

*MONITORING  
ACTION ON FOOD INSECURITY AND  
MALNUTRITION*

THE COUNTRY FOOD SECURITY  
COMMITMENT AND CAPACITY  
SCORE CARD



# The Country Food Security Commitment and Capacity Score Card

## □ What?

- ▣ **balanced score card – beyond usual tracking of the FSN situation**
- ▣ **quick but comprehensive** view of the level of commitment and capacity of stakeholders to act upon the issues

## □ Why?

- ▣ to **inform** dialogue and **prioritise** policies and investments by pointing to concrete areas for further development
- ▣ **monitor** public performance over time

# What is the situation?

## **Typical indicators describing the context of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, i.e.**

- Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population)
- Stunting prevalence (children under 5) ; total + rural/urban
- Wasting prevalence (children under 5); total + rural/urban
- Undernourishment prevalence (% of population) and change over time
- Number of people undernourished (millions) and change over time
- Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
- Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)
- HIV prevalence rate (population ages 15-49, %)
- Employees, agriculture, female (% of female employment)
- Women's access to agricultural land
- Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education (%)
- Percentage of women who are literate
- Various indicators relevant to key context specific determinants

# Beyond the Situation: Commitment and Capacity to Act

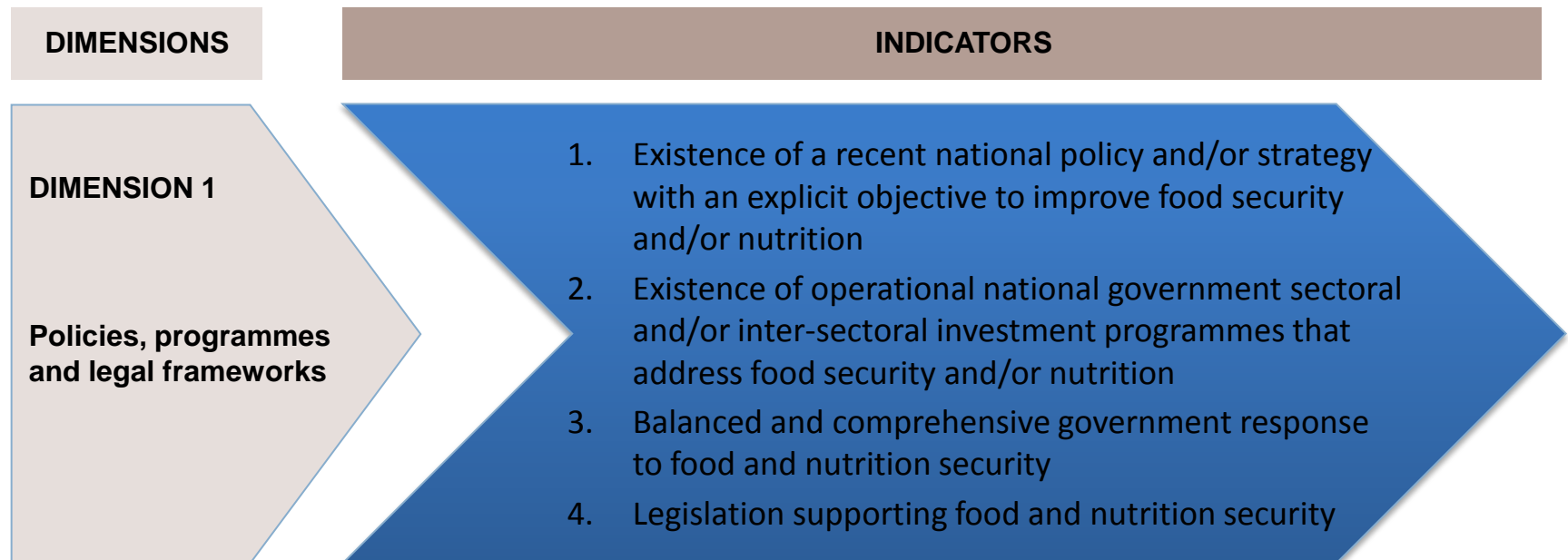
- Political commitment is an ambiguous and difficult to assess concept
- Focus on indirect measures through a set of “**essential factors of success**” or dimensions:
  1. **Policies, programmes and legal frameworks** (comprehensive policies/strategies and investment programmes - evidence-based, addressing underlying causes, adopting a twin-track approach -, supported by a constitutional guarantee of the right to food).
  2. **Human and financial resources**(allocation of adequate financial and human resources, knowledge and strong implementation capacity of government).
  3. **Governance, coordination mechanisms and partnerships** (government managed partnerships and coordinated action across a broad range of sectors and actors, including civil society).
  4. **Evidenced-based decision-making** (government food and nutrition security information and mapping systems, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, use of evidence for decision-making).

