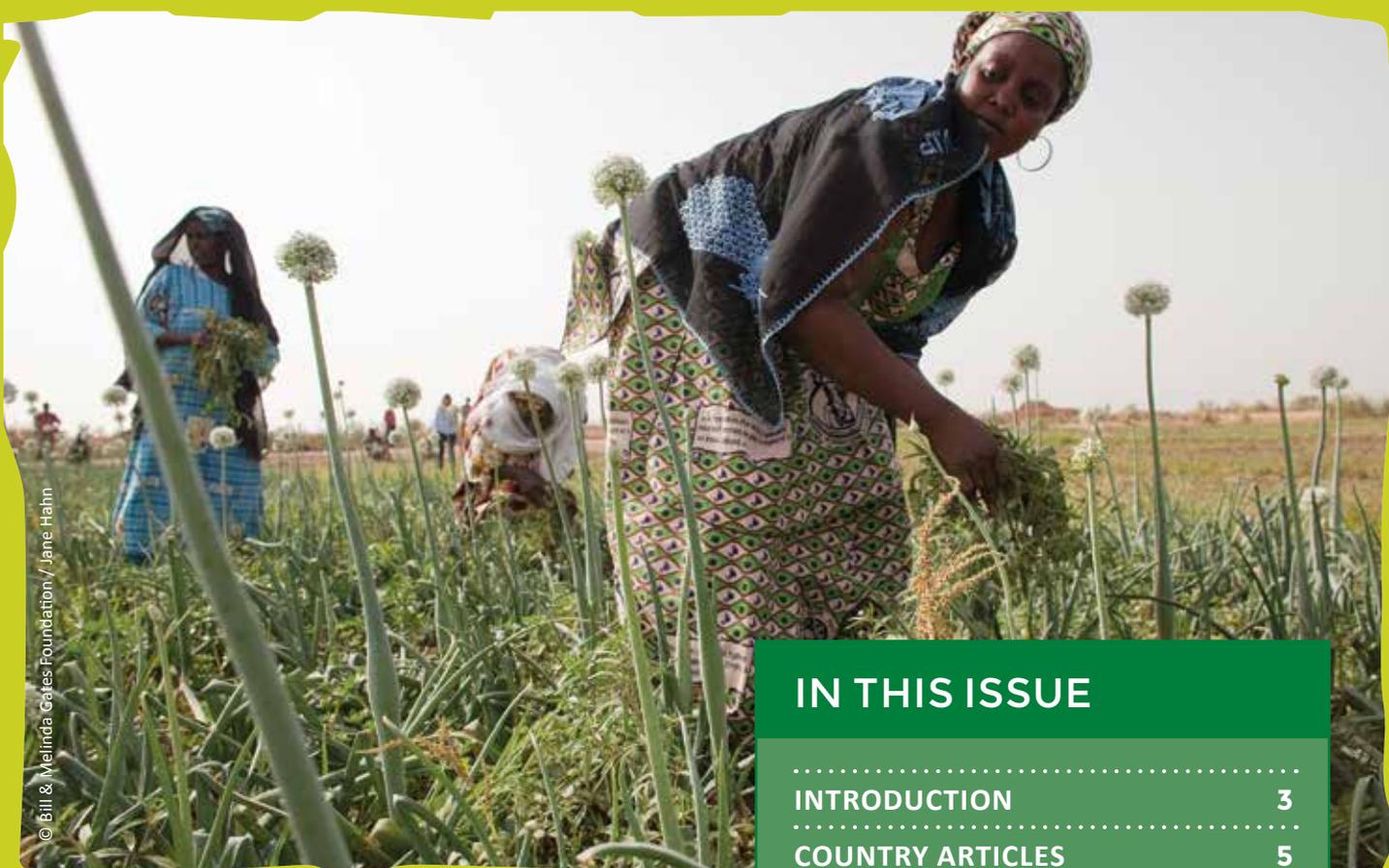


The Contribution of Agriculture and Social Protection to Improving Nutrition



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Introduction

“ It is crucial to understand nutritional problems and their causes in order to identify ways that investments in agriculture can prevent malnutrition. Prevention is key— besides the obvious health benefits of stopping malnutrition before it starts, preventative programmes are more cost-effective than those that concentrate solely on treatment. ”

Bibi Giyose, Senior Advisor - Food and Nutrition Security at the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

This series of briefings – entitled *Scaling Up Nutrition in Practice* - presents the experiences of SUN Country governments, and other national stakeholders, as they scale up their efforts to ensure all people enjoy good nutrition. Each briefing in the series focuses on a theme selected by SUN Country Government Focal Points as a focus for sharing their experience during a series of teleconference calls with focal points and country teams that take place every two months.

This is the fourth briefing and it focuses on how agriculture, food systems and social protection schemes are contributing and can better contribute to scaling up nutrition in SUN countries. Representatives from six SUN countries have shared their accounts of how food, agriculture and social protection stakeholders have engaged in nutrition coordination activities to achieve nutritional outcomes. Key challenges have been identified in each of the country articles. These, together with extensive information drawn from teleconference calls with SUN Government Focal Points and their teams, form the basis of the reflections in the concluding remarks by Tom Arnold, SUN Movement Coordinator, ad interim.

How are SUN countries coordinating, planning and monitoring to make agriculture, food systems and social protection contribute to scaling up nutrition?

Food and agriculture systems have a primary role in enabling people to access the foods that they need to ensure their good nutrition, while - at the same time - contributing to the economic growth of societies. Such systems can increase the availability, affordability and consumption of diverse, safe, nutritious food and diets throughout the year. Social protection is one of the key domains that can influence the wellbeing of people and

can help ensure improved nutrition. Social protection programmes combine instruments that protect vulnerable populations from risks and shocks while promoting more resilient livelihoods.

