

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN)

Support Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) in implementation of food fortification initiatives in Pakistan

Terms of Reference (ToR)

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 funded and 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.

Malnutrition in Pakistan is widespread among all ages, and progress to address social determinants over the last several decades has been very slow. At 44%¹, Pakistan's under-five stunting rates are much higher than the global rates².

The Government of Pakistan (GoP) is committed to reduce by half the current levels of under nutrition in the country by 2025. It has been recognized and reiterated that addressing malnutrition among the people of Pakistan requires coordinated, multi-sectoral and consolidated efforts to scale up nutrition in order to achieve the goals identified in the GoP's Vision 2025. The federal and provincial governments are investing enhanced efforts to address malnutrition by promoting implementation of multi-sectoral nutrition interventions, which can translate into a demographic dividend in socio-economic development in the long run. One of the proven strategy to address

The MoNHSR&C is playing a key role in mainstreaming nutrition, including fortification interventions across different sectors and its implementation at sub-national levels. In 2003, National Fortification Alliance (NFA) was constituted at nutrition wing of Ministry of Health/MoNHSR&C with the mandate to oversee and monitor fortification activities; develop the legislative instrument related to fortification in the country, act as a technical lead and coordinating body for formulation of fortification standards and to strengthen systems for regulation and monitoring of fortification in the country.

NI in collaboration with other development partners including UNICEF and WFP supporting the MoNHSR&C in USI initiative since 2005. Post 2011, the key relevant ministries were devolved from

¹ National Nutrition Survey, Pakistan 2011

² Stop Stunting: Progress report 2013-15, Results for children in Pakistan, UNICEF

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the centre to the provincial level and the responsibility of planning and implementing programs, including fortification programs, started being shared between the federal and the provincial governments. The provinces are in different stages of development of their own fortification standards, including that for iodization of salt. However, with the recent notification from the MoNHSR&C, the NFA has been revitalized and is entrusted with the responsibility of steering the fortification agenda in the country, including USI.

In this context, the SUN FP of Pakistan has sought TA from NI under the TAN project to support the formulation of National Action plan for achieving Universal Salt Iodization in Pakistan by 2020, that would build and strengthen the capacity of office of Director-Nutrition and Secretary NFA in the ministry of NHSR&C to act as an effective coordinating body, and steer policy and program guidance, by assisting the efforts of national and sub-national governments to align their efforts toward food fortification with a focus to achieve USI

Objectives

Overall objective

Support the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) nutrition wing in adoption of fortification strategies by the provinces and implementation of action plan (sustainability framework) to achieve Universal Salt Iodization (USI) by 2020 in Pakistan

Specific objectives

1. Support NFA in carrying out situation analysis on current status of USI including analyzing current policies, plans, guidelines, reports, any other relevant documents including budgetary provision under various departments to identify gaps and key focus areas that could facilitate in the improvement of USI implementation.
2. Assist in implementation of fortification strategies and the final “Action Plan to achieve Universal Salt Iodization by year 2020”
3. Establish a robust monitoring mechanism for periodic multilevel reporting and monitoring of fortification activities in the country, at national and provincial level.
4. Support NFA in carrying out situation analysis on rice fortification in the region and globally by analyzing policies, plans, guidelines, any other relevant documents required for fortification of rice as staple food.

Expectations

With the notification from the MoNHSR&C, the National Fortification Alliance (NFA) has been revitalized and is entrusted with the responsibility of steering the fortification agenda in the country, including USI. This Technical Assistance is expected to work closely with MoNHSR&C, Government of Pakistan at federal and provincial levels to lay groundwork to effectively implement different fortification initiatives with a focus on Universal Salt Iodization (USI) program by the year 2020. This support under TAN would build and strengthen the capacity of office of Director-Nutrition/ NFA in the ministry to act as an effective coordinating body, and steer policy and program guidance for food fortification. The technical assistance is expected to work in close coordination with concerned

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government departments and other key stakeholders including UN organizations and other international development agencies.

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

- Situational assessment report on current status of USI in country
- Status of Implementation of food fortification strategies and National Action Plan for achieving USI by 2020 in Pakistan
- Establishment of monitoring and enforcement mechanism along with relevant tools for effective reporting and analysis of fortification data

Gender

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 which can be accessed using the links below:

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

Scope of Work

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

Under objective 1: Support in conducting situation analysis on current status of USI including analyzing current policies, plans, guidelines, reports, any other relevant documents including budgetary provision under various departments to identify gaps and key focus areas that could facilitate in the improvement of USI implementation.

Activity 1:

- Assist in Analyzing current status of universal salt iodization in the country referring to policies/plans/guidelines /reports / any other relevant documents; review the salt iodization standards within the provinces & regions; assess budgetary provisions for salt iodization under various departments including health and MoNHSR&C

Deliverables

- Situation analysis report which includes details of budgetary provisions

Under objective 2: Assist in implementation of fortification strategies and the final “Action Plan to achieve Universal Salt Iodization by year 2020”

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Activity 1: Participate and facilitate consultative meetings conducted under NFA with relevant sector partners and stakeholders at different levels to gain inputs for different modalities for successful implementation of fortification initiatives and to achieve USI by 2020 in Pakistan”

Deliverables

- Summary report of consultations
- Follow up with different stakeholders, government departments and private industry for effective implementation of fortification initiatives including USI at province and national level and collate the findings on quarterly basis, which includes but not limited to:
 - Status of federal and provincial ministries and relevant departments and fortification alliances
 - Status of adoption/ implementation of federal standards
 - Review on status of availability of fortificant and identification of gaps at national and provincial level
 - Status of Implementation framework

Under objective 3: Establishment of robust monitoring mechanism, for periodic multilevel monitoring and reporting of data on fortification activities (USI, WFF, OGF-Oil/Ghee Fortification) in the country, at national and provincial level.

