

Operation Feed Yourself: Subsistence Farming and Food Security

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Yourself Concept Development Task Team

Presentation Outline

- Describe what Operation Feed Yourself is
- Importance of Operation Feed Yourself
- Goal of Operation Feed Yourself
- Design of Operation Feed Yourself

What is
Operation Feed
Yourself?

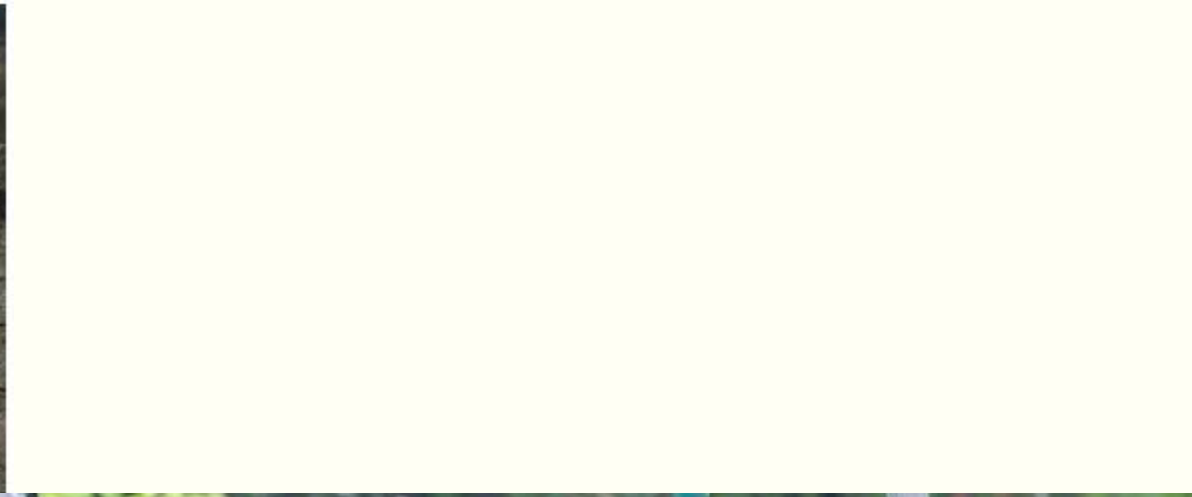
Operation Feed Yourself

- Intervention that was emphasized in several of the more than 40 food system dialogues held across the country in 2021
- Selected by the Federal Government as a priority intervention beginning in 2022, due to its potential for household food systems transformation

Operation Feed Yourself

- Increased production of food around household dwellings all year round
- Diverse vegetables are the primary target for production, but fruit trees, poultry, fish, beans, and groundnuts will also be encouraged where feasible
- Production can be done traditionally on available land if viable, but innovative approaches to production will also be promoted and supported