# Commitment and Capacity Indicators

- Each dimension is represented by a set of **indicators** to allow measuring the extent to which the essential success factors are present in a country
- Indicator **selection** criteria:
  - ▣ Relevance for the respective dimension
  - ▣ Comparability across countries
  - ▣ Measurability
  - ▣ Clarity (easily understood by different stakeholders)
- **0 to 1 scale**; 1 = high levels of commitment and capacity, 0.6 moderate, 0.3 low and 0 no/negligible.
- **Data**: secondary data sources and expert opinion surveys

# Dimension 1: Policies, programmes and legal frameworks

- Translating stakeholders' good will into concrete policies, programmes and legal provision
- Judging whether policies and programmes represent strong government commitment



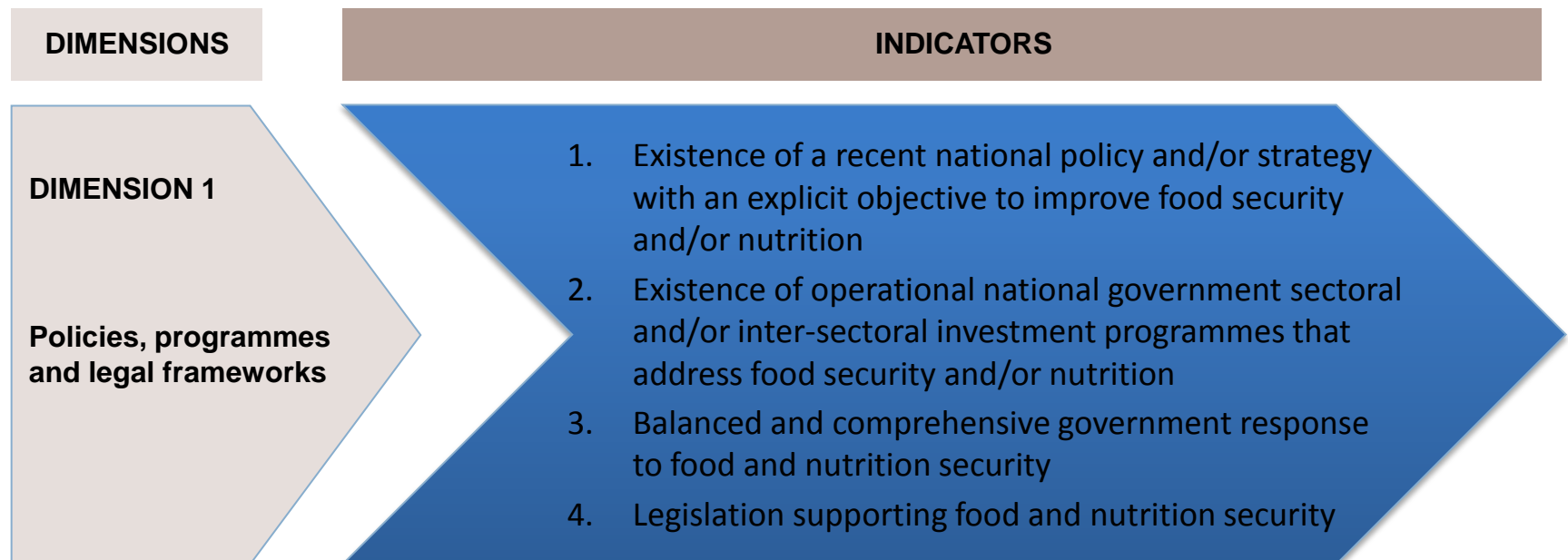
# Dimension 1: Policies, programmes and legal frameworks

