulnerable; (v) increasing access to and use of weather forecasting, hydrologic modeling and prediction, improved early warning for decision making and early and preventative action including harnessing traditional knowledge; (vi) strengthening formal and informal safety nets that individuals, households, and communities lean and rely on during times of stress; and (vii) increasing use of climate-smart approaches spanning technologies; infrastructure; resource-conserving practices including drought, heat, and flood-tolerant crop varieties; stress-tolerant, productive animal varieties and disease control measures; improved soil and water management; improved ecosystem services; and diversified livelihood systems that lead to greater productivity and incomes and help reduce, mitigate, and manage risk.

IR5: Improved post-harvest handling, agro processing and value addition

The region suffers huge post-harvest losses (averaging 30-40%), hence the need for requisite post-harvest handling, storage and agro-processing for enhanced “shelf-life” of crop, fish and livestock based food products. Critical imperatives in formulating necessary interventions to address challenges and opportunities associated with post-harvest handling, storage and agro-processing are anchored on the reality, that food production in the EAC region is overwhelmingly anchored on rainfall patterns making availability highly seasonal according to weather conditions, both for food crops and livestock. Thus, interventions to address challenges and opportunities associated with post-harvest handling, storage and agro-processing, must aim to preserve quantities of food produced and available in excess of immediate consumption during harvesting time of rainy seasons so as to meet supply deficits during the dry-low-production seasons.

Furthermore, different agro-ecological zones of the EAC region experience rainfall at different times of the year. Areas experiencing high food production and availability according to their rainy season would thus avail excess food to areas experiencing off-season low food supply at the time. A basis for robust cross-border trade in food in the EAC region is thus created. Proposed activities under this result include, (i) improving extension services for production and postharvest practices that reduce food loss and wastage for instance pest control and access to markets, (ii) enhancing surveillance, detection of, and timely responses to plant, animal, and foodborne diseases; (iii) improving and applying technologies for processing, storage and preservation to retain nutritional value, shelf-life, and food safety including use of appropriate cooling technologies for small holders and better seed storage systems (iv) adapting production technologies to reduce seasonality of food insecurity and post-harvest losses, and to make healthy foods convenient to prepare, (v) promoting strategies that integrate post-harvest handling and value addition into agricultural programs, (vi) advocating for increased public investments into national food storage through strategic silos, and (v) enhancing data collection, sharing and use of food balance sheets in the regions

7.3.4 Objective 3

To improve access and utilization of nutritious, diverse and safe food by 2023

Rationale

National and Regional stakeholder consultations and literature review undertaken as part of this Strategy development, showed that the proportions of infants, children, adolescents, adults and elderly in the East African region who suffer from one or more of the multiple forms of malnutrition remain relatively high. Malnutrition is the result of marginal dietary intake compounded by infection. In turn, marginal dietary intake is caused by household food insecurity, lack of clean water, lack of knowledge on good sanitation, and lack of alternative sources of income. It is also compounded by inadequate care, gender inequality, poor health services, and poor environmental conditions in the region.

Malnutrition not only restricts attainment of human potential and productivity but also imposes a high burden of social and economic consequences on individuals, families, communities, and nations. On the other hand, proper nutrition promotes the optimal growth and development of children. Nutrition is central to sustainable development and is required to make progress on issues such as health, education, employment, poverty, inequality, and the empowerment of girls and women. Notably, the East African leadership is committed to improving nutrition to enhance health, productivity, and human potential and to save lives, as reflected in policies/strategies and action plans; Burundi - Nutrition Policy 2014, Kenya - National Nutrition Action Plan; 2012-2017, Rwanda – National Food and Nutrition policy/Strategy 2013-2019, Tanzania - Nutrition Strategy; 2011/12 - 2015/16, Uganda, National Nutrition Action Plan; 2010-2015 and South Sudan National Nutrition Strategic plan 2014-2025.

Theory of Change

To realize the objective of ensuring a food secure and adequately nourished population of the East African region, people will need to increase their consumption of nutritious and safe diets, access and use of nutrition specific intervention services, maintain more hygiene environments, and lower levels of diseases. This Strategy proposes that EAC and Partner States directly address all parts of such interventions including conducting interventions under the respective ministries of health.

To ensure food security and adequate nutrition through the life cycle, the Strategy proposes that EAC and Partner States concentrate efforts on improving women's and children's nutrition, particularly during the critical 1,000-day window from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, with a focus on reducing child stunting. The Intermediate Results under this objective, in combination with those leading to improved smallholder Agriculture production and productivity, income and strengthened resilience in the EAC and Partner States will contribute toward the SDG global goal of ending malnutrition in all its forms and this Strategy's goal of contributing to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region. The Strategy proposes that EAC and its Partner States implement both nutrition-specific interventions which address the immediate determinants of malnutrition, and nutrition-sensitive interventions which address the underlying and systemic causes of malnutrition, with a special focus on maximizing impact and learning what works through nutrition-sensitive agriculture. This will include the appreciation of the place and role of promotion of indigenous foods and conservation of biodiversity to enhance diet diversity.

In order to achieve the goal of this Strategy, the EAC should support Partner States' national policies, strategies, and processes. This Strategy proposes that EAC partners with its Partner States at both national and local/subnational levels as well as international organizations, civil society organizations, private sector actors, researchers and universities, and other stakeholders leverage resources, encourage nutrition advocacy, promote coordinated actions, and advance country priorities. Building technical expertise and institutional capacity within Partner States to deliver services is an important aspect of supporting country-led efforts to ensure sustainability.