Most of the SUN Government Focal Points who participated in a thematic teleconference focusing on agriculture, food systems and social protection, reported that their ministry of agriculture or social protection are participating in their multi-stakeholder platforms. But several of them have identified inter-sectoral coordination between different initiatives for food security, nutrition and/or social protection as a key challenge. The extent of collaboration varies from country to country. It was noted that the high level of interactions that are needed between sectors is very time-consuming, even more as health, agriculture and social protection can have competing concerns which may hinder cooperation. In this light, participation of key officials was critical for the success and sustainability of the process.

Countries recognised the importance of developing a Common Results Framework to strengthen linkages between different sectors that contribute to nutrition, and of having integrated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks in place. However, very few countries have set up common M&E committees or working groups. Social protection is complex and multi-sectoral by nature, however, this challenge is being tackled by more and more countries developing or reviewing policies or strategies for social protection, which include a nutrition focus. Nutrition indicators are increasingly being integrated in social protection results frameworks. The majority of countries also indicated that they wish to be in a position to integrate nutrition indicators within their agricultural investment plans. However, more needs to be done in defining what is meant by “nutrition-sensitive programmes” – what they are, what is required to plan, and how nutrition-sensitive programmes can best be implemented.

How are SUN Countries implementing multi-sectoral programmes?

Most 55 SUN Countries are implementing joint inter-ministerial programmes that combine food security, social protection, education and also nutrition-specific interventions. Agriculture and social protection interventions are often integrated through insurance schemes offered to vulnerable rural families. These generally include components aiming at generating income through enhanced agricultural productivity. Many countries have devised programmes to help improve agricultural productivity which are also designed to help alleviate poverty and improve poor people's access to nutritious food. The activities they support include (a) linking increases in smallholder farmer productivity to school feeding programs; (b) encouraging production of dairy products, or (c) improving the employment of vulnerable groups. Social protection programmes tend to include cash transfers and improved access to essential services such as credit, health care or legal support. The promotion of diversification of production and diet is one of the main outputs through which agriculture contributes to nutrition. Promotion of local agriculture practices and products is also priority for several SUN Countries. Some countries also highlighted the important roles played by rural extension workers in promoting behavioral change among smallholders.

It was noted that despite the existence of common plans, the lack of human capacities and of resources to implement them is an important constraint and some countries highlighted the necessity of having a compendium of success stories for guidance and effective knowledge sharing across the SUN Movement.

How are SUN Countries integrating nutrition into agriculture and social protection programmes?

This issue of *Scaling Up Nutrition in Practice* describes the contribution of agriculture, food systems and social protection for scaling up nutrition in six different SUN Countries. **Burundi** is integrating nutrition in sectoral policies and development plans. Backed by high level political commitment to scale up nutrition the two main priorities of their multi-sectoral strategic plan for food security and nutrition is to improve hygiene practices through a hand washing initiative as well as to promote dietary diversification through backyard vegetable gardens in schools and households nationwide. In **Lao PDR**, there has been significant efforts to establish a multi-sectoral committee on nutrition which aims to ensure increasing investment in nutrition as well as establishing all the institutional arrangements needed to improve food and nutrition security. In addition to the committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Health have begun to decentralise the nutrition coordination process. In **Mali**, the 2013 National Nutrition Policy has been operationalised by a multi-sectoral nutrition action plan 2014-2018. In alignment

with this action plan, the Ministry of Rural Development takes responsibility for improved seed dissemination and, together with the Ministry of humanitarian action, they work on emergency responses. The Social Development Ministry is responsible for the transfer of social benefits that can improve the nutrition status of households. **Nepal** has developed strategies and plans to address the problem of food insecurity and promote nutrition attempting to increase the availability of quality food and to increase the income and reduce the workload of women. Social protection schemes are helping to provide sufficient food and nutritious diets for poor and socially excluded groups. In **Yemen** development partners and the government have been engaged in developing a long term integrated multi-sectoral action plan for combating under-nutrition 2015-2019 with the engagement of all sectors. The agriculture, food security and social protection sectors have agreed on the principle of programmatic and geographic convergence in that all sectors will work together in around half of the districts with a high burden of under-nutrition. **Mozambique** undertook a baseline Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Survey in 2013 with more than 7000 households in the country indicating that nutrition is not directly linked to food availability but is linked with food utilisation, access and education. National programmes are highlighting the fact that the use of social protection measures are essential to addressing stunting as a cross cutting issue.

These approaches describe how countries across the Movement are working multi-sectorally to ensure that nutrition is a key element in agriculture and social protection programmes. The following articles provide a snapshot of these efforts and are intended to benefit countries across the Movement as we share and learn from each other's experiences.



Country Articles





BURUNDI

Strengthening actions for Nutrition



*Dr. Déo-Guide RUREMA,
Deputy Chief of the Office of the 2nd Vice-president*

“Investment in food security and nutrition is a prerequisite for sustainable development.”

SE Dr Ir Gervais RUFYIKIRI,
Second Vice-President of the Republic
(Opening of the first forum on food security and nutrition)

67% of the population of Burundi live below the poverty line. 35.6% of the population suffer from high hunger levels (Global Hunger Index, 2014). Per capita calorie intake is the lowest in the East African region (1,600 Kcal/day).

The fact that agricultural and livestock production have been structurally lacking since the year 2000 (+/-30% of annual requirements) due to high food prices, the exchange rate and demographic pressure, demonstrates how inextricably entwined the issues of malnutrition and food insecurity are. Therefore, the Government of Burundi, is working to integrate the agricultural and social sectors to combat malnutrition and food insecurity.

Multi-sectoral systems to address malnutrition

Thanks to sustained advocacy and awareness-raising actions, high-level political interest in malnutrition and food security issues have now become a reality in Burundi. Nutritional governance, formalised by Decree No 100/31 of 18 February 2014, is organised through the Multi-sectoral Food and Nutritional Security Platform (PMSAN), which oversees food security and nutrition activities. It is comprised of a steering committee, a Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)/ Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH) secretariat and a technical committee.