## Six criteria:

1. Comprehensive and evidence-based policy/programme formulation: detailed description of food and nutrition security, underlying causes, vulnerable groups, using recent/reliable data
2. Twin-track approach
3. Gender-informed design: gender mainstreamed in situational analysis, use of data is disaggregated by sex (as much as possible), measures to reduce existing gender disparities included
4. Commitment to environmental sustainability: agro-environmental concerns are integral part of food security policies or programmes and agro-environmental measures are included
5. Climate smart agriculture: climate change concerns are integral part of food security policy or programme and adaptation and/or mitigation measures are included
6. Nutrition and agriculture linkages: nutrition objectives are explicitly integrated in national food security policies/strategies and/or programmes

# Dimension 1: Policies, programmes and legal frameworks

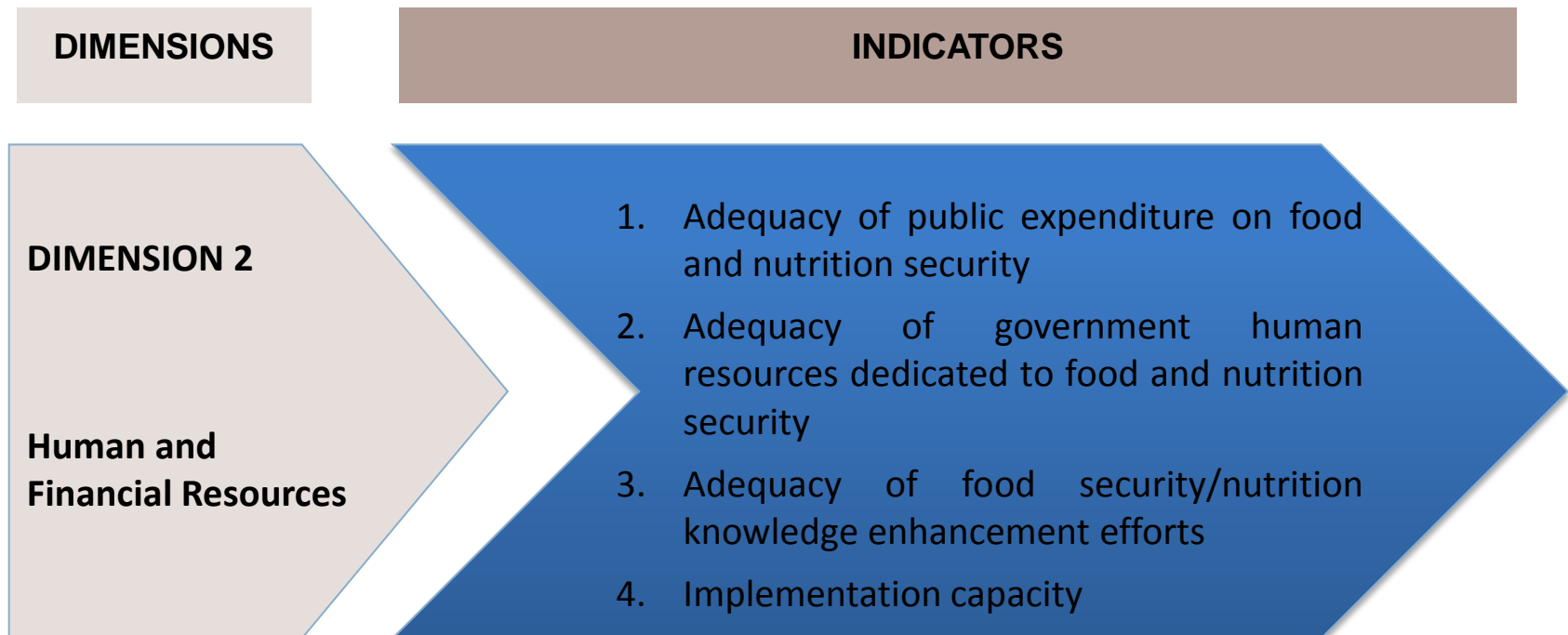
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# Dimension 2: Human and Financial Resources