IR6: Increased investment in nutrition security improvement

In order to improve coherence and complementarity of support to nutrition security improvement, this Strategy proposes a three pronged holistic approach (i) supporting regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of nutrition sensitive interventions including agriculture for nutrition security and improved maternal, infant and young child feeding and care practices; (ii) increasing investments in nutrition specific interventions such as advocating for food fortification and nutritional education at all levels schooling, primary health care, therapeutic care, support and treatment, fortification as well as integration of behavioral change and communication for optimal maternal and young child feeding and care (knowledge, attitudes and practices) among communities, learners, professional and frontline workers through nutrition education, and (iii) strengthening enforcement of policies, regulations and laws on food safety and standards (iv) maternal multiple micronutrient supplements to all; (v) calcium supplementation to mothers at risk of low intake; (vi) maternal balanced energy protein supplements as needed; (vii) universal salt iodization; (viii) promotion of early and exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months and continued breastfeeding for up to 24 months; (ix) appropriate complementary feeding education in food secure populations and additional complementary food supplements in food insecure populations; (x) vitamin A supplementation between 6 and 59 months of age; (xi) preventive zinc supplements between 12 and 59 months of age; (xii) management of moderate acute malnutrition, (xiii) management of severe acute malnutrition; (xiv) Promoting the inclusion of nutrition in the school curriculum (xv) promoting women's empowered decision making in households and communities and engaging men in supporting family nutrition; and (xvi) Supporting research, including on nutrition surveillance systems and nutrition-sensitive agriculture approaches and impacts.

7.3.5 Cross-Cutting Intermediate Results (CCIR)

CCIR1: Increased commitments by EAC Partner States and donors to invest in F&NS

Mobilizing the resources needed to accelerate progress against malnutrition requires that partner states, donors, innovative financing mechanisms, businesses, and even consumers themselves act in solidarity. National ownership and domestic financing must be maximized and each partner needs to contribute according to its financing capacity and comparative advantage. To realize this cross-cutting result, this Strategy proposes; (i) advocacy and monitoring to ensure follow through on all regional commitments e.g. Malabo, CMPs, and (ii) strengthening bilateral and regional investment platforms.

CCIR2: improved governance, policy, and institutional effectiveness

All the 6 EAC partner states are signatories to all the 12 Protocols under the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on governance and human rights including

human rights to food. This Strategy proposes efforts to support stakeholders build sustainable democratic institutions that respect the rights of all citizens.

Activities that contribute to this result include: (i) building capacity for inclusive, transparent, and evidence-based dialogue among governments, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate food and nutrition security progress; (ii) strengthening land, marine, and natural resource tenure, rights, and systems, especially for women, youth and smallholder producers; and (iii) Supporting Partner States' country-owned mutual accountability processes, including advocacy, public-private-partnership and communication and collaboration as appropriate among stakeholders.

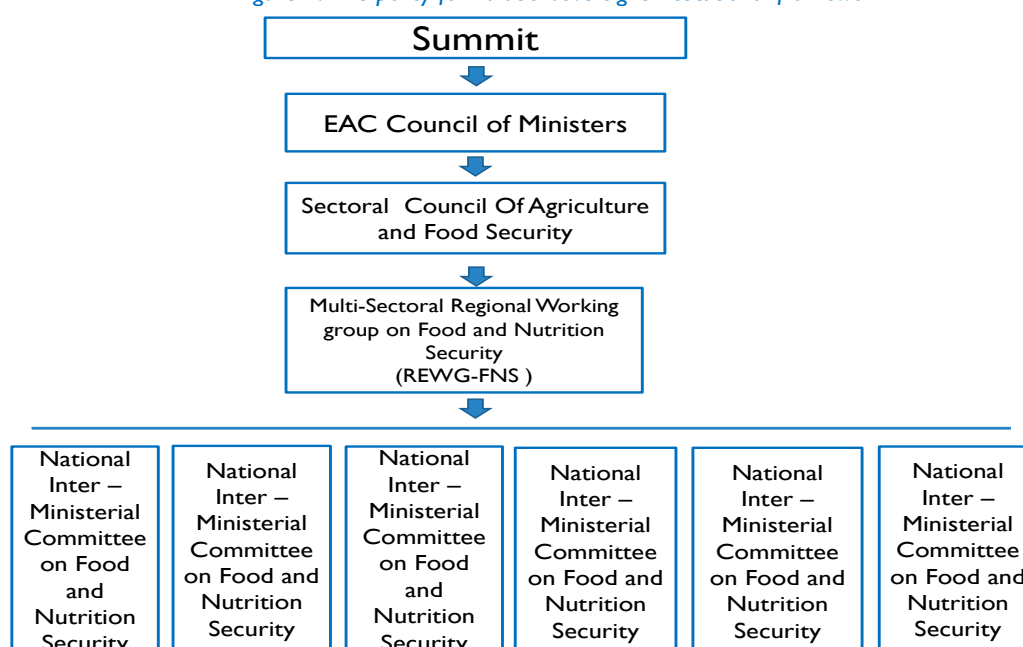
8 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Implementation of the EAC-FNSS requires focused and well-coordinated efforts of the EAC as an institution working in concert with all levels of the national and sub-national governments of Partner States. The EAC Treaty clearly identifies the lead regional institutions responsible for providing oversight, coordination and implementation of key regional policies. The existing institutional frameworks at the EAC level will be to the extent feasible, utilized to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the food and nutrition security Strategy. The Strategy envisages an institutional framework with two levels: the first for policy oversight and the second for technical implementation of the Strategy.

