

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

## Subchapter 3.1

# ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND PROPER NUTRITION

Over the last two years, supply-side interventions and strategic trade policies helped address immediate supply constraints and stabilized food prices. Complemented by productivity-enhancing programs, recent policy actions such as: (a) the removal of non-tariff barriers to trade; (b) rice tariff reduction; and (c) the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act, highlighted the government's sustained commitment to ensure supply stability and the protection of local producers.<sup>1</sup> However, these efforts were largely reactive to the onset or aftermath of shocks rather than guided by long-term preparedness. The absence of institutionalized anticipatory mechanisms and integrated data management system linking food and nutrition security reveals a critical gap in the country's food security and agricultural resilience framework. Further, while these initiatives enhanced food availability, their impact on broader nutritional outcomes remains limited.

Moving forward, a more proactive and integrated approach is needed to improve the availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutritious food. This entails strengthening nutrition-sensitive programs, investing in resilient local food systems and supply chains, and boosting agricultural production. Equally important is the development of institutionalized, ready-to-implement strategies and programs—such as a “playbook” for *El Niño* and *La Niña* response—to guide risk mitigation and emergency actions. Embedding these mechanisms into national policy frameworks will be essential to building a more adaptive, nutrition-secure, and resilient agri-food sector.

## Accomplishments

<sup>1</sup> Administrative Order No. 20: Further Streamlining Administrative Procedures and Removing Non-Tariff Barriers on the Importation of Agricultural Products

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

**Table 3.1.1 Progress Report for Ensuring Food Security and Proper Nutrition**



**The government implemented productivity-enhancing programs alongside strategic trade policies aimed at stabilizing domestic supply and mitigating food inflation.** Through its banner programs, the Department of Agriculture (DA) provided production support, training services, irrigation facilities, and agricultural machinery, equipment and facilities to local producers to improve productivity and enhance production.

In the rice subsector, supply-side interventions which will continue until 2031 were implemented through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), as mandated by the Agricultural Tariffication Act. The program provided rice farmers access to certified seeds, farm mechanization, credit, and extension services, to boost their competitiveness. This was complemented by financial support distributed under the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA) Program, targeting eligible farmers affected by declining palay prices.

On the trade front, the government adopted calibrated importation measures to augment domestic supply and cushion price increases, particularly for key commodities such as

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

rice, sugar, fish, and meat. Additionally, tariff adjustments and the issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances facilitated the timely entry of imports, especially during supply shortfalls, helping to temper inflationary pressures in the food sector.

**While the current measures eased food inflation, there is a need to shift from a predominantly reactive orientation to a proactive strategy centered on long-term planning and resilience.** Without the institutional capacity to anticipate and strategically prepare for emerging risks, the country's food system remains highly vulnerable to shocks. These include: (a) outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases (e.g., African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza); (b) climate-related events such as El Niño, La Niña, and other extreme weather conditions; and (c) the volatility of global trade. Such disruptions threaten not only immediate food availability and affordability, but also food security.

Interventions are often developed in response to crises rather than guided by a coherent, forward-looking strategy. For instance, Executive Order No. 62, s. 2024, reduced the rice tariff from 35 percent to 15 percent to curb rising domestic prices. However, this measure came nearly a year after India—the world's largest rice exporter—banned non-basmati white rice exports in July 2023, a move that significantly tightened global supply and triggered price surges. This demonstrates the constraints of reactive policymaking, where actions follow global disruptions rather than anticipate them.

A reactive orientation hinders the development of long-term resilience and impedes the government's capability to proactively manage future shocks. To ensure sustainable and efficient food systems, forward-looking analysis, data-driven decision-making, and risk-informed integrated foresight planning are needed to allow the country to effectively address both immediate disruptions and long-term structural challenges.

**The country's efforts in tackling malnutrition show mixed outcomes.** Notably, progress has been made in reducing child stunting, particularly among children under five, with prevalence declining from 26.7 percent in 2021 to 23.6 percent in 2023. However, the target to reduce child wasting in the same age group was not met, underscoring gaps in accessing nutritious food, healthcare, and social protection services. Meanwhile, overweight and obesity trends across all age groups barely improved, which are exacerbated by higher consumption of alcohol and tobacco products and insufficient physical activity.

