Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN)

PHL-03 - Long term support to the National Nutrition Council to operationalize the PPAN and advance the national nutrition agenda in the Philippines

Terms of Reference (ToRs)

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

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.

Under-nutrition in the Philippines remains a serious problem. 30.3% of children under five years of age are stunted, 7.9% are wasted and 19.9% are underweight. The status of micronutrient malnutrition is likewise an important concern in the country. Prevalence of anemia among infants 6 months to 1 year of age is 39.4%, highest among the population groups in the country, and among pregnant and lactating women is 25.2% and 16.6% respectively. Also, poverty incidence among Filipinos is estimated at 21.6 percent, with 3.8 million families being poor.

The Presidential Decree No.491 or the Nutrition Act of the Philippines 1974 created the National Nutrition Council (NNC) as the highest policy making and coordinating body on nutrition. The NNC’s mandate is along the formulation of national food and nutrition policies and strategies for nutrition improvement, coordination of the planning; monitoring and evaluation of the national nutrition program. The council is committed to ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and ensuring that each Filipino enjoys his/her right to good food and good nutrition. With this commitment, the Philippines joined the SUN Movement in March 2014.

The NNC formulates the Philippines Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) which is integral to the Philippine Development Plan(PDP). This plan contributes to the overall 6-year that serves as a guide in formulating policies and implementing development programs for the next six years in the country.

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1 8th National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2013
2 Poverty Statistics Authority: 2015 Poverty in the Philippines
3 Scalingupnutrition website; Philippines - [http://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries/philippines/](http://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries/philippines/)
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The year 2016 marked the end of the previous PPAN 2011-2016. The PPAN 2017-2022, supported by Nutrition International-TAN and UNICEF, was approved by the NNC Technical Committee and its Governing Board in February 2017.

The current plan consists of 41 projects under 11 programs, to be implemented by member agencies of the NNC. Of these 11 programs, seven programs are nutrition-specific, one is nutrition-sensitive and three are enabling environment support programs. The NNC is responsible for overall coordination and operationalization of the PPAN at different levels, and oversees the formulation of the Regional Plans of Action for Nutrition (RPANs) for the 17 regions and sectoral nutrition plans, in line with the current PPAN.

The formulation of sectoral action plans is ongoing and is expected to be concluded by June 2017. However, the development of the RPANs, proposed to be completed end of September 2017, is yet to be initiated.

This necessitates capacity building of the NNC to guide the regional administrations and sector partners to effectively design, deliver and track priority nutrition actions. There also is a need to build and enforce effective coordination among multiple nutrition agencies and partners for enhanced outcomes of nutrition actions.

In this context, the NNC has sought TA from Nutrition International under the TAN project to support and build its capacity to roll out the PPAN successfully and advance priority nutrition actions in the Philippines through collective and collaborative engagement of sectors, partners and SUN Networks.

Objectives

**Overall objective**
Support and build the capacity of the NNC to operationalize PPAN 2017-2022 and advance the national nutrition agenda in the Philippines using strengthened multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms.

**Specific objectives**

1. Provide technical support for planning and delivery of nutrition actions at the national, regional and Local Government Unit (LGU) level.
2. Facilitate review and strengthening of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting of nutrition actions planned and implemented under the PPAN.
3. Support strengthening of the NNC to be an effective mechanism to advocate with the highest coordinating body for greater thrust on nutrition.
4. Strengthen the multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and SUN Networks’ coordination to avoid duplication of effort and build synergies for nutrition actions.
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Expectations
This technical assistance is expected to bring a significant contribution to the country government’s ability to scale up nutrition in country. It is expected this consultancy will lead to the following results:

- Mechanism in place for periodic joint planning and review of nutrition interventions by the senior government officials and stakeholders for timely course correction.
- Process adopted for regular budget monitoring by nutrition partners to track expenditure on nutrition actions against that planned and to implement corrective measures.
- NNC’s advocacy mandate accepted by the Cabinet Secretary’s office and further communicated to the LGUs to confer increased focus on nutrition.
- Formal coordination and information sharing mechanism established among nutrition partners through regular meetings and discussions.

Nutrition International is committed to 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
The consultant will be expected to undertake the following activities and produce the listed deliverables.

Under objective 1: Provide technical support for planning and delivery of nutrition actions at the national, regional and Local Government Unit (LGU) level.

Activity 1 - Support the dissemination of key components of PPAN including Common results Framework (CRF) among relevant sectors and stakeholders.
Deliverable:
- Dissemination workshop conducted and report submitted.

Activity 2 - Assist and guide the sectoral partners for review of their work plans and identification of annually phased prioritized nutrition actions.
Deliverables:
- Sectoral consultations held to guide review of work plans and identification of annual priorities.
- Technical review completed for finalization of sectoral annual implementation plans.

