

COALITIONS OF THE WILLING?

ADVOCACY COALITIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF NUTRITION POLICY TO ZAMBIA

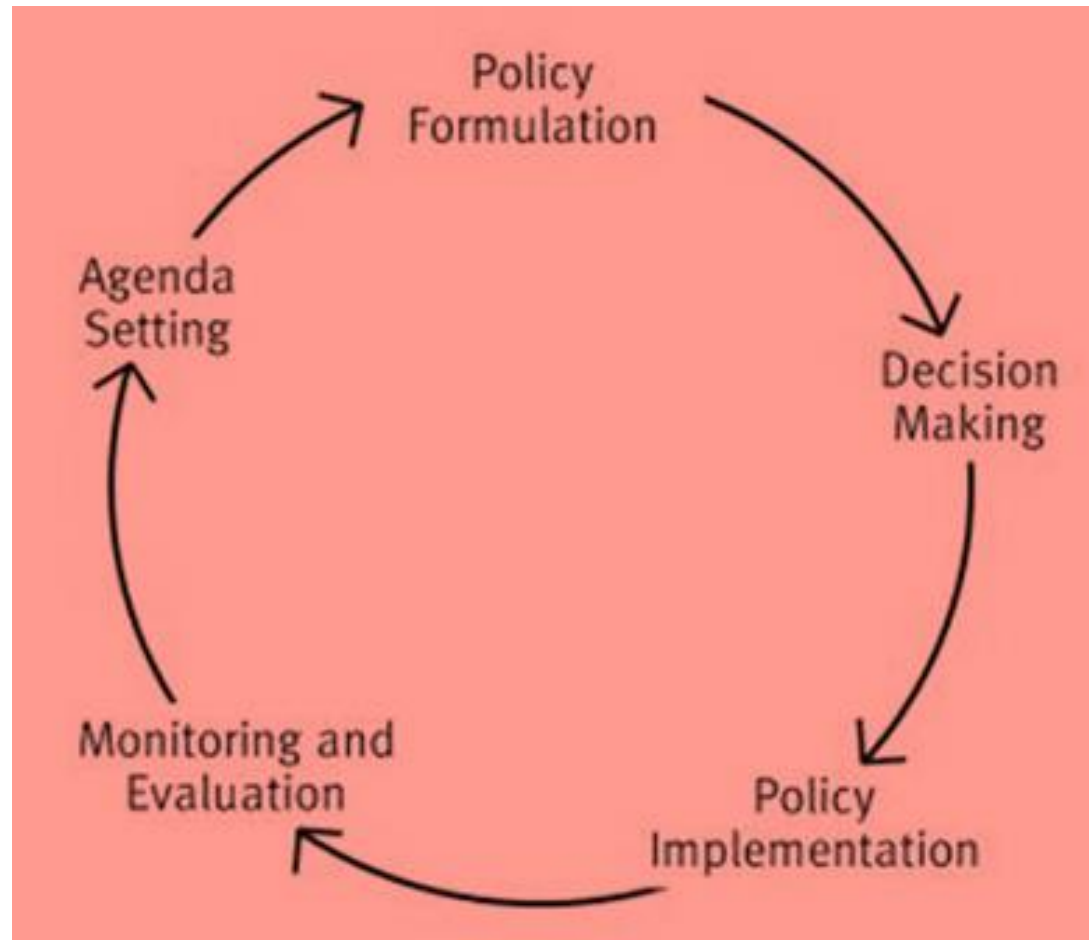
Jody Harris

ANH Academy

Hyderabad 2019



The policy process?



Sources: Lasswell (1971) and Jones (1970)

Actor power	Strength of individuals and organizations concerned with the issue
Ideas	Ways in which those involved with the issue understand and portray it
Political contexts	Environments in which actors operate
Issue characteristics	Features of the problem