**The fragmented and overlapping implementation of PAPs among agencies and partners undermines their overall effectiveness and delays the achievement of desired outcomes.** This practice can be seen in the Urban Gardening programs and other similar *Gulayan* programs/projects being implemented by various government

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

agencies.<sup>2</sup> These efforts often proceed in isolation, with weak or no coordination between implementing bodies resulting in duplicated efforts, inefficient use of resources, and fragmented impacts that diminish the overall benefits for target communities. Strengthening inter-agency collaboration through joint planning, integrated data sharing, and harmonized implementation can help align programs, improving their focus and effectiveness in reaching the intended beneficiaries.

**Moreover, there is a need to improve the design, frequency, and implementation of nationwide nutrition surveys to boost the effectiveness of nutrition-related PAPs.**

The timely and accurate collection and release of nutrition data is essential for the development of evidence-based policies and targeted interventions. Improving the data collection and reporting systems will increase the accuracy and responsiveness of nutrition programs, enabling more effective policy development and better allocation of resources. Moreover, the nationwide roll-out of the National Nutrition Information System (NNIS) has been slow due to resource, connectivity, and interoperability issues. Efforts to include data from dietary supplementation programs in the NNIS will help harmonize the program's targeting, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation.

## **Implementation of the Transformation Agenda**

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023–2028 Subchapter 3.1 advances the transformation agenda by emphasizing the importance of anticipatory mechanisms within the food system. These mechanisms aim to strengthen resilience by proactively identifying and addressing potential risks before they occur, ensuring a stable food supply and price stability.

By promoting forward-looking strategies that utilize data analytics, risk assessments, and early warning systems, the PDP supports timely interventions to mitigate disruptions from climate events, disease outbreaks, and global market fluctuations. This approach also encourages integrated foresight planning across agencies and sectors, fostering a coordinated and agile response to emerging challenges while building a sustainable, inclusive food system that supports long-term food security, livelihoods, and economic growth.

---

<sup>2</sup> The DA-Bureau of Plant Industry implements the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program while the DA-High-Value Crops Development Program implements a separate *Gulayan sa Bayan*, including establishment of school gardens. Meanwhile, the Department of Education and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also implement *Gulayan sa Paaralan* and *Gulayan sa Barangay*, respectively.

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

## **Action Plan**

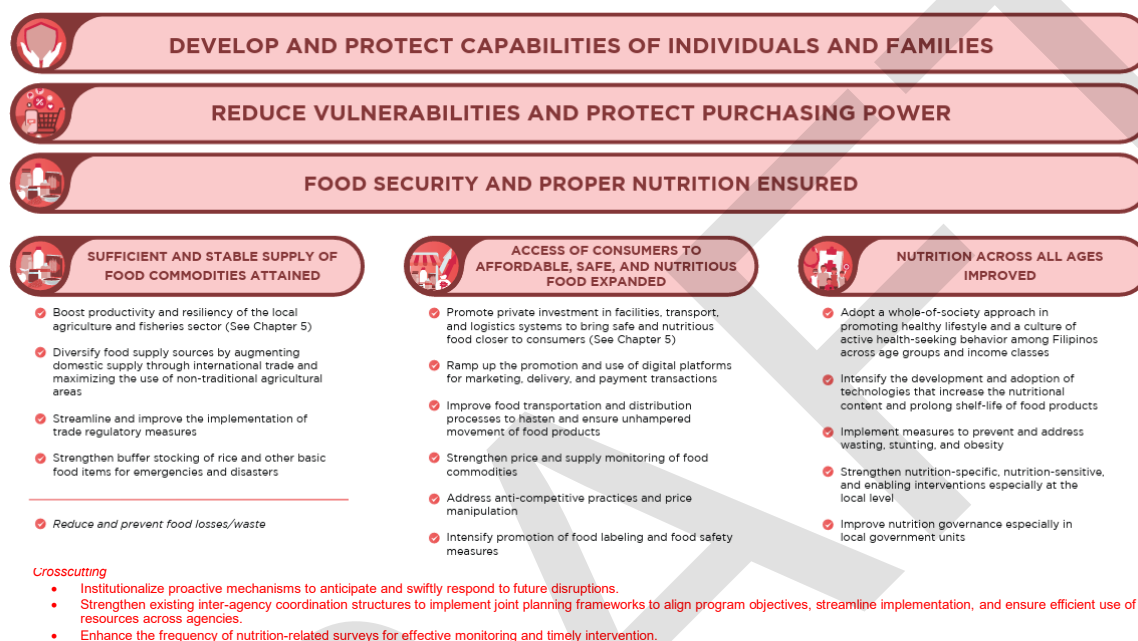
To build long-term resilience and ensure food and nutrition security, the government must institutionalize proactive mechanisms that anticipate and swiftly respond to future disruptions. Central to this effort is the strengthening of inter-agency coordination structures, that facilitate collaboration across government agencies through joint planning, coordination meetings, and interoperable data systems. This will ensure the alignment of program objectives, streamline implementation, and ensure efficient resource use. Furthermore, enhancing the frequency and timeliness of nutrition-related surveys is critical for accurately tracking malnutrition and other public health concerns. Moreover, this will enable timely identification of gaps, support evidence-based decision-making, and improve the targeting and effectiveness of nutrition interventions.

