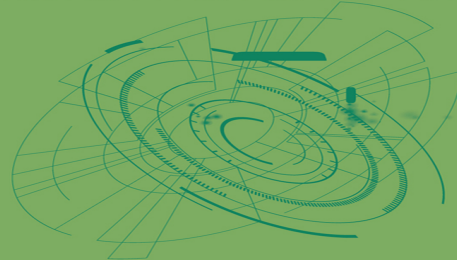


Digital technologies to improve Zimbabwe's food and nutrition security information system

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Nutrition in a Digital World



Introduction

- There are growing calls on governments around the world to establish integrated national food and nutrition security information systems (FNSIS) to promote **evidence-based interventions** and achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.



Introduction

- ▶ Food and nutrition security information generally comes from multiple stakeholders and a variety of sources.
- ▶ This fragmentation often hinders a cohesive understanding of the determinants and outcomes of food and nutrition security.
- ▶ Hence the need to coordinate and harmonize these sources of data
- ▶ Digital technologies hosts a lot of opportunities for FNSIS in Zimbabwe. However, digital technologies is not a magic bullet, a number of challenges need to be addressed.



Methods

- A mixed-methods survey of explanatory sequential design (Creswell, 2014), conducted in November and December 2019.
- A short questionnaire initially disseminated to 62 selected representatives from stakeholders to capture their views on the pros and cons of applying digital technologies to the FNSIS.
- Semi-structured key informant interviews were done with 12 of the 62 interviewees representing all stakeholders,
- Descriptive statistics were used to analyse quantitative data while thematic analysis.

Deciding on a research methodology



Case Study of Zimbabwe's FNSIS

- ▶ More than half of the country's population -5.5 million rural and 2.2 million in urban areas, is regarded as food insecure (WFP 2020).
- ▶ Stunting remains high (29.4%) and the leading form of malnutrition for the under fives (ZimVAC 2020)

NB* Commitment Sixth of the Zimbabwean FNSP mandates the government to establish FNSIS in order to:

(a) prioritise and plan FNS interventions,

(b) provide prompt evidence for multisectoral emergency response,

(c).provide different stakeholders with food and nutrition security information to ensure evidence-based programming.



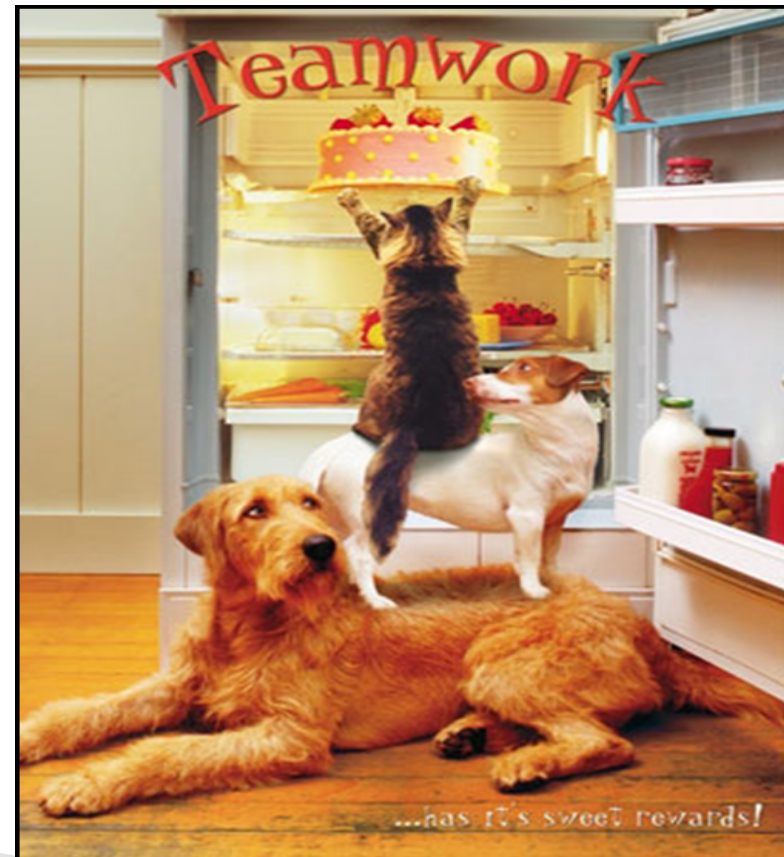
Sources of food and nutrition security information in Zimbabwe