- Translating food security policies, strategies and programmes into effective action by allocating adequate resources, building staff capacity and ensuring transparency and accountability.

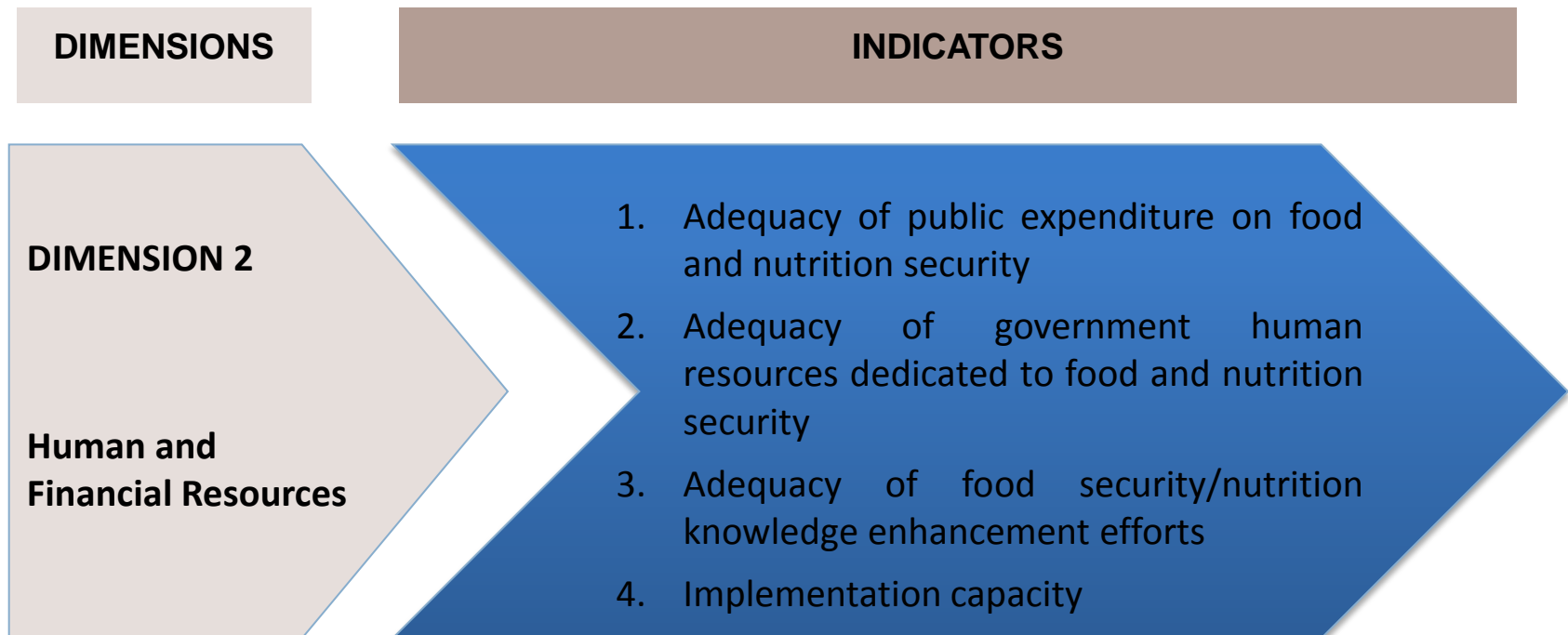


# Dimension 2: Human and Financial Resources

1. Adequacy of public expenditure on food and nutrition security
  - measures the extent to which public expenditure on food and nutrition security is adequate and reaches the poorest segment of society, using 4 criteria:
    - a. Public expenditure on agriculture: public investment in agriculture in relation to the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of government budgets on agriculture). Score based on IMF data and the AU-NEPAD grading scale for budget commitment.
    - b. Coverage public social protection: included in the World Bank Social Protection Atlas and measures the proportion of the poorest 20% of the population participating in public social protection programmes. scale with values based on the non-proportionate 4 point grading scale developed by the Hunger Free index.
    - c. Progress made towards MDG universal primary education for all target: Score based on MDG monitoring reports
    - d. Progress made towards the MDG drinking water and sanitation target: Score based on MDG monitoring reports