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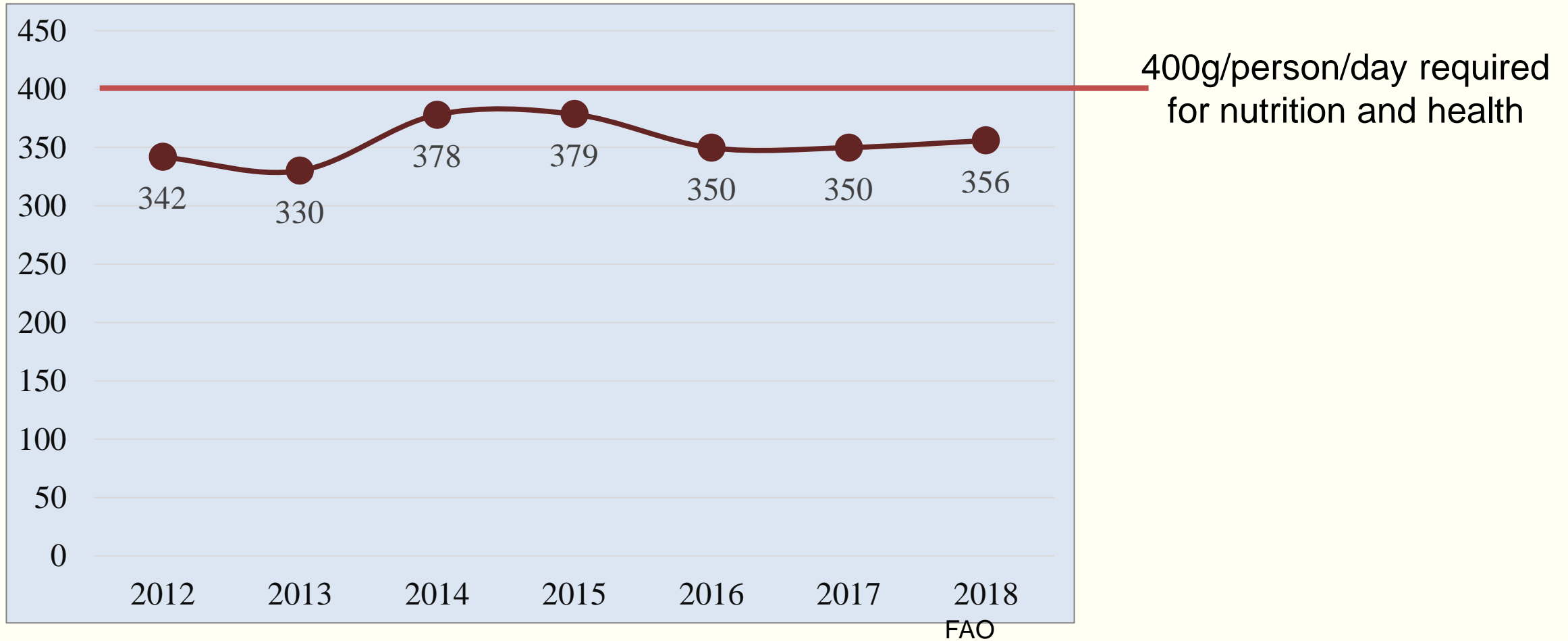


Importance of Operation Feed Yourself


Problem

- Nigeria has some of the highest numbers of children with acute or chronic malnutrition globally
- 68% of children under five years of age and 58% of women of reproductive age have anaemia and inadequate consumption of foods rich in micronutrients is a major cause of anaemia
- Noncommunicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and cancers are high and increasing in Nigeria, and has been estimated to affect more than 25% of adults
- Generally, poor diets are a major cause of malnutrition as well as noncommunicable diseases in Nigeria

After accounting for postharvest losses, Nigeria does not have enough supply of key food groups, including vegetables and fruits, for its population



National Fruits and Vegetables Supply (g/person/day)



Available food was not affordable for many people before COVID-19 and the situation has worsened

