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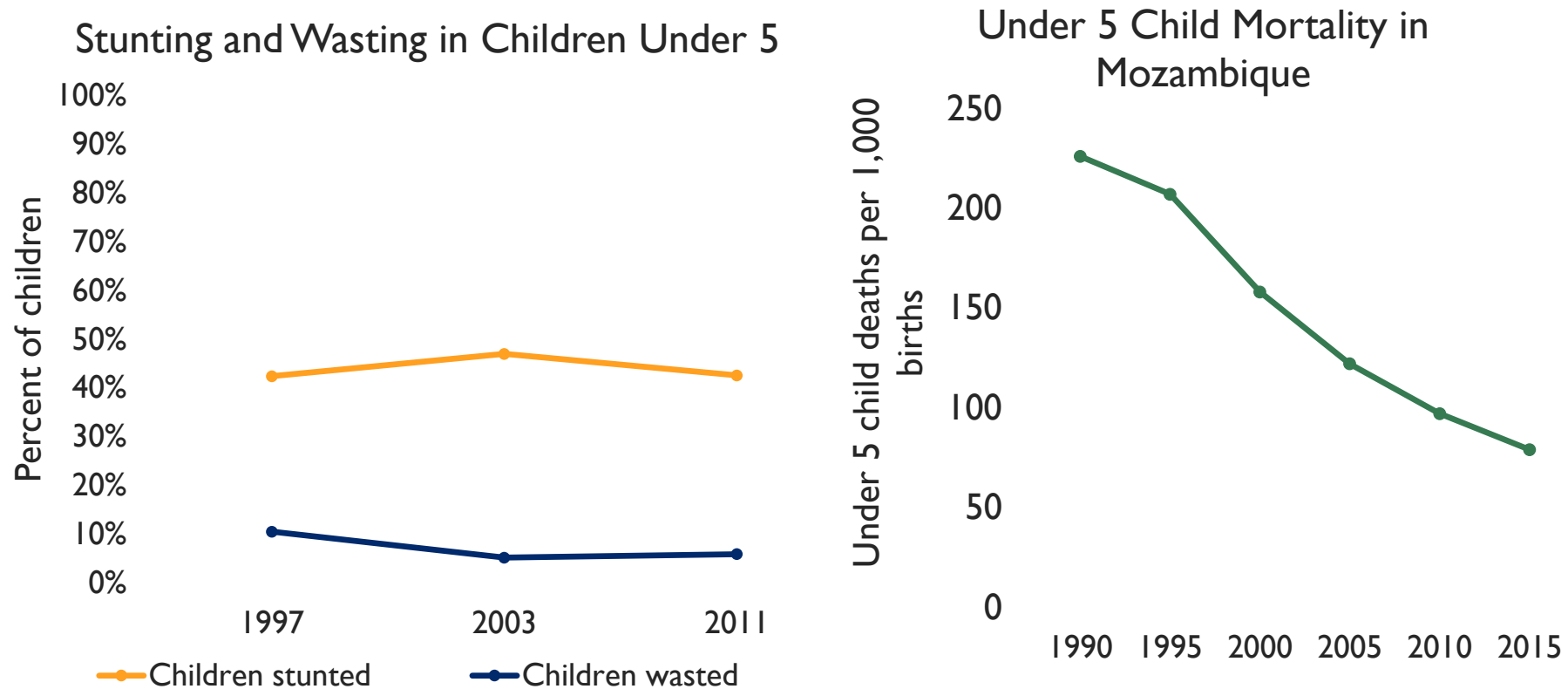
Rethinking Strategies to Address Micronutrient Deficiencies in Children Under 5 in Mozambique

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February 12, 2019

Mozambique faces high rates of child anemia & stunting and some reduction in wasting



- Only ~15% meet criteria for minimum acceptable diet
- 64% of children are anemic
- 69 % have Vitamin A deficiency

