

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN)

ETH-04 – Strengthening the role of the National Nutrition Program (NNP II) Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee to effectively monitor, evaluate and coordinate utilization of Multi-Sectoral nutrition information in Ethiopia.

Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Background

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) supported by UK aid from the UK government seeks to improve the capacity of countries that have joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement 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.

With nearly 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world, as well as the second-most populous nation on the African continent after Nigeria. Household food insecurity, hunger and undernutrition remain critical issues. The previous four national level Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in Ethiopia show a decreasing trend in the proportion of children who are stunted and underweight. Between 2000 and 2016, the prevalence of stunting decreased from 58% to 38%; and the proportion of underweight children declined substantially from 41% to 25%. Conversely, the prevalence of wasting has remained fairly static over the last 15 years. Anemia prevalence among under-five children remains high at 44%, despite a decline from 52% over the last 6 years. Despite this general decline in malnutrition rates over the past decade, Ethiopia remains a country with a high burden of malnutrition.

Ethiopia joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in September 2010 through commitment from the Federal Minister of Health. At the time, Ethiopia had set up a high-level multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition comprising seven ministries; it also established a National Nutrition Coordinating Body (NNCB) chaired by the Minister of Health with representation of each ministry with a nutrition portfolio. Ethiopia recently reviewed and extended the 2013-2015 National Nutrition Plan II (NNP II) to 2016-2020 that aims to scale up and streamline nutrition actions in the country.

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Seqota Declaration (SD) is a high-level commitment unveiled by the Ethiopian government in July 2015 to end stunting among children under two years by 2030. The SD builds on and supports the implementation of National Nutrition Program (NNP) II and it is implemented by seven NNP implementing sectors. Informed by a conceptual framework built around three pathways of change, the 15 years Seqota Declaration Implementation Plan focuses on delivering high impact nutrition specific, nutrition sensitive and infrastructure interventions across multiple sectors including health, agriculture and natural resources, animal and fishery, water, irrigation and electricity, education, social protection and women and children affairs.

The government of Ethiopia has also successfully sustained multi-sectoral nutrition coordination and implementation platforms especially the National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB) and the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC). Through these structures, nutrition interventions were integrated, coordinated and mainstreamed into the various sectors and line ministries. Sector based strategies and programs created a good opportunity to mainstream nutrition and develop legal frameworks to enforce key nutrition interventions such as the Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Strategy, National Food Security Strategy, National Health Sector Transformation Plan, National Food Fortification, National School Health and Nutrition Strategy and the National Food and Nutrition Policy- that is currently in development.

The EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate is instrumental in monitoring, evaluating and quality assurance of nutrition interventions in Ethiopia. Its mission is to carry out problem solving research on priority areas of food science and nutrition, food technology, food microbiology; and providing laboratory services, training and consultancy. Currently the directorate is leading various nutrition research, surveys, monitoring, evaluations and other nutrition information related initiatives. The directorate is the chair/lead of NNP II M&E Steering Group; it is also coordinating SD evaluation and Sustainable Undernutrition Reduction in Ethiopia (SURE!) project by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSTM). At the same time, EPHI is also hosting the National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN).

In spite of the various ongoing initiatives, the EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate team is currently overstretched and lack adequate high-level expertise and support. There is therefore need for TA to provide support for effective monitoring, evaluation and coordinated utilization of multi-sectoral nutrition information in Ethiopia - with specific focus on the NNP II M&E Steering Committee that the Directorate is currently chairing. It is in this framework that the Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate through the SUN Focal Point requested Nutrition International TAN project to provide TA support.

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Objectives

Overall objective

The overall objective of this TA is to strengthen the capacity of EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate to coordinate, carry out and supervise multi-sectoral nutrition M&E, surveillance and research actions under the NNP II.

Specific Objectives

1. Conduct cross-sectoral capacity gaps assessment on nutrition M&E and develop capacity building plan and tools.
2. Provide technical support and build capacity of EPHI and relevant sector nutrition staff on integrated collection, reporting, analysis and utilization of multi-sectoral data under the NNP II.
3. Support ongoing review of existing nutrition M&E frameworks such as NNP II monitoring and Evaluation framework, SD baseline evaluation framework, NIPN and SURE and develop nutrition information integration framework.