The steering committee includes high-level members such as the second Vice-President of the Republic, the Ministers of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS,

CHILDREN UNDER 5

Stunting:	57.7%
Wasting:	6.1%
Overweight:	2.9%
Low birth weight:	10.7%
Exclusive breastfeeding:	69.3%

Source: DHS 2010

Agriculture and Livestock, Commerce and Industry, Finance and Economic Development Planning, Water, Environment, Land Management and Public Works, Community Development, National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender.

In order to drive the necessary initiatives to improve nutrition, the steering committee is in charge of:

- ➔ Integrating food security and nutrition indicators into sector-based plans
- ➔ Approving sector-based food security and nutrition policies and plans, and supervising policies and programmes
- ➔ Introducing a dedicated budget line in each relevant ministerial budget.

Integrating nutrition into sectoral and development policies

Agricultural policies and strategies integrate nutrition through actions targeting vulnerable populations, in order to increase food production, access to food and food diversity. In the first semester of 2014, at the request of the steering committee, the SUN/REACH secretariat gave its support in identifying the priorities of the Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (MSPFSN), targeting landmark community actions and activities to be implemented in the short and medium term. The secretariat also supported efforts relating to information, communication and awareness-raising, which focused on changing habits and behaviours in favour of good nutrition practices.

The objectives of the MSPFSN are the outcome of an inclusive and participatory process and address, among other things, micronutrient deficiencies and chronic food security deficits. The two priorities identified for inauguration of the plan, were the promotion of:

- Kitchen gardens for households and schools in order to diversify diets. Traditional heads, agricultural instructors, health workers were trained in 6 of the 17 provinces, with a view to achieving national coverage by the end of 2016.
- Hand washing, through the popularisation of the tippy-tap or *Kandagira Ukarabe* (devices manufactured using local materials).

In parallel, food security and nutrition are among the priorities of the Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction (2012-2015). Its objective in the agricultural sector is to “provide Burundians with food of sufficient quality, in sufficient quantity and to reduce the percentage of the population that is underweight from 29% to 21% in 2015”.

Type of fertilizer	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 A&B
DAP	5,53	7,57	2,97	14,3827	13,92
UREE	3,35	1,29	3,193	2,74	1,48
NPK	0,90	0,61	1,62	0,65	0,35
Kcl	0,25	0,70	0,16	0,636	0,27
Total	10,03	10,16	7,93	18,406	16,02

Table 1: The evolution of the use of chemical fertilizer amounts applied to food crops

The 2011-2015 National Health Development Plan (PNDS) and the 2012-2017 National Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (PNIA), both attach a great deal of importance to people’s access to nutritious agricultural products, such as vegetables, and recognition of challenges posed by climate change. Strengthening actions in the fight against malnutrition is an integral part of strategic pillar 1 of the 2011-2015 PNDS on transmissible and non-transmissible illnesses. Under its programme “sustainable increases in food production and food security”, the PNIA includes a sub-programme specifically relating to nutrition in connection with vulnerability, which aims to reduce the number of people in situations of sustained extreme food insecurity for more than three months. The main pillars of the PNIA include:

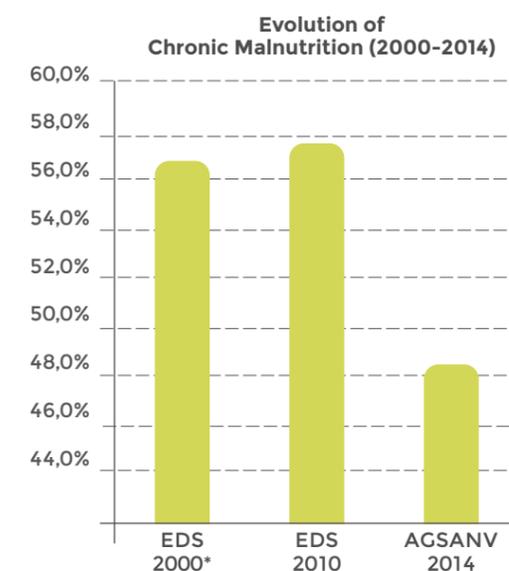
Pillar 1: Improving agricultural productivity by intensifying the agricultural sector, stimulated by the greater number of high-yield seeds distributed (manioc, sweet potato, banana, fruit, vegetables, macadamia nuts, etc.). This will ultimately increase food production and diversity. Subsidies for chemical fertilisers have also made it possible to double the quantity of fertilisers used for greenhouse crops.

Pillar 2: Intensifying meat and milk production by distributing animals to vulnerable families. The beneficiaries are chosen by the population in a participatory and inclusive manner and community solidarity chain monitoring committees will identify subsequent generations of beneficiaries. The animals (cattle, goats, pigs, rabbits and chickens) are chosen according to the families’ capacities, the poorest receiving small livestock, and other landowners receiving cattle. In 2013, 9,800 head of cattle were distributed to rural families.

Pillar 3: Developing the fish farming and aquaculture sectors. Although the PNIA provided for the creation of 100 ponds, there were over 5,000 in operation by the end of 2014.

Conclusion

Although agricultural production increased by around 35% between 2011 and 2013, the chronic and acute malnutrition rates in children under five fell from 58% and 6% respectively in 2010 to 48.9% and 5.4% respectively in 2014. While it’s not possible to directly correlate the fall in malnutrition with the progress of the agricultural sector, it certainly had an impact.



His Excellency, the Second Vice - President sowing spinach in a vegetable garden

Challenges

Some key challenges to effective strengthening of multi-sectoral efforts with a focus on agriculture and social protection include:

- Harmonising and aligning points of view, practices and customs between the ministries, non-government organisations (NGOs) and donors working for food security and nutrition
- The budget for the MSPFN needs to be finalised in order to pave the way for resource mobilisation
- Certain sectors such as social and environmental protection could still be better represented in the PMSAN
- Promoting behavioural change and the adoption of best practices and habits in food and agricultural production is still not easy
- Understanding the underlying causes of malnutrition and its medium and long term effects remains challenging in a context of transition from family subsistence agriculture to intensive agro-pastoral production less dependent on climatic conditions.