- ▶ Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey
- ▶ National Nutrition Surveillance System
- ▶ Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC)
- ▶ Agriculture and Food Security Monitoring System
- ▶ Crop and Livestock Assessment
- ▶ Health Information System (HIS)
- ▶ Annual mapping exercises



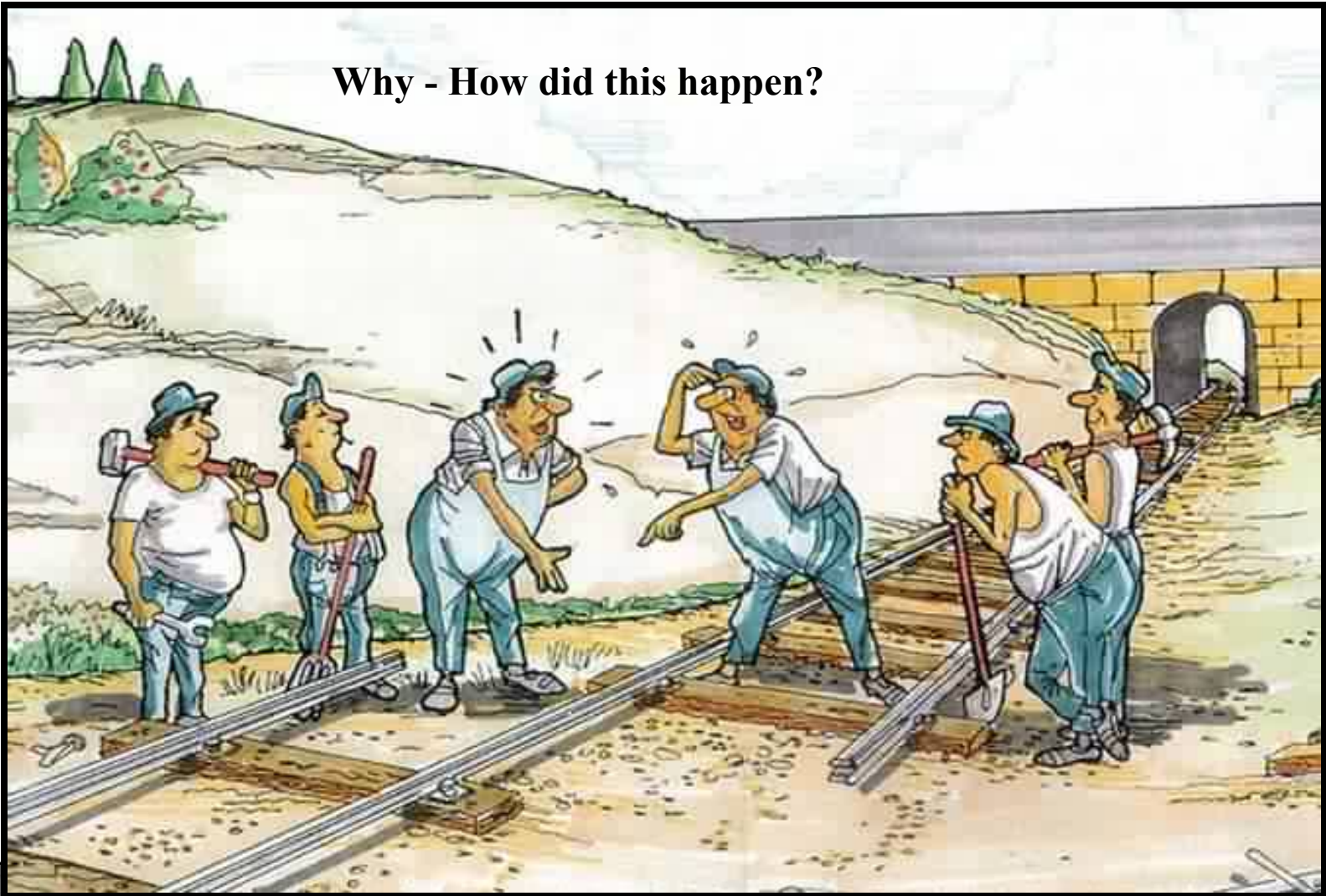
Potential of digital technologies in constructing Zimbabwe's FNSIS

- ▶ Considerably reduce costs of data collection-93%
- ▶ Decrease inequalities in access to information among stakeholders-98.8%.
- ▶ Help government and stakeholders to process and analyse data faster 97.1%.



The Pitfalls !!!

Why - How did this happen?