Expectations

This TA support is expected to contribute significantly to successful M&E, reporting and utilization of multisectoral nutrition data in Ethiopia. The TA will provide significant contribution to NNP II M&E Steering Committee and support capacity building of Directorate staff for enhanced strategic M&E capacity needs identification, data quality audits, data analysis, evaluation, information sharing and utilization, operational research, coordination among others.

Scope of Work

Taking a facilitative, consultative and participatory approach under the overall guidance of EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Director and the SUN Focal point, the consultant will undertake the following tasks:

Under objective 1: Conduct cross-sectoral capacity gaps assessment on nutrition M&E, and develop capacity building plan and tools.

Activities

- Conduct a stakeholder analysis using the 4W matrix.
- Hold an inception meeting of all stakeholders involved in M&E for NNP II.
- Carry out a desk review and further consultations with the identified stakeholders in order to produce a situational analysis of M&E as set out in the NNP II.
- Review NNP II M&E Steering Committee TOR.
- Carry out a SWOC analysis of the NNP II M&E Framework.
- Based on the above analyses identify the training needs for monitoring and evaluating the NNP II M&E framework.

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- Develop a capacity development plan for EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate staff.
- Design training modules on M&E for NNP II.
- Organise technical consultations for realigning the M&E related protocols and standards as relevant.

Deliverables:

- Detailed methodology and work plan for the TA.
- Inception and stakeholder analysis reports.
- Capacity development plan.
- Training modules on M&E for NNP II developed.

Under objective 2: Technical support and building capacity of EPHI and relevant sector nutrition staff on integrated collection, reporting, analysis and utilization of multi-sectoral data under the NNP II.

Activities

- Provide technical support and promote the generation and validation of evidence on nutrition interventions and nutrition related research in Ethiopia
- Review emergency rapid assessments, national nutrition assessments and any other relevant surveys with the main aim of providing strategic technical advice on their outcome to the NNCB and government.
- Support the execution of the NNP II related operational research in order to allow the recommendations to be integrated and tested within the life of the program.
- Contribute to establishment and strengthening of routine national information systems and the related flow of information from nutrition specific programs such as Community-based Nutrition (CBN) and Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and nutrition sensitive information for decision-making.
- Support monitoring and evaluation of the overall outcome of the School Feeding program in Ethiopia.
- Enhance mechanisms that will support timely use of evidence to inform national policy, planning and decision making processes for relevant nutrition action.
- Implement the capacity-building plan through classroom trainings, on the job trainings and joint support supervision.
- Support EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate coordinate M&E related Technical Working Groups meetings including the rolling out of national M&E tools at all levels.
- Undertake analyses to crosscheck or triangulate evidence from national surveys, research data, and administrative and programme data to inform planning, monitoring and implementation of programs.
- Identify all platforms across different sectors that report on key indicators and how data is collected via the M & E system.

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Deliverables

- On job refresher training/ classroom training of relevant stakeholders planned and conducted.
- Quarterly update reports and information from various government institutions and other stakeholders about research and M&E related to NNP-II.
- Routine data analysis and data quality audits meetings for all stakeholders held.
- Routine national information systems (Community-based Nutrition (CBN) and Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)) strengthened/ established.
- Harmonization of NNP II M&E tools.
- Working groups meeting deliberations, minutes and updates shared with stakeholders on a monthly basis.

Under objective 3: Support ongoing review of existing nutrition M&E frameworks such as, NNP II monitoring and Evaluation framework, SD baseline evaluation framework, NIPN and SURE and develop nutrition information integration framework.

Activities

- Review existing nutrition M&E tools such as those of NNP II monitoring and evaluation framework, SD baseline evaluation framework, SD Key Performance Indicators, NIPN and SURE in collaboration with key sectors.
- Facilitate finalization of a nutrition M&E system with emphasis on NNP II common result framework and harmonized data collection tools for multi-sector nutrition information system.
- Support and contribute to the dissemination of key findings and lessons learnt from nutrition interventions and research to broader network of partners by convening national and regional level fora and workshops.