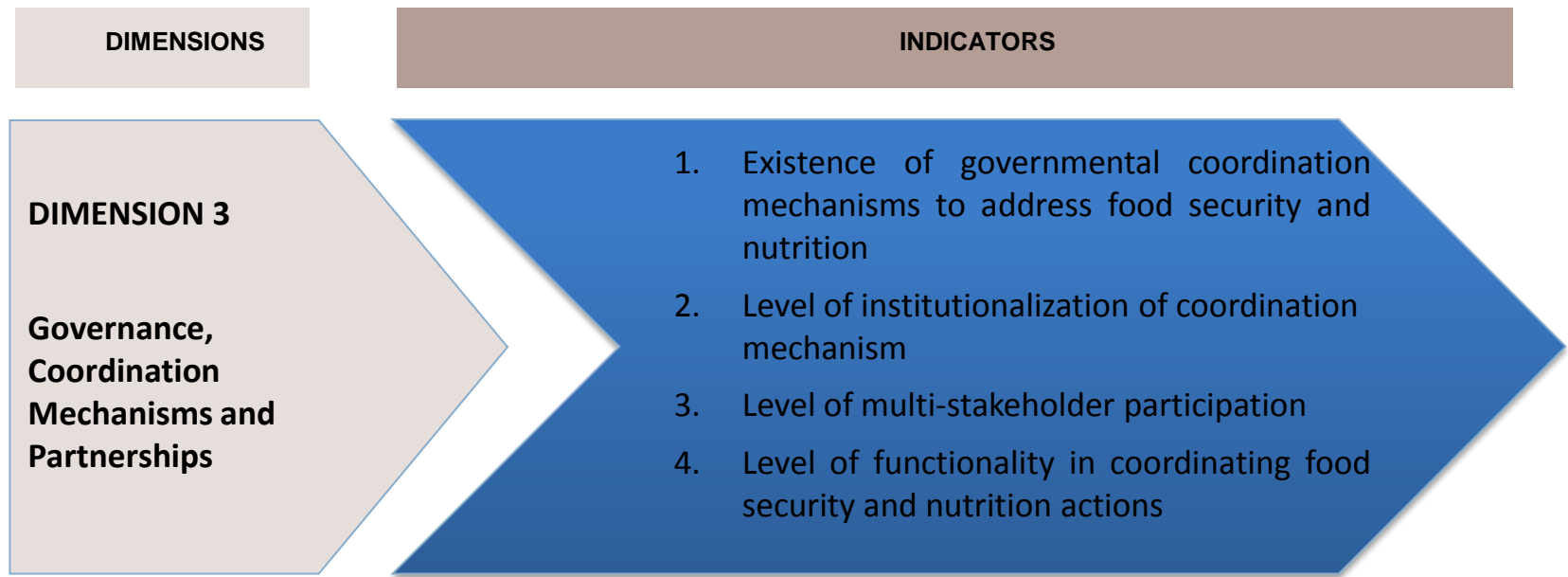
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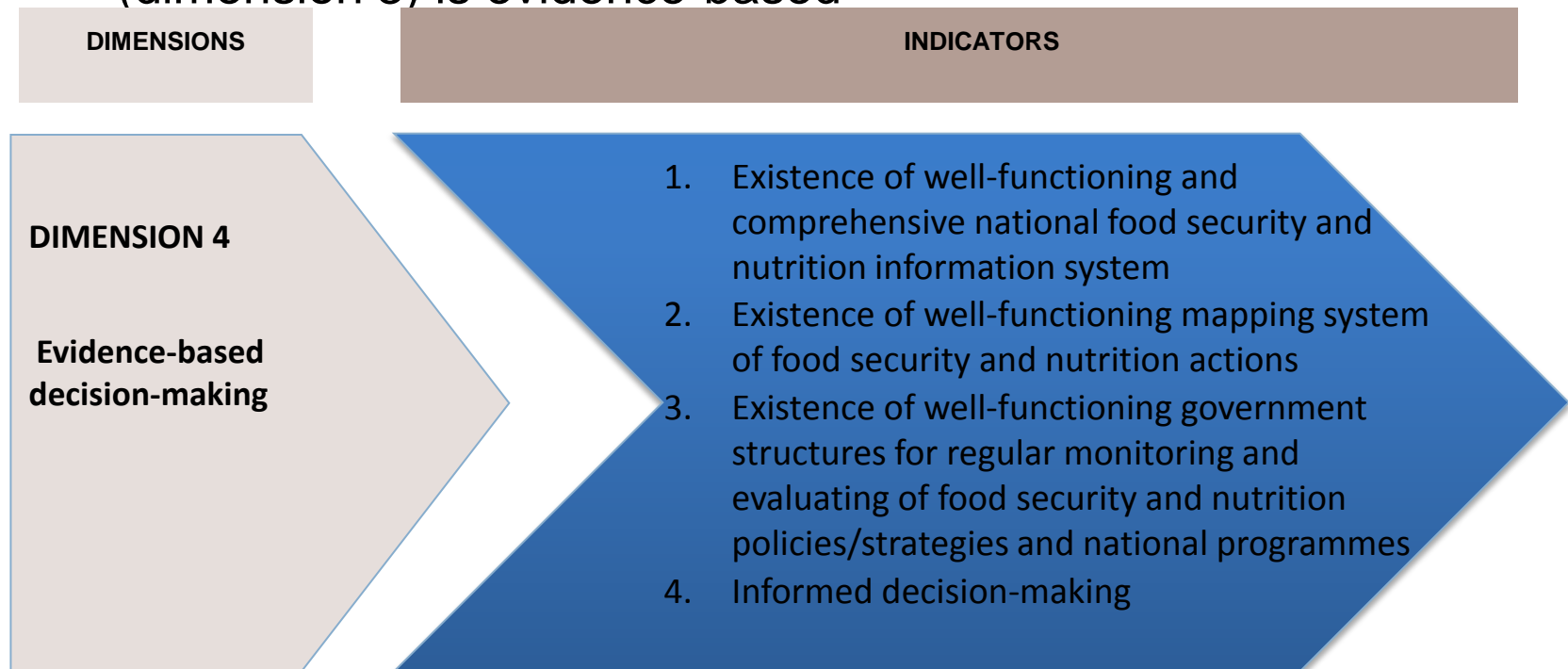
# Dimension 3: Governance, Coordination Mechanisms and Partnerships

- Governments' will and capacity to establish and manage food and nutrition security governance and coordination mechanisms to strengthen coherence of actions, improve accountability and stimulate exchange of ideas and experience



# Dimension 4: Evidence-based decision-making

- the extent to which decision-making on policy/programme design and supportive legislation (dimension 1), the channeling of resources (dimension 2) and fostering of coordinated action (dimension 3) is evidence-based



# Data sources

- **Dimension 1 (policies, programmes and legislation):** key policy/strategy documents related to agriculture, food security, nutrition and national development/poverty, MAFSAN ([www.mafsan.org](http://www.mafsan.org)), programme documents of government national food and/or nutrition programmes, document of Knuth, L. and M. Vidar (2011), the FAO right to food website, briefing notes of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and expert opinion survey.
- **Dimension 2 (Human and financial resources):** [www.mafsan.org](http://www.mafsan.org), [www.resakss.org](http://www.resakss.org), World Bank Social Protection Atlas, MDG progress report, Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation Report ([www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)), UNDP country websites, World Bank Statistics ([info.worldbank.org](http://info.worldbank.org)), and expert opinion survey
- **Dimension 3 (Governance, coordination mechanisms and partnerships):** expert opinion survey
- **Dimension 4 (Evidenced-based decision-making):** expert opinion survey.

