

Evidence Informed Decision Making (EIDM): Nutrition Leadership for Zambia

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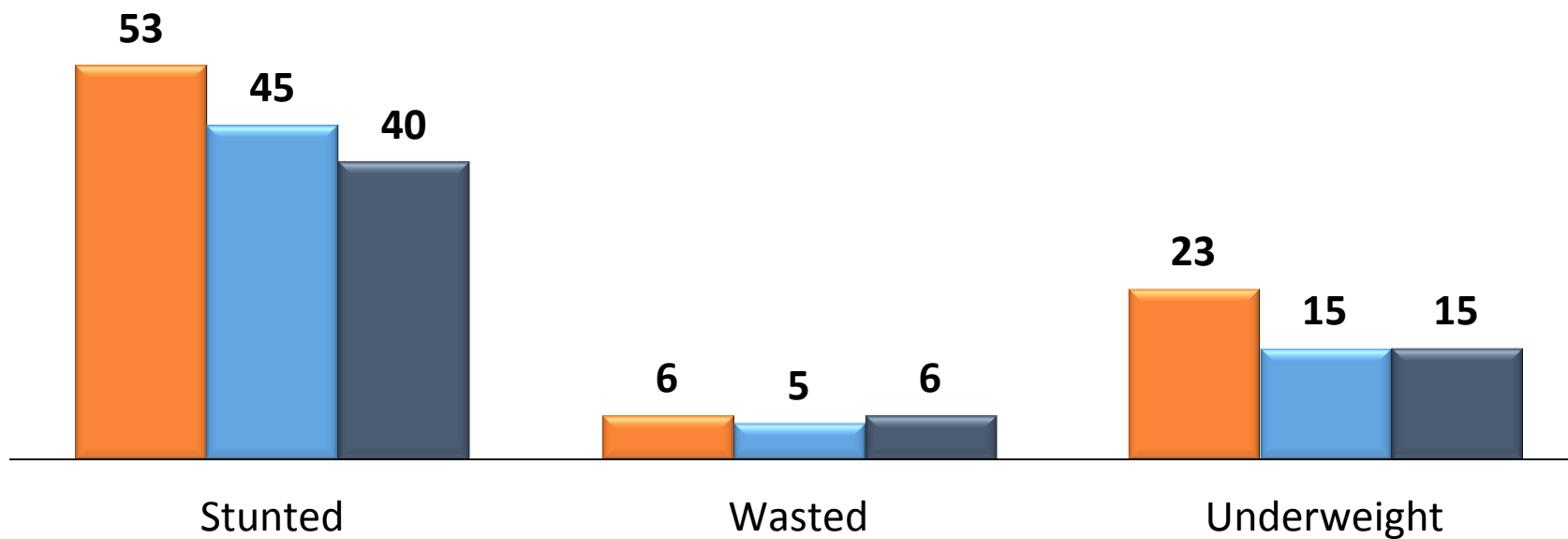
Nutritionist

Member of the Nutrition Association of Zambia (NAZ)

Nearly 1 in 2 children under five years of age in Zambia is stunted (chronically malnourished)

