

PAK 09- Technical Assistance to Government of Pakistan for Accelerating Multi-sectoral Response to Address Malnutrition in Punjab

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 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 is a chronic, multi sectoral and multifaceted problem prevailing in Pakistan for decades. The recent report of National Nutrition Survey 2018 revealed that there is no substantial progress in nutritional status of the population. Currently 40.2 % of children under five years of age are stunted amongst which 39.4% are female and 40.9% are male. The percentage of wasted children is 17.7% with 17% female and 18.4% male while 28.9% children are underweight comprising of 28.4% females and 29.3% males. In addition, there is an emerging problem of overweight, affecting 9.5% children (9.7% male and 9.2% female). In Punjab province, which is the largest of all the provinces in Pakistan, 36.4% children are stunted, 15.3% are wasted, 23.5% are underweight and 9.9% are overweight.

Pakistan has been for long facing the problem of anemia amongst its population with a 53.7% national rate of anemic citizen, 53.1% being females and 54.2 % comprising of the male population with 5.7% being severely anemic. In adolescent girls the rate of anemia is higher than the national rate with more than half of the female population (56.6%) diagnosed as anemic out of which 0.9% are having severe anemia. The rate of anemia amongst women of reproductive age is 47.1 % with 1% having severe anemia.

Nutrition was institutionalized in the National Planning Commission (NPC) during the 1970s as a multi-sectoral development concern. Although the NPC had a mandate to mainstream nutrition across different sectors, operationalization was based in the nutrition wing of the Ministry of Health. Nutrition's institutional home resulted in the conception of nutrition projects and operational plans as a sub-set of health, and therefore, remained confined to the Health sector¹

¹ Punjab Province Report: Nutrition Political Economy, Pakistan; August 2013



After 2011, the key relevant ministries were devolved from the centre to the provincial level and the responsibility of planning and implementing programmes began to be shared between the federal and the four provincial governments. Of the four, Punjab is the largest province with more than 50% of the country's population. While Punjab province has made some advances in terms of organization and restructuring for planning and programming of nutrition actions, it is still confined to health. The Punjab Government has taken multiple initiatives with support of partners in reducing malnutrition. The ongoing programs include the Stunting Reduction Program, the Integrated Reproductive Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (IRMNCH) & Nutrition Program, Universal Salt Iodization, Vitamin A supplementation, Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition, School Health and Nutrition Awareness, Food Fortification, Right Start deworming and Iron Folic Acid Supplementation.

With Pakistan joining the SUN Movement in January 2013, the country has witnessed increased coordination between governments and donors, UN agencies and other development partners. A high-level National Nutrition Committee headed by the Ministry of Planning and Development and Reform (MPDR) oversees nutrition planning and implementation across sectors and ensures multi-sectoral implementation of nutrition interventions². In addition, nutrition has been prioritized in the Pakistan Vision 2025 and 12th Five Year National Development documents, with substantial allocations in the federal and provincial level annual plans³.

In line with the government's devolution context, SUN secretariats/Units have been established at the provincial level to lead efforts of scaling up nutrition in their respective provinces ⁴. Punjab was the first province to establish a provincial Multi-Sectoral Committee for Nutrition under the Planning & Development (P&D) Department. It includes representatives from relevant sectors, industries, and co-opted members from the United Nations/ donors. This is supported by a technical working group on nutrition comprising focal people from relevant sectors.

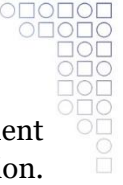
Building upon the Vision 2025 and SUN Declaration of Commitments by the federal government, the Punjab government, through the multi-stakeholder consultations, has designed the provincial Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (MSNS) which is the province's blueprint for addressing malnutrition. This was followed by formulation of the 5-year provincial Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition (MSPAN) by guiding the development and consolidation of all the relevant sectoral nutrition plans with the support of NI TAN.

In order to implement Punjab Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy and Multi-sectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition Government of Punjab established The Multi Sectoral Nutrition and Population Center (MSN & PC) which now is being upgraded through a PC-1 (Project Concept) with additional budgetary allocations. The MSN & PC will provide oversight, technical assistance, coordination, monitoring and evaluation for the implementation of revised multi-sectoral nutrition strategy 2019-2024 and other

² SUN Movement Compendium 2014; Pakistan

³ GP MPDR

⁴<http://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries/pakistan>



multi-sectoral nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions to be implemented by Department of Health, Education, Population, PHED, Food, Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock and Social protection.

