



Compact2025 Malawi Roundtable

October 31, 2017
Bingu International Conference Centre,
Umodzi Park, Lilongwe

Moving from Relief to Resilience: Achieving Sustainable Food Security for Malawi

DRAFT AGENDA

- 08.00 – 08.30 **REGISTRATION**
- 08.30 – 08.40 **Welcome**
Dr. Bob Baulch, Malawi Country Program Leader, International Food Policy Research Institute
- 08.40 – 08.50 **Overview of Compact 2025**
Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute
- 08.50 – 9.05 **Keynote Address: Breaking the Cycle: From Relief to Resilience**
Rt Hon Dr. Saulos Chilima, Vice President of Malawi
- 9.05 – 9:35 **Setting the Context**
Food Crises, Humanitarian Response and Building Resilient Food System: Lessons Learnt in 2016-17
Dr. Suresh Babu, Head of Capacity Strengthening, International Food Policy Research Institute
- 9:40- 10:30 **Roundtable Discussions**
- 10.30 – 11.00 **TEA/COFFEE BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO**
Reporting back
- 11.15 – 12.00 **Panel: Multi-Sectoral Approach for Resilient Food Systems**
 - Mr. Dyce Nkhoma, Department of Disaster Management Affairs
 - Nominated representative, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
 - Mr. Felix Pensulo Phiri, Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS
 - Dr. Clement Chilima, Department of Forestry
 - Mrs. Victoria Keelan, Agricultural Resources Limited
 - Mr. Tamani Nkhono-Mvula, Agriculture Policy Consultant
- 12.00 – 12.30 **Accelerating progress and translating recommendations into action**
Official from the Malawi Government to be nominated by Office of the Vice-President
Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute
- 12.30 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

Malawi Compact2025 Country Forum: From Relief to Resilience

Background: Compact2025 Malawi Roundtable Discussion (RTD)

Compact2025, launched in November 2015, is an initiative for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025. It brings stakeholders together to set priorities, innovate and learn, fine-tune actions, build on successes, and synthesize sharable lessons to accelerate progress. Currently it works in four countries intensively – Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Rwanda.

Compact2025 and partners organized a roundtable discussion in Lilongwe, Malawi on May 26, 2016 to set the critical groundwork for assessing how to end hunger and undernutrition in Malawi by 2025. The roundtable identified key knowledge, policy, and implementation gaps as well as opportunities, potential synergies and priority areas for action.

At the meeting, the Right Honorable Vice President of Malawi, Dr. Saulos Chilima reiterated his commitment to ending hunger and undernutrition. The Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Dr. George Chabonda also offered remarks, along with other distinguished speakers.

A summary of recommendations resulting from the Malawi roundtable discussion to address challenges, fill gaps, and exploit opportunities to accelerate progress, included:

- **Strengthen capacity at all levels:** National and regional capacities in research, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation should be strengthened and should include education for mainstreaming nutrition across disciplines. To increase capacity at community levels, nutrition education should also be integrated with implementation. For example, when implementing policies that promote crop diversification, a simultaneous investment in behavior change interventions is needed to increase demand for and consumption of diverse and nutritious foods beyond maize.
- **“Break the cycle” with holistic, transparent, and market-driven approaches:** National and sub-national early warning systems should be developed and maintained. Timely collection and analysis of agricultural production data and Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) estimates should be promoted to inform early action. Strengthening MVAC in terms of inclusion of nutrition indicators and increased accuracy of targeting is also critical. Maize policies and regulations should be more transparent and consistent, and the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP) should also be revised to be less distortive of the market and to allow for the promotion of diverse, nutritious crops. Additionally, value-chain approaches that target nutrition outcomes are needed.
- **Improve accountability and coordination:** Greater accountability and coordination is needed at the district and community levels between actors involved in achieving food security and nutrition. District Executive Committees (DECs) should be strengthened to coordinate implementation, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation. Innovative feedback mechanisms should be established between national and district levels. At the community level, chiefs should play a stronger role in implementation, farmers should be organized into groups, and men should also be made accountable for improving household nutrition.
- **Fine-tune and implement nutrition-driven policies:** Productive, nutrition-driven social protection can help provide nutritious foods in the near-term while contributing toward long-term agricultural productivity. More efficient implementation of such policies can be achieved by installing a united beneficiary registry, and technology should be integrated in service delivery to help reduce leakages.

Frontline extension and nutrition workers should also be reinstated to help deliver nutrition interventions and training. Additionally, implementation structures are weak for gender policy, and more work is needed for all implementers to embrace it.

- **Fill data, indicator, and knowledge gaps:** More sex-disaggregated and district specific data and data on individual or household food consumption is needed to inform policies and programs. Vulnerability mappings are also needed to help understand the nature and severity of vulnerabilities to food and nutrition insecurity in Malawi. Rigorous impact evaluations should be conducted to determine the most effective and efficient social safety net transfer modalities in Malawi. Additionally, research on developing food value chains for nutrition and further understanding the role of women's empowerment in agriculture-nutrition linkages in Malawi was emphasized. Additionally, knowledge management systems should be developed to consolidate fragmented data across sectors and share information and experiences with stakeholders to learn who is doing what in Malawi.

Urgency to Enhance Progress: Expected outputs of the Malawi Country Forum

The Compact2025 Malawi Forum will be held on October 31, 2017 as a follow-up to the roundtable discussion of 2016. The purpose of the Forum is to accelerate progress in moving from relief to resilience, assess how strategies can best be supported with rigorous evidence, and translate recommendations into action for achieving sustainable food security in Malawi. We anticipate that the Country Forum will contribute to the development of a Plan of Action for the next 6 years to achieve the objectives of Compact2025.