Key Lessons

- The first forum on food security and nutrition, from 1 to 14 December 2011, played a key role in raising awareness and garnering political commitment at a high-level, regarding the issues of malnutrition and food insecurity
- Participating in the SUN Movement and the REACH initiative has also improved the organisation and coordination of national activities and helped address the multiple causes of malnutrition in a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach
- Distributing cattle to rural families has significantly increased milk production and consumption
- Promoting organic fertilizers and kitchen gardens as well as credit facilities and fertilizer subsidies has increased and diversified agricultural production and consequently increased consumption in the population (especially of vegetables)
- Regarding social protection, identifying appropriate beneficiaries for the distribution of animals to vulnerable families is crucial and an identification mechanism has been established for future generations.

LAO PDR

Converging for Nutrition



Converging is just like multi-sectoral coordination and is not easy. The who, when, how and what of the coordination process needs to be defined - no one size fits all.

Chandavone Phoxay MD, MSc, PhD, Deputy Director General, Hygiene Health Promotion Department, Ministry of Health and SUN Government Focal Point with contribution from Dr. Bounfeng Phommalsith Deputy Director General, Cabinet MoH, Stefania Dina, IFAD Country Coordinator, and IFAD team to Lao P.D.R

Lao PDR has achieved impressive economic growth in the past two years and the poverty ratio has fallen by nearly 10% in the past decade. The Government of Laos is now tackling its high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition to achieve a decline in stunting of a minimum of 3.9% points per year to get on track for related MDG 1 targets.

A strong political commitment

The political commitment in Lao PDR is strong at the highest level in government and in parliament, with commitment to ending malnutrition that is reflected in the many actions that have been undertaken. Such actions include:

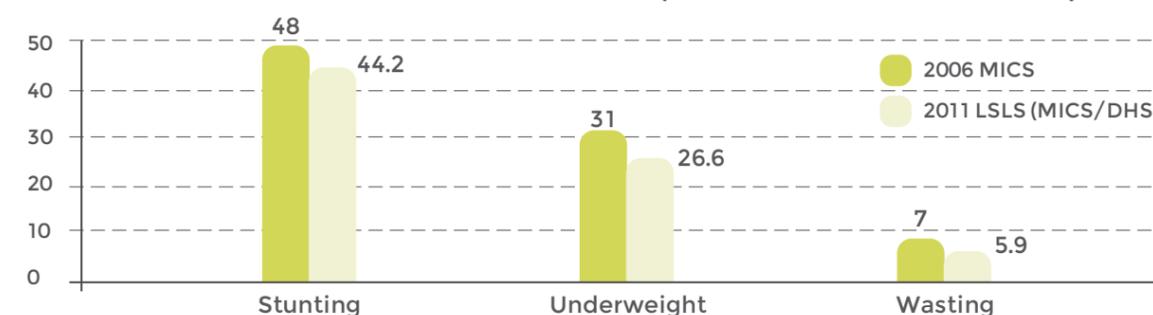
- the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy (NNP)
- the National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (NNSAP) 2010-2015
- prioritization of interventions of the multi-sectoral plan on nutrition in 2013
- an increase of the entire health sector budget (including nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions) to 9% of the total Government expenditure since 2012

CHILDREN UNDER 5

Stunting:	43.8%
Wasting:	6.4%
Overweight:	2.0%
Low birth weight:	14.8%
Exclusive breastfeeding:	40.4%

Source: LSIS 2011

- the reduction of malnutrition is a major priority in the eighth National Social and Economic Development Plan of the country
- and the Government of Laos has made significant efforts to establish a multi-sectoral committee on nutrition - National Nutrition Committee (NNC) and its Secretariat in July 2013. The Committee aims to ensure continuity of increasing investment in nutrition, establishing all the institutional arrangements and modalities needed to address the problems on food and nutrition security.



Government advocacy for multi-sectoral engagement

The health sector strongly advocated to the Government of Laos and relevant line ministries on nutrition, making the case that nutrition is a multi-sectoral issue that requires a multi-sectoral solution. One sector or one organisation alone cannot tackle this problem. As a result, the Government recognised the importance of significant involvement of national, sub-national and peripheral levels and the engagement of multiple sectors, beyond health, for combating food and nutrition insecurity in the country. It is emphasised at all levels that other disciplines can be involved to help scale up nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions by working closely with all the concerned sectors and in making the efforts sustainable. Engaging at an international level, Lao PDR officially joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in April 2011, with the Ministry of Health (MoH) nominated as the SUN focal point within the Government.

Inter-ministerial coordination mechanism

The NNC Secretariat is chaired by Vice-Minister of Health and co-chaired by the Vice-Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, of Education and Sport and of Planning and Investment. The NNC includes relevant ministries: Health, Agriculture-Forestry, Education, Planning (Investment), Commerce, Finance, National Poverty Eradication and Rural Development Committee, National Commission for Mother and Child, mass organizations and other relevant line ministries.

The NNC Secretariat is chaired by Vice-Minister of Health and co-chaired by the Vice-Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and of Planning and Investment. The Secretariat is technically assisted and coordinated by a core team which comprises 5 key ministries, including health, agriculture-forestry, education, planning-investment and poverty eradication and rural development. As the focal point, the MoH acts as the centre of coordination among multiple sectors and development partners on nutrition. There are 5 Technical Working Groups (TWGs) which act as a core team, including TWGs on food security, (under agricultural sector), nutrition (under health sector), education (under education sector), Secretariat of Round Table (under planning and investment sector) and Secretariat of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Committee.

The core team members play an articulation role with the respective sectors for following up the recommendations of the NNC and the Secretariat.