The implementation of MSPAN requires strong coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders to manage complex decision making across landscapes; to avoid conflicting land use policies and programmes. There is also a need to explore synergies among sectors/programs and investment choices in order to ensure truly sustainable development outcomes. In this context, the SUN FP of Pakistan has sought Technical Assistance from NI under the TAN project to support the government of Punjab province to accelerate the implementation of MSPAN under the overall SUN agenda through collective and collaborative engagement of sectors, stakeholders and SUN networks.

Objectives

Overall objective

To support the SUN Secretariat of Punjab to accelerate provincial nutrition actions through collective and collaborative engagement of sectors, stakeholders and SUN networks.

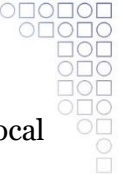
Specific objectives

1. Provide technical support for implementation of MSPAN through coordination with multi-stakeholder platforms.
2. Provide technical and operational support for implementation of SUN strategies and operational plans of provincial SUN CSA & SUNAR networks.
3. Strengthen mechanism to track progress of nutrition Project Concept 1 PC1 at the provincial and district level.
4. Strengthen mechanism for information management and knowledge sharing amongst multi-stakeholder platform to ensure collaboration of efforts of all partners.

Expected results

The TA is expected to strengthen the capacity of the SUN Secretariat, Punjab to accelerate scaling up nutrition in the province through engagement of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partners. It is expected that the consultancy would lead to the following results:

- Provincial multi-year nutrition Project Concept 1 (PC-1) agreed with stakeholders and approved by the provincial/ federal authorities concerned.
- Provincial SUN Secretariat, Nutrition Steering Committee and District Malnutrition Addressing Committee are capacitated to effectively plan, deliver and track nutrition priorities in line with Multi Sectoral Nutrition Strategy of Punjab.
- Mechanism established through SUN quarterly coordination meetings for regular consensus building and collaboration of efforts for implementation of effective and coordinated actions.



The successful applicant is expected to work closely with multiple sectors such as agriculture, local government, food, fisheries, commerce, industries, and other relevant stakeholders and NI.

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 how they are incorporated into 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, and 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 checklists](#)
- [NI background document on gender and nutrition](#)
- [NI PowerPoint presentation \(Gender 101\)](#)

Scope of Work

The consultant is expected to undertake the following tentative activities and produce the listed deliverables. It is expected that the consultant would ensure the NI guidance on gender equality considerations is strongly built in the objectives as well as in the deliverables expected under this TA. To this end, the consultant will be asked to participate in NI TAN's gender onboarding conference call, prepare a *gender plan*⁶ to indicate which gender requirements relate to each TOR tasks and, if necessary, revisit its methodology accordingly.

Under objective 1: Provide technical support for implementation of MSPAN through coordination with multi-stakeholder platforms

Activity 1 - Conduct consultations with all the relevant sectoral partners and stakeholders to gain inputs for formulation of multi-sectoral nutrition PC 1 for Punjab in line with MSPAN and with focus on ensuring gender equality considerations in the PC1

Deliverable: Summary report of consultations

Activity 2 - Guide formulation of multi-sectoral nutrition PC 1 for Punjab province

Deliverable: Multi-sectoral nutrition PC 1 for Punjab developed with focus on gender considerations

⁵ The TA provider should pay particular attention to checklists 1.1 (Landscape analysis), 1.2 (Participation of stakeholders in consultations, meetings and workshops) and 2.5 (Effective operationalization and delivery of multisectoral nutrition plans).

⁶ Support from NI TAN's Gender Advisor will be provided to the consultant.



Activity 3 - Review PC 1 of relevant sectors and support integration of relevant nutrition activities as per the provincial nutrition PC 1

Deliverables:

- Report of status of integration of nutrition activities in the PC 1s of relevant sectors
- Sectoral PC1s revised with integration of nutrition activities

Activity 4 - Support district malnutrition addressing committee for development of district level operational plans in line with the multi-sectoral nutrition PC 1

Deliverables:

- Guidance document developed to guide districts on formulation of district level plans aligning with PC 1
- Regional level planning workshops conducted to support formulation of district plans, and report shared

Under objective 2: Provide technical and operational support for implementation of SUN strategies and operational plans of provincial SUN CSA & SUNAR networks

Activity 1 - Guide and support provincial SUNCSA and SUNAR members for implementing their strategies

Deliverables:

- Implementation plan for SUNCSA & SUNAR developed
- Report on progress of implementation

Activity 2 - Strengthen regular participation of SUNCSA network in follow up with district administrations on implementation of activities as mentioned in Nutrition PC1, along with the MSNC

Deliverable: Report on follow up with district administrations on nutrition PC1

Under objective 3: Strengthen mechanism to track progress of nutrition PC1 at the provincial and district level

Activity 1 - Analyze the status of monitoring of nutrition indicators through sectoral/ provincial monitoring systems that were revised during 2018, and undertake steps to strengthen the same as per the nutrition PC1