8.1 Policy Oversight

The Policy Oversight Level will focus on policy formulation and review. In this regard, harmonious coordination will be a vital prerequisite. Through the EAC Secretariat at the regional superstructure level, between Partner States, international development partners, private sector umbrella organizations on the one hand, and between Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of national and sub-national governments of Partner States, private sector umbrella organizations and civil society organizations on the other. The 5-tier organogram below represents the envisaged institutional framework for policy formulation and review of the Strategy.

Figure 1: The policy formulation/oversight institutional framework



Source: EAC Secretariat, 2017

8.2 Technical Implementation

8.2.1 Sectoral Council of Ministers

The Sectoral Council of Ministers will provide policy direction, support implementation and monitoring of the Strategy including (i) providing policy oversight on implementation of the Strategy; (ii) setting policy guidance and direction for EAC Agriculture, food and nutrition security taking due regard to international, continental, regional and national development processes; (iii) implementing and following up on decisions of the Council of Ministers and EAC Summit relating to food and nutrition security development; (iv) making and issuing regulations to effect implementation of Article 44 (3) of the Common Market Protocol; and (v) undertaking any other measures that may be necessary in advancing the course of EAC Agriculture, food and nutrition security.

8.2.2 Multi Sectoral Technical Working Group on Food and Nutrition Security

To assist the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and food security on its policy oversight role, it is proposed that a Regional Multi-Sectoral EAC Working Group on Food and Nutrition Security (REWG-FNS) be established as a mechanism to ensure national and regional linkages and alignment on food and nutrition matters in the region. The Multi-sectoral committee will be the technical arm of the Sectoral Council on food and nutrition security and will focus on technical aspects of food and nutrition security including, (i) providing policy and strategic guidance for implementation of the Strategy; (ii) guiding policy implementation, and initiating development of programs and projects in the region on food and nutrition security; (iii) guiding in establishment of technical committees at national levels and relevant governance structures, coordination and harmonization mechanisms for food and nutrition security; (iv) guiding on progress and benchmarking in key policies and Compacts e.g. EAC CAADP Compact and Investment Plans etc.; (v) guiding research in the generation of scientific data and information to inform and guide interventions, monitoring and learning; (vi) providing strategic guidance on capacity strengthening, advocacy and communication on food and nutrition security in the region (vii) providing technical input to the Sectoral Council on matters pertaining to food and nutrition security in the region; (viii) recommending measures to support emergence of a conducive political and economic environment and facilitate networking, consultations and negotiations on issues of food and nutrition security among Partner States; (ix) facilitate harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks affecting food and nutrition security including efforts towards definition of relevant common rules and framework conditions of Partner States; (x) submitting periodic progress reports to the EAC Sectoral Council on food and nutrition security; (xi) assisting the EAC Sectoral Council in formulating strategies for the development of food and nutrition security subsystems and act as a forum to address emerging needs and challenges to food and nutrition security attainment; and (xii) act as an intermediary between private sector, their strategic consultative groups and national governments to ensure continuous dialogue and a level playing field for all.

Further the multi-sectoral Technical working group will guide on implementation of critical programmatic interventions, follow up monitoring and evaluation of performance and periodic review of the same. Moreover, being inter-related, sustainable attainment of sectoral goals and targets that together determine achievement of the overall goals and objectives of the Strategy will require joint stakeholder monitoring mechanisms to enhance overall performance, mutual accountability and learning for all the critical aspects of the

Strategy entailing the EAC Secretariat working jointly with Partner States, EAC organs, institutions and other relevant structures as may be established by the Council.

Figure 2: The Technical Implementation Institutional Framework



Source: Adapted from EAC Aflatoxin prevention and control action plan (draft) 2017-2023)

8.2.3 The EAC Secretariat

The Secretariat, through the Department for Agriculture and Food Security in the Directorate of Productive Sectors, will facilitate and coordinate implementation of various activities and programs envisaged under the policy and Strategy. In particular, the Secretariat through Department for Agriculture and Food Security in the Directorate of Productive Sectors will, (i) facilitate the work of the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security and on food and nutrition security; (ii) maintain regular communication on food and nutrition security development issues with regional and national stakeholders including Partner States and private sector and civil society organizations through the REWG-FNS; (iii) promote the region's food and nutrition security agenda internationally, (iv) promote and facilitate joint regional Agriculture and Food Security ventures; conducting regular feasibility surveys and assessments of the food and nutrition security sectors to identify opportunities for regional investments and to enable progress monitoring; (v) promote collaboration in agriculture, food and nutrition Research and Development (R&D) and fostering of synergies/linkages between universities, research centers, and the farming communities; and (vi) provide strategic information to the food and nutrition sectors, especially regional agricultural and food, MSMEs on markets, new technologies, and the nature of competition.

This Strategy proposes capacity of the EAC Secretariat to enable it to expand its functions to include taking on;

- i. **Food and Nutrition sectors observatory function:** proposed main activities will include: investment opportunity identification with regard to regional agriculture and food security; promotion of regional initiatives through linkages with national

Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs); facilitating Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); undertaking feasibility and assessments specific to regional interventions; undertaking policy review, redesign, monitoring and evaluation; carrying out sector competitiveness analysis and performance bench-marking; fostering collaboration in the F&NS sectors with other regional economic blocs and international organizations,

- ii. **MSME Development function:** proposed activities include supporting the Agricultural, Food and Nutrition Sector competitiveness initiatives through promoting MSMEs, providing information to MSMEs on various sources of finance, providing advisory services to MSMEs, facilitating linkages between MSMEs and large firms, and designing and promoting the EAC Charter on MSMEs in agriculture, food and nutrition
- iii. **Agriculture, food and nutrition R&D, Technology Transfer and Innovation function:** proposed activities will include; supporting sector competitiveness initiatives through promoting technology development and adoption, ensuring that R&D and technology are closely linked to industry, mobilizing research funds to finance R&D on products from regional development partners, and conducting capacity building and training programs on technology foresight, at national and regional level, support regional technology and innovation business-to-university/research center linkages.