Background: Nampula & Sofala Provinces

- **Nampula:** MCSP supported 81 of 222 (36%) facilities and 636 communities
- **Sofala:** MCSP supported 30 of 159 (19%) facilities and 178 communities
- Preventive and curative nutrition interventions targeting mothers and children were integrated in RMNCH services

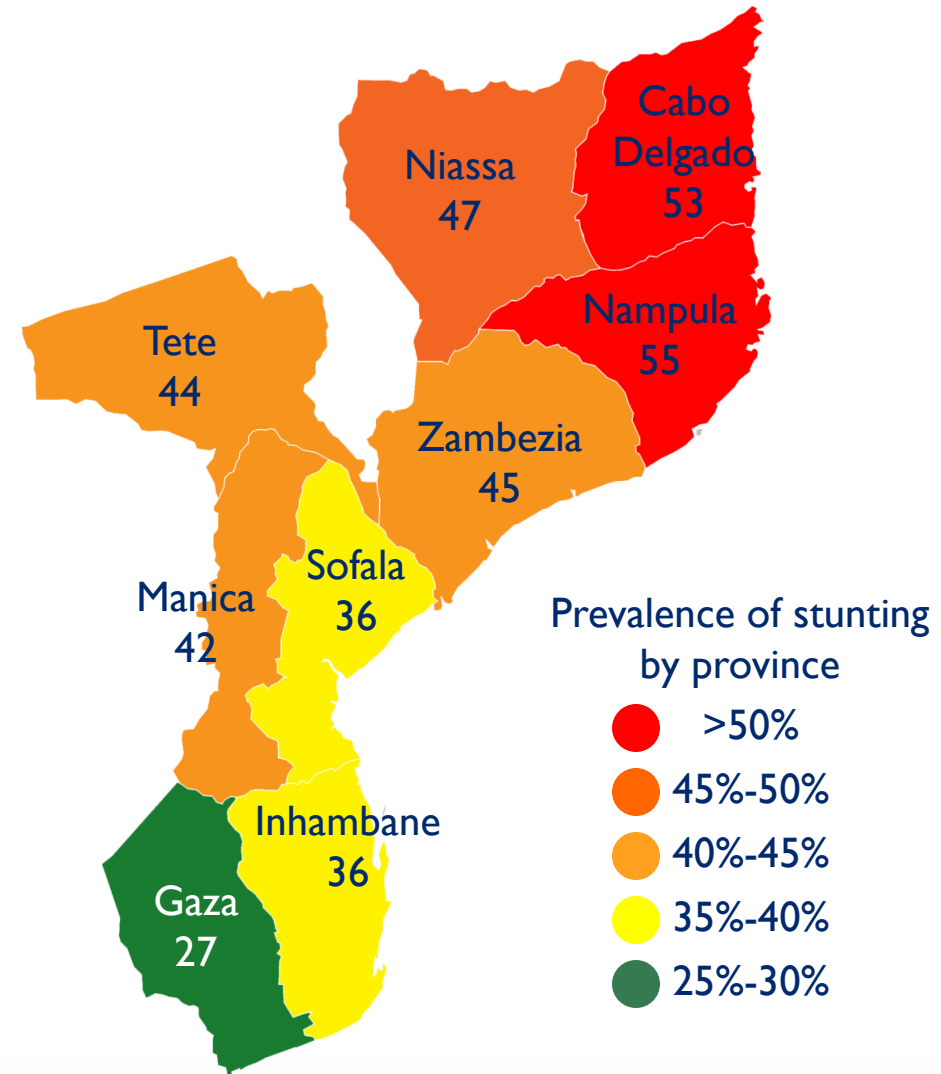
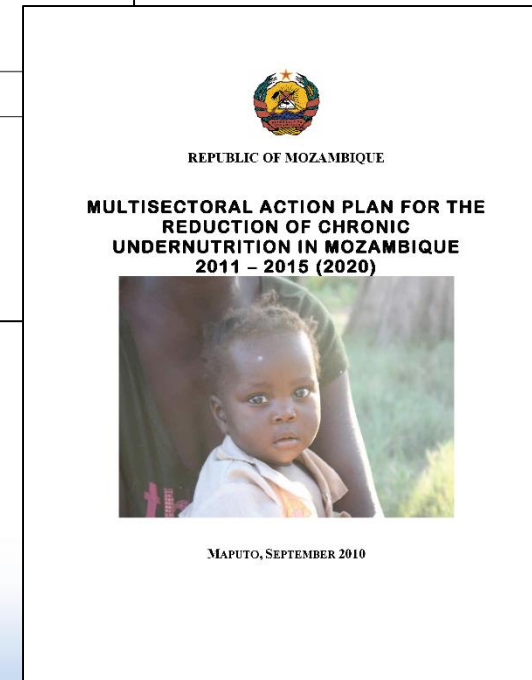