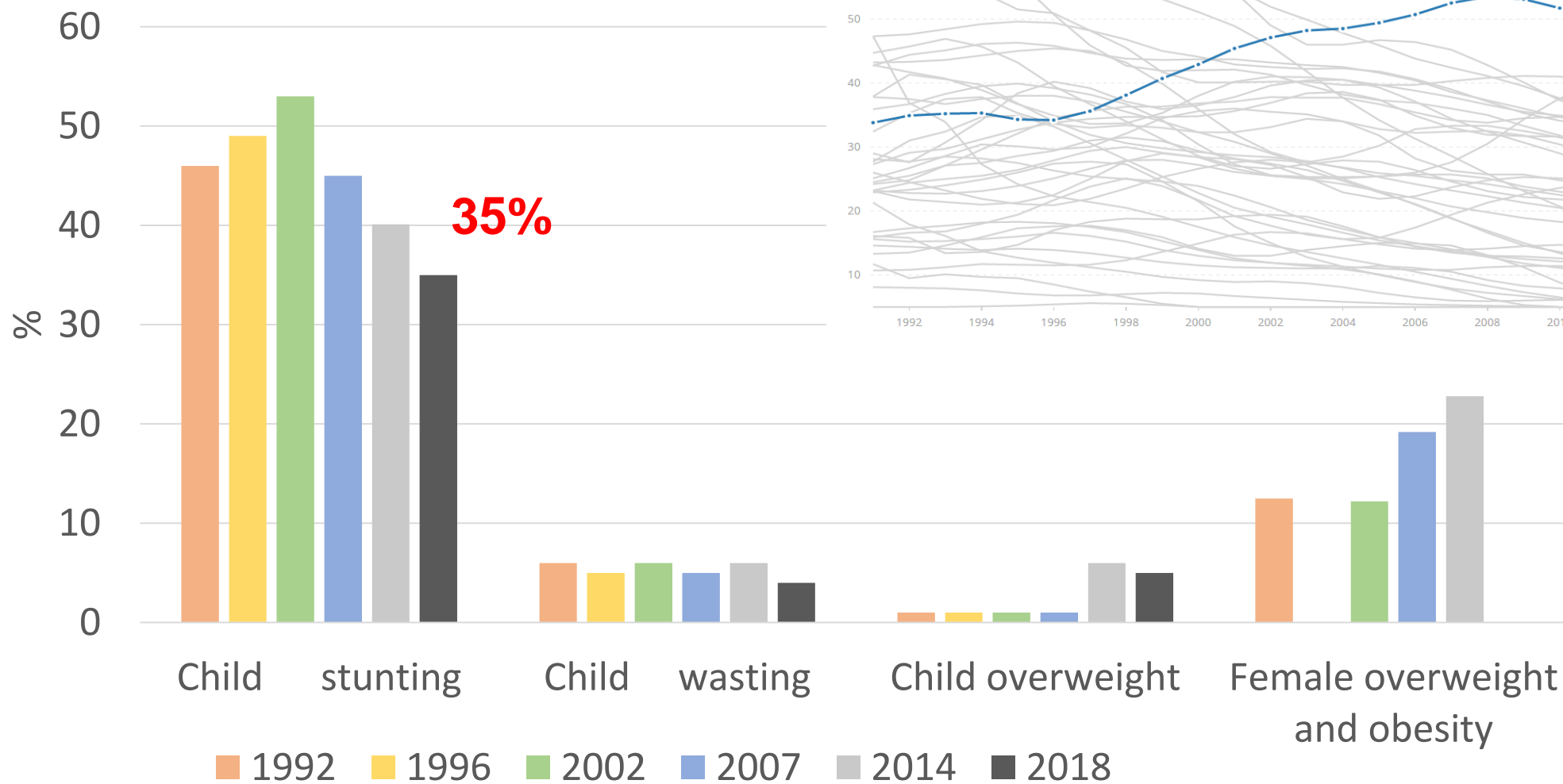
Sources: Shiffman 2007; Shiffman and Smith 2007

Nutrition policy process literature

- **Early work largely focussed on food security**
(e.g. Clay and Schaffer 1984; Pinstруп-Andersen et al.1993)
- **Work explicitly focused on nutrition policy processes, but not based on established policy science theories or frameworks**
(e.g. Gillespie 2003; Heaver 2005; Benson 2008; Engesveen 2009)
- **Nutrition policy process work having a foundation in established policy science**
(e.g. Pelletier et al. 2011; Pelletier et al. 2012; Mejia-Acosta 2012; Harris et al. 2017)
- **Critical and anthropological approaches deriving from development studies**
(e.g. Kimura 2013; Nisbett et al 2014; Jaspars 2016)