→ At central level:

- a. alignment of implementation of interventions from different sectors with the multi-sectoral plan
- b. mobilisation of internal and external funds
- c. close monitoring of the implementation
- d. and reporting to the respective sector and NNC secretariat.

→ The provincial and district levels will implement the 22 interventions of the multi-sectoral plan, conduct microplanning, review and scale up the existing interventions, define gaps and report to each of the sector, the provincial secretariat and the central level.



A behavior change communication session in progress

As a recent initiative, the core team together with TWG-FSC and nutrition is developing a Common Results Framework and designing the effective mechanism for information management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting the progress of the multi-sectoral plan.

Decentralising the process

In addition to the establishment of the NNC, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the MoH have initiated the decentralisation of the coordination process with support from the Agriculture and Health Sector Working Groups. The establishment of a secretariat for the Provincial Nutrition Committee in the target provinces replicating the national-level structure aims at decentralizing multi-sectoral coordination on nutrition and food security. The multi-sectoral coordination is continuing to be decentralised to other provincial and district-levels. The multi-sectoral body is a coordinating platform within the Government sectors and the international forum for food and nutrition security. The multi-sectoral mechanisms include the NNC and provincial committees with strong coordination and consultation with development partners.

Collective actions

Laos recognised that MDG 1 was off-track in the country and the concerted efforts have led to only a low reduction of malnutrition by 1% per year. Learning from international experiences and evidence-based approaches from Bangladesh, Brazil and Peru that

reduced malnutrition by 3-4% per year - in 2013, the NNC established a *Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan 2014 – 2020* based on a “convergence” approach. The Action Plan is reviewed and developed by multiple sectors and implemented by each sector. The representatives of each sector, seated in the NNC, play articulating roles with their respective sectors and ensure the Action Plan is included, budgeted, implemented and monitored in every sector plan.

With technical assistance from development partners and the Secretariat, nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions are implemented among the same malnourished children in focused geographical regions of the country with high rates of malnutrition and food insecurity. Successful implementation of this “convergence” model could reduce undernutrition and reduce the proportion of people who suffer from underweight hunger to 22% by 2015 and to reduce the prevalence of stunting to 34% by 2018.

This Action Plan has a focus on improving food security and the nutrition of children, women of reproductive age, adolescent girls, and school children with concentrating on poor geographical areas and applying the convergent approach. There are 22 interventions – 14 related to health, 4 related to agriculture and 4 related to education. The Government of the Lao PDR has increased efforts and continues to work with development partners to implement the new convergent multi-sectoral approach, and also works on the integration of maternal and neonatal child health, model healthy villages and poverty eradication to synergise nutrition promotion programs.



Photo detail: Growth-monitoring children



Handwashing and sanitation practices in Lao PDR

Local solutions

The agriculture sector is fostering sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets by strengthening local food production and by smallholder and family farmers handling the processing. More specifically the agriculture sector focuses on:

1. **Production and promotion of diversified crop production (incl. home garden, herb-boxes, bean production, etc) and agriculture-linked nutrition education**
2. **Production and promotion of small and healthy livestock (focus poultry, pigs, etc)**
3. **Improved post-harvest handling and promoting food processing to improve year-round food security; and**
4. **Supporting and promoting income generating activities (IGAs), for example agricultural products as well as non-timber forest products (NTFP) including traditional herbs and education on wise spending of money.**

In two target Districts, Oudomxay Province, the Soum Son Seun Jai programme in cooperation with the other relevant sectors has taken the lead in facilitating the piloting of the implementation of the convergence approach.

The basic concept from an agricultural point of view is to increase the local production and availability of healthy balanced food along with the launch of nutrition awareness raising campaigns that include cooking lessons and use of locally grown foods for complementary feeding of children under two years of age diagnosed as malnourished.

The programme aims to increase food availability at household level in various ways through promotion of small livestock, establishing diversified home-gardens (containing at least 10 different varieties of vegetables) and herb-boxes, promoting fish culture, the domestication of Non-Timber-Forest Products (NTFPs) and improving storage facilities for staples.