Activity 3 - Guide the regional administrations of 17 regions in the formulation of the RPANs in conformity with the PPAN.
Deliverable:
- Guidance document for translation of PPAN into RPANs developed and regional administrations oriented to use the same.
- Technical review of the 17 RPANs completed, and ongoing guidance provided to help revisions and finalization of plans.
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**Activity 4** - Support to build the capacity of the 38 provincial LGUs and one district in the National Capital Region (NCR), prioritized under the PPAN, to effectively plan and implement nutrition activities.

*Deliverable:*
- Phased plan for capacity building of LGU and NCR officials developed.

**Under objective 2:** Facilitate review and strengthening of monitoring and reporting mechanisms of nutrition actions planned and implemented under the PPAN.

**Activity 5** - Review of existing nutrition monitoring and reporting mechanisms at different levels to identify gaps and recommend revisions.

*Deliverable:*
- Review of existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including recommendations for improvement.

**Activity 6** - Support to establish and formalize mechanism for quarterly review of progress of nutrition actions prioritized and investments committed under sectoral annual implementation plans.

*Deliverable:*
- Mechanism for quarterly review established using multi-stakeholder platform.
- Reports of quarterly review meetings.

**Under objective 3:** Support strengthening of the NNC to be an effective mechanism to advocate with the highest coordinating body for greater thrust on nutrition.

**Activity 7** – Support the NNC in formulation of national nutrition advocacy mandate to seek increased focus on nutrition by the Cabinet Secretary’s Office.

*Deliverable:*
- Consultations held with NNC member agencies to identify key thrust areas to include in advocacy mandate.
- Nutrition advocacy mandate formulated and followed by the NNC.

**Under objective 4:** Strengthen the multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and SUN Networks’ coordination to avoid duplication of effort and build synergies for nutrition actions.

**Activity 8** - Strengthen coordination among nutrition partners in the country and ensure their actions are in synergy with the SUN movement priorities and actions in the country.

*Deliverable:*
- Information sharing mechanism established and followed.

Other relevant tasks needed by the NNC to support the advancements of the stated objectives, as agreed to by Nutrition International.
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**Duty Station/Location**
This is a full-time consultancy for a period of 24 months, for which the consultant will be provided with an office space within Manila.

The consultant is expected to undertake some domestic travel within the country. All travels required under this consultancy will be provided for by Nutrition International. Perdiems are based on standard rates of the organization.

The NNC and UNICEF Philippines would co-support this TA with Nutrition International.

**Timeline**
This support to the NNC would be for a period of 2 years, starting from 15th August 2017 to 15th August, 2019. The consultant providing this TA will be working full time for the duration of the assignment.

**Management and Reporting/Coordination mechanism**
- The Consultant will report to the Deputy Director Nutrition, NNC. The Consultant will also work closely with other officials and specific divisions of NNC, and Nutrition International team members.
- The NNC will facilitate the operational linkages with all the other relevant sectors and stakeholders under this TA.
- The Consultant is expected to work in close coordination and harmony with other consultants working with the NNC.
- Nutrition International will provide the funding for the assignment, and payment will be subject to performance and reaching deliverables as agreed upon at the moment of contract signing.
- Nutrition International will provide technical input into the assignment and is responsible for assuring the quality of the work being delivered by the consultant.

**Profile/qualifications of consultant**
The Consultant will be selected following a recruitment process. The profile of the consultant has been presented below:

**Education:**
- Post-graduate level qualification in Nutrition/ Food and Nutrition/ Community Nutrition/ Public Health Nutrition/ Public Health/ Public Policy/ Public Administration/ any other related field(s).
- Qualification in Nutrition is mandatory.

**Language Skills:**
- Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory.
- Fluency in written and spoken Tagalog is mandatory.
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Experience:
- At least 10 years of relevant technical experience in the fields of nutrition and/or public health programme review, planning, designing and implementation/ monitoring.
- Excellent working knowledge of Government of Philippines nutrition and health portfolios and programmes.
- Proven experience in managing multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral working groups in national and/or sub-national settings.
- Experience in strengthening the capacity of ministries/ governments/ partners in being able to sustain interventions.
- Experience in reviewing and/or implementing reporting and monitoring mechanisms.
- Experience in designing and/or promoting advocacy strategy/actions for nutrition.
- Experience in working with multi-donor organizations, civil society networks, UN agencies, government and academic/ research institutions.
- Experience of working in a multi-cultural environment is an asset.

Application Process
Interested candidates are invited to submit their Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) and cover letter by email to TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org before 30th June 2017. Kindly mention ‘PHL-03 - Application for support to the NNC to advance national nutrition agenda’ in the subject line of the email.