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of stunting in Mozambique. Source: SETSAN based on DHS 2011

Policy Environment – Multisectoral Engagement for Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies

Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014–2019; Multisectoral Action Plan for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition 2011–2014

- Vitamin A supplementation
- Micronutrient powders
- Deworming
- Complementary feeding
- Food fortification



Key Interventions to Address Micronutrient Deficiencies Within Health Programing

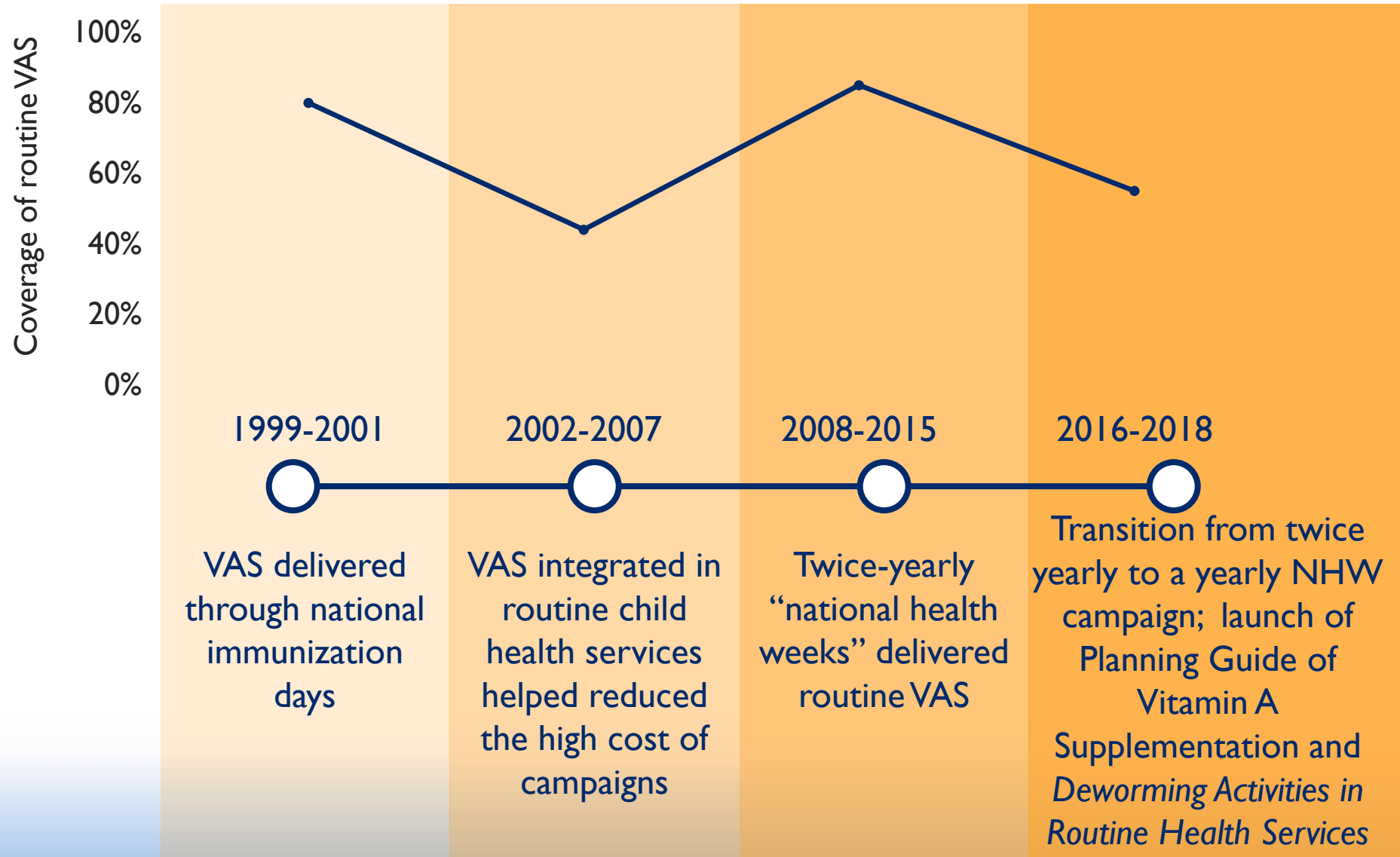
- Objective: Case study on micronutrient deficiency interventions targeting children under 5
- Three interventions:
 - Twice-yearly, Vitamin A supplementation
 - Point-of-use fortification - micronutrient powders
 - Promotion of dietary diversity