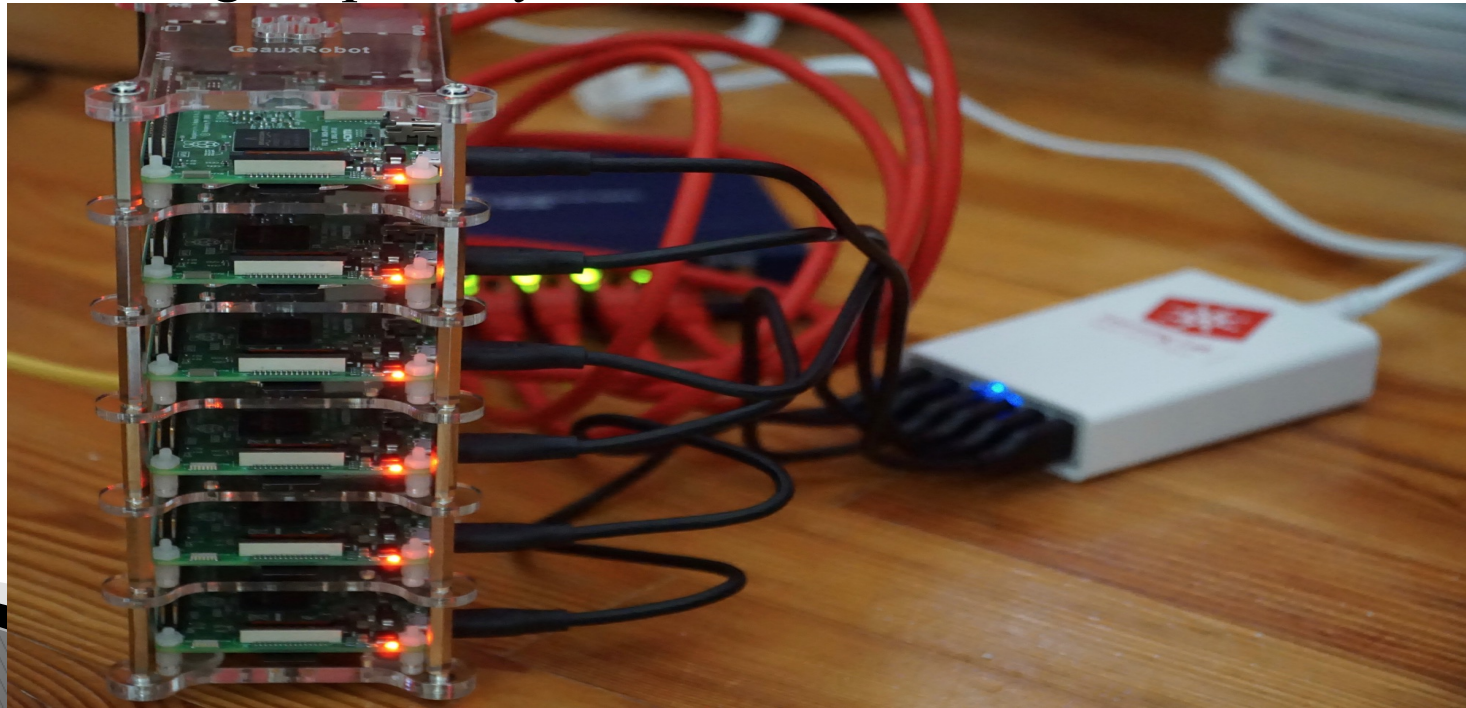
Potential risks of digital technologies in Zimbabwe's FNSIS

- ▶ Exclusion and potential job losses some activities-32%
- ▶ Lack of data privacy -41%
- ▶ Cybersecurity breaches- 27%



Other Challenges

- ▶ Lack of digital infrastructure.
- ▶ Prolonged power/electricity outages and load shedding
- ▶ Unaffordability of bandwidth data bundles especially to the primary generators of FNS information.
- ▶ Poor network coverage especially in remote areas,



Proposed conceptual framework for a reliable and sustainable FNSIS

- ▶ Adequate budgetary support
- ▶ Multi-stakeholder partnerships
- ▶ Robust legal and institutional frameworks
- ▶ Good governance in data management
- ▶ The need for disaggregated data to enable action targeted to the most in need.



Conclusion

- Digital Technologies could enhance the construction of a reliable and sustainable FNSIS in Zimbabwe



However

- Data quality needs to be prioritized.
- Challenges need to be effectively addressed (exclusion, a lack of data privacy and cybersecurity breaches).
- Ensure good data governance, foster inclusion through targeted support and adequate budgetary support to complement donor support