

SCAN

Supply Chain Analysis for Nutrition

SUPPLEMENTARY TOOL

ST-09

CHALLENGE MATRIX

Background and Instructions

A challenge matrix compares key challenges identified in the Supply Chain Heat Map and organizes them into categories, based on how urgent or how important the expected impact they could have if solved, and how difficult they are or the level of effort required to solve. Results are organized in a 2x2 matrix as depicted in Figure 1. Each challenge will fall in one of the four quadrants, which can help to prioritize which to try and solve first by identifying potential interventions, solutions, or opportunities.

The x-axis represents the difficulty or level of effort required to solve the challenge. For example, a low-level effort challenge is something that only requires minimal effort to solve from a small number of people or entities, such as a mild inefficiency in an existing program. A higher-effort challenge might be something that requires significant funding, buy-in, and changes to the way people interact and do business. Examples of these higher-level effort challenges could be poor policies, poor infrastructure, or a lack of coordination among partners.

The y-axis represents the urgency or potential impact the current challenge, if solved, would be for nutrition in the target community. For example, a low-impact challenge might be something that affects a small number of people in a relatively insignificant way, such as a mild operational inefficiency that may impact slightly on cost. A high-impact challenge is something that significantly affects a large number of people, such as a process leading to greater food safety risks.

An open discussion of challenges should take place with beneficiaries, key stakeholders, and the SCAN team to assess each challenge across both axes. Then these are charted on a matrix to visualize the data and make decisions on how to proceed.

A fillable spreadsheet and chart template are on the next page. The chart can be plotted based on what has been included in the spreadsheet. Simply list each challenge (up to 15) and assign a numerical value between 1-9 to both the x and y axis, where 1 indicates low effort/difficulty and low impact/urgency and 9 indicates high effort/difficulty and high impact/urgency.

	Low effort / Low difficulty	High effort / High difficulty
High impact / High urgency	Address now	Look into potential interventions
Low impact / Low urgency	Look into potential interventions	Address later or not at all

Figure 1: Challenge matrix

#	CHALLENGE	X (EFFORT/DIFFICULTY)	Y (IMPACT/URGENCY)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

