



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Food and Nutrition Policy

November 2018



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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Rationale of the Policy	5
3. Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives	6
3.1 Vision.....	6
3.2 Mission	6
4. Policy Scope	7
5. Policy Framework	8
6. Policy Values and Guiding Principles	8
6.1 Policy Values	8
6.2 Guiding Principles	8
7. Food and Nutrition Policy Directions	9
7.1 Ensure availability, accessibility and utilization of diversified, safe and nutritious foods in a sustainable way.....	9
7.2 Ensure the safety and quality of foods from farm to table.....	9
7.3 Improve postharvest management of agricultural food products	10
7.4 Ensure optimum nutrition at all stages of life.....	10
7.6 Strengthen food and nutrition communication	12
7.7 Establish and strengthen food and nutrition governance...	12
8. Policy Implementation	14
8.1 Approaches.....	14
8.1.1 Life cycle approach.....	14
8.1.2 Food as human right	14
8.1.3 Food based approaches	14
8.1.4 Multi-sectoral integration, coordination and linkage	14

8.1.5 Nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive approaches	14
8.1.6 Farm to table approach.....	15
8.2 Legal Framework	15
8.3 Institutional arrangement	15
8.4 Capacity Building.....	16
8.4.1 Human resources	16
8.4.2 Training and research institutions.....	16
8.4.3 Regulatory agencies.....	17
8.5 Food and nutrition communication.....	17
8.6 Sustainable Financing.....	17
9. Gender Responsiveness	17
10. Role of the various actors.....	18
10.1 Role of Government of Ethiopia	18
10.2 Role of non-governmental bodies.....	18
10.3 Role of private sector	18
10.4 Role of communities.....	18
11. Monitoring and Evaluation	18
12. Glossary of Terms.....	19

1

Introduction

Ensuring the availability, accessibility, safety and quality consumption of nutritious foods at all times to all citizens is a prerequisite for the creation of a productive workforce, longevity of life, improved livelihood and innovative capacity that would lead to fast economic, social and sustainable development of a nation. This can be realized when citizens across all ages of the life cycle enjoy a healthy life, have better knowledge of nutrient rich foods, practice improved utilization of foods, ensure food safety and quality along the food value chain, avoid food and nutrient losses, develop food and nutrition emergency preparedness and increase resilience capacity. Thus, the development of Food and Nutrition Policy can be taken as a key input towards ensuring food and nutrition security in the country.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been implementing coordinated and fundamental economic reform programs over the past decades. These economic reforms have resulted in encouraging social and macroeconomic developments. Ensuring food and nutrition security can play a significant role in sustaining the gains from the economic reforms and putting the economy on a solid foundation. Thus, to further speed up the overall economic development of the country, the optimal utilization of these opportunities and implementation of cost-effective food and nutrition security interventions in a sustainable manner are fundamental.

Considerable efforts have been made to ensure food and nutrition security in Ethiopia. With regard to the enhancement of production and

productivity of farmers and pastoralists some of these efforts include: agriculture, natural resources, livestock and fish farming. Additionally, the country has demonstrated its resilience and capacity to successfully respond to manmade and natural emergencies. As revealed by various studies, significant progress has been made to reduce undernutrition in the country. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) has decreased from 58% to 38.4% between 2000 and 2016. The proportion of underweight children declined from 41% to 23.6% and wasting decreased from 12% to 9.9% during the same period. In addition, the progress made has contributed to the reduction of under-five mortality from 166 per 1000 children in 2000 to 67 per 1000 children in 2016, enabling Ethiopia to achieve the Millennium Development Goal and the increase in estimated average life expectancy at birth from 45 years in 1990 to 64 years in 2016.

However, the average annual food production growth lags behind the population growth rate, thus widening the food need gap and exposing citizens in all age ranges for food and nutrition insecurity and transient food aids. At the national level, 50% of households receive their calorie needs from starch staples. As a result, 40% of households are food energy deficient. Moreover, lower production and productivity coupled with poor safety and quality of foods, poor postharvest management systems, weak maternal and child health care, poor access to health services and poor water, sanitation and hygiene are some of the causes for the food and nutrition insecurity situation in the country. Thus, the Food and Nutrition Policy was developed with the involvement of relevant stakeholders in order to address the food and nutrition security challenges of the country through multi-sectoral integration and collaboration of government and nongovernmental organizations at all levels.