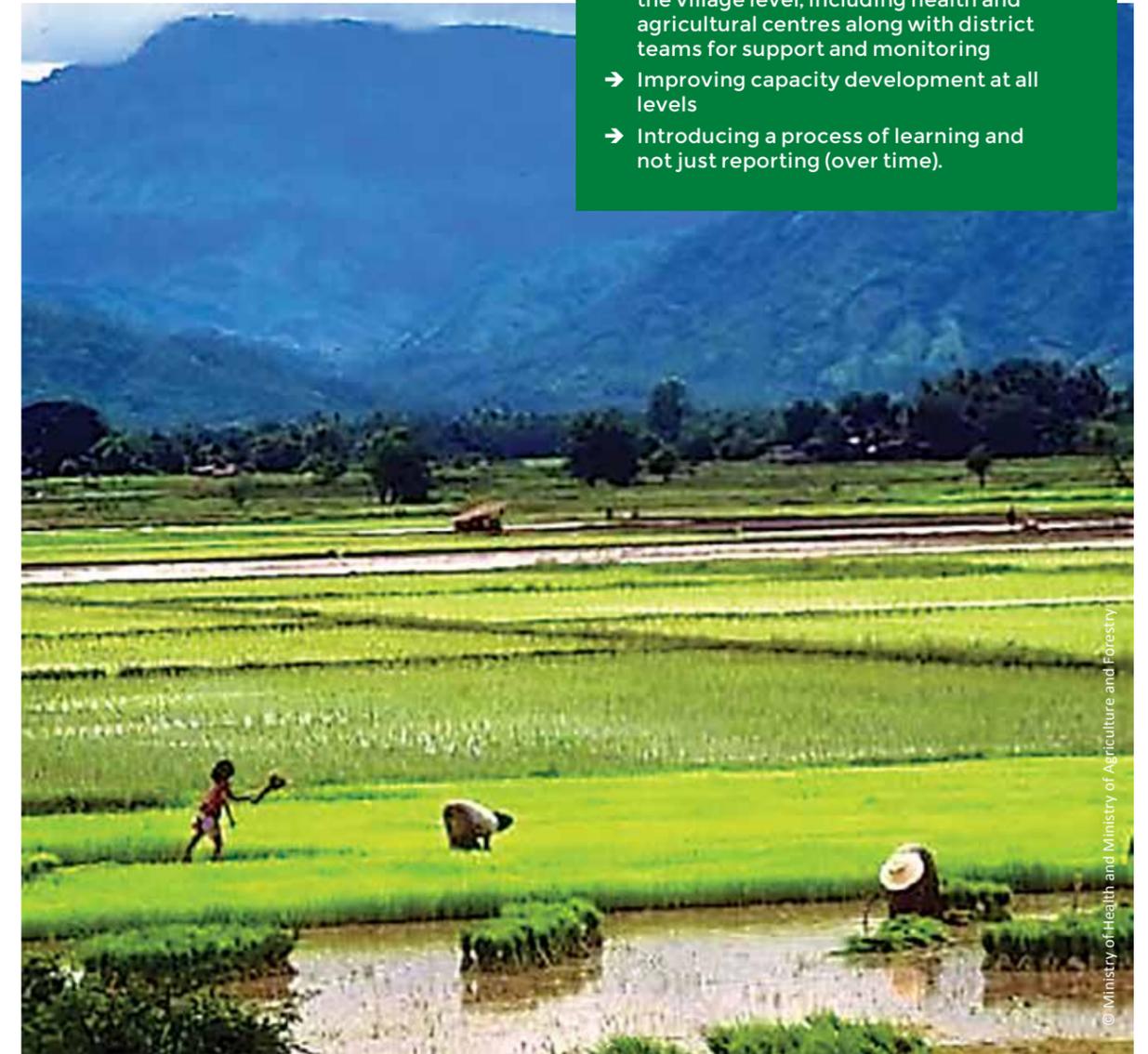
The health sector interventions are addressing underweight and stunting by improving maternal nutrition and health, promoting optimal infant and young child feeding, behavior change communication, ensuring food safety, micronutrient supplementation for mothers and children, promoting salt iodization and management of acute malnutrition. It also addresses the quality of water, sanitation and hygiene. The education sector focuses on nutrition interventions through school curricula, nutrition education in school and in community-based approaches.

Challenges

Increasing investment from the Government and mobilising resources from external sources for nutrition has worked. However, the Government still faces the challenge of coordination among stakeholders, actors and donors for mapping of interventions and resources, implementation coverage and its outcomes. Secondly, limited funding and capacity for implementing the nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions continue to be a hurdle.

Key Lessons

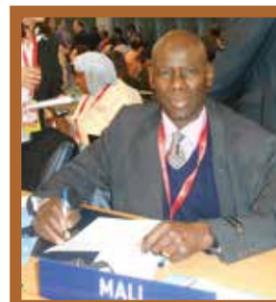
- Recruiting the right coordinators at the right institution ensures effective coordination
- Accelerating levels of commitment and ownership at the local level (with central level only giving strategic direction) is essential
- Establishing mechanism for accountability (in particular downward accountability - from the village level upwards)
- Decentralising national level actions to the village level, including health and agricultural centres along with district teams for support and monitoring
- Improving capacity development at all levels
- Introducing a process of learning and not just reporting (over time).



Community members tend to their rice crop

MALI

Coordination is Critical



The Malian Government's commitment to respond to malnutrition in a sustainable and multisectoral manner has been manifested in its explicit recognition of the collective role and responsibility of all sectors in improving nutrition, especially the agricultural and social sectors.

Modibo Diarra, Nutrition Focal Point of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and Government Focal Point for SUN

Malnutrition and food insecurity are inextricably linked

Despite numerous challenges such as low productivity, post-harvest losses and difficult climatic conditions, Malian agriculture has seen strong growth over the last decade. This includes a strong increase in cereal production, although outpaced by demographic growth, as well as an increase in the output of rice production zones, from 2 to 6 tons/hectare between 1988 and 2008. Between 2000 and 2013, rice production rose from 742,808 to 2,211,920 tons; maize production rose from 214,548 to 1,502,717 tons and millet production rose from 759,114 to 1,152,331 tons.

However, surveys have revealed that the largest agricultural production zone in the country is that in which the malnutrition rate is highest, while certain regions remain dependent on food aid, which may mean that agricultural outputs have a limited impact on the nutritional status of the population. In this regard, the Malian Government's commitment to respond to malnutrition in a sustainable and multi-sectoral manner has been manifested in its explicit recognition of the collective role and responsibility of all sectors in improving nutrition, especially the agricultural and social sectors. The Strategic Framework for Growth and the Reduction of Poverty (CSCR 2012-2017) emphasised food security and nutrition as priority intervention areas.

Contributions of the agricultural and social sectors to the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan

The National Nutrition Policy, adopted by the Government in January 2013, was operationalised in the form of a Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (2014-2018) with the technical and financial support of the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger initiative (REACH).

CHILDREN UNDER 5

Stunting:	38.3%
Wasting:	12.7%
Overweight:	2.3%
Low birth weight:	15.5%
Exclusive breastfeeding:	32.9%

Source: DHS 2012-13

It was developed by more than 100 representatives of ministries, technical and financial partners, civil society and the private sector between July 2013 and April 2014, and adopted on 5 June 2014 before being costed at \$605,238,299 over 5 years. Comprising 14 strategic pillars, it involves the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Rural development and Food Security Commission, but also the Ministries of Education, Social Development, the Promotion of Women, and Communication. Social security measures are mainstreamed into all the strategic pillars.

The Ministries of Rural Development and Social Development are particularly associated with guidance under pillar six: 'small-scale family food production and social transfers', which has been broken down into seven priority activities (actions targeting beneficiaries, promoting rural development and food diversity, and building the capacities of agricultural cooperatives and collectives). Therefore, the family production component must enable not only food production and consumption to diversify, but also household revenues to improve, boosting women's independence.



