

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN)

MWI-02 - Short Term TA to Develop Nutrition Financial Tracking, Accountability and Resource Mobilization Framework Aligned to The 2018-2021 Malawi National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan

Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Background

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) is a project supported by UK aid from the UK Government, 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.

Government of Malawi developed its first National Nutrition Policy in 2007 with the overall goal to have a well-nourished nation with sound human resource that effectively contributes to economic growth and prosperity. From the time the National Nutrition Policy was put in place, Malawi has registered significant progress in improving nutrition. The proportion of children under 5 years who are stunted dropped from 47.1% in 2010 to 37.1% in 2015-16, underweight reduced from 12.8% to 11.7% and wasting reduced from 4.0% to 2.7% over the same duration¹. Despite the improvement in the nutrition indicators, the prevalence of malnutrition especially stunting, underweight and micronutrient deficiencies remain high according to WHO classification. The causes of child undernutrition include suboptimal child feeding practices, inadequate diet, frequent incidence of disease among young children, and the low socioeconomic status and poor nutritional condition of many mothers. These are ongoing challenges that Government of Malawi is still grappling with.

On 15th March, 2011, the Republic of Malawi joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement with a letter of commitment from the Permanent Secretary. The SUN movement in Malawi is institutionalized at the Department of Nutrition HIV and AIDS (DNHA) under the Ministry of Health and Population. The DNHA has the mandate of coordinating policy and nutrition technical issues led by the Director of DNHA who is the SUN focal point. The DNHA has the influence and power to convene multiple stakeholders and relevant line ministries. All the relevant line ministries (health, agriculture, education, local government and gender) have DNHA seconded deputy director/chief/principal nutrition, HIV and AIDS officers to assist in integrating nutrition in line ministries' agenda. All SUN networks except the private sector/business network are active. Multi-sectoral nutrition coordination is also well structured at all levels in Malawi. Parliamentary, cabinet and principal secretaries' committees provide overall oversight at the national level. DNHA in close collaboration with multi-sectoral stakeholders and technical committees provide policy and technical coordination at the national level. District, local

¹ 2010 and 2015-16 Malawi Demographic Health and Surveys (DHS).

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area and village committees play a critical role in coordinating implementation of nutrition actions at the sub-national level.

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement's 2013 Progress Report pointed to the importance of in-country resource availability and mobilization and highlighted the challenges countries face in tracking resources allocated for nutrition. Analysis done in 2017, shows domestic spending on undernutrition varying from country to country, with some spending over 10% of their budget on nutrition and others far less². Better measurement of nutrition financing means better use of nutrition resources for reaching the most vulnerable populations, and stronger advocacy cases. Costing of individual nutrition investments is an essential step in the process of mobilizing resources, whether external or internal³.

The development of the 2018-2021 National Multi-Sector Nutrition Policy and the National Multi-Sector Nutrition Strategic 2018-2021, to operationalize the policy have been finalized. Malawi has also developed a Nutrition Resource Tracking System (NURTS) that seeks to provide projections for nutrition, resource gaps and financing by different sectors. NURTS has been integrated into nutrition M&E systems⁴.

This Technical Assistance (TA) will complement the work that has already been done in identifying and tracking nutrition spending; by developing a financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework for nutrition financing across relevant line ministries. It is envisioned that this financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework will emphasize the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition and provide tools to country-level policymakers to identify nutrition investment and mobilize resources. The nutrition finance tracking and resource mobilization framework will provide short term, medium term and long-term guidance on financing nutrition programmes for both resource mobilization and tracking of resources; and will be aligned to the SUN movement guidance on nutrition financing.

Objectives

Overall objective

The overall objective of the technical assistance is to provide short term support to the DNHA to develop a sustainable nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework aligned to the 2018-2021 National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the technical assistance are as follows:

1. To review of existing nutrition finance tracking frameworks, literature on best practices on nutrition financing at the global level and nutrition policies and plans;

² Development Initiatives, 2017. Global Nutrition Report 2017: Nourishing the SDGs. Bristol, UK: Development Initiatives.

³ Costing nutrition actions. (n.d.). Retrieved March 12, 2018, from <http://scalingupnutrition.org/share-learn/planning-and-implementation/costing-nutrition-actions/>

⁴ Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement (2017). Malawi SUN Movement Annual Progress Report 2017.

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2. To develop a nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework aligned to the 2018-2021 National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan; and
3. To sensitize stakeholders at the national and district level on the nutrition finance tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework and their roles/expectations in ensuring successful financing of multi-sector interventions.

Expectations

This technical assistance is expected to bring a significant contribution to the government's ability to scale up nutrition in the country. The financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework will help to capture any investment that supports the scale up of those interventions identified in the national nutrition multi-sectoral strategic plan, including research, governance and policy support; and to identify nutrition investments across sectors, allowing for tracking in a more integrated way.

It is expected that this consultancy will lead to the following results:

- Amenable recommendations on how to improve the existing financial tracking framework
- Developed and validated nutrition financing framework with clear and actionable costing, resource mobilization, financing, M&E and accountability components
- Various stakeholders are sensitized and capacity strengthened on their roles/expectations in ensuring successful financing of multi-sector interventions.
- Nutrition financial tracking is integrated in routine Nutrition Sector reporting

Scope of Work

The consultant will be expected to undertake the following activities and produce the listed deliverables.

Under objective 1: To review existing nutrition finance tracking frameworks, literature on best practices on nutrition financing at the global level and nutrition policies and plans

Activities

- Hold consultation with the members of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform for Nutrition to define the overall scope and goals of the nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework (i.e., for advocacy, for monitoring, or for evaluation).
- Conduct a review of secondary data resources (global and national) assessing best practice related to nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization.
- Review the Nutrition Resource Tracking System (NURTS) with the aim of identifying areas of synergy or best practices that can be used in the nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework.
- Review in-country mechanisms for nutrition priority setting and data coordination and identify best practices to be used in the financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework.