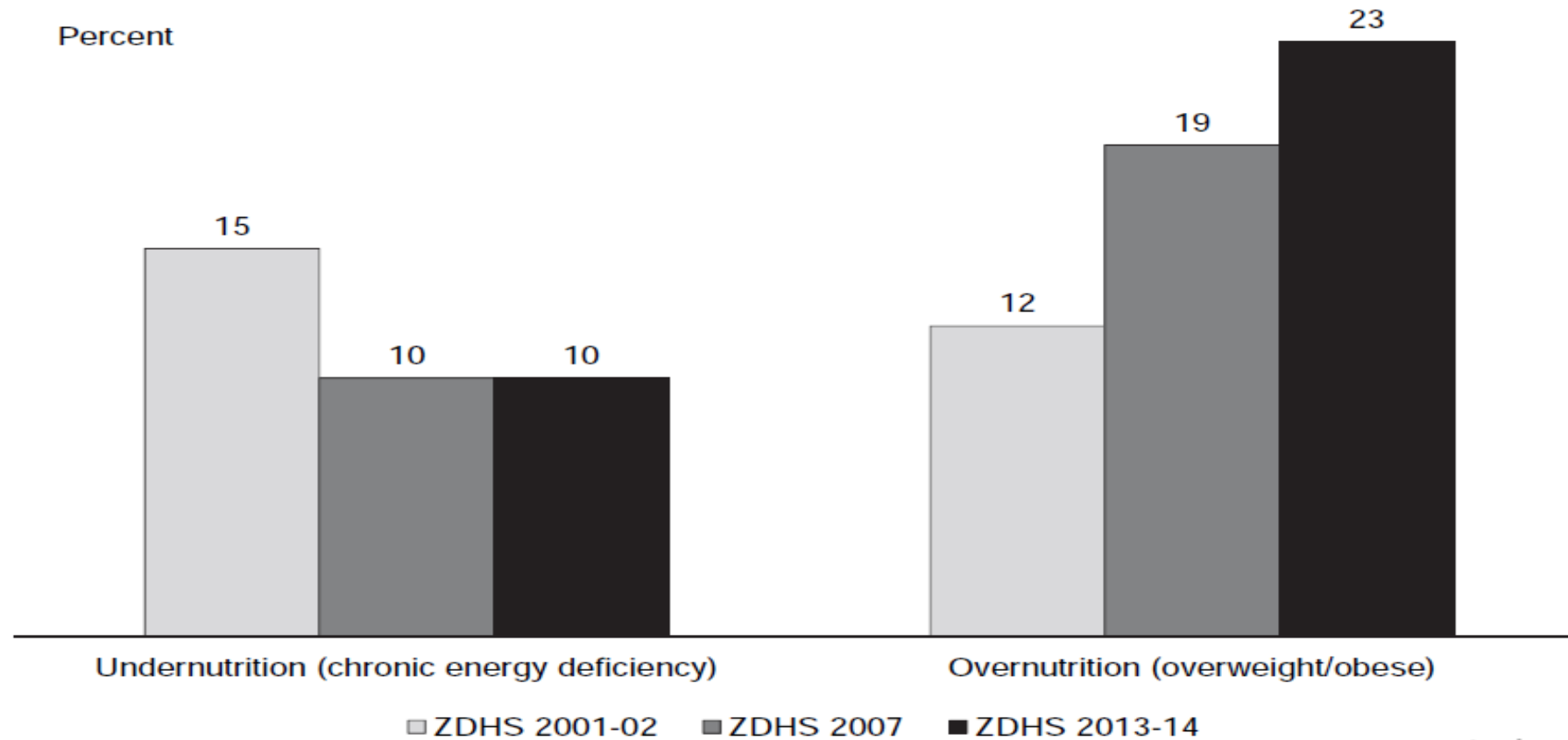
Percent of children under 5

2001-02 ZDHS 2007 ZDHS 2013-14 ZDHS



*Based on the 2006 WHO Child Growth Standards

Overweight/obesity on the increase in women (15-49 years)



Improving Zambia's Nutrition Situation

- Co-existence of undernutrition and over nutrition in the population possess a double burden of malnutrition in the country.
- Long term and sustained investment in nutrition is key for the health, social and economic wellbeing of individuals, families and the nation.
- Multi-sectoral approach is required and should be sustained
- Evidence informed decisions is critical to influence policy and action to improve nutritional status of the Zambian population