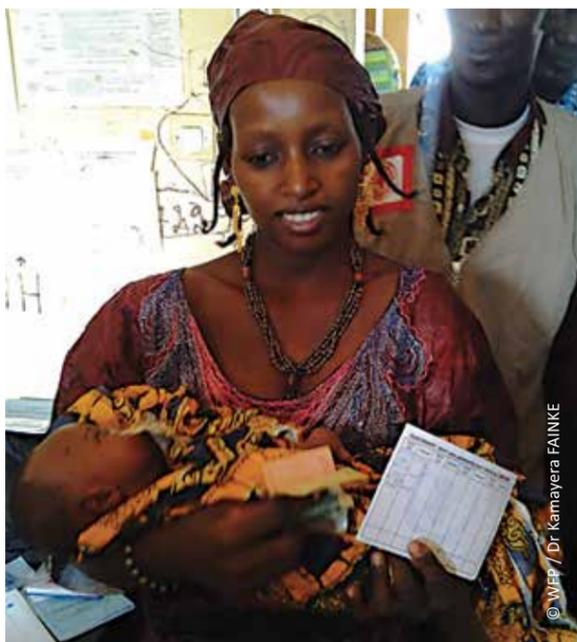
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The launch of the multi-sectoral nutrition action plan

The Ministry of Rural Development is responsible for popularising improved seeds, promoting proximity irrigation around high nutritional value cash crops and supporting the integration of agro-pastoral activities within families, while the Ministry for Family is responsible for promoting land access and land security for women in rural areas. By acting on household revenues, the 'social transfers' component addresses the underlying causes of malnutrition, such as lack of access to varied foodstuffs and lack of access to health care, etc. The Ministry for Social Development is responsible for social transfers intended to improve the nutritional status of households by addressing not only food but also hygiene and sanitation, or by supporting the creation and promotion of local organisations involving women and young people. The cost of these activities (around \$50,000,000 over five years) represents 8.27% of the total cost of the Action Plan.

The Ministries of Rural Development and Humanitarian Action are also associated with guidance under the twelfth pillar: 'emergency readiness and response', which promotes integrated actions and for which 10 priority actions were defined. The Ministry of Rural Development is responsible for raising awareness regarding food and fodder stock



management at the end of warrantage (a credit system guaranteed by a stock of agricultural products liable to change in value over time), protecting pasture land and water sources and monitoring meteorological phenomena and the state of agricultural, forestry and pasture land. The Food Security Commission, is responsible for sending in multidisciplinary teams to assess the situation upstream or downstream of catastrophes, distributing food and ensuring that agricultural products are sold at reasonable prices. The cost of these activities (around \$29,000,000 over five years) represents 4.85% of the total cost of the Multi-sectoral Plan.

Integrating nutrition into the sector-based agricultural plan

The explicit integration of nutritional objectives into the Agricultural Development Policy (PDA) and into the 2015–2025 National Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (PNISA) shows a clear recognition of the contribution of the agricultural sector to the fight against malnutrition. Therefore, the first of the eight strategic guidelines of the Agricultural Development Policy (PDA) developed in 2013 targets 'the food and nutritional security of the population correcting shortcomings by diversifying agricultural production'. In addition to the range and diversity of food products, it also mentions processing and conserving these products, as well as sustaining the incomes of small producers. Reducing food dependence by limiting imports is also one of the essential objectives of the PDA. The food security component of the 2015/2025 National Agricultural Sector Investment Plan is currently being drafted with a view to operationalising this policy.

Concrete examples

In 2013, in association with the Government, the United Nations and NGOs, the FAO implemented a project to improve the means of subsistence for 5,600 households that have moved back north (Timbuktu Zone), so that they might develop their cereal and vegetable production and enrich their diet, particularly with fresh vegetables. Community liaison officers were given free access to training sessions on best practice in irrigated vegetable and rice farming, nutrition and associative and cooperative life, at which presentations were made of nutritious recipes. The community liaison officers also distributed raw materials to the families (cereal grains and seeds: millet, sorghum, maize, rice, wheat, etc., vegetable seeds: onion, okra, tomatoes, cucumber, cabbage, etc., as well as fertiliser, diesel and small hardware items). More than half of the project's 35,000 beneficiaries are women and girls, and the abundance of documentation (nutrition kits, educational posters, image box) makes it possible to duplicate the project.

A mother and her child receive assistance through a community based nutrition programme

The World Bank has been financing an emergency social safety nets project since 2013, which provides money transfers for households in situations of food insecurity, so that they can increase their food intake sustainably and improve their capacity to endure difficult times while supporting and protecting the human capital of their children. This project must also integrate preventive actions relating to supplementing micronutrients and vitamin A and nutritional awareness-raising activities until 2018, and lay the foundations of a national social security system that is also able to protect vulnerable populations in times of crisis.

At this stage, four key lessons have been learned from the project:

1. A solid institutional social security policy framework is needed in order to set up a system of social networks.
2. Sustainable strategies to support households suffering from chronic food insecurity require, among other things, regular money transfers for periods of between 24 and 36 months.
3. Information and technology systems can clarify strategic decision-making.
4. Populations must be carefully targeted.

In the context of the Food Security and Nutrition components, a capacity-building workshop brought together 40 participants from the Government and national and international NGOs. It was an opportunity to build stakeholder capacities to integrate nutrition more effectively into food security and emergency resilience programmes, therefore improving the nutritional status of the populations.