# Primary data collection

- **Expert opinion survey**; structured questionnaire with questions and statements
- **Respondents**: selected number of experts working on food and nutrition security in the country, representing government, civil society, international donors, academia and the private sector.
- **Identification** with the support of the FAO Representation office
- **Selection**: aim is to get equal number of respondents from the 5 groups to ensure their opinions are equally represented.
- Most selected statements will be used for the **final scoring**.
- Further in-depth investigation is needed in case of extreme **divergent opinions**

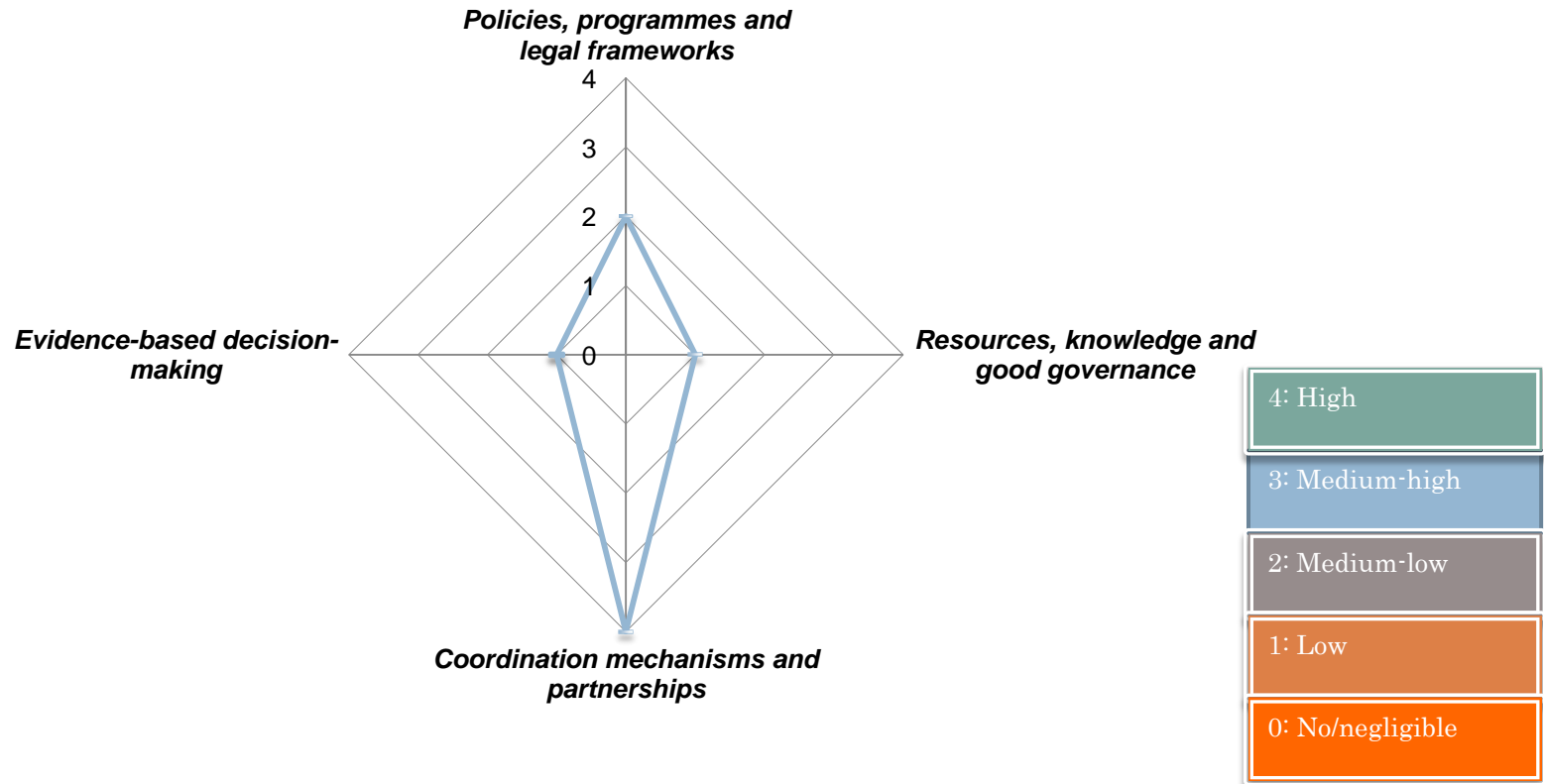