8.2.4 National Governments

National governments, primarily working through their ministries responsible for agriculture, food, nutrition and health will play a lead role in implementing the food and nutrition security agenda. Working with the private sector and relevant Civil Society organizations, they are expected to initiate, implement and monitor national agriculture and food security and nutrition development interventions that reinforce Regional Learning. National governments will be expected to strengthen internal resource mobilization as part of sustainability. In addition to this, national governments, will, (i) ensure an enabling environment to co-ordinate and facilitate all sector activities; (ii) co-ordinate food and nutrition security development with other EAC Partner States and the EAC Secretariat and play a catalytic role with regard to domestic and foreign investment inflows; (iii) coordinate and synergize F&NS interventions between sub-national levels of government; (iv) undertake periodic assessments of food and nutrition security performance as the basis for monitoring progress and fostering learning at sub-national, national and regional levels;(iv) enforce and maintain accurate food balance sheets and reserves for emergency situations; and (v) commit to elimination of all existing NTBS in intra-region trade and refrain from introducing new ones.

8.2.5 Private Sector

Private sector is a critical contributor to the development process and key to achieving the goal of this Strategy. Private sector brings unique expertise and market-based solutions to improve social and economic conditions in EAC partner countries and are a vital component to food and agriculture systems that sustain results beyond the life of development assistance. EAC's alliances with the private sector will not simply leverage financial and intellectual resources but will also serve to broker fair, long-term, and productive relationships between corporate shareholders and smallholders. Public-private partnerships will leverage unique core capacities and resources, such as financial contributions, donated services or property, or intellectual property and contribute to many

results of the Strategy. Inclusive agricultural value chain development partnerships will help smallholder producers, especially women and youth gain greater access to the inputs, skills, resource management capacity, networking, bargaining power, financing, and market connections needed to sustain their long-term economic prosperity. Partnerships with financial intermediaries will target unlocking additional investment and credit to value chain stakeholders, especially smallholder producers, cooperatives, and MSMEs.

Private sector will also; (i) provide employment opportunities for youth by developing labor markets, participating in programs to promote entrepreneurship, and providing training or internship opportunities; (ii) promote investment in agro-processing and related infrastructure; (iii) Improve the provision of financial, water, sanitation, and hygiene services; (vi) harness the growing uptake of digital (including mobile) technologies and internet-based business models and entrepreneurship for F&NS; and (v) disseminate cutting-edge research and technologies at scale to boost F&NS.

8.2.6 Research and Academic Organizations

Partnerships with relevant local, regional and international research and academic organizations are crucial to achieving results outlined in this Strategy. Their major role will be providing data for evidence-based policy formulation, generate best case projects, and interface with communities and private sector actors in food and nutrition security interventions. Research will need strengthening in this Strategy with enhanced knowledge sharing within the existing institutions and frameworks. Benchmarking among the countries and creation of centers of excellence which offer guidance to the Strategy implementation while avoiding duplication of efforts will be vital. Accreditation and referencing the existing laboratories in each country will be also be a requirement.

8.2.7 Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society

Civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGO partners play an integral role in the work to end hunger, malnutrition, and poverty around the East Africa region. CSOs include producer associations, farmer groups, indigenous and geographically disadvantaged groups non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, foundations, local civic and faith-based organizations, labor unions, and women-focused organizations. CSO partners can not only elevate the voice of the poor and advocate for disadvantaged groups, they can also build local capacity and promote rural and urban development and sustainable agriculture practices. Engaging civil society partners in a collaborative manner will strengthen regional programs and help make EAC efforts sustainable. This Strategy proposes that EAC Secretariat demonstrates and promotes inclusive engagement through deliberate outreach to marginalized and vulnerable groups and by ensuring that CSOs both at the regional level and in partner countries, have clear and simple ways to inform priority-setting processes, provide input as programs are designed and evaluated, and participate as partners on the ground.

