



DECLARATION OF COMMITMENTS

ON THE LAUNCH OF

SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) MOVEMENT IN PAKISTAN

Pearl Continental Hotel, Bhurban, Pakistan

17 December 2013

We the organizers (Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, in partnership with Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination and Ministry of Food Security & Research) of the launching ceremony of Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in Pakistan, together with the participants of this ceremony and subsequent workshop from Provincial Departments of Planning and Development, Health, Education, Food and Agriculture, international development organizations; the United Nations, donors, civil society, national and international nongovernmental organizations, private sector, various institutions, universities, community-based organizations;

- Commit to reduce by half the current levels of under nutrition in Pakistan by year 2025.
- Recognise and reiterate the fact that current nutritional status of Pakistan's population requires coordinated, multisectoral, and consolidated efforts to scale up nutrition in order to achieve the goals identified within the Government of Pakistan's vision 2025.
- Further recognise that the main objective of the launching ceremony and the subsequent workshop is to develop the Pakistan Scaling Up Nutrition Road Map and raise the stakeholder's awareness of the need to address the high levels of malnutrition in Pakistan through a call to action for political commitment, investment and support from all sectors and actors;

In consequence, following are the conclusions and recommendations based on the discussions and deliberations.

- Pakistan is experiencing a serious problem of malnutrition, characterised by high stunting (43.7 percent) and acute malnutrition (15.1 percent) rates and micronutrient deficiencies.

- The high stunting rate in children under five means that an about 11 million children as of today will never realize their full physical and mental potentials, and that the poor performance of stunted children in school will impact negatively on the future productivity of Pakistan's human capital.
- Nutrition will play a critical role if Pakistan is to achieve *Vision 2025*, to transform the country into a globally competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life.
- Communities must be empowered to claim their right to good nutrition and guided to play their role towards realizing this basic human right.
- Pakistan's draft Agriculture and Food Security Policy aims at providing a strong policy framework and guidelines for addressing food and nutrition insecurities.
- Provincial Nutrition Policy Guidance Notes, approved by the respective provinces and the draft integrated nutrition strategies provide a guiding insight into multiple and cross-sectoral dimensions of nutrition improvement.
- Strong institutional structures are needed in Government for effective implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the actions to scale up nutrition in Pakistan.
- One UN Programme II, Strategic Priority Area 6 is focussed at food and nutrition security in Pakistan, and is envisioned to contribute substantially as UN group in scaling up nutrition in Pakistan.
- Solutions to malnutrition are practical and basic and that the scope of direct and indirect nutrition interventions should not only be limited to emergencies, but should also address poor nutritional practices within the highly vulnerable populations.
- There is a dire need for long-term commitment by the Government and partners to support scaling up nutrition in Pakistan.
- There is urgent need for investment in nutrition by all stakeholders in order to improve the nutritional status of women and children, as articulated in the Millennium Development Goals.
- Reducing malnutrition in Pakistan is a development and social challenge and priority, driven by political will to implement a well-coordinated, multi-sectoral strategy that can deliver an evidence-based set of high-impact nutrition interventions.

The delegates of the launching ceremony of Scaling Up Nutrition are committed to support the Road map for Scaling up Nutrition in Pakistan, by focussing on priority nutrition actions set out as follows:

- Multi-sectoral solutions for combating malnutrition need to be implemented by incorporating nutrition sensitive and specific interventions within relevant sectors.
- Improving maternal and child nutritional status by implementing best interventions for reducing stunting, wasting, anaemia and underweight.
- Reduction in the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies in the population by appropriate supplementation, fortification and biofortification programmes.
- Improving infant and young child feeding practices and ensure implementation of the breast feeding rules.
- Prevent deterioration of nutritional status and save lives of vulnerable groups in emergencies by addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity and vulnerability of these populations.
- Enhancing food security by extending the focus of agricultural policies from production to access and by supporting the highly vulnerable through targeted interventions.

- Improving nutrition in schools and other institutions by conducting a situation analysis and initiating programmes for school/institutional feeding.
- Improving knowledge, attitudes and practices on optimal nutrition through all available channels, public campaigns and curriculum initiatives
- Improving knowledge attitudes and practices on underlying causes of malnutrition especially related to the status of women, female education and empowerment.
- Strengthening the nutrition surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems for effective reporting and planning.
- Enhancing evidence-based decision-making through operational research in order to strengthen nutrition programme development and service provision.
- Enhancing availability of strong human resource nutrition capacity in country by appropriate training and institutional building initiatives.
- Strengthening coordination and partnerships among key nutrition actors for greater impact of nutrition activities across all stakeholder sectors.

The situation calls for

- National and Provincial governments to: increase their commitment to nutrition; strong institutional structures; increase nutrition financing; develop and deliver national provincial and regional multi-sectoral nutrition plans with civil society participation; strengthen monitoring systems to include nutrition interventions and outcomes, ensure high level coordination of nutrition activities, to enhance capacity building to improve nutrition.
- Donors to increase their support for nutrition; continue to focus on capacity building at national and provincial levels.
- UN to ensure that SPA 6 outlined interventions are optimally implemented and deliver the envisioned outcomes, thus contributing in the overall development of Pakistan. Apart from that UN lead group needs to steer the process of SUN movement in Pakistan by provision of technical support to the civil society, government institutions, private sector and other partners.
- Civil society and academia to partner their efforts for strengthening the government's initiatives, while collaborating with private sector and to ensure that nutrition is prioritised beyond an emergency intervention.
- National and International Non-governmental organizations to ensure that most cost effective and strategically designed programmes are implemented in each sector.
- Private sector institutions to: ensure their business activities promote good nutrition; at affordable costs; and work with others in the SUN movement to ensure nutrition governance and government accountability are strengthened.

Developed and Concluded this Seventeenth Day of December 2013, at the Pearl Continental Hotel,
Bhurban, Pakistan.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms

And Deputy Chairman Planning Commission

Mr. Hassan Nawaz Tarrar

Secretary, Ministry for Planning, Development and Reforms

Mr. Javed Malik

Member Agriculture and Nutrition, 17.12.2013,

Planning Commission of Pakistan

Ms. Lola Castro

Convener- One UN OP II SPA 6

On behalf of UN Partners

Dr. Inam ul Haq

On Behalf of Development Partners

Dr. Tauseef Janjua

On Behalf of INGO's, NGO's and Civil Society