2

Rationale of the Policy

Attaining food and nutrition security is a constitutional and human right of Ethiopians and hence the Government of Ethiopia has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens are food and nutrition secure. As part of its national development agenda, Ethiopia has been implementing different strategies and programs to ensure food and nutrition security. Efforts were made to implement strategies and programs such as the Food Security Strategy, National Nutrition Strategy, National Nutrition Program, the Seqota Declaration roadmap, Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategy, School Health and Nutrition Strategy and the Productive Safety Net Program through multi-sectoral nutrition coordination and integration. However, the absence of a legal framework and lack of accountability system for food and nutrition implementing sectors has made the attainment of food and nutrition security lag behind what was expected.

If the food and nutrition insecurity is unabated, it will continue to contribute to increased morbidity and mortality in the country. Women affected by the food and nutrition related problems are wasted or underweight and are then susceptible to developing anemia and its severe consequences during child birth (i.e. postpartum hemorrhage) and other obstetric complications. Newborns from those mothers would likely be of low birth weight and stunted. Consequently, stunted children would be more susceptible to repeated illnesses, early child mortality, compromised physical and mental development, poor educability, limited innovative capacity, poor productivity and economic performance during their adulthood years. Furthermore, the high stunting rate and increasing trend of non-communicable diseases

will cause the country suffer from the double burden of malnutrition. This would significantly affect the production, productivity, human resources and economic development of the nation.

Addressing food and nutrition insecurity is one of the priority development areas for the country. Implementation of multi-sectoral food and nutrition coordination and integration, development of legal and accountability framework, investment of sustainable and adequate financing, technology supported increase in agricultural production and productivity and nutrition-centered human resource development are the sustainable and key foundations to ensuring food and nutrition security. Cognizant of this, the policy shall ensure food and nutrition security and eventually contribute towards improved livelihoods, economic productivity, longevity of life of citizens and overall development and prosperity of the nation. The policy is necessary to put forth food and nutrition priorities that the implementing sectors and other relevant stakeholders, through effective multi-sectoral collaboration and integration, will need to take forth with strong responsibility and accountability.

3

Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives

3.1 Vision

- To see all Ethiopians with optimal nutritional status, quality of life, productivity and longevity of life.

3.2 Mission

- We strive to ensure food and nutrition security through coordinated implementation of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions.

3.3 Goal

- To attain optimal nutritional status at all stages of life at a level that is consistent with a high quality of life, productivity and longevity of life.

3.4 Objectives

By creating an enabling policy environment, the food and nutrition policy objectives will:

1. Ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate food to all Ethiopians at all times.
2. Improve accessibility, and quality of nutrition and nutrition smart health services at all stages of the life span in an equitable manner.

3. Improve consumption and utilization of a diversified and nutritious diet that ensures a citizen's optimal health throughout their life cycle.
4. Improve the safety and quality of food throughout the value chain.
5. Reduce food and nutrient losses along the value chain.
6. Improve food and nutrition emergency risk management, preparedness and resilience systems.
7. Improve food and nutrition literacy of all Ethiopians.

4

Policy Scope

This policy is referred to as the “Food and Nutrition Policy of Ethiopia”. The Policy emanates from legal and ethical tenets related to the wellbeing of citizens that are enshrined in the country’s constitution and it is aligned with the national and sectoral policies and strategies of the country. The Policy is formulated with a broader scope to provide a policy foundation for multi-sectoral collaboration, community oriented nutrition service provision, encourage high impact nutrition interventions and developing related operational and management strategies.

The Policy provides an overarching framework covering the key dimensions of food and nutrition security including sustained food availability, accessibility and utilization of food; food safety and quality; postharvest management; and optimal nutrition security at all levels of society, agro-ecological zones and livelihoods as well as in recurring emergencies. The policy also considers matters that pose challenges to food and nutrition security such as land degradation, globalization, regional market integration, demographic change, income inequalities, increasing population pressure, urbanization, and the demand for natural resources. The policy will also give emphasis to food and nutrition capacity building at national, regional and institutional levels along with empowering communities, families and individuals to enhance optimal nutrition behaviors and practices. In addition, based on the principles of farm to table and life cycle approach, the policy will give a framework to provide guidance to any food and nutrition related critical issues at national, regional and community levels.