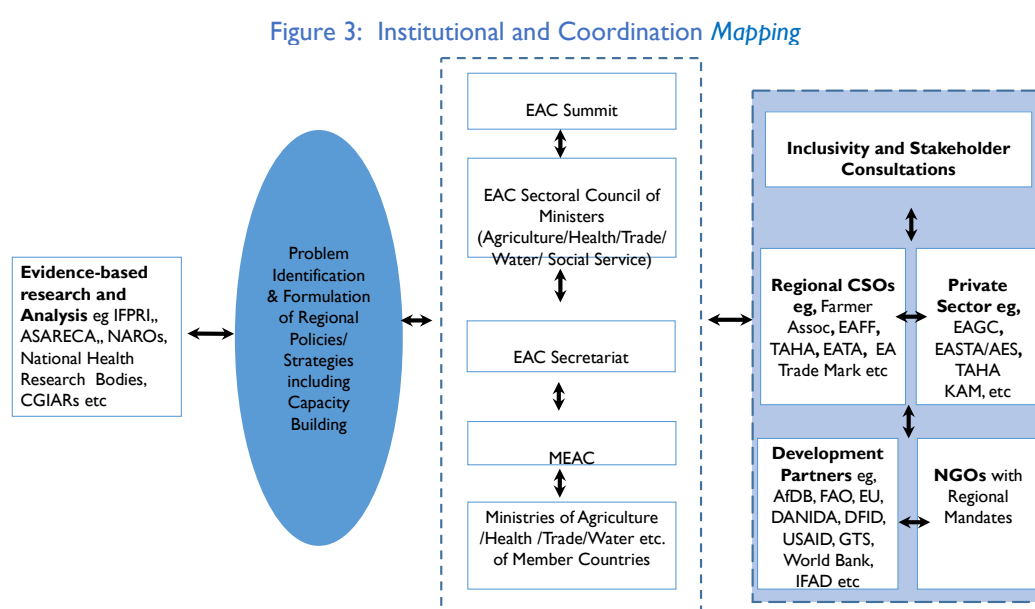
8.2.8 Development Partners

The success of this Strategy is dependent on EAC's ability to mobilize multilateral financial and development institutions and trust funds, such as; the USAID, EU, World Bank, Regional development banks, the United Nations – (FAO, WFP WHO, IFAD, UNCF and GAFSP). The EAC's efforts to partner with these institutions represent an opportunity to leverage significant resources to address Food and Nutrition security challenges.

The Strategy identifies a number of cross-cutting areas that require well-coordinated multi-sectoral interventions of various agencies of the EAC Partner States.

Where Partner States have a devolved system of government the active involvement and collaboration of the devolved units is also critical for wholesome intervention architecture to achieve requisite food and nutrition security. Cross-cutting interventions also underscore the need for a well-coordinated multi-sectoral effort of relevant agencies of the EAC Partner States, their international and domestic partners, civil and private sector players. Donor coordination will be required, of each country in order to create synergies and avoid duplication. Their financial support in the implementation of this Strategy cannot be overemphasized.

Figure 3 provides a proposed institutional and coordination mapping at various levels;



Source: Compiled by Consultant

9 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

Measuring progress towards this Strategy's goal; "To contribute to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region by 2023", is key to ensuring the effective use of EAC investments and effort. Rigorous Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) is essential for performance-based, adaptive management and accountability. Notably the EAC Secretariat has a unit responsible for MEL, however, the EAC's Department of Agriculture and Food Security is deficient of its own MEL in terms of staffing and procedure. This is likely to constrain tracking of status and progress towards results outlined in both the results framework and the logical framework if not addressed.

Feasible measures – both short-term and long-term will need to be explored to address this M&E challenge. Since staffing matters are subject to the EAC institutional reviews and are likely to take long, four scenarios are proposed as interim measures,

- i. **Scenario 1:** utilizing the existing EAC Secretariat MEL unit,
- ii. **Scenario 2:** seeking secondment of M&E experts from development partners or Partner States before the position is secured for long-term purposes,

- iii. **Scenario 3:** strengthening functional relationships with regional independent think tanks and other key regional CSOs to harness capacities for carrying out evidence-based analysis and M&E. This could be realized through MoUs and joint partnership agreements between Department of Agriculture and Food Security and relevant think tanks and CSOs which have demonstrated capacity for supporting the food and nutrition security policy cycle eg the Regional Strategic Analysis and knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), and/or
- iv. **Scenario 4:** mobilize funding for an M&E position based in Department of Agriculture and Food Security.

Partner States express preference of scenario 2 as a short to medium term measure and a hybrid of scenarios 3 and 4 in the long run.

This Strategy presents a Results Framework (section 6.3.1), Logical Framework (section 8.2) and Implementation Plan (section 8.3) to guide implementation and monitoring. The Results Framework maps connections between activities and their Intermediate Results as they relate to objectives and the overall goal: “contributing to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region by 2023”.

The Logical framework will assist in designing programs and measuring progress by providing a structure against which to plan EAC specific programs and outlining causal pathways toward the overall goal. These causal relationships will be identified through multidisciplinary research which could be supported by existing regional capacities of numerous think tanks such as the Regional Strategic Analysis and knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) that has existing relationships with Department of Agriculture and Food Security.

Investments will be aligned under the Results Framework, as performance monitoring indicators get used to track the progress of programs. At least one standard indicator will be associated with each intended Intermediate Result, Objective, and Goal in the Logical Framework.

Monitoring will comprise continuous and systematic collection and analysis of information/data, in order to inform the EAC Secretariat and key stakeholders the extent to which progress against stated results is being achieved. Periodic sector baseline surveys and assessment on standard health and nutrition indicators (presented in table 3) in the region will inform trends and progress. Effective monitoring of nutrition statistics especially stunting needs to be carried out on an going basis as opposed to waiting for mid and end term.

To enhance learning, it is proposed that exchange learning experiences and visits be included in respective country budgets.

Evaluations: Impact and performance evaluations will be used strategically across programs for the purposes of enhancing accountability and transparency. Performance evaluations will provide key insights to improve management of programs or inform design of future ones. Impact evaluations will help increase insights of what is working and in which circumstances, thus providing evidence that is useful for learning across all programming. These will be carried out mid and end Strategy by EAC and stakeholders.

9.1 Intergrating Learning into the Monitoring and Evaluation Process

Learning is integrated into this Strategy through participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) to be carried out at prescribed intervals involving implementation teams and key actors and stakeholders. PM&E will be used for three purposes (i) to measure performance of key staff, key actors and stakeholders; (ii) to measure indicators of achievement as per the logical framework; and (iii) to generate content for learning. Both qualitative and quantitative milestones achieved will be established through the PM&E process. Relevant sectors, stakeholders (private and civil society players), will be variously involved in the PM&E process.