## **Updated Strategy Framework**

The government will continue prioritizing food security and proper nutrition as critical components of inclusive and sustainable development. To achieve this, the government is pursuing a holistic strategy that focuses on three main areas: (a) maintaining sufficient and stable supply of food commodities; (b) expanding access of consumers to affordable, safe, and nutritious food; and (c) improving nutrition across all ages. To further strengthen these efforts, the government is also adopting the lessons learned from challenges encountered in the past by developing a “playbook” of anticipatory mechanisms for responding to future disruptions. This will reinforce existing inter-agency coordination structures to ensure alignment and implementation of programs with shared objectives and increase the frequency of nutrition-related surveys to enable more accurate

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

## monitoring and timely interventions. **Figure 3.1.2 Updated Strategy Framework to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition**



## Strategies

### **Outcome 1: Sufficient and stable supply of food commodities attained**

#### *Boost productivity and resiliency of the local agriculture and fisheries sector.*

The sustained implementation of productivity-enhancing interventions in the agriculture and fisheries sector is part of a broader anticipatory strategy that will ensure a stable and affordable food supply and safeguard against disruptions. These include the distribution of essential production inputs alongside targeted subsidies and financial aid to offset high production costs and mitigate risks from climate change, pests, diseases, and other shocks.<sup>3</sup> To maximize impact and outreach, these interventions will be delivered through a focused approach centered on organized clusters of producers, enabling more efficient service delivery, economies of scale, and improved supply chain coordination (See Chapter 5).

<sup>3</sup> Production inputs include seeds, planting materials, animals, fingerlings and brood stocks, fertilizers, biologics, and other critical farm and fishery machinery and equipment.



*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

*Diversify food supply sources by augmenting domestic supply through international trade and maximizing the use of non-traditional agricultural areas.*

Urban agriculture initiatives will be expanded through partnerships with LGUs, private sector, non-government organizations, and academic networks to generate wider traction and create localized subsistence supply. In parallel, proactive policy measures, embedded in sectoral action plans, will ensure timely and coordinated response mechanisms in the event of insufficient local food production, particularly during multi-dimensional shocks such as natural disasters, pandemics, or geopolitical disruptions.

*Streamline and improve the implementation of trade regulatory measures.*

Full implementation of Administrative Order No. 20, s. 2024 will be pursued to foster greater transparency and predictability in the country's agricultural importation policy regime by further streamlining administrative procedures and removing non-tariff barriers, thereby facilitating sufficient volume and timely arrival of imports.