Zambian nutrition



Source: Zambia Demographic and Health Surveys 1992-2018; FAO Food Balance Sheets 1999-2017

Policy transfer: Setting the agenda

THE LANCET

The Lancet's Series on Maternal and Child Undernutrition Executive Summary



The problem of maternal and child undernutrition in developing countries

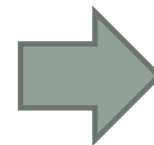
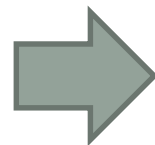
More than 3.5 million mothers and children under five die unnecessarily each year due to the underlying cause of undernutrition, and millions more are permanently disabled by the physical and mental effects of a poor dietary intake in the earliest months of life. By the time children reach their second birthday, if undernourished, they could suffer irreversible physical and cognitive damage, impacting their future health, economic well-being, and welfare. The consequences of insufficient nourishment continue into adulthood and are passed on to the next generation as undernourished girls and women have children of their own.

Undernutrition includes a wide array of effects including intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR) resulting in low birthweight; underweight, a reflection of low weight-for-age; stunting, a chronic restriction of growth in height indicated by a low height-for-age; wasting, an acute weight loss indicated by a low weight-for-height; and less visible micronutrient deficiencies. Undernutrition is caused by a poor dietary intake that may not provide sufficient nutrients, and/or by common infectious diseases, such as diarrhoea. These conditions are most

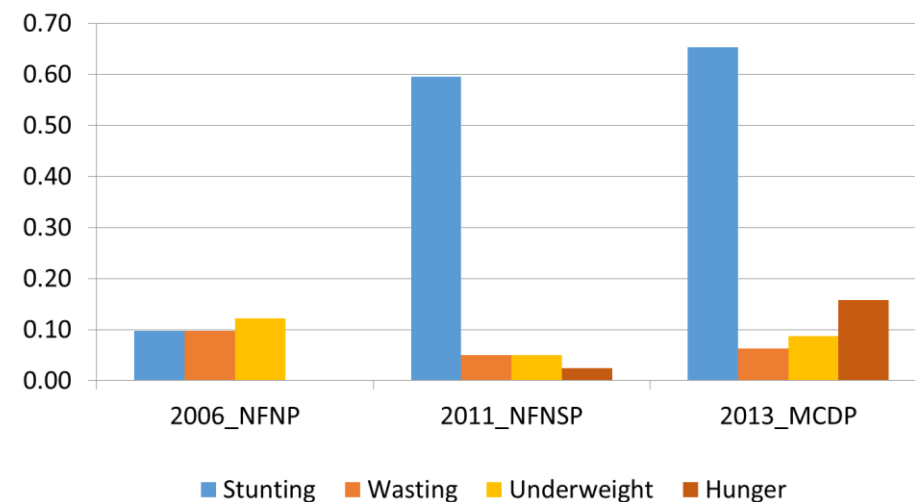
significant in the first two years of life, highlighting the importance of nutrition in pregnancy and the window of opportunity for preventing undernutrition from conception through 24 months of age.

Today, using recent estimates and latest data and standards, it is estimated that 13 million children are born annually with IUGR, 112 million are underweight and 178 million children under 5 years suffer from stunting, the vast majority in south-central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (figure 1). Of these, 160 million (90%) live in just 36 countries, representing almost half (46%) of the 348 million children in those countries. An estimated 55 million children are wasted, of whom 19 million children are affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM), defined as a weight-for-height measurement 3 standard deviations below the median.