A common learning agenda will be developed to lay out priorities for generating evidence and delineate how each country, sector ministry/department/agency will contribute to the agenda in terms of evidence and resources. The common learning agenda will enable the setting of country and sector specific evaluation plans for the short and medium terms. In addition to evaluations, other types of evidence-generating tools such as gender and social assessments, and research will be used to help answer questions in the learning agenda. At mid-term and end of the Strategy period, a status assessment of evidence generated by all relevant sector ministries in EAC Partner States will be conducted. The EAC Secretariat will use conclusions drawn to help answer questions identified in the learning agenda.

The MEL process will be built on the existing EAC and national systems, the mechanisms which include:

- i. **Needs assessment and baseline mapping** involving conducting comprehensive needs assessment at relevant levels to provide the basis benchmarks and measuring the various indicators of F&NS achievement. This will also support the development of a common learning agenda;
- ii. **Joint development of M&E plan and monitoring framework** between relevant sectors and facilitated by the Secretariat. This will facilitate ownership and commitment to the M&E plan by the state actors and stakeholders;
- iii. **Joint half year field monitoring** to monitor progress and will involve field visits by the implementing teams, Program Steering Committee (PSCs) to be established and other the relevant officers. These visits will result into half yearly field reports that feed into seasonal review meetings and annual progress reports to be shared with donors/investors. Check lists for key areas of monitoring interest will be drawn and used during field monitoring and documentation of findings to facilitate learning;
- iv. **Joint Annual Impact Assessment** involving key stakeholders will be conducted and findings documented for further action. These meetings will also be convened and chaired by the EAC SG or their designate. The information documented from these reviews will feed into the annual national sub-sector and sector reviews to be facilitated by sector teams, and into mid-term and end-term evaluations;
- v. **Participatory Mid-Term evaluations** conducted midway to assess implementation progress against indicators of achievement as per the logical framework and the findings used to review implementation process as necessary. This will also involve key stakeholders and actors, and guided by either an external evaluator or managed in-house by the EAC; and
- vi. **Participatory End-Term peer evaluation** undertaken by an external evaluator involving key actors and stakeholders. Achievement of expected results vis-à-vis indicators of achievement as reflected in the logical framework will be reviewed.

9.2 Logical Framework

Objective)	Baselines	Targets	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Means of Verification (MoV)	Risks and Assumptions	Time Frame	Responsibility/ Implementing Agency
Goal: Contribute to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region by 2023.	EAC Child Stunting Prevalence Average: 36.7% (average of 2016 PSs data published in WHO / UNICEF WBG database)	Reduce child stunting prevalence to 10% (AU Malabo, 2014 targets)	% stunted prevalence children under 5 years of age reduced.	Member States (PSs) data [National Surveys] -WHO / UNICEF Database	Member States (PSs) will be committed to implement the Strategy. The inclusion of Nutrition in National Budgets is also anticipated to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.	2019 – 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEAC Regional Affairs • Ministries responsible for, Health Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development
	EAC Child Wasting Prevalence Average: 6.5 (average of 2016 Regional data published in UNICEF database)	Reduce child wasting prevalence to 5% (AU Malabo 2014 targets).	% wasting prevalence (weight for height) in children under 5, (moderate & severe)	PSs data, WHO, UNICEF, World Bank Group (WBG) data base	PSs expected to set up data collection and dissemination mechanisms on nutrition		
	EAC average annual cereal productivity growth at 3.2% (FAO Average of (2010 – 2015))	Double current cereal productivity growth levels	% cereal productivity growth rate	PSs data, FAO, WBG Data base.	EAC partners states continue to enjoy stable and favorable climate		
	5% EAC average PSs national expenditure on agriculture Development (NEPAD 2016)	Uphold 10% public spending target on agriculture	% public spending on agriculture in PSs.	PSs national budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal and monetary policy are generally stable in PSs. • East Africa will experience general political stability 		
	55% of the regional population live below poverty line - US\$ 1.25 in the agricultural rural areas (FAO, 2015)	Agricultural growth and transformation process is inclusive and contributes at least 50% to the overall poverty reduction target	% reduction in poverty levels in PSs.	National data WBG database			

Objective I: To improve sustainable and inclusive agricultural production, productivity and trade of crops, animal and animal resources, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products by 2023.							
IR1: Improved agricultural production, productivity and income	EAC average annual cereal productivity growth at 3.2% (FAO Average of (2010 – 2015))	Double current cereal productivity growth levels (focusing on Inputs, irrigation, mechanization)	% agricultural sector growth annually.	PSs data, FAO, WBG Data base	Favorable climate conditions	2019 – 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries responsible for Agriculture, livestock and fisheries • MEAC Regional Affairs Ministries
	5% EAC average PSs national expenditure on agriculture Development (NEPAD 2016)	Uphold 10% public spending target on agriculture	% public spending on agriculture in PSs	PSs national budgets	Fiscal and monetary policy are generally stable in PSs		
IR2: Improved trade and market access by smallholder producers	Public-private partnerships continue to be on traditional agricultural commodities (tea, coffee, cotton, etc.)	Public-private partnership strengthened for at least 5 new priority agricultural commodity areas	Number of new agricultural commodities traded at regional and global markets	Partnership agreements	Political stability exists in EAC PSs.		
	EAC functioning at less than 10% intra-regional trade volume potential in agricultural commodities (Kibati, 2015)	Triple intra-regional trade volume in agricultural commodities (AU Malabo targets, 2014)	% intra-regional trade volume in agricultural commodities	PSs data, FAO, WBG Data base	Political will and economic stability		
	Less than 30% women engaged in profitable food value chains (FAO, 2015)	At least 30% women engaged in profitable food value chains	% population of women and vulnerable people participating in food value chains and market systems	PSs data, FAO, WBG Data base			
IR3: Increased farm and off-farm enterprise and job opportunities for youth and women at all levels of the value chains	35% youth (15 – 34 years) unemployed, Less than 15% youth engaged in agricultural value chains (African Development Bank – AfDB, 2014)	At least 30% of the youth employed in agricultural value chains	Job opportunities created for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains		Favorable climate conditions		
		At least 5 new functional agri-business incubation centres established	Number of agri-business incubation centres established in the region				
	Agricultural enterprise growth: 4,5% (AfDB, 2016)	Double growth in agricultural and rural enterprises (AU Targets, 2014)	• Number of agriculture and rural enterprises in PSs.	PSs data (National surveys), WBG database			