Deliverable: Periodic (bi-monthly/ quarterly) nutrition progress report of PC 1 indicators with gender disaggregated data (wherever possible) and analysis of any gender differences produced

Activity 2 - Identify barriers and challenges for regular review of implementation of nutrition actions of government & partners

Deliverable: Report on barriers & challenges for regular review



Activity 3 - Strengthen mechanism for regular review of implementation of nutrition actions of government & partners by “partners’ forum for nutrition”

Deliverable: Meeting updates and reports

Under objective 4: Strengthen mechanism for information management and knowledge sharing amongst multi-stakeholder platform

Activity 1 - Establish and strengthen mechanism for information sharing at the provincial level, consensus building and collaboration of efforts amongst SUN movement actors.

Deliverable: Achievements/ case studies/ success stories/ challenges of provincial MSP partners documented and disseminated

In addition, any other relevant tasks needed by the SUN Secretariat of Punjab 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

Deliverables produced under this TA are intended for use by federal & provincial SUN FP and the provincial SUN CSA and SUNAR networks in the following way:

- Government of Punjab will be able to develop and implement revised PC-1 for MSN & PC and sectoral PC-1s
- Progress Review and Monitoring Mechanisms developed under this TA will be helpful in improving service delivery of sectoral interventions
- SUN Country Networks shall implement their updated plans
- Knowledge management (development of case studies and other learning products) will be used by partners for cross learning and partnership

All deliverables will also be shared with DFID.

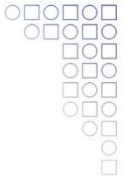
Duty Station/Location

The consultant will be based in Punjab for this assignment. The Government of Punjab, Multi Sectoral Nutrition Center, Planning and Development Board will provide official work space to the consultant to hold joint discussions, meetings and reviews. The consultant can otherwise work from home and submit deliverables to the concerned authority and NI.

All travels required under this consultancy will be provided for by Nutrition International. Travel allowances maximums are based on standard rates of the organization

Timeline

This TA support would be for a period of up to 12 months, starting from June 2020.



Management and Reporting/Coordination mechanism

- The Consultant will report to the SUN Secretariat Focal Person Punjab / Chief Health Planning and Development Board, Government of Punjab on a day to day basis. The Consultant will also report to Federal SUN Focal Person of Pakistan on a periodic basis.
- The consultant will work closely with other sectoral program managers including Integrated Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child Health & Nutrition Program (IRMNCH), Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), Lady Health Worker's (LHW's) Program, Population Welfare, Education, Public Health Engineering, Local Government, Agriculture, Social Protection and Food Department.
- The Multi Sectoral Nutrition Center Planning and Development Board, Government of Punjab 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/ development partners working in the area of health & nutrition.
- NI will provide funding for the assignment, and payment will be subject to performance and reaching deliverables as agreed upon at the moment of contract signing.
- NI will be responsible for technical guidance and quality assurance of the work being delivered by the consultant.
- The Consultant shall also report to SUN Focal Person of Pakistan and update the progress on a monthly basis.

Profile/qualifications of consultant

The Consultant will be selected following a competitive recruitment process. The profile of the Consultant has been presented below.

Education:

- i. Master's in Public Health, Health Policy, Nutrition, Food Sciences and related fields
- ii. Knowledge and experience related to Nutrition, health systems and multi sectoral coordination is preferred

Language Skills: Fluency in written and spoken English and Urdu is mandatory. Knowledge of local language will be considered as an asset.

Experience:

- i. At least 7-10 years of relevant experience in the field(s) of nutrition and/or health policy planning including program designing and/or implementation and/or monitoring
- ii. Proven experience in managing multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral working groups in national and/or sub-national settings.
- iii. Experience in designing and implementation of monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
- iv. Experience in strengthening the capacity of ministries/ governments/ other partners in being able to sustain interventions.
- v. Strong skills in facilitation, project management and tracking outcomes.



- vi. Experience in working with multi-donor organizations, civil society networks, UN agencies, government and academic/ research institutions.
- vii. Experience of working in a multi-cultural environment shall be considered an asset.
- viii. Experience in gender equality shall be considered an asset.

Application Process

Proposals should be submitted by email to TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org before close of business, 31st March 2020, 5.30pm 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.).

NOTE: The approximate budget for this TA is in the range of PKR 8,000,000 and 10,000,000. Please provide your financial proposal in Pakistan Rupee (PKR).

Kindly mention **'PAK 09- Support to SUN Punjab'** in the subject line of the email.

Nutrition International is committed to gender equality. All eligible applicants are invited to apply.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.