5

Policy Framework

The policy is based on the global conceptual framework for nutrition security as a change model to address the existing causes of nutrition insecurity at various levels. The policy framework focuses on short, medium and long-term strategies in an integrated way to address the different layers of nutrition problems. The immediate causes of malnutrition are related to the inadequate nutrient intake and poor health of the individuals. Similarly, the medium term interventions aimed at addressing the underlying causes are related to traditional agricultural practices, lack of access to and availability of clean water and sanitation, poor health services, low girls' education and gender affirmative action, poor social protection, and weak social safety net programs. The lack of an appropriate institutional arrangement, political commitment, economic and socio- cultural issues such as poverty reduction, economic growth, governance and stewardship capacities, basic education, and lack of agriculture, irrigation and other economic infrastructures are considered as basic causes of malnutrition.

6

Policy Values and Guiding Principles

6.1 Policy Values

The policy upholds the following key values in all endeavors of its implementation.

1. **Community centered:** Giving priority to equal participation and benefits.
2. **Coordination:** Ensuring participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the policy in coordinated manner.
3. **Accountability:** Being committed to and be responsible for actions taken and communicate the results in a transparent manner.
4. **Equity:** Narrowing vulnerability and inequalities with regard to sectoral, gender, disability, age, geography, social status and living styles.
5. **Responsiveness:** Ensuring timely and positive responses for food and nutrition demands of the community and build resilience capacity for food shortage and vulnerability.

6.2 Guiding Principles

The food and nutrition policy is based on the following guiding principles:

1. That it accommodates lifecycle approach with special emphasis to the first 1000 days nutrition.

2. That access to adequate, safe, high quality and nutritious food is a human right and ensures the right to informed choice of food based on trustworthy data/information and policy framework.
3. That food and nutrition issues are cross-cutting in nature and that effective multi-sectoral coordination is encouraged.
4. That the sustainable food value chain is encouraged and dietary practices of the community are improved through the promotion of the indigenous knowledge on food and dietary practices and sharing of relevant international experiences.
5. That food sovereignty is ensured and shared responsibility among public-private partnerships is promoted along the food value chain.
6. That food is recognized as a national strategic resource, promotes innovation and application of new, profitable and environmental friendly technologies for preparation, processing and familiarization of new foods and food products.

7

Food and Nutrition Policy Directions

7.1 Ensure availability, accessibility and utilization of diversified, safe and nutritious foods in a sustainable way

Food security is sustainably ensured when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) recognizes that food security is a fundamental human right. Cognizant of this, food security is one of the policy directions.

Objective

The policy objective is to:

1. Improve the availability and accessibility of adequate, diversified, safe and nutritious foods for all in a sustainable way.

Strategies

To achieve this objective, the following strategies will be implemented:

1. Strengthen the system for improving access to natural resources, agro-ecologically appropriate and climate smart inputs, technologies, skills and insurance services for

- enhancing agricultural, livestock and fishery production and productivity in a sustainable way.
2. Strengthen the system for improving income, job creation, purchasing power of individuals and households and market linkage of food commodities.
 3. Strengthen agricultural crops, livestock and fisheries health and care services.
 4. Strengthen social protection programs for ensuring equitable distribution of diversified, safe and adequate nutritious foods, cash transfers and other services at all levels.
 5. Strengthen coping strategies of food production systems of households through climate resilient, climate adaptation, mitigation and response strategies.
 6. Develop a system for safe and appropriate use of biotechnology for food production and processing.

7.2 Ensure the safety and quality of foods from farm to table

An effective food safety system is vital to safeguard the community from unsafe food consumption and contribute to economic benefits of the country from agricultural products. It is essential to build a system for ensuring food safety and quality using a comprehensive and integrated farm-to-table approach in which all value chain actors play vital roles. Therefore, food safety and quality is as a policy direction.

Objective

The policy objective is to:

1. Ensure the safety and quality of food throughout the food value chain.

Strategies

To achieve this objective, the following strategies will be implemented:

1. Establish a system for ensuring the safety and quality of primary agricultural food commodities and processed foods.
2. Develop and adapt appropriate technologies to establish and implement a legal framework for ensuring the safety and quality of foods throughout the value chain.
3. Ensure the safety and quality of foods prepared and served to the community by hotels, restaurants, street vendors and other catering establishments.
4. Strengthen and implement a system that mitigates food adulteration, misbranding, counterfeiting and sub-standardization to ensure and prevent the entry of unsafe foods into the market for public consumption.
5. Establish a system for ensuring the availability, safety and quality control of water supplies.