Objective 2: To strengthen resilience among households, communities and livelihood systems by promoting sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental conservation and uptake of disaster risk reduction with enhanced post-harvest value addition by 2023							
IR4: Strengthened disaster risk preparedness and management with sustainable utilization of natural resources and environmental conservation under the changing climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Disaster Information Centre of excellence not established Existence of 5 National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in PSs 	At least one Regional Disaster Information Center of excellence established	One regional disaster information center of excellence established.	PSs data (National surveys), WBG database	Political will and economic stability	2019 – 2023	Ministries responsible for Agriculture National Committee on FNS
	Early warning systems yet to be strengthened in all the 5 countries	Early warning systems strengthened in 5 PSs to facilitate advanced and proactive responses to disasters and emergencies with food and nutrition security implications	5 countries demonstrate progress towards strengthening early warning systems	National survey data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will and economic stability 		
	High proportions, over 70% smallholder producers vulnerable to extreme weather events	At least 30% of vulnerable EAC farm, livestock keepers and fisher households are resilient to climate and weather-related risks;	% of farm, livestock keepers, and fisher households are resilient to climate and weather-related risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Surveys) World Bank Database Baseline data FNSP review report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will and economic stability 	2019 – 2023	National Committee on FNS Ministries responsible for agric., Livestock, and Fisheries
	At least 5 agricultural sector policies, strategies and investment plans integrate resilience and risk management in PSs	Number of agricultural sector policies, strategies and investment plans integrating resilience and risk management in PSs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Surveys) World Bank Database Baseline data 				
IR5: Improved post-harvest handling, agro processing and value addition	EAC average post-harvest losses estimated at 30% (FAO, 2016)	To halve the current levels of post-harvest losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % reduction in post-harvest losses Number of finance and investment schemes for agro-processing initiated 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will and economic stability Favorable weather conditions 		

Objective: 3: To improve access and utilization of nutritious, diverse and safe food by 2023							
IR6: Increased investment in nutrition security improvement	2 EAC countries have existing legislation and standards on food fortification and bio-fortification	Legislation and standards on food fortification developed/revised in all the 6 EAC PSs by 2023	Number of PSs with legislation and standards on food fortification by 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Surveys) World Bank Database Baseline data 		2019 – 2023	Secretariat coordinates development of promotional programs and PS implements, coordinates development of promotional programs and PSs implement
	Number of PSs with policies and institutions to implement food safety standards	At least 5 PSs with legislation aligned to international food safety standards by 2023	Number of PSs with legislation aligned to international food safety standards by 2023				Ministries responsible for Agric. Livestock and Fisheries Health National Committee on FNS
	Only 38% of infants aged 0 to 6 months are exclusively breastfed	Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50% (WHO targets, 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of infants and children access improved feeding practices % of women breast feeding children/babies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of EAC region population accessing nutrition specific interventions At least 50% of infants and children access improved feeding practices 			
Cross cutting intermediate results (CCIR)							
CCIR1: Increased commitments by EAC Member States and donors to investing in FNS	5% EAC average PSs national expenditure on agriculture Development (NEPAD 2016) SUN Movement networks present in each of the 6 Partner States	Uphold 10% public spending target on agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % public spending on agriculture in PSs. Number of investment platforms on FNS established. Visibility of SUN movement in Partner States 	Baseline survey reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will and economic stability Favorable climate conditions 	2019 – 2023	National Committee on FNS
CCIR2: Improved governance, policy and institutional effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the 6 EAC partner states are signatories to all the 12 Protocols under the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on governance and human rights including human rights to food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5 countries implement protocol on democracy and governance 	Number of EAC Partner States observing commitments in the ICGLR protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Surveys World Bank Database 			National Committee on FNS