*Strengthen the buffer stocking of rice and other basic food items for emergencies and disasters.*

The National Food Authority's (NFA) procurement activities will be intensified to maintain an optimal rice inventory level equivalent to 15 days, at any given time, in line with the Amended Rice Tariffication Law.<sup>4</sup> This buffer stock is essential to support the government's disaster relief programs during natural or man-made calamities and to respond effectively to food security emergencies.

## **Outcome 2: Access of consumers to affordable, safe, and nutritious food expanded**

*Promote private investment in facilities, transport, and logistics system to bring safe and nutritious food closer to consumers.*

Attracting greater private sector participation in developing critical A&F infrastructure will necessitate offering a mix of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives targeted at high-risk and underserved areas of the value chain, including cold storage, post-harvest facilities, and processing hubs in remote locations.<sup>5</sup> Investment planning will be further strengthened through improved utilization of tools such as, the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Management Information System (ABEMIS) and the GEOAGRI Portal, which enable

---

<sup>4</sup> Republic Act No. 12078

<sup>5</sup> Incentives such as concessional financing, tax relief, risk-sharing mechanisms, and blended financing models.

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

data-driven targeting and prioritization of support for transport and logistics systems that bring safe, nutritious, and affordable food closer to consumers (See Chapter 5).

*Ramp up the promotion and use of digital platforms for marketing, delivery and payment transactions.*

A centralized e-commerce platform catering to MSMEs, incorporating agri-food products and functioning as an online marketplace will be established. This is borne out of the premise that e-commerce platforms under different government agencies may be inefficient.<sup>6</sup> The success of an online marketplace depends on the same set of prerequisites, namely: attractive product advertising, ease of use, convenient payment options, and efficient logistics and delivery.

*Improve food transportation and distribution processes to hasten and ensure unhampered movement of food products.*

Expand the establishment of *Kadiwa* Centers in strategically located areas and continue to partner with LGUs, farmer groups, non-government organizations, and private groups to enhance access to affordable and high-quality agricultural and fishery products for consumers while providing a stable and direct market for local farmers and fisherfolk.

*Strengthen price and supply monitoring of food commodities.*

Real-time data from the DA's *Bantay Presyo* and the Trading Post Commodity Volume Watch will be made accessible to both producers and consumers, through various media platforms, to enhance market transparency and support evidenced-based decision-making among stakeholders. The establishment of the Daily Price Index will institutionalize the daily monitoring and dissemination of prevailing retail prices for agricultural and fishery products nationwide.

---

<sup>6</sup> Transforming Philippine Agri-Food Systems with Digital Technology: Extent, Prospects, and Inclusiveness. PIDS 2023.



*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

#### *Address anti-competitive practices and price manipulation.*

The government will ensure complementation between the functions of the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Enforcement Group, and the Surveillance Team.<sup>7</sup> Both groups share the critical responsibility of preventing and monitoring illegal activities related to the importation, storage, and distribution of agricultural and fishery products. To maximize their collaboration, their respective roles and responsibilities must be clearly delineated. Establishing coordination mechanisms is essential to enable regular intelligence sharing, which will support the identification and implementation of effective measures against agricultural economic sabotage. This synergy will enhance enforcement efforts, and improve the overall efficiency of monitoring and preventive actions.

Moreover, to uphold consumer protection and enhance transparency within the market, a joint Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and DA consumer protection and advocacy group will be instituted. This entity will be responsible for ensuring compliance with established safety and quality standards, as well as providing a formal mechanism for addressing and resolving consumer complaints. Through these functions, the group will strengthen consumer trust and serve as a vital complement to the enforcement and surveillance efforts.

#### *Intensify promotion of food labeling and food safety measures*

The government is taking steps to ensure national standards and regulations are aligned with evolving international benchmarks and scientific risk-based approaches. A total of 46 Philippine National Standard (PNS) on food safety will be developed for adoption into technical regulations to ensure that food products in the market meet the updated safety, quality, and labelling requirements. Likewise, 25 food safety-related regulations will be amended based on the latest standards and a risk-based approach.

