Institutional transformations in 2016-2017



Bringing people together into a shared space for action

In 2012, the Government of Nepal formed the National Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee, chaired by Honourable Member of the National Planning Commission (NPC). Key responsibilities of this Committee include the development of national strategy and plan under the policy direction, guidance of the High-Level Nutrition and Food

Security Steering Committee (HLNFSSC), and provides guidance to sub-national committees. The involvement of civil society organisations in Nepal has been limited to the national level, particularly focusing on advocacy-related activities. No progress has been made regarding private sector engagement in nutrition.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The issue of malnutrition is clearly reflected in national policy documents including the National Health Policy 2014, the Government's Periodic Plan (2016-2018), and the National Health Sector Strategy (2015-2020). Existing laws, regulations and policies relevant to nutrition include the 1997 Food Act, the 1970 Food Regulation, the 1998 lodised Salt

Act, the 1992 Mother's Milk Substitutes Act, the 1994 Mother's Milk Substitutes Regulation, and the 1963 Breast Feeding Regulation. In 2016, the Government developed a costing framework "Costing of Gender Equality Instruments in Nepal" which is being implemented. The Golden 1,000 Days Public Awareness Campaign continued throughout 2016.

Aligning actions around a common results framework

The Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MNSP) 2013-2017 is the umbrella document which covers most of the nutrition relevant multi-sectoral policies and regulations. The MSNP helps sectors in mainstreaming nutrition issues. Joint monitoring by sectoral line ministries has been conducted at central and district levels, however, it needs to be strengthened. The regular reporting system is in place – using a management information

system - and functions at national and sub-national level. As part of decentralisation efforts, nutrition and food security steering committees have been established at the district, village development committee, and municipal levels. The Nepal Nutrition and Food Security Portal was established in 2014 and is functional, although not fully utilised by sectors and in need of regular updating.

Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

A financial tracking system is in place, for which the NPC has been taking a lead role. The NPC also advocates for a nutrition budget coding system, which will facilitate the tracking of budget allocations for nutrition. A costing assessment method is in place in the Ministry of Health,

which allows assessment of the financial status of nutrition-specific interventions (TABUCS: Transaction Accounting and Budget Control System). A common tool is used to prepare annual programme and budget (LMBIS: Line Ministry Budget Information System).

2017-2018 PRIORITIES

- Formulating, endorsing and launching the MSNP II;
- Creating implementation guidelines for the MSNP II (2018-2022);
- Enhancing the capacity of local bodies of the new federal structure to implement the MSNP II;
- Revising the National Nutrition Policy and Strategy 2004 to ensure alignment with the new federal structure of Government of Nepal and the MSNP II.
- Conducting a nutrition joint annual review (JAR) meeting at the national level in December 2017.