



National Development
Planning Commission



THE WORLD BANK



Rollout of the Food Systems and Nutrition Security Planning Toolkit in Ashanti Region

July 28-31, 2026

Kumasi, Ghana

Workshop Report



DPCU	District Planning Coordinating Unit
ExCom	Executive Committee
FCDP	Finance Capacity Development Platform
FSN	Food Systems and Nutrition
FSNS	Food Systems and Nutrition Security
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MTDP	Medium-Term Development Plan
MTNDPF	Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2026, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) worked in partnership with key partners including UNICEF, World Bank and the Financing Capacity Development Platform for SUN countries (FCDP) to successfully develop, test and train master facilitators on tools and guidelines on strengthening national and sub-national capacity for integrating Food Systems and Nutrition Security (FSNS) priorities into district 2026–2029 Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs). This initiative aligns with government of Ghana’s Nutrition for Growth commitments in scaling up food security and nutrition across sectors in government development efforts.

Important lessons from testing the tools confirmed that the FSNS Planning Toolkit is practical, functional, and sufficiently robust for broader application across all districts in Ghana, while also identifying opportunities for further simplification. The pilot districts also demonstrated strong responsiveness, adaptability, and innovation, including addressing data availability challenges, thereby making a strong case for rolling out the planning toolkit across other districts.

In July 2026, the NDPC worked under the leadership of the Ashanti Regional Coordination Council (RCC) to convene a planning workshop that brought together all the 43 districts comprising district planning and budgeting officers and district sectoral directors from ministries of agriculture, health and local government. In all 270 district officers sat around the table to plan and cost FSNS interventions integral to their current district medium term development plans- this was a groundbreaking first of its kind effort across the 43 districts.

All 43 districts completed their draft plans- the monitoring and evaluation component was not included. Many participants were excited about this opportunity to sit with other sectors to plan and cost in real time FSNS activities and with most of them, this was their first time meeting other sectors to do this. All the budget officers said they had never done this as a collaborative effort and promised to ensure the costed plans are budgeted and allocations released for FSNS activities. Other planners mentioned how *“comfortable and easy the planning tools are compared to others.....”*.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Food Systems Transformation and Nutrition Security remain central to Ghana's national development agenda as one of the focal areas of Ghana's new Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (MTNDPF) 2026–2029. Despite the policy progress made by government over the last five to six years towards setting food security and nutrition (FSNS) objectives in medium term development plans, implementation gaps persist at district level, particularly in translating national nutrition objectives into costed, actionable programs.

To address this gap, the NDPC and its partners adapted the existing food and nutrition planning toolkit into a highly practical suite of tools now called the FSNS Planning Toolkit to support Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), as well as Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs), in integrating nutrition and food systems interventions into their statutory development planning processes. The upgraded toolkit will enable FSNS-relevant sectors and all 261 districts to develop comprehensive, costed Plans with SMART indicators.

3.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives: By the end of the 2-day workshop, we expect each district to have:

1. A draft district FSNS plan, including costed priority interventions
2. A concrete “Next Steps” plan to finalize, validate, and integrate the FSNS plan into the district’s 2026-2029 MTDP and FY2027 Annual Action Plan

Workshop Activities: Workshop activities included plenary presentations on the FSNS situation in Ghana, presentations on the planning and costing tools and templates, district groupwork and group presentations. Participants followed a five-step process to develop plans to integrate FSNS activities into current district MTDPs (figure 1).

Preworkshop: One week before the workshop, a virtual webinar was organized where participants were taken through all the tools and were encouraged to complete the district situational FSNS template ahead of the workshop. According to district teams, this webinar substantially helped participants understand the FSNS information needed to jump-start the planning process ahead of time.