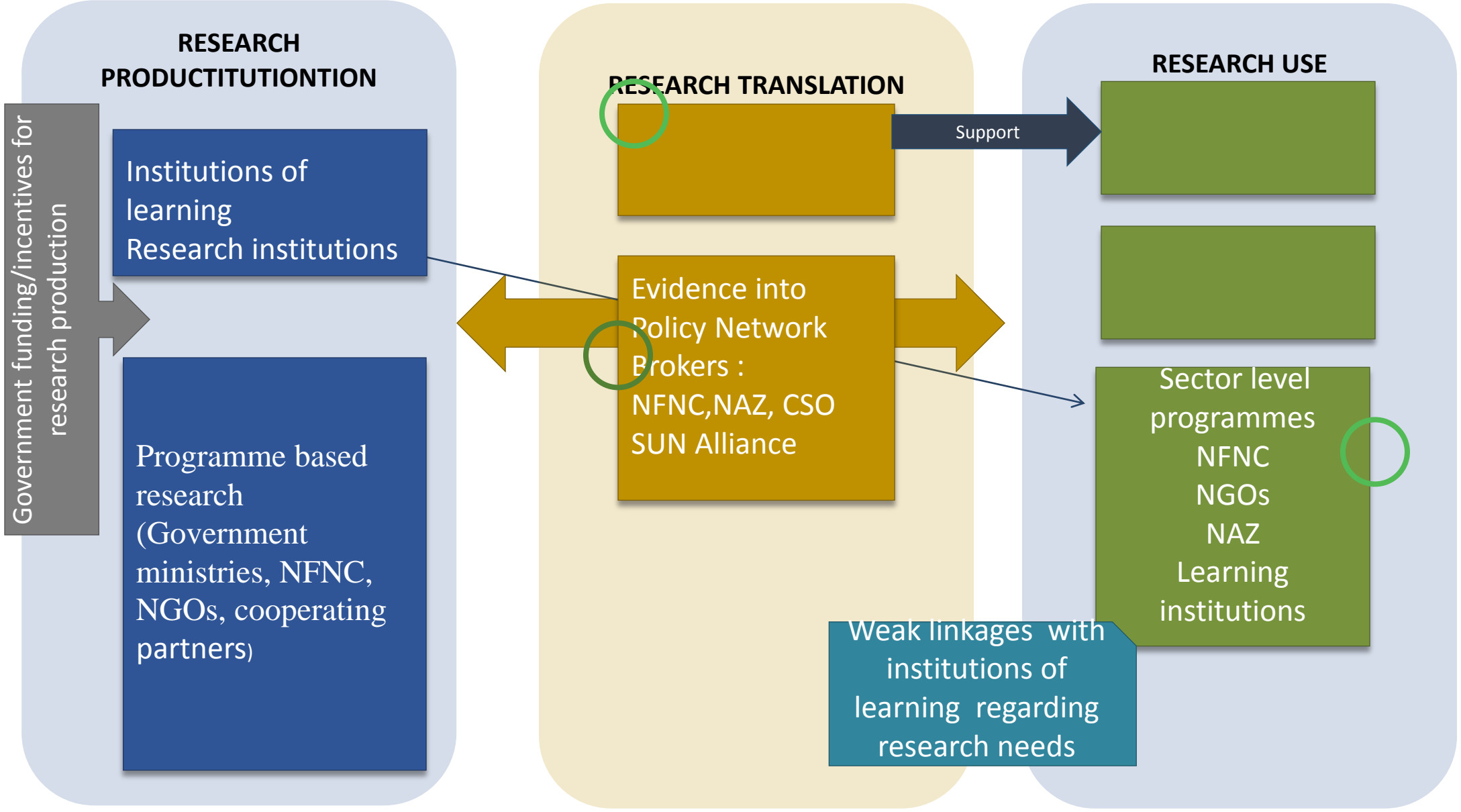
Key players in the multi-sector approach

- Government
 - ✓ National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC)
 - ✓ Health, Agriculture, Education, Local government and social protection
 - ✓ Steering Committee for Permanent Secretaries chaired by Secretary to Cabinet
 - ✓ Central Statistics Office (CSO)
- Civil Society
 - ✓ Nutrition Association of Zambia (NAZ)
 - ✓ Civil Society Organisation Scaling Up Nutrition (CSO SUN) Alliance
- Academia and research institutions
- Private sector
 - ✓ Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network
- Cooperating partners

Who produces evidence for nutrition?

- Academic and research institutions are the main generators of evidence
- Relationships between research producers and users overlap with users also being co-producers
 - ✓ Government: NFNC, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health
 - ✓ Civil Society Organisations

Perceived Rapid Landscape



Gaps that exist in the EIDM landscape

- Enhanced nutrition evidence generation
- Prompts for utilisation of evidence for policy and action within respective sectors and across sectors
- Initiatives that engage stakeholders more actively in setting research priorities
- Incorporating evidence in policy and actions beyond conventional dissemination meetings
- In –country capacity for nutrition research, translation and utilisation mechanisms to facilitate the flow of evidence through the different levels of decision making

Conclusion

- **Stage for nutrition leadership in Zambia is set**
 - ✓ Stakeholder engagement in recognition that the effective address of malnutrition goes beyond any one sector
 - ✓ Openness to understand how each sector can contribute towards the ultimate goal of improving the nutrition status of the Zambia population.
- **Need for enhanced evidence informed decision making at various levels including policy, programme and advocacy fraternity**
 - ✓ Sectors are at varying levels
 - ✓ Strengthen links: evidence informed practice and practice informed evidence generation
- **This calls for a co-ordinated approach to building capacity for nutrition research**
 - ✓ production
 - ✓ translation
 - ✓ appropriate evidence utilisation at various levels of decision making

Acknowledgement

The Nutrition Association of Zambia (NAZ) is acknowledged for the numerous opportunities to interact with the various stakeholders for nutrition in Zambia.



*Good Nutrition
for a better Zambia*

Thank you