Development of Food and Nutrition Security Early Warning System (EWS) for Nigeria

The Opportunity
Food and nutrition data collection and analysis in Nigeria lacks coordination, limiting access and creating challenges to identify gaps in early warning decision support for Nigeria. The National Program for Food Security, a department under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which is the lead institution for food security analysis has identified this problem and seeks support to address it.

The Goal
Establishing a robust, well-coordinated, well-structured, and sustainable government-led food and nutrition early warning system (EWS) for Nigeria.

The Network
Members are from different sectors, reflecting the multi-sectoral nature of food security, and include partners from government ministries, departments and agencies, the UN system, international and local nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and international technical agencies.

It is hosted and coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture’s National Program for Food Security (NPFS).

Key Activities
In coordination with the NPFS and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS):

- Provide technical lead to support the development of the EWS roadmap for Nigeria.
- Provide technical support for the presentation of the EWS proposal to major stakeholders.
- Support the technical and financial implementation of the food and nutrition EWS for Nigeria.

Factors that have Enhanced Success
Building a cohesive network of partners including government agencies, UN systems, regional partners, local and international NGOs, and development partners committed towards a sustainable EWS for Nigeria.

Factors that have Hindered Success
Coordination by government agency – NPFS led to long bureaucratic bottlenecks and lukewarm attitudes from partner agencies including FAO, CILSS, and WFP at the onset, delayed the EWS process.

Key Elements Enhancing Sustainability
Enthusiasm and support by various agencies including regional bodies such as CILSS, ECOWAS, and other major stakeholders at the technical review meeting, and the level of engagement from government agencies at both national and state levels.