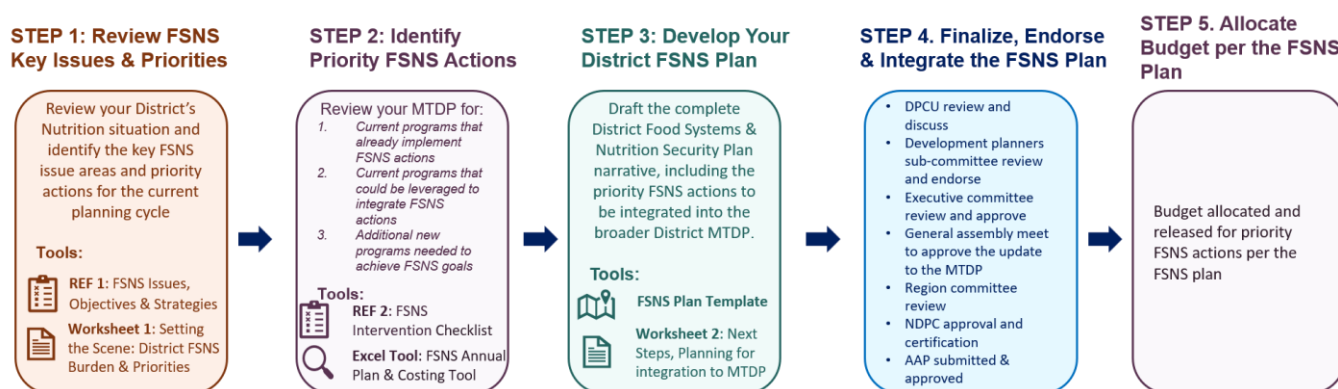


Workshop: Participants were equipped with worksheet templates, reference tools, planning templates, data sheets, and guidance tools to complete each stage of the five processes while facilitators provided tailored support to each district group.

Participants first reviewed the district food and nutrition security situation using the existing data including stunting, wasting, anemia, breastfeeding rates, coverage of vitamin A supplementation, training on good agricultural practices, WASH practices etc. (see annex on sample completed district plan).

This data helped participants review the current medium term development plans while identifying/and updating FSNS priorities in their districts. Utilizing the costing tools, districts costed all the prioritized interventions and where needed, participants re-costed the current interventions already included in the MDTPs. Finally, participants completed the third step by developing the district food systems and nutrition security narrative plan – which included all the district FSNS situation, key issues identified, priority actions, goals and objectives, main strategies and annual action plans etc.

Figure 1: Process Steps for District FSNS Planning & Budgeting



There was a high level of participation and excitement among participants with some expressing the importance of knowing and learning what other sectors are doing and discovering the opportunities for leveraging on each other's programs, for example integrating dietary diversity messages in agriculture extension farmers education activities.

At the end of the two-day workshop, all the two workshop objectives were met. ALL the districts completed, 1) draft district FSNS plans, including costed priority interventions and

2) “Next Steps” plans to finalize, validate, and integrate the FSNS plan into the district’s 2026-2029 MTDP and FY2027 Annual Action Plans.

4.0 WORKSHOP LESSONS

The Ashanti Region district-level FSNS planning workshop generated insights that build on the previous lessons from the pilot districts. These lessons helped to create a replicable blueprint for national rollout in support of high quality and timely FSNS plan completion.

1. Pre-workshop preparation is a game changer

Observation and Lesson: Districts that attended the pre-workshop were better prepared during the workshop as they had the time to access relevant district information including existing FSNS data and completed some of the steps ahead of the workshop. As a result, the workshop sessions moved faster and more efficiently. A structured pre-workshop webinar (which had minimal cost), early distribution of tools and templates, and mandatory assignments significantly improved efficiency and output quality. It built momentum and district ownership, helping districts identify data gaps and engage deeply rather than spending time on basic orientation.

Implication: Institutionalize the pre-workshop webinar as a non-negotiable component. Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) should encourage all districts to attend the webinar while ensuring districts complete the webinar assignments. NDPC should develop a standardized pre-workshop package (webinar curriculum, assignment templates, readiness checklist etc.) for replication across regions. This is likely to reduce workshop duration (and cost) and lengthy post-workshop follow-up.