Deliverables

- Systematic in-depth analysis and documentation of existing nutrition M&E frameworks such as, NNP II monitoring and Evaluation framework, SD baseline evaluation framework, NIPN and SURE.
- Integrated multi-stakeholder nutrition information framework and tools for coordinated M&E developed and institutionalized through the guidance of EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate.
- Enhanced integration of nutrition information initiatives for coordinated M&E and quality assurance across sectors.
- Joint annual reviews/assessments and learning forums held.

NB: the Food Science and Nutrition Research Director can allocate other relevant tasks, in consultation with the SUN Focal point and NI, as needed.

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Duty Station/Location

The full time Consultant will be based at EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate in Addis Ababa. The consultant will also be expected to travel to regions, Woredas and Kebeles as needed. All travels required under this consultancy will be provided for by Nutrition International and EPHI.

Timeline

This TA support would be for a period of up to 18 months, from May 2018 to October 2019.

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 TA including deliverables. Examples of integration of consideration for gender equality could include but are not limited to; ensuring government departments responsible for women are included wherever possible, gender sensitive indicators are included, emerging data is sex disaggregated, relevant documentation related to gender is reviewed. To this end, NI has developed the following tools in order to help.

- NI integration of gender considerations checklist
- NI background document on gender and nutrition
- NI PowerPoint presentation (Gender 101)

Management and Reporting

1. The Consultant will report to EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Director or any other staff designated by the Director in consultation with the SUN Focal point.
2. The EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Research Director will facilitate the operational linkages with other Directorates at EPHI, NNP II M&E Steering Committee, line ministries, regional leadership, Technical Working groups, NIPN, SURE, SUN Networks and other stakeholders under this TA.
3. 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.
4. Nutrition International will provide technical input into the assignment and is responsible for assuring the quality of the work being delivered by the consultant.
5. Nutrition International in liaison with EPHI Food Science and Nutrition Director will review consultants work and agree prior to sharing externally (as needed).

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Profile/qualifications of the Consultant

PhD level qualification in Nutrition, Public Health, Epidemiology, M&E and other related fields of study.

Language Skills

Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory. Knowledge of spoken and written Amharic will be a strong added advantage

Experience:

- Minimum of ten years of work experience related to design, M&E and Information Management at international and national levels.
- Adequate familiarity with the Ethiopian nutrition context, multisectoral governance and coordination in nutrition, as well as of the knowledge of key government and non-government stakeholders across the sectors.
- Proven experience (from previous similar assignments) in development of M&E systems, tools and frameworks.
- Demonstrated ability to develop data collection tools, conduct assessments, analyze data, and write reports.
- Advanced experience in research methodologies, statistics, data collection and documentation.
- Knowledge and experience in planning and conducting health and nutrition and large-scale program evaluations studies in a low and middle income country setting, particularly in Africa.
- Working knowledge of data analysis software package and at least one data capture package.
- Excellent analytical, writing, synthesis, communication and facilitation skills.
- Experience as a trainer and/or supervisor for quantitative and qualitative data collection, management, and/or analysis is preferred.
- Experience of working with partners at international, regional and national levels.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills are required.
- Ability to work both independently and as a member of a team and to handle multiple priorities is required.
- Strong analytical thinking and excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work confidently across a variety of stakeholders and levels.
- Strong communication, facilitation and negotiation skills.
- Experience with working in team-based environment that require a grasp of cross-functional subject matters.

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Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to submit proposals by email to TechnicalAssistance@nutritionintl.org before Close of Business [20 April 2018] EST (Ottawa, Canada).

- Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) with monthly fee indicated and other foreseen costs included.
- Cover letter detailing how applicant fits the profile

This position is open to Ethiopia nationals or persons with necessary permits to work in Ethiopia.

Applicants should clearly indicate “*ETH-04 – Strengthening the role of the National Nutrition Program (NNP II) Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee to effectively monitor, evaluate and coordinate utilization of Multi-Sectoral nutrition information in Ethiopia*” in the subject line of the email.

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