To enhance regulatory efficiency and transparency, an online database for the inventory of registered storage facilities will be operationalized. The use of this online platform will be expanded to digitalize the processes of food safety regulatory agencies. Furthermore, the Philippine Nutrient Profile Model (PNPM) and front-of-pack labeling (FOPL) will be implemented. The PNPM will serve as a tool to reduce the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Nutrition labeling will promote healthier food choices and improve

---

<sup>7</sup> Economic Sabotage Group: Created by virtue of Section 18 of RA No. 12022, the group consists of NBI, PNP, PCG, and DOF. Surveillance Team: Section 6 of AO 20, s. 2024, reconstituted the Surveillance Team, comprising of DA, DTI, BOC, Philippine Competition Commission, DILG, DOJ, NBI, and PNP.

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

dietary quality. In addition, targeted bans on unhealthy foods will be introduced in selected settings to create healthier food environments.

In parallel, the government is streamlining the process for securing a Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) to ensure that all regulated products, including animal vaccines, comply with safety standards and are authorized for sale and use in the country.

### **Outcome 3: Nutrition across all ages improved**

*Adopt a whole-of-society approach in promoting healthy lifestyle and a culture of active health-seeking behavior among Filipinos across age groups and income classes.*

LGUS will align Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAPs) with the PPAN and regional nutrition frameworks to ensure policy coherence and program synergy across all levels of governance. This harmonization enables the effective translation of national and regional nutrition goals into targeted, context-specific interventions at the local level. By doing so, it fosters a coordinated approach that integrates both top-down strategic direction and bottom-up responsiveness to local needs and realities.

*Implement measures to prevent and address wasting, stunting and obesity.*

The remaining target municipalities (130 out of the 235) under the Philippine Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Project, will be assisted and monitored in the development of their respective Municipal Nutrition Action Plans (MNAPs). These plans will be approved through corresponding resolutions by their respective LGUs.<sup>8</sup> The National Nutrition Council (NNC) and the Department of Health (DOH) will lead the implementation of the National Policy on Addressing Obesity and Other Metabolic Disorders, to address overweight, obesity and other metabolic diseases across all life stages.

*Strengthen nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, and enabling interventions especially at the local level.*

The DA-PhilMech and Philippine Carabao Center will assist cooperatives in establishing retort facilities and meet the growing demand for sterilized milk, which will support the implementation of milk feeding programs. Assisted cooperatives will be continuously capacitated through training programs focusing on quality assurance, food safety, and proper milk handling. In addition, monitoring and evaluation protocols of the government's dietary supplementation programs will be reviewed to support the enhancement of the

---

<sup>8</sup> Data as of August 31, 2023

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

NNIS pursuant to Republic Act No. 11037.<sup>9</sup> To track local progress in nutrition, the NNC Operation Timbang Plus will implement regular data quality checks.

#### *Improve nutrition governance, especially in local government units.*

The NNC, with the support of multisectoral bodies, will ensure the integration, rationalization, and harmonization of all nutrition interventions. Nutrition-specific and – sensitive programs will be enrolled in Program Convergence Budgeting to foster multisectoral cooperation and efficient program delivery. Food security and nutrition topics in the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) will help LGUs formulate targeted interventions for their vulnerable populations. To strengthen evidence-based decision-making, a comprehensive end-to-end assessment of nutrition initiatives will be conducted to inform nutrition planning and program design at the national and local levels.

### **Crosscutting**

#### *Institutionalize proactive mechanisms to anticipate and swiftly respond to future disruptions.\**

These mechanisms should be embedded with both national and local governance systems and must be supported by strategic, ready-to-implement action plans that outline preemptive measures, risk mitigation strategies, and protocols for coordinated emergency response. Proactively planning for a broad range of potential shocks, whether climate-related, market-driven, or geopolitical tensions, can help lessen dependence on reactive, short-term measures. This type of planning promotes a more strategic approach that safeguards food and nutrition security, protects the welfare of local producers and consumers, and mitigates economic disruptions. This institutional approach will also strengthen inter-agency collaboration and ensure faster and more coordinated responses during times of crisis.