Photo Credit: Kate Holt/MCSP

Achievements: Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS)

Delivery model of VAS in Mozambique, 1999-2018



Challenges: Vitamin A Supplementation

- **Low demand:** Caregivers don't return for VAS once immunization is completed
- **Missed opportunities** for VAS during health facility at-risk and sick child visits
- Low capacity for **reporting and analysing routine VAS data** from all delivery platforms
- Localized **stock-outs** of supplements
- Large VAS campaigns made **demotivate health workers** to provide Vitamin A during routine services
- **Low quality microplanning** and lack of implementation of outreach activities for hard-to-reach children

Achievements and Challenges: Micronutrient Powders (MNPs)



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed a Strategy for the Implementation of Home Fortification with MNPs–2015
- Developed SBCC materials for promotion of MNP
- Availability of MNPs through free or subsidized distribution in select areas
- Inclusion of MNPs in child health cards and registers



CHALLENGES

- Cost and funding for commodities are limitations
- Lack of SBCC strategies to guide implementation and limited caregivers' acceptance of MNP
- Limited use of vouchers resulted in low coverage of MNPs in subsidized model
- Top-down commodity distribution limited efficiency of supply chain

Achievements and Challenges: Promotion of Dietary Diversity



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since 1994, enriched porridges promoted via nutrition education & cooking demonstrations
- In 2014, MOH adapted the generic UNICEF IYCF community counselling package to the Mozambican context



CHALLENGES

- Complementary feeding counselling focused on “enriched porridges,” not on community needs & cultural beliefs
- Slow roll out of community counselling package
- No parallel integration of adequate IYCF counselling in child health services at the facility level

Recommendations for the Way Forward: Sustainability and Scale up

- **Periodically monitor and evaluate** the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies in the target population to understand extent of nutrient deficiencies
- **Generate evidence** on micronutrient deficiency reduction interventions' cost-effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability
- **Roll out guidelines** (including the planning guide for VAS and deworming and the RED/REC guide)

Recommendations for the Way Forward: Sustainability and Scale up

- **Plan and forecast resources** and supplies to meet needs in an equitable manner
- **Scale up demand generation** activities (songs, theatre, cooking demonstrations, group talks, and home visits)
- **Develop a cohesive national strategy** for the prevention and control of micronutrient malnutrition to ensure coordinated, harmonized and cost-effective efforts



Thank you!

For more information, please visit
www.mcspprogram.org

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