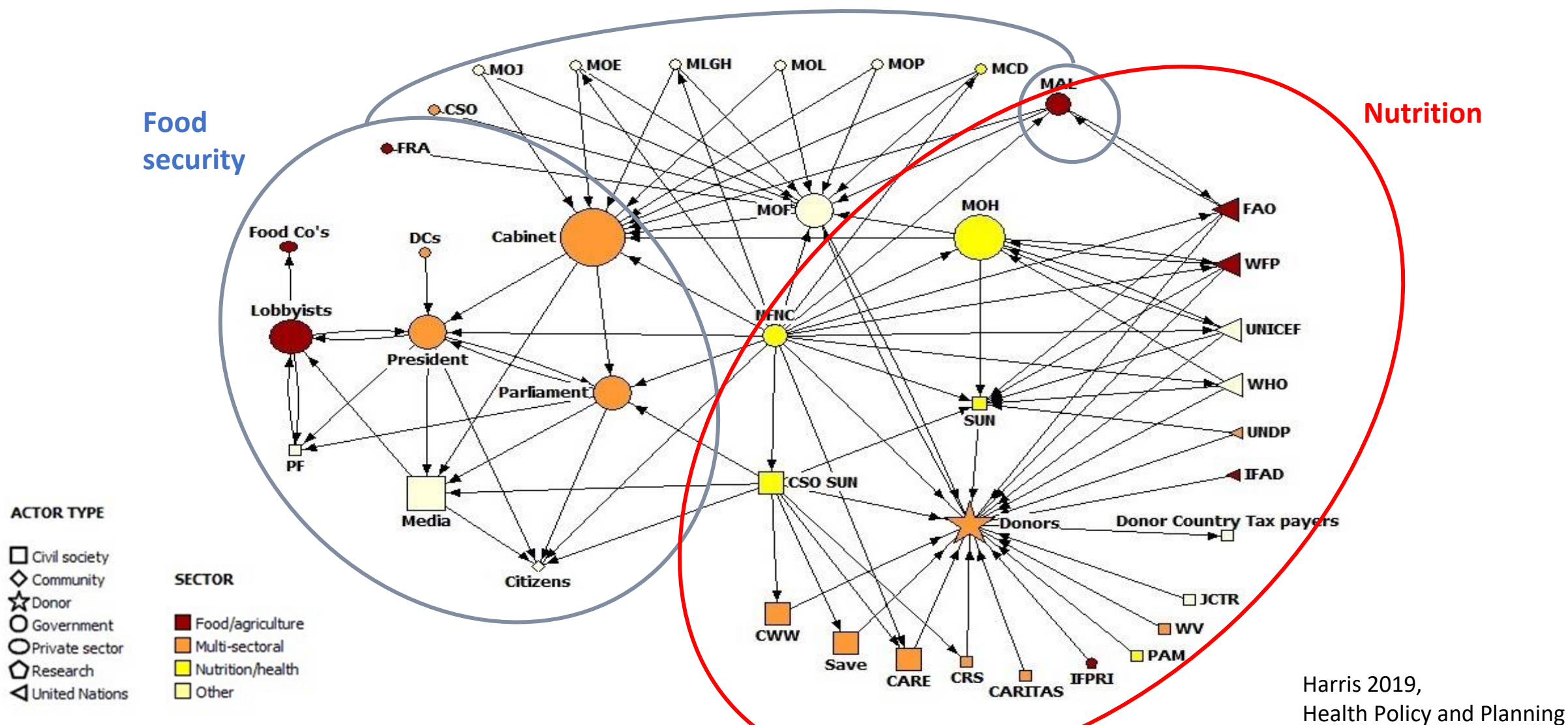
Although in recent years the global public health and nutrition community has focused primarily on obesity and specific micronutrient interventions, maternal and child undernutrition continues to place a heavy burden on low- and middle-income countries. Because undernutrition is an intergenerational problem, countries with high rates of maternal and child undernutrition face an uncertain future in which the health of their



Changing focus of Zambian nutrition policy: Mentions in policy documents over time



Advocacy coalitions: Defining the alternatives



Coalition beliefs: Advocacy Coalition Framework

	Food security	Nutrition
Normative beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socially-oriented • Pro-intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socially-oriented • Pro-intervention
Policy core beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunger dominates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malnutrition dominates
Secondary policy beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of sufficient calories through staple food production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-sectoral action to address the multiple determinants of malnutrition, particularly diverse diets

Conclusions

- Nutrition policy has been transferred to Zambia by a global coalition, meeting a powerful national coalition for food security.
- Strategies that address both hunger and malnutrition are required, rather than sidelining one issue over another,
- Advocacy coalition theory is a useful tool for systematically assessing actors in the policy network, and combining political science theories better explains policy change than using them alone.



Thank you

Jody Harris j.harris@ids.ac.uk