In addition, the creation of the Subcommittee on Inflation Monitoring and Market Outlook (IMMO) under the Economic Development Committee of the newly enacted Economy, Planning and Development Act, reinforces the need to proactively monitor price trends and conduct *ex-ante* analyses of supply-demand situations of key commodities. Informed by such analyses, the IMMO shall recommend measures to manage food inflation and curb price spikes, including interventions to augment local supply, improve predictability on the importation of agricultural products, and promote greater competition in the market.

---

<sup>9</sup> As mandated by the law, the NNC will harmonize all existing nutrition databases from national government agencies, local government units, and other relevant agencies.

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

*Strengthen existing inter-agency coordination structures to improve the alignment of program objectives, streamline implementation, and ensure efficient use of government resources.\**

Collaboration and coordination among existing inter-agency structures, such as the NNC Board, National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFCouncil) and Inter-agency Taskforce on Zero Hunger, shall be strengthened. These entities must be granted the authority and capacity to facilitate collaboration and complementation across government sectors. These bodies should lead joint planning processes, facilitate regular coordination meetings, and conduct periodic reviews to maintain alignment and synergy among related initiatives. In addition, there is also a need to develop an interoperable data systems that enable agencies to share critical information, such as beneficiary lists, project locations, and monitoring results. A unified data platform will support evidence-based decision-making and improve the targeting and effectiveness of interventions.

*Enhance the frequency of nutrition-related surveys for effective monitoring and timely intervention.\**

Regular and timely nutrition-related surveys are essential for accurately tracking progress in addressing malnutrition, stunting and other public health concerns. The National Nutrition Survey (NNS) administered by the Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI), serves as the primary source of data for monitoring nutrition and evaluating population's nutrition status through key indicators

However, the periodicity of these surveys remain a concern, since the intervals between survey cycles may be too infrequent to effectively capture timely changes or emerging trends in nutritional outcomes. To enhance responsiveness of nutrition programs, more frequent and systematic nutrition-related surveys are recommended. Improved data availability enables timely gap identification, targeted interventions, and effective monitoring which is crucial for achieving sustainable improvements in nutrition outcomes. Alternatively, the collection and monitoring of nutrition-related data at the local level should be strengthened by defining standardized data collection tools and formats to ensure consistency across Local nutrition staff will also be provided with training on data collection and data quality checks to improve capacities in planning, budgeting, and implementation.

## **Targets**

The core indicators and corresponding targets are retained for the remaining plan period, except for the Philippine food security index score increased considering means of

*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

verification for this indicator has been discontinued.<sup>10</sup> This indicator was replaced by "prevalence of food insecurity (severe and moderate to severe) in the population decreased."

**Table 3.1.1 Updated Results Matrix: Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition**

Indicator	Baseline Value (Year)	Accomplishment		Updated Targets			Means of Verification	Responsible Agency/ Inter-agency body
		2023	2024	2026	2027	2028		
Outcome 1: Food Security and Proper Nutrition Secured								
Prevalence of food insecurity in the population decreased (%)								
a. Severe food insecurity (%)	2.0 (2021)	2.7	N/A	0	0	0	Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS)	NNC Governing Board
b. Moderate to severe food insecurity	33.4 (2021)	31.4	N/A	27.1	25.7	24.4		
Outcome 1.1: Sufficient and stable supply of food commodities attained								
Food inflation rate kept (%) within target	6.1 (2022)	8.0	4.5	2.0-4.0	2.0-4.0	2.0-4.0	Inflation Report	Economy and Development Council
Outcome 1.2: Access of Consumers to Affordable, Safe, and Nutritious Food Expanded								
Subsistence incidence among population reduced (%)	5.9 (2021)	4.3	N/A	N/A	3.0-4.0	2.5-3.5	Poverty Statistics Report	Economy and Development Council
Outcome 1.3: Nutrition Across All Ages Improved								
Proportion of households meeting 100% recommended energy intake increased (%)	21.8 (2018-2019)	N/A	N/A	30.2	31.4	32.6	ENNS	NNC Governing Board
Prevalence of stunting among children under five years of age decreased (%)	26.7 (2021)	23.6	N/A	20.8	19.4	17.9	ENNS	NNC Governing Board
Prevalence of malnutrition for children under five years (wasting) decreased (%)	6.9 (2021)	8.4	N/A	4.7	4.5	4.3	ENNS	NNC Governing Board

Green: Exceeded target; Red: Missed target; Yellow: Met or expected to meet the target. Orange: Revised target; Pink: New indicator.

