

Action brief

Leveraging government resources

Country: Nepal

Date: June 2023

Themes: Leveraging government budget and resources for national nutrition plan

Sub-themes: National and subnational levels



Overview



Because budget support from the European Union was slated to end in 2022, before the last year of the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan II in 2023, the High-Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee of Nepal decided to earmark budget money. Based on policy direction from the committee, the Government of Nepal allocated 1.48 billion rupees to continue and scale up the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan to all 753 local governments (up from 720) for fiscal year 2022/23.



Objectives of the action brief

The aim of this action brief is to explain efforts by the Government of Nepal to scale up the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan to the entire country and to ensure the sustainability of the plan to help Nepal achieve national nutrition priorities and international targets.



Period covered

This action brief covers July 2022 to July 2023, one fiscal year.



What action was taken?

Government of Nepal leads the nutrition governance mechanism at national, provincial and local levels, to implement the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan.

In Nepal local government is closer to the community and is responsible for delivering necessary services to people in their communities. The implementation of the nutrition plan through regular government mechanisms has been effective and efficient at delivering timely nutrition services and ensuring that local governments remain accountable. Plus, it is convenient for people to access nutrition-related services within their own communities.

Financial and technical support for the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan come partly from the

European Union and UNICEF. With European Union funding ending in 2022, the National Planning Commission alongside the SUN Government Focal Point, National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration of Nepal advocated for additional resources. In the end, through various grants, significant resources were allocated to support national, provincial and local governments in implementing the MSNP.

Lobbying leaders and helping them see the importance of nutrition was successful in drawing their attention to the issues. However, follow-up activities are required to turn commitments into actions.



What would the country do differently?

First, we would have organized various meetings and interactions with the political and administrative leadership to discuss the importance of nutrition, opportunities and issues.

Second, we would have shared different options for financing, based on the context and regular follow-up and communication.





Adaptation and applicability

To adapt this effort to other countries and situations, it will be important to:

- Sensitize political and administrative leadership to draw their attention to the issues and to conduct follow-up activities to turn commitments into actions
- Support the Government in strengthening capacities and nutrition governance at all levels related to the implementation of nutrition programmes
- Extend financial and technical support simultaneously, thus helping create an environment conducive to achieving expected results
- Implement the nutrition programme through the government system. The bureaucratic process is time consuming, but it is the most cost effective and sustainable in the long term.



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What was the role of the SUN Movement in this good practice?

The SUN Movement contributed to the adoption of the multisectoral approach and helped political leaders understand the importance of increased investment in nutrition.

The SUN Government Focal Point contributed significantly to the increase in financing from the Government for the national nutrition plan.



Next steps

The next steps include:

- Formulating and implementing the third phase of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan to sustain past successes, achieve national nutrition priorities and reach World Health Assembly and Sustainable Development Goal targets
- Scaling up nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and ensure equitable access to services
- Adopting a targeted approach to ensure that the people more in need are given priority

Scaling Up
NUTRITION

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