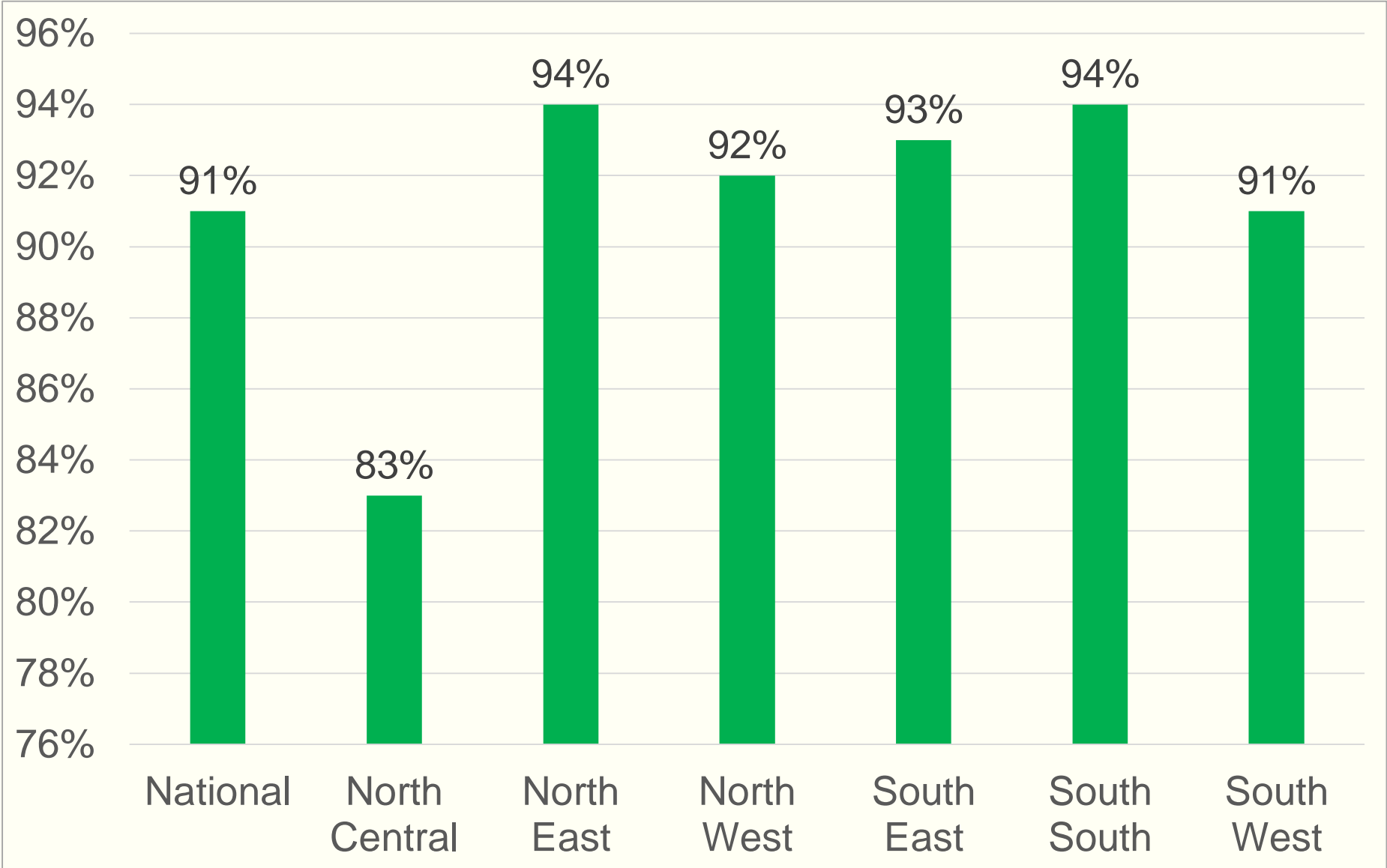
33% of Nigeria's population cannot afford a diet that provides enough energy

72% cannot afford a diet that contains all essential nutrients

91% cannot afford healthy diets that meet all food consumption recommendations

Fruits, vegetables,
and animal source
foods are the most
unaffordable food
groups for Nigerians