2. Dissemination of tools and templates before the workshop drives proactive engagement

Observation and Lesson: Access to the tools, and templates ahead of the workshop proved highly beneficial in district adaptation and ownership. This helped some districts to complete aspects of the planning templates while collating some of the district FSNS information before the workshop. Providing tools well in advance enables districts to engage proactively, identify data gaps, consult other sectoral colleagues, and begin preliminary work that would otherwise consume workshop time.

Implication: NDPC to work with RCCs as soon as possible to disseminate all tools, templates, and guidelines. RCCs should encourage districts to start preliminary work - this also builds district ownership sooner than later.

3. Smaller workshop sizes enhanced quality of engagement

Observation and Lesson: Breaking the 43 districts in Ashanti into two back-to-back workshops allowed master facilitators to give each district sufficient time, personalized attention, and tailored guidance for quality of outputs. Smaller groups are essential for effective facilitation of district groups, enabling deeper technical support and meaningful interaction.

Implication: The only other region that may need a similar split like Ashanti is Eastern region. All other regions will need only one workshop, and if feasible, two regions with a smaller number of districts could be brought together in one workshop. Moreover, a good pre-workshop webinar attendance will help to reduce the time spent explaining the planning tools and speeding up the workshop duration.

4. District planning and budgeting officers are the anchors of successful FSNS planning

Observation: District planners led the group discussions effectively resulting in well-structured district plans. They demonstrated great leadership skills, technical acumen, and excellent cross-sector coordination. Their active engagement ensured the planning process was coordinated, technically sound, and inclusive of multiple sectors. The presence of budgeting officers in the workshop was a game changer because this offered them the opportunity to support the costing/budgeting process with a better understanding of what the priority interventions entailed. To quote one of the budget officers... *"this is my first time of working closely with programmers, it has helped me to get a better insight in these FSNS activities. I will ensure that budget allocations are approved and released when I go back to my district"*.

Beyond coordination, planners provide the technical backbone, ensure alignment with national and regional frameworks, and drive timely delivery.

Implication: RCCs should communicate this clearly to District Chief Executives. NDPC may develop targeted guidance or refresher modules for planning and budgeting officers.

5. Mandating plan submission drives accountability and results

Observation and Lesson: All districts submitted draft FSNS plans by end of Day 2. A clear mandate for the completion of plans during the working session as an output created accountability and motivated districts to focus on producing quality plans.

Implication: RCCs should be encouraged to maintain and clearly communicate ahead of time the importance of timely submission of quality plans as the main output of the workshop. The Ashanti experience shows this is feasible and effective.

6. RCC ownership and presence secure district buy-in and commitment

Observation and Lesson: The strong RCC ownership and leadership of planning for FSNS has helped to create visibility of FSNS priorities in the region and indeed in all the districts. Bringing different sectors in the districts to sit around the table to plan and cost FSNS activities strengthened district buy-in, commitment, and accountability.

Implication: RCCs should integrate in their routine monitoring, and evaluation plans the key priority actions to track within the district FSNS plans.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

Summary table for rollout across all districts:

Lesson	Key Implication
Pre-workshop webinar	Adapt the current package for a standard webinar package and develop a plan to roll out the webinar across all districts
Grouping districts for workshop	Develop a plan for grouping districts for each workshop to cut down on cost and duration of each workshop
Dissemination of tools	Disseminate tools to all districts as soon as possible before the workshops are rolled out
District Planning and Budgeting as anchors	Conduct orientation of budget and planning officers via a short regional webinar
Completed district FSNS plans	Maintain and communicate in advance that the FSNS plans are the main outputs of the planning workshops
RCC ownership and leadership	Support and equip RCCs as the leaders of FSNS efforts in their regions