7.3 Improve postharvest management of agricultural food products

It is critical to improve the safety of foods and prevent the quantitative and qualitative loss of foods through establishing modern postharvest management system, which demands appropriate technologies, skills, infrastructure and sufficient resources along the food value chain. Cognizant of this, postharvest management is as a policy direction.

Objective

The policy objective is to:

1. Improve postharvest management throughout the food value chain.

Strategies

To achieve this objective, the following strategies will be implemented:

1. Develop and implement food-processing technology training (incubation) centers at community and household levels across the country.
2. Establish a small, medium and large-scale agro-processing industries and infrastructures to enhance value addition, improve postharvest management and implement transfer of appropriate technologies.

7.4 Ensure optimum nutrition at all stages of life

The prevention of malnutrition across all stages of life demands multi-sectoral planning and collaborative execution of high impact nutrition specific and sensitive interventions. Ensuring optimal nutrition along all stages of life would lead to improved nutritional status, quality of life, longevity of life and productivity of the people and ultimately, economic growth. With this understanding, optimal nutrition at all stages of life is as a policy direction.

Objectives

The policy objectives are to:

1. Improve the nutritional status of people with special focus on pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescents.

2. Improve the nutritional status of people with communicable and non- communicable diseases and of people affected by various circumstances, people that need special support and care.

Strategies

To achieve these objectives, the following strategies will be implemented.

1. Establish and strengthen a system to protect and promote optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding.
2. Establish and strengthen a system for food fortification and optimal nutrition through food based approaches to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and related nutrition problems.
3. Strengthen comprehensive and integrated nutrition services of schools, people in special circumstances and people with communicable and non- communicable diseases.
4. Establish and strengthen a system to address economic empowerment and reduce workload of women through use of labor and time saving technologies.
5. Strengthen access to context specific nutrition smart health and nutrition services.
6. Strengthen access to and utilization of universal water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services.
7. Develop and implement indigenous and suitable social and behavioral change communication strategies to create nutrition literacy and eventually improve the feeding practices of pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescents.

7.5 Provision of timely and appropriate food and nutrition emergency response for natural and manmade disasters

Building the capacity of the country to successfully implement early warning and preparedness, strong monitoring and evaluation system, timely emergency response and rehabilitation during natural and manmade disasters is essential to significantly reduce both the short and long term consequences of food and nutrition emergencies. Thus, the provision of timely and appropriate food and nutrition emergency response is one of the policy directions.

Objective

The policy objective is to:

1. Strengthen the national capacity to manage natural and manmade food and nutrition emergencies with timely and appropriate response.

Strategy

To achieve this objective, the following strategy will be implemented:

1. Develop and strengthen early warning, preparedness, timely and appropriate response and rehabilitation systems for natural and manmade food and nutrition emergencies thus addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability for food and nutrition related problems.

7.6 Strengthen food and nutrition communication

Food and nutrition communication is the art of creating a food and nutrition literate community through advocacy, social and behavioral change communication and community mobilization. Thus, the food and nutrition policy has identified food and nutrition communication as a policy direction.

Objective

The policy objective is to:

1. Improve the nutrition literacy of individuals, families and communities along the food value chain to make informed decision on the uptake of nutrition services.

Strategies

To achieve this objective, the following strategies will be implemented:

1. Develop and strengthen a system to optimally utilize the communication approaches and untested community communication approaches and channels for building the capacity of food and nutrition influencers and decision makers.
2. Develop and strengthen a system to utilize culturally appropriate, context specific social, and behavior change communication channels to create nutrition model families and communities.

7.7 Establish and strengthen food and nutrition governance

The Food and Nutrition Policy provides a policy framework for multi-sectoral governance of food and nutrition activities in the country. The Government of Ethiopia shall establish a Food and Nutrition Governing Body and institutional arrangement (structure) from Federal to Kebele levels with leadership of the highest government decision makers to govern and coordinate the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy. In addition, the government shall set directions to build the capacities of the various FNP implementing sectors and stakeholders. The Food and Nutrition Governing Body shall give due emphasis to research and innovations, allocation of adequate resources and development of accountability framework for monitoring and evaluation. Hence, food and nutrition governance is as a policy direction.

