

Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition Plus (MQSUN⁺)

The United Kingdom's (UK) Department for International Development (DFID) has committed to improving the nutrition of at least 50 million people by 2020 by addressing both the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition. Their focus includes preventing stunting in young children, reducing unequal access of girls and women to food, water and other essential services and building country resilience to droughts and other shocks. DFID also supports the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement to enhance country capacity to accelerate nutrition programmes and policies. SUN is a commitment of 60 countries—including governments, civil society, donors, United Nations agencies and the private sector—to reduce malnutrition by aligning national nutrition priorities, amplifying the reach and impact of nutrition programming and scaling up nutrition in a more equitable and sustainable way. Funded by DFID, MQSUN⁺ supports this movement through nutrition technical assistance.

From 2012 to 2016, Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition (MQSUN) supported scaling up nutrition efforts at both global and national levels by providing technical expertise on the design, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based, nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programming and policies. Following on the success of MQSUN, MQSUN⁺ (2016-2020) provides technical assistance to DFID, SUN countries and the SUN Movement Secretariat to catalyse multisectoral country efforts to scale up nutrition impact, maximise the quality and effectiveness of nutrition-related programmes, increase innovation in nutrition, support evidence generation and knowledge uptake and develop nutrition capacity.

Programme objectives

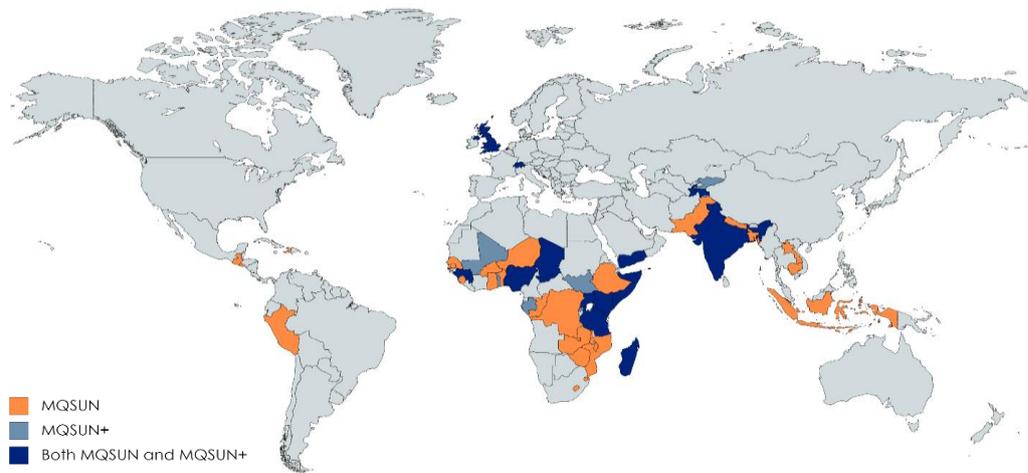
MQSUN⁺ supports the implementation of technically strong nutrition programming globally by:

1. Enhancing skills and capacity to support scaling up nutrition.
2. Strengthening multisectoral efforts for scaling up nutrition.
3. Strengthening the evidence base for reducing malnutrition.
4. Strengthening the nutrition policy environment in SUN/DFID countries.
5. Improving nutrition-related programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
6. Designing, implementing and monitoring terms of reference and evaluating value for money options.

Consortium partners

MQSUN⁺ is a consortium of five expert nutrition organisations: PATH (lead), Aga Khan University, Development Initiatives, Health Partners International and NutritionWorks. Each partner contributes specialised technical expertise to ensure quality technical assistance to DFID and SUN. Under MQSUN, other partners included Aga Khan University, Agribusiness Systems International, Health Partners International, ICF International and Institute for Development Studies.

To date MQSUN and now MQSUN+ has provided technical assistance in 43 countries— both supporting quality evidence generation and use for nutrition programming and policy and working collaboratively with countries to move their SUN agenda forward and build country capacity and ownership to improve nutrition.



MQSUN+ is divided into two components that provide a range of tailored support to DFID and SUN countries.

First, we provide **technical assistance to SUN** governments and the SUN Movement Secretariat to strengthen the capacity of the 60 SUN Movement countries to continuously improve their policy and budget cycle management and to deliver policies and programmes which reduce malnutrition. MQSUN and MQSUN+ have supported over 30 SUN countries to move closer to what works to improve nutrition.

MQSUN+ supports SUN countries to establish an enabling environment for multisectoral nutrition. In countries such as Tajikistan, Guinea and Nepal, we have provided technical expertise to assess the current climate for nutrition and supported country-led efforts to develop a common results framework—a single and agreed-upon set of expected nutrition results generated through multisector engagement. MQSUN+ then provides guidance to operationalise these goals by developing a multisectoral nutrition action plan which includes detailed activities, cost estimation and targets to monitor progress and impact.

Second, we provide **technical assistance to DFID** to maximise the quality and effectiveness of nutrition-related programmes to support achievement of global targets to reduce malnutrition. MQSUN and MQSUN+ have supported over 14 DFID countries and DFID UK to design, pilot and review nutrition programmes, conduct landscape analyses on cutting-edge nutrition research and identify new strategies to improve nutrition impact.

MQSUN+ supports DFID country offices and DFID UK to ensure nutrition interventions are evidence-based, high-quality and cost-effective. We collate innovative research on key nutrition topics, such as obesity, urban nutrition and private sector engagement. MQSUN+ develops guidance materials for DFID on nutrition-sensitive topics, such as gender and nutrition integration into health, to ensure multisectoral nutrition programming. We also provide technical expertise on the inception, start-up and periodic assessments of nutrition programmes in countries like Uganda and Tanzania. All these efforts ensure that DFID-supported interventions accelerate scaling up effective nutrition policies and programmes.

MQSUN+ belongs to the Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) programme with partners Nutrition International and the Emergency Nutrition Network to strengthen the capacity of the 60 countries within the SUN Movement to deliver policies and programmes which reduce malnutrition.

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