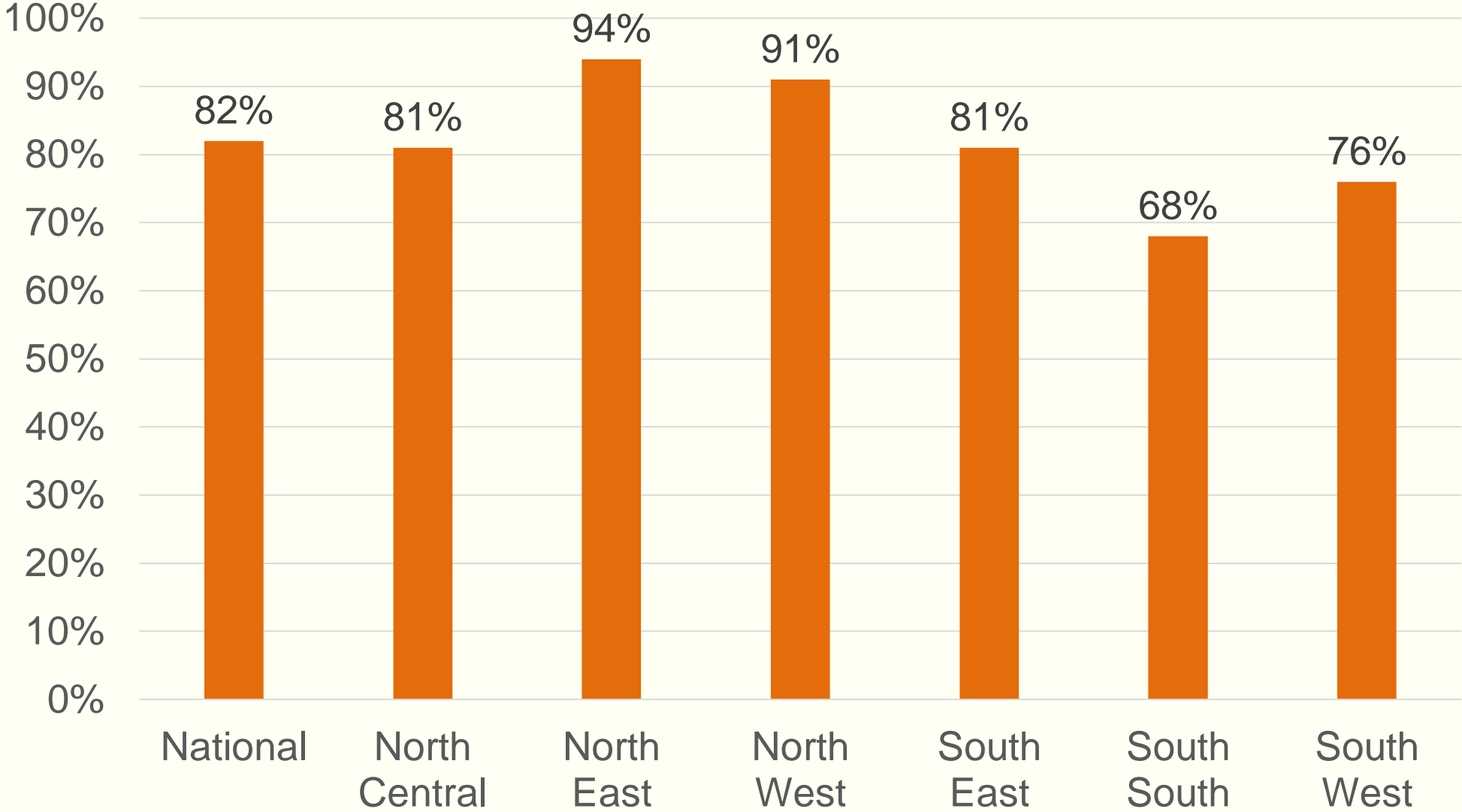
Percent of households whose vegetable expenditures are below cost of healthy consumption for vegetables



Over 80% of households across all zones spent less on vegetables than the amount needed to meet recommendations