Objectives

The policy objectives are to:

1. Create a functional governance body for strengthening the coordination and integration of food and nutrition policy implementing sectors.
2. Ensure sustainable and adequate financing through government treasury, development partners' allocation and innovative financing mechanisms to translate the policy into action.
3. Build the institutional capacities of food and nutrition policy implementing sectors with human resource, research and technological development.
4. Enhance evidence generation for decision-making, learning and accountability.

Strategies

To achieve these objectives, the following strategies will be implemented:

1. Establish a Food and Nutrition Governing Body bestowed with the required authorities, accountability, legal framework and functional organizational structure from federal to kebele levels.
2. Strengthen food and nutrition related research, training, service and functional capacities of individuals, communities and institutions at all levels.
3. Implement food and nutrition policy through the support of Information and Communication Technology and monitoring and evaluation system with a strong accountability framework.
4. Establish a system for maximizing resource mobilization and allocation from the government treasury, community, private sectors, development partners and other national, regional and international institutions and organizations through fostering strong linkages for optimal learning, research and technology transfer.

8

Policy Implementation

Implementation of the policy shall rely on evidence based approaches and implementation framework to ensure sustainability, cost effectiveness, coordination and community involvement.

8.1 Approaches

8.1.1 Life cycle approach

This policy adopts a life-cycle approach viewing nutritional issues across the stages of life cycles and generations. The policy gives great focus to the critical periods of the first 1000 days (pregnancy through the first two years of a child's life), during which good nutrition delivers lasting benefits throughout life including optimal physical growth and mental development for bright future. The policy considers interventions addressing nutritional problems during pregnancy, infancy, childhood and adolescence to prevent risks of diet related problems, chronic non-communicable diseases, disability and mortality.

8.1.2 Food as human right

This policy ensures that food and nutrition security is a human and constitutional right of all citizens. The provision of all food and nutrition services shall consider the human rights of all citizens. Therefore, this policy stipulates that all Ethiopians have safe food in a sufficient quantity and quality at all times

throughout their stages of lifecycle to satisfy their nutritional needs for optimal health.

8.1.3 Food based approaches

The policy shall implement a food-based approach to ensure nutrition security. This approach typically address micronutrient related concerns, livestock and fishery products processing and consumption of nutrient-rich foods. The Food and Nutrition Policy promotes the food-based approach as a long-term and sustainable solution to nutrition security whereby the community is enabled to choose healthy diets from different combination of food groups.

8.1.4 Multi-sectoral integration, coordination and linkage

Nutrition has a multidimensional and multi-sectoral nature in terms of both effect and outcomes. Timely and effective implementation of the policy requires multi-sectoral integration, coordination and linkage, an efficient operational framework as well as appropriate leadership and implementation capacity. To facilitate the multi-sectoral food and nutrition coordination and integration, the Government of Ethiopia will create a supportive environment and feedback mechanism.

8.1.5 Nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive approaches

The Government promotes incorporation of nutrition goals and actions in a wide range of sectors' programs to implement nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions that can address the causes of malnutrition. It is critical that all sectors

develop and implement nutrition specific and sensitive programs using the concept of “nutrition lens”.

8.1.6 Farm to table approach

In order to ensure food and nutrition security, the implementation of various strategies on farm, manufacturing, transportation and storage, in different food catering services, street vended foods and food preparation and serving at household level will be developed to reduce food wastage and ensure the quality and safety of foods. This calls for the development of a comprehensive and integrated system along the food value chain in which the producer, processor, transporter, vendor, retailer and consumer all play a vital role in reducing food losses and ensuring food safety and quality.

8.2 Legal Framework

1. The Food and Nutrition Policy of Ethiopia shall provide the necessary legal and institutional framework for national nutrition planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination in the country. For the successful implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy, the Government of Ethiopia will do the following:
 - a. Establish efficient and effective legal and institutional frameworks that support implementation and monitoring of the Food and Nutrition Policy at all levels of the government structure.
 - b. Existing laws shall be revised. New laws, regulations, and guidelines shall be promulgated in line with internationally recognized standards, treaties, agreements, laws and regulations to ensure the right to adequate, safe and quality foods by all Ethiopians.

