

## **Nutrition Update**

The Multisectoral Nutrition TWG group met on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. It continues to lack adequate representation from the sectors, with only education and PMO-RALG present on the day, and no representatives from health or agriculture.

The National Nutrition Strategy is expected to be submitted as a cabinet paper by the MoHSW this month. Between October and the end of the year, the implementation plan for the Strategy will be developed. The Food fortification standards were gazetted in July, and VAT exemptions have been issued for imported fortificants. The mapping of district nutrition focal points/nutritionists is expected to take place in all districts in September.

PMO-RALG has issued letters instructing districts/regions to act on a series of actions to move on the commitments made by the Prime Minister during the June high level visit by US and Irish governments. Districts have been instructed to (1) recruit Nutrition Focal Persons (2) establish a budget line for nutrition in the next fiscal year, and to ensure nutrition is reflected in plans and budgets for fiscal year 2012-13, and (3) establish a multi-sector coordination structure at district level for nutrition (or make use of existing structures, if available).

The first meeting of the High Level Steering Committee on Nutrition was convened by the PS PMO on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. It was attended by representatives from seven ministries, including five PSs and Deputy PSs. The objective of this Committee is to foster improved coordination among sectors, and it is expected to serve as the inter-ministerial monitoring body of the National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) and nutrition component of the Tanzania Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (TAFSIP). The Secretariat for the Committee will be seated in PMO, and a focal person has been appointed within PMO for nutrition (Assistant Director Central Ministries). The main purpose of this first meeting was agree on the TOR for the Committee, the six month workplan and the way forward. The Multisectoral Nutrition TWG group will advise the Committee, and a review of its TOR was recommended to reflect its new role and reporting line to the Committee.