# Scoring and monitoring

- Expert opinion survey and secondary data determine which **score** is given to each of the 16 indicators.
  - ▣ Five levels of commitment and capacity: 1-high, 2-moderate-high, 3-moderate-low, 4-low and 5-no/negligible
  - ▣ Based on the sum of values given to the 4 indicators representing a particular dimension.
  - ▣ Each indicator is given **equal weight** in the final score of a particular dimension
- Scores allow **monitoring progress over time**



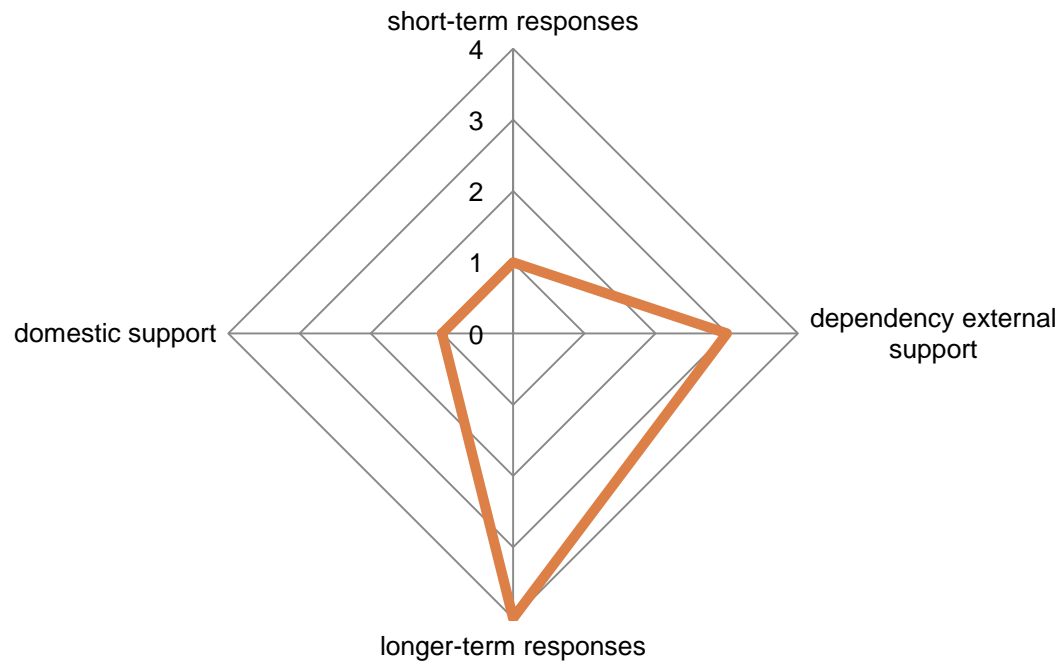
# Graphical presentations

Level of country commitment and capacity across the four dimensions



# Example spider graph

- Other dimensions
  - Short versus long term responses
  - Domestic versus external support





Thank you!