8.3 Institutional arrangement

Food and nutrition issues are multi-dimensional and cross sectoral in nature. Therefore, based on national and international experiences, Ethiopia's multi-sectoral food and nutrition coordination body is needed to ensure more interaction and cross-sectoral collaboration to guide the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy.

Cognizant of this fact, a Food and Nutrition Council shall be established at national level to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy. The Council shall establish an independent institution with its own organizational structure. Likewise, the Council advises the Government on food and nutrition issues. It also coordinates and supports food and nutrition implementing partners and stakeholders to discharge their duties and responsibilities.

The leadership and members of Food and Nutrition Council will be assigned by the Prime Minister. The council shall have a secretariat office to facilitate the implementation of food and nutrition activities. The members of the Food and Nutrition Governing Body shall be determined by the Government of Ethiopia.

Analogues structures shall be established at the regional level. The Regional Food and Nutrition Council shall be chaired by a body to be assigned by Regional President that will be accountable to the body to be assigned by the Prime Minister. Similar structures shall be established at zonal and woreda levels to be led by the respective zonal and woreda administrators to efficiently coordinate and implement the food and nutrition activities. At kebele level, the food and nutrition committees will be established and led by the kebele administrators.

8.4 Capacity Building

Food and nutrition capacity building is essential to strengthen national, regional and institutional capacities to address food and nutrition challenges. The Food and Nutrition Policy gives due attention to training, research, community services, strategies as well as food and nutrition program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

8.4.1 Human resources

Priority will be given to capacity building efforts of institutions, human resources, individuals and communities in order to effectively implement the Food and Nutrition Policy at all levels and transform the system to the next higher level.

Considering women as both disproportionately affected by malnutrition and as critical actors in finding lasting solutions to nutrition problems, emphasis will be given to building the capacity of women, women organizations / associations and women development groups at various levels. The human resource capacity building shall be implemented through the following strategies.

1. Develop and strengthen comprehensive short term and long-term capacity building training strategies for food and nutrition professionals.
2. Support higher learning, technical and vocational education training institutions to open food and nutrition programs and train professionals.
3. Develop food and nutrition education programs and include them as part of the regular and non-regular curriculum of schools and institutions.

4. Build leadership and governance, institutional arrangements, performance systems and organizational capacity for the implementation of food and nutrition policy.
5. Strengthen the capacity of women, women organizations and women development groups at all levels.

8.4.2 Training and research institutions

1. Strengthen the capacity of the research institutions to address critical food and nutrition problems at national and regional levels as an input for continuous revision of the Food and Nutrition Policy using up-to-date scientific evidence.
2. Establish centers of excellence in food and nutrition research through partnerships with food and nutrition higher learning, research and technical and vocational education training institutions of developed countries.
3. Strengthen the capacity of higher learning, technical and vocational education training institutions to respond to national and regional research needs in food and nutrition, food safety and quality and postharvest management systems.
4. Allocate budget for research, database establishment, human resource, infrastructure development, education and technology transfer activities in line with national development needs.

8.4.3 Regulatory agencies

The capacity of the regulatory agencies at national, regional and local levels and ports will be strengthened by skilled and trained human power, equipment, laboratory facilities and other required inputs.

8.5 Food and nutrition communication

Food and nutrition communication is a two-way process, where participants can freely exchange knowledge, values and practices on nutrition, food, and related issues. The food and nutrition communication ensures the active involvement of those who could and should take part in decision-making, and in motivating and providing users with easy access to nutrition related information, resources, and services. The Seqota Declaration public movement shall be used as a starting point to expand the food and nutrition communication work in the country.

The food and nutrition communication shall focus on optimal implementation of nutrition services of women, infants, children and adolescents, prevention of diet/lifestyle related chronic non-communicable diseases, improving the safety, quality and postharvest management of foods, improving the individual and household diet diversity and application of the farm to table approach for improved implementation of nutrition interventions at all levels. The government, other relevant non-governmental organizations, private sectors and civic society organizations shall be responsible for coordinating and supporting all food and nutrition communication activities. The role of women and women associations shall be maximized in the whole process. Food and nutrition communication and community mobilization strategies shall be developed to fully implement the aforementioned activities.

