Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN)

NGA-01 – Short Term TA to support costing of the National Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition (NMSPAN).

Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Background

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) is a project led by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) which seeks to improve the capacity of SUN countries to design, deliver, and track the progress of nutrition programs and to generate, learn from and adopt knowledge of what works. Nutrition International is contributing to TAN by coordinating the provision of technical assistance to help national SUN focal points in select countries to overcome gaps in capacity for the design and delivery of multi-sectoral national nutrition plans, tapping into its global hub to source and deploy the expertise needed.

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. It has a population of over 180 million people according to 2006 population and housing census projections. The population is continuing to grow at an annual rate of 2.6% as a result of a high fertility rate (5.38 children born per woman). Malnutrition and nutrition related diseases continue to be problems of great public health importance in Nigeria. Despite being a lower-middle-income country, Nigeria is one of the six countries that accounts for half of all child deaths from malnutrition worldwide. Stunting and wasting are at 32.9% and 7.9% respectively. Low birth weight is at 8.1%, with exclusive breastfeeding and under 5 overweight at 21.5% and 1.8% respectively. Anaemia prevalence among women of reproductive age stands at 48.5%.

The federal Government of Nigeria has committed to reduce hunger and malnutrition using a multisectoral and multi-disciplinary programme approach including interventions at the community as well as the health facility level. Various sectors have developed policies and strategies to address the nutrition perspectives of their mandates, including the national health policy and guidelines, the national agricultural policy, national policy on education among others. The government has also initiated and endorsed several national projects and programmes aimed at improving food and nutrition status, including the ratification of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), the Seven-Point Agenda, the National Food Security Program (NFSP) and the presidential initiatives on fish, cassava, rice and other foods as well as the Agricultural Transformation Agenda and the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF).

The government of Nigeria signed up to join the SUN Movement in 2011, a decision that was linked to the Federal Government’s commitment to scale up high-impact and cost-effective nutrition interventions. The multi-stakeholder platform is hosted in the Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP), the government agency responsible for coordination and monitoring national

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1 Federal Republic of Nigeria 2006 Population and Housing Census
3 Global Nutrition report, 2016

The Micronutrient Initiative has become Nutrition International. This change is being implemented globally over the coming months. TAN is a project supported and led by the UK government’s DFID.
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policies and programmes, including technical assistance in the country. The Federal Ministry of Health being the host of the SUN Focal Point, also plays an important role in coordinating SUN Movement initiatives in the country. A multi-sectoral National Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCFN) which provides policy direction on food and nutrition is chaired and facilitated by the National Planning Commission. The NCFN is replicated at the sub-national level as the State Committee on Food and Nutrition. The Nutrition Partners Forum also includes both government ministries and development partners.

The federal government recently reviewed and approved the National Policy on Food and Nutrition (NPFN), a major landmark in the effort of the government in addressing the problem of malnutrition. The NPFN provides an overarching framework covering the multiple dimensions of food and nutrition improvement. Development of costed National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition (NMSPAN), that will operationalize NPFN, is currently ongoing with technical and financial support from various partners. In line with this, the MBNP has requested for technical support from the TAN project to cost the NMSPAN.

Objectives

Overall objective
The overall purpose of this assignment is to support the Federal government of Nigeria resource mobilization efforts for effective implementation of NMSPAN through systematic costing of NMSPAN.

Specific objectives
1. Analyse previous and current costed nutrition plans and other secondary resources to gather best practices related to costing.
2. Determine and validate cost estimates for each action of the NMSPAN.
3. Develop and facilitate validation of annual budgets for each NMSPAN result area and sector.

Expectations
This technical assistance is expected to bring a significant contribution to the country government’s ability to scale up nutrition by effectively allocating and increasing financial resources for nutrition.

The success of this TA will be measured by the attainment of the following success measures:
1. Understanding of best practices related to costing of nutrition plans.
2. Costed and validated NMSPAN
3. Annual validated budgets for each result area and sector.

Nutrition International is committed gender equality. Consultants are required to indicate how they will ensure that gender equality considerations are included in the provision of technical assistance.

Scope of Work
Taking a consultative, participatory approach with leadership from MBPN, the consultant will undertake relevant tasks to produce the following deliverables:
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1. Detailed methodology and work plan
2. Inception workshop with key stakeholders
3. Desk review and analysis of relevant materials and data
4. Interviews with selected stakeholders
5. Desk review and stakeholder interview report.
6. Annual costed activities and result areas.
8. Final costed NMSPAN.

Duty Station/Location
The consultant will be based at the MBNP for activities that require physical presence e.g. stakeholder consultations and workshops. The consultant will also be expected to travel to selected states, for an estimated approximately 15 days. The consultant can work from home during development of methodology and work plan, desk review, consolidation of information and report writing which accounts for approximately 50% of the total Level of Effort (LoE).

Timeline
The consultancy will have a duration of 30-40 consultant days from 1st June, 2017 to 2nd August 2017 (to be determined in consultation with SUN FP, MBNP and Nutrition International).

Management and Reporting/Coordination mechanism
a. The consultant will report to the Deputy Director, MBNP or her designate. He/she will also have a reporting line to the NMSPAN development committee.
b. Specific financial and administrative accountabilities are to the Nutritional International for all the deliverables of the assignment. Payment will be subject to performance and reaching deliverables as agreed upon at the moment of contract signing.
c. Nutrition International will provide technical input into the assignment and is responsible for assuring the quality of the work being delivered by the consultant. Nutrition International will review the consultant’s work and share with the SUN FP and MBNP for feedback prior to sharing externally (as needed).

Profile/qualifications of consultant
It is expected a team of consultants may be required to assemble the assortment of expertise required to complete all aspects of this mission.

Education
- Postgraduate level degree in health economics with considerable experience in Nutrition/Health program costing stratégic planning and or policy development including budgeting process in developing countries.
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Language Skills:
- Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory.

Professional Experience
- At least 10 years of relevant experience in costing of large scale plans and strategic planning in the public, NGO or private sector
- Excellent knowledge of Nigeria context (policies, strategies, plans, coordination e.t.c)
- Experience in costing and financial planning in combination with specialized experience in health or nutrition will be added advantage
- Expertise in undertaking economic research and advising governments on public financial management, including costing of public policies and sector plans.
- Experience in providing strategic policy advice to national governments, and social planning and/or national/sub-national level policy and programmes development.
- Excellent analytical, research writing skills.

Application Process
Interested consultant are invited to submit the following by email to TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org before 28th April 2017.
- Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV)
- Technical proposal: not exceeding five pages, describing the consultant’s understanding of the task, proposed methodology, responsibilities of key stakeholders and detailed work plan that breaks down activities and outputs.
- Financial proposal: including daily fee rate, suggested number of trips/days in-country and any other expenses required to fulfill the terms of the consultancy (field trips, meetings, materials, etc.).

Nutrition International is committed to the fundamental principles of equal employment opportunity. Women are encouraged to apply.