Activity 1:

- Development of appropriate tools for gathering and analysis of relevant data
- Consultation with concerned government officials and relevant stakeholders for finalization of the tools with field testing

Deliverables

- Regular compilation of monitoring reports with analysis

Activity 2:

- Participate in meetings with officials of concerned government departments and other relevant stakeholders like UN agencies, other development partners held under the platform of NFA etc.

Deliverables

- Minutes of meeting / meeting report including key points of discussion and decisions

Under objective 4: Support NFA in carrying out situation analysis on rice fortification in the region and globally by analyzing policies, plans, guidelines, any other relevant documents required for fortification of rice as staple food.

Activity 1:

- Analyze global and regional rice fortification initiatives referring to policies/plans/guidelines /reports / any other relevant documents; suggesting a workable plan under country context for Pakistan.

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- Consultation with concerned government departments and other relevant stakeholders like UN agencies, private sector and other development partners etc.

Deliverables

- Situation analysis report on rice fortification which includes a workable plan for piloting in country

Other relevant tasks needed by the MoNHSR&C, GoP to support the advancements of the stated objectives, as agreed to by NI may be incorporated in the due course of the assignment.

Use of deliverables

The deliverables under this TA will be primarily used by NFA, MoNHSR&C and relevant departments at the province level for rollout and monitoring of fortification programs including USI. The deliverables will also be used by the provincial health departments and other relevant departments (for e.g. FSSA etc.) for monitoring and enforcement purposes.

Duty Station/Location

The position is based out of Islamabad, Pakistan, situated in the office of Director Nutrition/ NFA Secretariat, MoNHSR&C. The TA provider will report to the Director Nutrition, MoNHSR&C. MoNHSR&C will be responsible for providing a suitable working space for the consultant at its premises.

Travel

The consultants are expected to undertake some travel within the country. All travels required under this consultancy will be provided for by Nutrition International. Travel allowances maximums are based on standard rates of the organization. The consultant is expected to travel on average for 4-5 days in a month to provinces for carrying out different activities, and organizing consultative meetings with various stakeholder groups.

Timeline

This is a full time consultancy for a duration of 12 months, starting from December 2018 till November 2019.

Management and Reporting/Coordination mechanism

- a. The consultant will be reporting to Director Nutrition, MoNHSR&C. S/he will also work closely with the SUN Government Focal Point for Pakistan.
- b. The MoNHSR&C will facilitate the operational linkages with all the other relevant sectors and stakeholders under this TA.
- c. The consultant is expected to work in close coordination and harmony with the officials / departments, at the national and provincial level, as mentioned below:
 - Director Nutrition, MoNHSR&C/ National Fortification Alliance Secretary
 - National Coordinator National Fortification Alliance
 - Provincial Fortification Alliances

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- Chief Nutrition Planning Commission.
 - DG PSQCA
 - Provincial Food Authorities
 - Provincial DGs Health
 - Nutrition Focal Persons
 - Provincial P&D Department Focal person.
- d. The consultant will work in close coordination with the NI Country team and TAN Asia team
- e. NI 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.
- f. NI will provide technical input into the assignment and is responsible for assuring the quality of the work being delivered by the consultants.

Profile/qualifications of consultant

The consultant will be selected following a competitive recruitment process.

The consultant will possess expertise in the fields of nutrition preferably in food fortification / public health nutrition / public health policy. The consultant would be expected to have in-depth understanding of health and nutrition policies and programming in the country, at the national / federal and sub-national / provincial level.

Education

- Post-graduate level qualifications in Nutrition/ Food and Nutrition/ Food Science/ Food Technology/ Community Nutrition/ Public Health Nutrition/ Public Policy/ Public Health/ any other related field(s).
- Qualification in Nutrition would be an advantage

Language Skills

- Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory
- Knowledge of Urdu language is mandatory

Experience

- At least 15 years of technical experience in the fields of nutrition/ food fortification and/or public health policy.
- Advanced technical skills and experience in food fortification policy review and development, including aligning sub-national / provincial regulation and legislation with national recommendations, will be highly desirable.
- In-depth knowledge of Pakistan's national & provincial nutrition and health policies and programs
- Experience of building capacities of government departments / sectors and/or other partners on areas related to nutrition and health.
- Proven experience of engaging and working with multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral working groups at national and sub-national / provincial settings

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- Proven experience of developing and/ or strengthening of monitoring and review mechanisms
- Experience in planning, organizing and managing national workshops/ conferences.
- Excellent documentation and communication skills

Application Process

Interested consultants are invited to submit the following by email to

TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org before close of business 30th September 2018, 17:30 EST (Ottawa, Canada). Only complete applications will be reviewed.

- 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.).

NI 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.

Kindly mention **'PAK-05 – Implementation of Food Fortification Initiatives'** in the subject line of the email.