## Legislative Agenda

The following legislative agenda will be pursued in the remaining Plan period:

**Table 3.1.2 Legislative agenda to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition**

Legislative Agenda	Rationale/Key Features	Responsible Agency
Enactment of Urban Agriculture Law	Promote urban agriculture and vertical farming in metropolitan areas to contribute to attaining food security by utilizing available government- and privately-owned land resources suitable for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock, and aquaculture.	DA, DILG, DepEd, LGUs, and state universities and colleges
Food Waste Management Policy	Adopt and institutionalize mechanisms that will promote, facilitate, and ensure food waste reduction across different sectors of society (e.g., households, food establishments, food distributors, and supermarkets). This includes establishing food donation and distribution platforms and networks (e.g., food banks and community pantries) and community composting linked to green urban initiatives (e.g., urban spaces, urban agriculture)	NNC, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, DSWD, DepEd, Department of Health (DOH), DA, DTI, Department of Tourism,

<sup>10</sup> MOV of food security index score is Global Food Security Index Report published by The Economist Group



*Note: This PDP 2023-2028 Midterm Update Chapter is still preliminary and subject to further DEPDev review and Economy and Development Council approval. This draft is NOT official, and no part of this document may be cited or quoted. This is being circulated for public consultation processes.*

		Department of Energy (DOE), DILG, and LGUs
Amendment of Presidential Decree 1569 or Strengthening Barangay Nutrition Scholars	Upgrade the qualification standards, incentives, and benefits, and ensure the security of tenure of BNS. This is essential in the continuing capacity building and sustained delivery of quality frontline nutrition services to the community. Further, this will ensure that trained and experienced BNS are carried over by succeeding political administrations.	DILG, LGUs, DOH, NNC
Anti-Unhealthy Foods in School Act	Prohibit selling, promoting, marketing, or advertising of unhealthy foods or junk foods and sugary drinks within 100 meters of school premises in all public and private preparatory, elementary, and junior and senior high schools. This will help prevent overweight and obesity among school children.	DOH, NNC, DepEd, DILG, LGUs
Amendment of RA 8976 or Food Fortification Law	Resolve gaps and inconsistencies of RA 8976 with RA 11037 (Child Nutrition Act), RA 10611 (Food Safety Act of 2013), and RA 8172 (Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide). In particular, the amendment will focus on the coverage of mandatory fortification for rice, authorizing the NNC Governing Board to add and/or remove food for fortification and other provisions that need updating. This proposed legislative measure will also amend RA 8172 to enhance support for the local salt industry.	DOH, NNC, Food and Drug Administration, DTI, Department of Science and Technology–Food and Nutrition Research Institute, DA, and Land Bank of the Philippines
Establishment of local government unit (LGU) nutrition offices	Establish nutrition office with adequate and competent staff complement for local governments to have nutrition focal persons on the ground for nutrition programs to be properly implemented and able to benefit the targeted beneficiaries, especially among vulnerable and high-risk groups.	DILG, LGUs, DOH, NNC
Amendment of Section 61 of the Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550)	Reduce uncertainties and restrictions in the trade of fishery products and enable the timely importation of fish to augment domestic production in cases of supply deficiency.	BFAR, BOC
Amendment of the Masustansiyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act (RA 11037)	Expand the National Feeding Program and strengthen coordination with micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, farmer cooperatives or associations from which the meals for the program will be sourced. In addition, the amendment will address challenges in the the milk feeding component of RA 11037 to allow greater flexibility in procuring alternative nutritious foods beyond milk, improve infrastructure support for proper storage and handling, and streamline funding and procurement processes to ensure timely and effective delivery of feeding programs nationwide.	DepEd, DSWD, NNC, National Dairy Authority, and Philippine Carabao Center