9.3 F&NS Implementation Plan

Overall Goal: To contribute to elimination of hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty in the East African region by the year 2023							
NARRATIVE SUMMARY <i>Intermediate result area</i>	Strategic intervention	Time Frame (Years) 2019– 2023			Responsibility	Budget Estimate US\$³²	
Strategic Preparatory Actions (PA) for Implementation of the Strategy							
Preparatory Actions (PA) Undertaken to Put the Strategy into Effect	PA1. Obtaining approval for the Strategy				Secretariat facilitates approval for the Strategy	10,000	
	PA2. Securing financial and human resource requirements				Secretariat mobilizes financial and human resources required	5,000	
	PA3. Designing information and communication systems				Secretariat facilitates development of information and communication systems	7,500	
	PA4. Formulating stakeholder engagement and partnership frameworks				Secretariat facilitates formulation of stakeholder engagement and partnership frameworks	15,000	
	PA5. Establishing the Regional Multi-Sectoral Working Groups on Food and Nutrition Security (REWG-FNS) at regional and PSs level.				EAC coordinates establishment of REWG-FNS	20,000	
	Sub-total PA						57,500
Objective I: Improving sustainable and inclusive agricultural production, productivity and trade of crops, animal and animal resources,, fisheries, aquaculture, apiculture and forest products							
IR 1: Improved agricultural production, productivity and incomes	I.1 Promoting sustainable and inclusive productivity of crops, animal recourses, fisheries, aquaculture apiculture and forestry systems				Secretariat coordinates implementation of prioritized activities by PAs	3,300,000	
	I.2 Promoting agricultural and food systems research, education, and extension that increases productivity and innovation				Ministries responsible for Agriculture, livestock and fisheries (MoALF) by PAs	500,000	
	I.3 Supporting Partner States in the development and implementation of harmonized agricultural regional				MoALF, REWG - FNS	2,400,000	

³² Budget figures are provisional estimates to be subjected to further analysis. They have been estimated through triangulating budget figures from the various country FNSPs and action plans

	policies, strategies and legislation to spur agricultural transformation						
	1.4 Promote agricultural regional commercialization across the value chain					MoALF, MEAC	1,500,000
	1.5 Integrating climate smart approaches to increase productivity, sustainability at all levels of the agricultural value chain					Agriculture ministries, Environmental ministries	750,000
	1.6 Protecting water bodies, water catchment areas and wetlands					MoALF Traders (Private Sector)	200,000
IR 2: - Improved trade and market access by smallholder producers	2.1 Supporting small holder aggregation, bulking, testing and grading produce					MoTI, Bureaus of Standards, Food and Drug Authority	500,000
	2.2 Implementing regional and multilateral agreements on technical barriers to trade(TBT's), sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, non-tariff barriers (NTB's) and trade facilitation						
	2.3 Building institutional capacity to supporting and harmonize transparent and science-based international food, animal, and plant health and safety standards and traceability					MoTI, Bureaus of Standards, Academia and Research Bodies	500,000
	2.4 Enhancing physical and digital infrastructure and institutional capacity for improved market access					Ministries of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministries of Agriculture, Treasury Departments	750,000
	2.5 Enhancing implementation of the common market protocols for increased formal Cross Border Trading of agricultural commodities and free movement of goods and services					MEAC, Foreign Affairs Ministries, Agriculture Ministries	850,000
	2.6 Enhancing partnerships and collaborations to promote trade					MoTI and Statistics	300,000

IR3: Increased farm and off farm enterprise and job opportunities for youth and women at all levels of the Value Chain.	3.1 Increasing employment opportunities for youth and women in the agricultural sector.					MoTI, Private sector,	3,800,000
Sub-total Objective 1							15,350,000
Objective 2: To strengthen resilience among households, communities and livelihood systems by promoting sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental conservation and uptake of disaster risk reduction with enhanced post-harvest value addition by 2023							
IR4: Strengthened disaster risk reduction, management and contingency planning	4.1 strengthening capacity of communities and governments to reduce and manage and disaster risks, crop pests and animal diseases					Secretariat coordinates implementation of prioritized activities by Pas	1,000,000
	4.2 Developing and strengthening functional early warning					Ministries responsible for Infrastructure Development Environment, land, MoALF	1,500,000
	4.3						
IR5: Improved post-harvest handling, agro processing and value addition	5.1 Advocating for investments into national food storage through strategic silos					Ministries responsible for agriculture, MEAC, EALA	750,000
	5.2 Enhancing data collection, sharing and use of food balance sheets in the region					Ministries of Infrastructure Development Ministries of environment, Ministries of land, MoALF	1,500,000
	5.3 Promoting strategies that integrate post-harvest handling and value addition						1,500,000
Sub-total Objective 2							6,250,000
Objective 3: To improve access and utilization of nutritious, healthy, diverse and safe food by EAC population							
IR6: Increase investment in nutrition security improvement	6.1 Supporting regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of nutrition sensitive interventions.					Secretariat coordinates scaling up of uptake of nutritious, diverse and safe food and non-food interventions	750,000
	6.2 Advocating for food fortification and nutritional education at all levels schooling					Health ministries, Education ministries, MEAC	750,000
	6.3 Strengthening enforcement of policies, regulations and laws on food safety and standards					Research bodies, Academia and Regional Think Tanks	2,500,000

							Sub-total Objective 3	3,250,000
Cross cutting intermediate results (CCIR)								
CCIR1: Increased commitments by EAC Partner States and donors to investing in FNS	1.1	Advocating and monitoring to ensure follow through on all regional commitments eg Malabos , CMPs					MEAC/EALA,	500,000
CCIR2: Improved governance, policy and institutional effectiveness	2.1	Building capacity for inclusive transparent and evidence-based dialogue among governments, civil society and the private sector to accelerate sector progress					Secretariat facilitates capacity building programs	2,500,000
	2.2	Strengthening land, marine and natural resource tenure rights and systems, especially for women youth and small holder producers					MEAC	650,000
							Sub-total Cross-Cutting	3,650,000
Grand Total								28,557,500

10 ANNEXES I: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS INTERVIEWED

10.1.1 Burundi

	Name	Position	Institution	Telephone No	Email address
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