8.6 Sustainable Financing

Achieving the policy objectives shall require significant investment in funding and infrastructure development. The funding and resources for infrastructure development shall be mobilized from the Ethiopian Government Treasury, partners, private sector and community participation. The Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with the public and the relevant stakeholders, shall ensure the effective use of the public resources for effective implementation of the Food Nutrition Policy. Effective implementation of the FNP shall depend on the active involvement of the private sector in food industry, commercial farming, food imports and exports, food processing and fortification. The general public shall be mobilized to actively participate and make contributions to support the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy.

9

Gender Responsiveness

In our country, women and adolescent girls are the most vulnerable groups affected by the consequences of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition next to children. Gender inequality is believed to be the prime reason for their vulnerability. Gender inequality compromises the equitable distribution of food at the household level, which in turn can expose women and adolescent girls to severe forms of malnutrition.

Gender inequality can be a cause as well as an effect of all forms of malnutrition. Gender inequality is associated with higher levels of undernutrition of both acute and chronic nature. Both are highly correlated and interconnected with livelihood security at household and community levels in different phases of human life. The implementation of gender equality and improvement of the nutritional status of women and adolescent girls can play a significant role in breaking the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.

The Food and Nutrition Policy is made to be gender responsive, cognizant of the fact that addressing gender by itself plays a pivotal role for effective implementation of nutrition interventions at household and community level. Therefore, involvement of women, girls, males, influential community leaders and community participation shall be given due consideration in addressing gender inequality.

10

Role of the Various Actors

10.1 Role of Government of Ethiopia

The Government is committed to play a leadership role to mobilize resources and provide financial, technical, legal and infrastructure support, and establish a monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy. Government representatives at all levels shall fully discharge their responsibilities indicated in the Food and Nutrition Policy.

10.2 Role of non-governmental bodies

The non-governmental bodies operating in the field of food and nutrition are required to pool their human, financial and infrastructural resources to support the Government of Ethiopia's efforts for implementation of the Food and Nutrition Policy.

10.3 Role of private sector

The private sector partners involved in the farm to table along the food value chain are required to play their role to develop a system that prevent food losses and ensure food safety and quality.

10.4 Role of communities

Comprehensive participation and ownership of the communities is required to ensure food and nutrition security.

11

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy shall have an effective monitoring and evaluation system. The system will evaluate program implementation emanating from the policy strategies and performances against a set of pre-determined indicators. The policy monitoring and evaluation system will be linked with other existing monitoring and information systems. Other sectors will be supported to monitor their implementation of food and nutrition interventions by themselves. The monitoring and evaluation system helps to identify successful and best practices to facilitate rational revisions of the policy over time.

In order to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system:

1. The National Food and Nutrition Governing Body shall effectively collaborate with all stakeholders for periodic and effective monitoring of the implementation of the stated food and nutrition strategies, programs and progresses made from federal to kebele levels.
2. For effective monitoring and evaluation of the policy implementation, predetermined specific indicators and targets will be incorporated into the existing monitoring and evaluation system and will be tracked at different levels of government structures starting from Kebele to the House of Peoples' Representatives.
3. A system shall be developed and strengthened for a continuous Food and Nutrition Surveillance, surveys and Information Management System.

12

Glossary of Terms

1. **Food:** any solid or liquid allowed to be eaten in a given country.
2. **Nutrition:** the science of ingestion, digestion, absorption, transport, metabolism and the actions of nutrients within the body for physical and mental growth and development, prevention of diseases and development of the immune system.
3. **Nutrients:** chemical substances obtained from food and used in the body to provide energy, repair of body tissues, support growth and aid the normal functioning of the body system.
4. **Nutrition security:** cannot be met with just access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods.. Individuals must also have safe water and adequate sanitation, the ability to access health care services, and knowledge of sound household and community practices in child care, food storage and preparation and hygiene (The food-care-health model).
5. **Food security:** food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the dietary needs and food preferences for active and healthy living.
6. **Food value chain:** defined as the set of linked activities required to transform raw materials (farm) into products for end consumers (table). It covers primary agricultural food products,

food processing, food transport, vendor, and retail and food preparations in catering establishments, street vendors and households and consumption of foods.

**We shall strive to create food and
nutrition self-reliant Ethiopia!**

