



Approaches to connecting the dots around food systems and nutrition: Evidence to policy and action

*Perspective from the multi-sectoral
nutrition programming world*

Dec 05, 2024

Nepal: Food system realities

Diverse

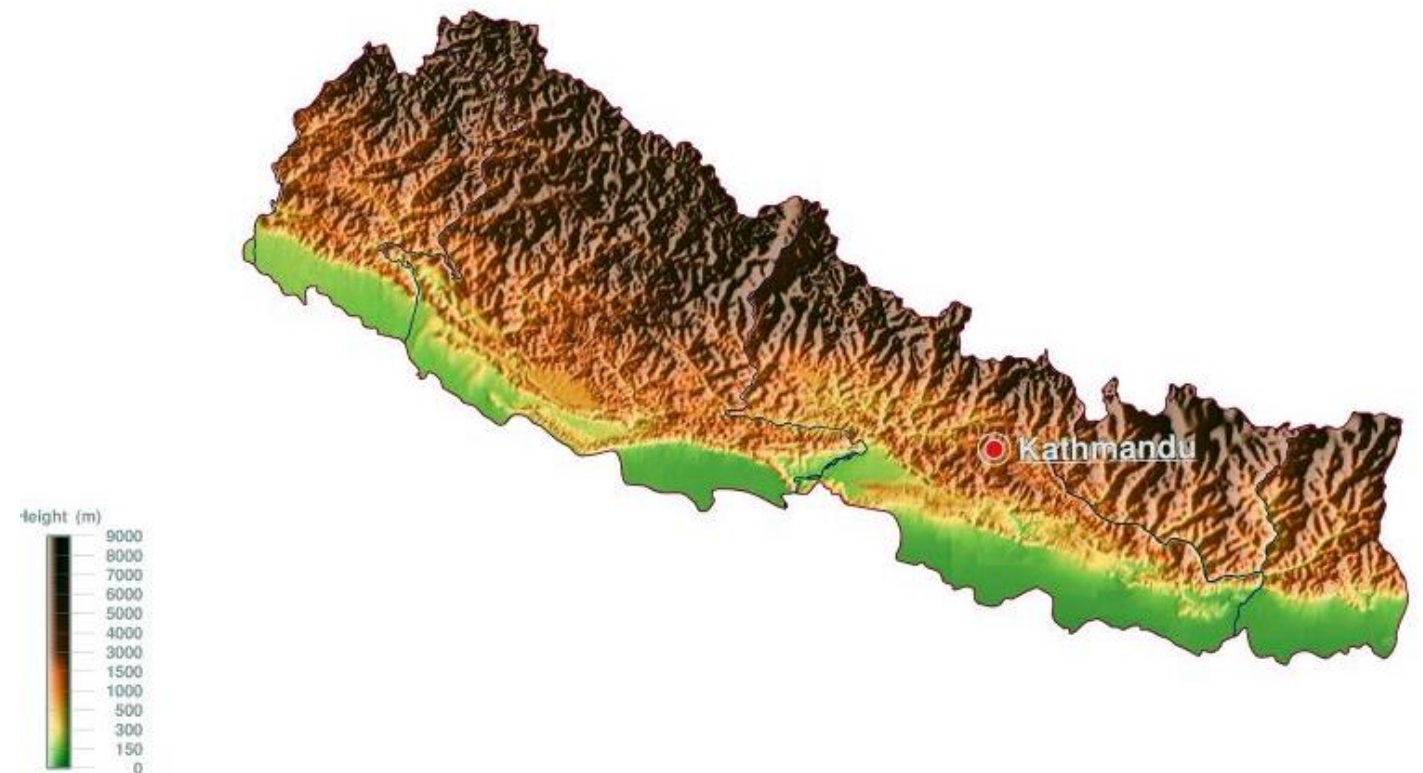
- Geographic/agro-ecological, economic, socio-cultural

