PROGRESS TOWARDS SUN 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

SO.1 Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments
The Government has endorsed the decree on the National Nutrition Committee. The rate of children under 5 years who are underweight should remain at 19 per cent of the target population, while the rate of children under 5 years with stunting should decrease to 31 per cent. Infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition food fortification, including salt iodization, will be promoted. As in other parts of the world, the country experienced a period of inactivity in initiating new programmes. However, preparations for the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit and Food Systems Summit generated new energy and motivated all those concerned to cooperate and work together towards a common goal.

SO.2 Develop and align shared country priorities for action
The multi-sectoral nutrition platform (which includes the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Forestry, Education and Sports, Planning and Investment and mass media) engages with development partners through meetings, forums, work agreements and partnerships to ensure that nutrition resources are aligned with the NPAN 2021–2025, which aims to address high levels of undernutrition in the country. Nutrition stakeholder national budget allocations have increased for some priority nutrition actions (e.g. procurement of nutrition commodities and capacity-building). International donors have allocated funds to NPAN 2021–2025 priorities.

SO.3 Build and strengthen country capacity
Government officials were trained to ensure that various nutrition-related knowledge and skills are available locally. The Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion requested the provincial health department, including health-care facilities nationwide, to apply the guidelines for the management of acute malnutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic. A nutrition centre, in cooperation with a European Union/United Nations Children’s Fund-funded drug and medical equipment supply centre, provided diagnostic and management services for children with acute malnutrition, especially to treat paediatric malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition, both in outpatient and inpatient screening settings.

SO.4 Ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all SUN Movement stakeholders behind country priorities and strengthens 360 mutual accountability
The Ministry of Health has developed strategies and guidelines on nutrition, such as the NPAN 2021–2025, which involved MSP members. Thanks to ongoing donor support, nutrition coordination and joint advocacy has improved through networks and other mechanisms. In addition, useful nutrition tools have been developed for implementation and dissemination, which helped stakeholders work together. Training was held on infant and young child feeding, including during the pandemic, and national nutrition information systems were strengthened at the national and subnational levels for effective monitoring and accountability of nutrition actions.