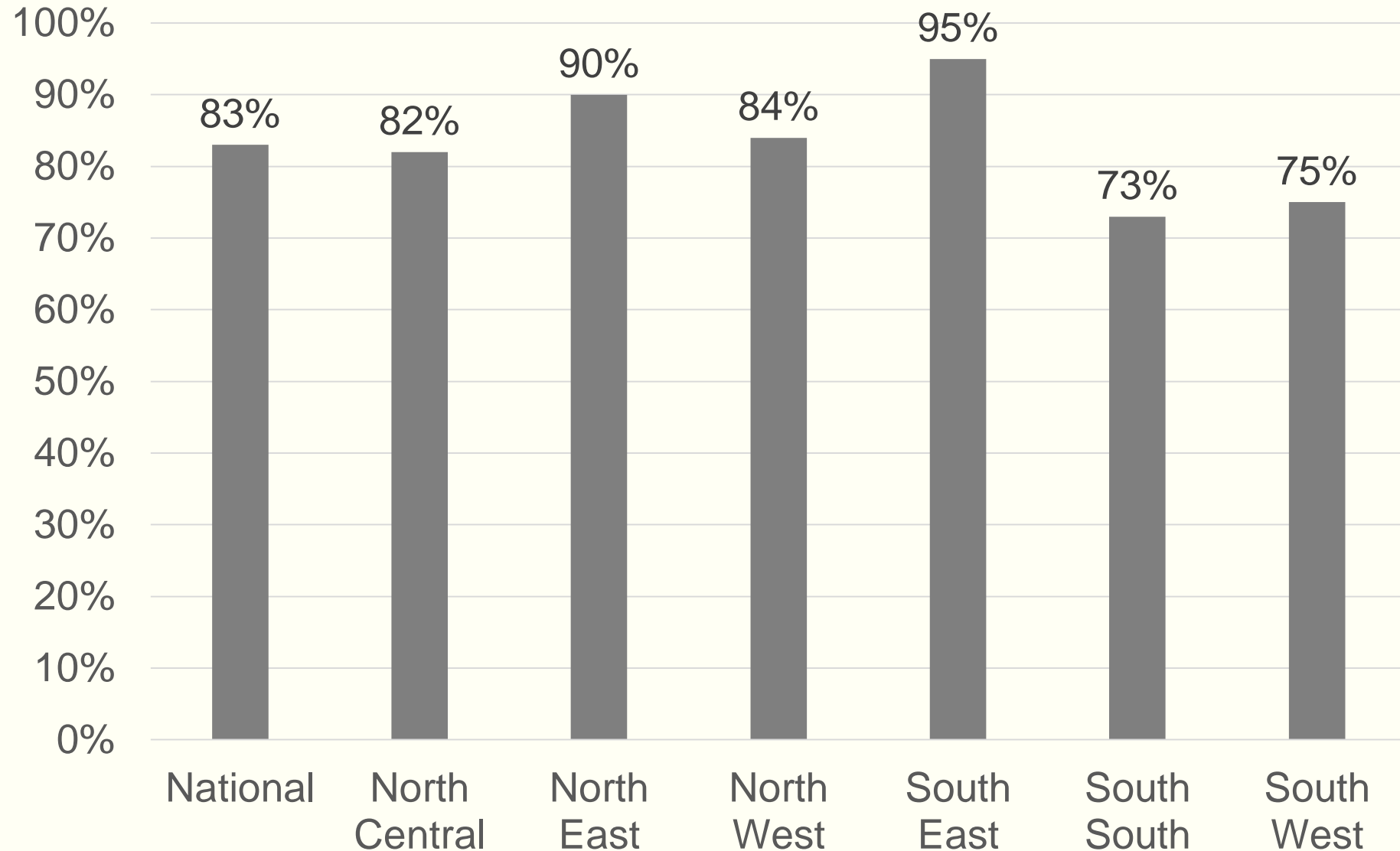
Calculated from NBS NLSS 2018/2019

Percent of households whose fruits expenditures are below cost of healthy consumption for fruits



Calculated from NBS NLSS 2018/2019

Percent of households whose animal source foods expenditures are below cost of healthy consumption for animal source foods



Calculated from
NBS NLSS
2018/2019

Yet, fruits, vegetables, and
animal source foods can be
produced around the house on
a subsistence scale

This is the rationale of
Operation Feed Yourself

Goal of Operation Feed Yourself

To reduce hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition by increasing access to nutritious foods and increasing consumption of nutritious foods

Design of Operation Feed Yourself Project

Key Project Components

- Gender-sensitive provision of information about food production and consumption
- Facilitating gender-sensitive access to seeds, tools, and other materials needed for production
- Facilitating access to technical assistance for production, including extension services
- Increasing year-round access to water

Project Tailored to Target Population

- Six target populations identified
 1. Poor rural
 2. Non-poor rural
 3. Poor peri-urban
 4. Non-poor peri-urban
 5. Poor urban
 6. Non-poor urban
- Target populations differ in availability and/or access to land, markets, capital, basic services/amenities, and time and/or labour

Interventions by Target Population

Intervention	Poor Rural	Non-Poor Rural	Poor Peri-Urban	Non-Poor Peri-Urban	Poor Urban	Non-Poor Urban
Increased access to water	●	●	●	●		
Formation into groups	●		●		●	
Provision of information through mass media, e.g., radio, social media, phone apps		●		●	●	●
Provision of information through traditional/religious leaders, cooperatives, and frontline workers (multisector community agents)	●	●	●			
Subsidized materials and tools	●		●		●	
Free technical assistance and extension services	●		●		●	

Enabling Environment Actions 1/2

- Multisectoral collaboration e.g., leveraging on existing programmes for increasing access to water, sanitation and hygiene programmes, community health services and extension, agricultural extension services
- Development of standardized guidelines for establishment and management of home gardens, with nutrition education messages to promote consumption of diverse nutritious foods
- Private sector engagement for supply of seeds, materials, and tools for home gardens, and materials for establishing innovative gardens

Enabling Environment Actions 2/2

- Selection of priority crop/animal mixes for different localities
- Identification of service providers for all inputs, training, and extension services
- Creation of a database of home garden-relevant service providers across the country for each LGA and state, and facilitate access to the database for project participants
- Advocacy to LGAs for ownership of the project
- Capacity development for agriculture extension agent and other frontline workers to provide technical support and training to participants

Thank You