Fragmented

- Food system actors (private sector, regulators, policymakers) operate in silos

Dynamic

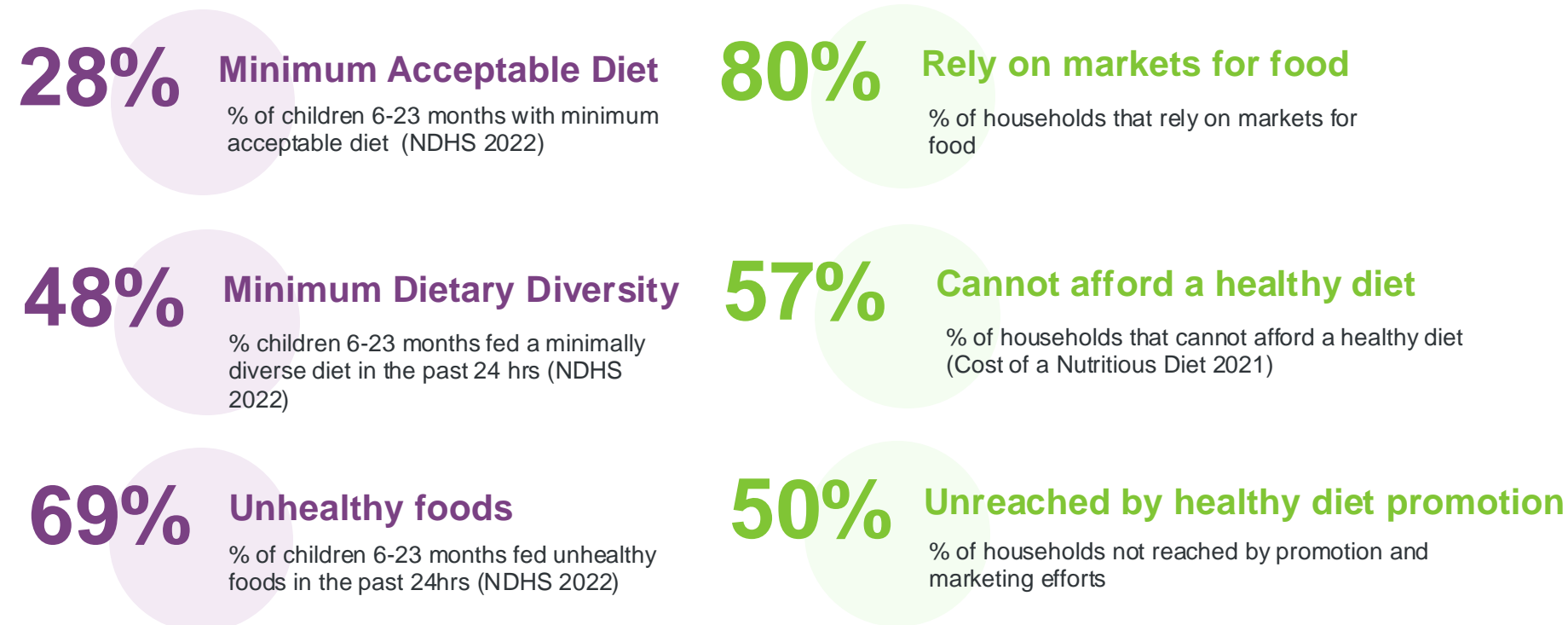
- Trends toward unhealthy foods, changing trade policies



Evidence-based Policy

- Multisectoral nutrition and agriculture policies and plans, with high-level commitment and coordination mechanisms.

Data on Needs



Nepal: Program challenge



1

Food systems frameworks that are practical.

2

Implementation science research to guide on the 'how' to address gaps.

3

Nuanced tools and approaches to facilitate prioritization and sequencing of actions by context.

1

Practical, simplified food systems frameworks

Complex food system frameworks are overwhelming!

- Current frameworks are macro-level and difficult to apply by policymakers and practitioners, and difficult to influence by implementers.
- Can we model the classic nutrition framework? A good example of less is more.

2

Action-oriented local implementation science on 'how'.

Evidence for policy and program action is needed soon.

- All income groups rely on food markets, but the private sector avoids low-profit areas.
- Evidence is needed soon on *how to* incentivize the public and private sectors for poor and vulnerable populations to align market dynamics with nutrition outcomes
- Can we define a set of non-negotiable priority actions to drive systemic change (based on learnings from the nutrition sector SUN movement, etc.)?

3

Tools and approaches to prioritize and sequence actions by context.

Implementers cannot do everything at once.

- Nuanced, practical tools, are needed to help policymakers and program implementers decide where to start based on specific contexts for targeted, maximum impact.
- Community-oriented tools for local level policy makers and implementers are also important.



Together we can connect the dots
between research and action
for food systems and nutrition