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Deliverables:

- Detailed methodology and work plan for the TA
- Inception and stakeholder consultation reports
- Desk review with best practices in nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization.
- Contextualized financing approach aligned to the SUN movement guidance.

Under objective 2- To develop a nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework aligned to the 2018-2021 National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.

Activities

- Engage the M&E unit of DNHA to linking financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework to the nutrition M&E framework.
- Design an operational guidance for the incorporation of nutrition data into routine management information systems and tools for financial tracking at multiple levels.
- Develop a comprehensive sustainable nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework with provision for short term, medium term and long-term guidance on financing nutrition programmes. The strategy should be aligned to the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan and the SUN movement guidelines on costing nutrition interventions.
- Develop a guidance document (as part of the financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework) on how mobilization of resources will be done.

Deliverables

- Nutrition financing data prioritization guide developed.
- Nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization framework developed and validated
- Resource mobilization guide developed and validated.

Under objective 3: To sensitize stakeholders at the national and district level on the nutrition finance tracking, accountability and resource mobilization frame work and their roles/expectations in ensuring successful financing of multi-sector interventions.

Activities

- Map stakeholders across sectors using the 4W matrix.
- Develop strategies to fill the gaps identified from stakeholders mapping exercise (financial, geographic information, population coverage etc.)
- Train DNHA staff and decision makers at national and district level to effectively utilize stakeholders mapping tool in tracking nutrition finances and also in resource mobilization.
- Train DNHA and various stakeholders in building effective partnership and networking
- Establish a system for partners and networks to regularly meet and follow up on the agreed upon decisions relevant for nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization.

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- Develop information toolkit that provides briefing on nutrition financial tracking, accountability and resource mobilization for DNHA and networks.
- Work closely with DNHA, partners and networks to identify challenges and define way forward.

Deliverables:

- Training, mentorship and joint support supervision reports
- Revised District Nutrition Coordination ToRs with nutrition financing aspects integrated
- Capacity gap mapping reports
- Status report on multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Minutes of engagement with partners and networks.

Nutrition International is committed to gender equality. Consultants are required to indicate how s/he will ensure that gender equality considerations are included in the provision of TA including deliverables. To this end, NI has developed the following tools in order to help. 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.

- Checklist – Integration of gender considerations
- Background document « Gender and nutrition »
- PowerPoint presentation « Gender 101 ».

Duty Station/Location

The Lead Consultant and team will be based at the DNHA for activities that require physical presence e.g. stakeholder consultations and workshops. The consultant will also be expected to travel to the districts. All travels required under this consultancy will be provided for by Nutrition International.

Timeline

This TA support would be for a period of 4 months, from June 2018 to October 2018. Specific Level of Effort (LoE) will be agreed upon in consultation with NI and DNHA.

Management and Reporting/Coordination mechanism

1. The consultant will directly report to the Director DNHA who is the SUN focal point.
2. The DNHA will facilitate the operational linkages with all the other relevant sectors and stakeholders under this TA.
3. 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.
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.

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Profile/qualifications of consultant

It is expected that a firm or team of consultants may be required to assemble the assortment of expertise required to complete all aspects of this TA i.e. finance, economics and policy, planning, M&E and capacity building. The Lead Consultant is responsible for work completed by all team members.

Lead Consultant

- Post-graduate or doctoral-level qualifications the following fields; Finance, Planning, Economics, Public Health and Applied Sciences or related areas.
- A minimum of 15 years' experience in the field of development sector including consultancy work with the Government and development partners in nutrition, health, food security or related fields.
- Excellent knowledge of Malawi health, food security and nutrition landscape and programmes.
- Specific experience in costing, budgeting, tracking expenditures and resource mobilization and multi-sectoral engagement in the both in nutrition related areas.
- Experience of providing strategic policy advice to national and sub-national governments.
- Experience in program design and M&E in combination with specialized experience in food security, health or nutrition will be added advantage
- Experience in working with multi-stakeholder platforms and processes, or other complex collaboration platforms across sectors, including health, water, education and agriculture
- Experience in coordinating and managing a team of subject matter experts.
- Excellent communication, analytical and writing skills.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality results within strict deadlines.

Other Consultants

- At least 8-10 years of experience in planning, design, M&E, costing and tracking of nutrition, food security, health and other related programs
- Excellent knowledge of Malawi food security and nutrition landscape and programmes.
- Experience in working with multi-stakeholder platforms and processes, or other complex collaboration and partner management platforms across sectors, including health and agriculture
- Experience in coordination and partnership management.
- Experience in building capacity of government and partner staff in areas of financial tracking and resource mobilization
- Excellent communication, analytical and writing skills
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality results within strict deadlines

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- Experience developing capacity building materials and processes, and delivering associated activities.

Language Skills

Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory

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

Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to submit the following by email to TechnicalAssistance@nutritionintl.org before Close of Business [14th May 2018] EST (Ottawa, Canada).

- Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CVs) for all consultants.
- Technical proposal: not exceeding five (5) pages, describing the consultant's understanding of the task, proposed methodology, responsibilities of key stakeholders and detailed work plan that breaks down activities and deliverables with associated timelines. Applicants are requested to indicate the Level of Effort (LoE) for each person.
- Financial proposal: including daily fee rate, costed TA activities e.g. workshops including suggested number of trips/days in-country and any other expenses required to fulfill the terms of the consultancy (meetings, materials, etc.)

NB: Submissions without Technical and financial proposals will not be reviewed.