



East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA HC)

Updates from the ECSA-HC COVID 19 Response

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY



About ECSCA-HC

- ❑ Mandate of the organization is “to promote and encourage efficiency and relevance in the provision of health services in the region”
- ❑ Members: Eswatini, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Mauritius, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- ❑ NFSN cluster program: undertake activities those contribute to reduction of NCDs and malnutrition in the region





ECSCA Response to COVID 19

- In February 2020: ECSCA Health Minister conference passed a resolution directing MS to ‘strengthen surveillance systems for prevention, early detection and appropriate response to threats of disease outbreak including COVID 19’
- ECSCA-HC in collaboration with partners is support countries to:
 - Organizing a series of webinars on infection and disease control & managing the COVID 19 pandemic
 - Organize series of virtual trainings on COVID 19 workplace response
 - Compile a regional status updates of COVID 19
- FSN response:
 - Support MS to accelerate implementation of high impact nutrition intervention
 - Strengthen regulatory monitoring on food fortification program (finalization of revised FF guidelines)
 - Follow up on country specific response related to FNS
 - Collaboration with partners to strengthen FNS response to COVID 19



Challenges

- Potential increase in food insecurity due to: closure of borders
- Increase in tension among the population due to country response measures implemented by various countries (effect to income generation, HH food security)
- Inadequate coordinated response and guidance on Food and Nutrition Security for COVID 19 (intercountry response)
- Inadequate evidence on how the response measures has affected Food and Nutrition security
- Complement other interventions aiming at addressing micronutrient deficiencies



Opportunities

- Country commitment to the regional agenda
- Political commitment to food and nutrition security
- Increased momentum in implementation of high impact nutrition programs in MS
- Strengthen partnership for regional food system and nutrition response for COVID 19
- Address the knowledge gap on the appropriate FSN response to COVID