Capacity building workshop on integrating nutrition and food security



Next steps

- An analysis is identifying available funding and financing shortfalls according to budgeting under the Multi-sectoral Action Plan. This analysis will give a better understanding of the resources available to the Government and the various players, in order to estimate financing needs and shortfalls for the next five years.
- The government has asked REACH to organise a Government and donor round table to make use of the above results. This will enable the Government and partners to identify priority actions and the financing available, and to improve planning for the next five years.
- A nutrition coordination cell is in the process of being created under the Minister of Health. This cell will have a political and technical role in order to ensure that nutrition remains a multi-sectoral issue and that the Multi-sectoral Action Plan is adhered to. The REACH partnership will provide technical and financial support for this cell.
- Mali promotes decentralisation and local experimentation. With the support of the European Union, UNICEF and Cornell University, it is experimenting with operationalising plans at district level, via consensual models aimed at bringing stakeholders to an agreement on how to work together, through the common planning of consortium activities, integrating nutrition indicators and establishing monitoring and evaluation committees to advise the local authorities.



© FAO / Dr. Fatoumata Konate

Cooking sessions using local products

Key Lessons

- ➔ All stakeholders and especially water and sanitation technicians need to be involved in policies and plans from the outset
- ➔ Drawing up the action plan needs time and intense technical and financial support
- ➔ It is essential to have a sustainable coordination structure to oversee implementation and play a technical but also a political role.

Mobilising Civil Society to Improve Nutrition in Mali

The NGO OMAES (Œuvre Malienne d'Aide à l'Enfance au Sahel [Malian Child Aid in the Sahel]) was designated as an official SUN civil society alliance in Mali. Through the NGO OMAES, civil society has the role of organising advocacy campaigns to get decision-makers to engage and recognise the sectors that are key for improving nutrition, especially agriculture and social security. Civil society has updated PROFILES, which is an advocacy tool which highlights the consequences of malnutrition for a country's health, education and economic prosperity. PROFILES will be presented at the National Assembly and in the regions (regional governors and directors). OMAES foresees training civil society stakeholders, including traditional communicators, on the use of PROFILE to help them take the campaign for nutrition to the general public.



© Modilip DIARRA, Point Focal Nutrition du Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique

Workshop on multi-sectoral nutrition in Yorosso, Sikasso Region



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MOZAMBIQUE

Safeguarding Societies to Improve Nutrition



Agriculture, nutrition and social protection have clear linkages: adequate levels of food production are the first necessary step to ensure the availability of nutritious foods for consumption.

Marcela Libombo, Secretária Executiva, SETSAN - Secretariado Técnico de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional

"We will intensify the food production and its access by the citizen to ensure food security and nutrition. The right to adequate food should not be a privilege. Food is a basic human right of all Mozambicans... We cannot allow chronic malnutrition to prevail side by side with the abundance of food we have in some parts of our country."

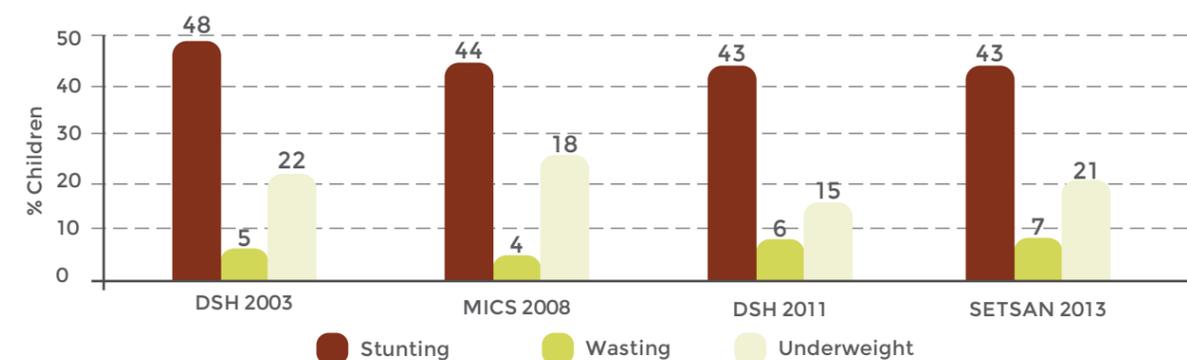
The State President- Filipe Jacinto Nyusi,
15th January 2015

CHILDREN UNDER 5

Stunting:	43.1%
Wasting:	6.1%
Overweight:	7.9%
Low birth weight:	16.0%
Exclusive breastfeeding:	42.8%

Source: DHS 2011

As a low-income country, 70% of Mozambicans live in rural areas with food deficit and 54% of them fall below the national poverty line. The country's economy is essentially agricultural. The share of crop production and livestock to rural household income is about 60% and 5%, respectively. This sector contributed to 24% of the GDP in 2013, and currently employs 90% of the country's female labour force and 70% of the male labour force, representing 80% of the total active population. This makes the social and agriculture sector vital to enhance food and nutrition security directly through boosting the economy and increasing physical access to nutritious food.





© SUN Multi-stakeholder platform in Mozambique

Under the Education Social Action programme there is free distribution of school books and education materials

Availability and access

Agriculture, nutrition and social protection have clear linkages: adequate levels of food production are the first necessary step to ensure the availability of nutritious foods for consumption. This in turn will influence the health and nutritional status of the population. Increasing the coverage of food security and nutrition interventions to the most vulnerable and poorest people will contribute to the efforts to reduce poverty, chronic food insecurity and stunting.

The results of a baseline Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Survey undertaken in 2013 with more than 7000 households in the country indicated that dietary diversity of the urban population is better than the rural population. The dietary diversity of the households headed by men is better than those headed by women where food is from less than three food groups. Dietary diversity was lowest in Northern provinces (with highest crop production) and the highest dietary diversity was in the southern parts of the countries (with lowest crop production) indicating that nutrition is not directly linked to food availability but is linked with food utilisation, access and education.

Cross-sectoral linkages

The root causes of food insecurity and stunting are complex, multiple and interconnected across sectors. Agriculture interventions have proven to be insufficient to meet the stunting targets and the overall improvement of nutrition and health of the children under five years as well as women. The use of social protection measures is essential to address stunting as a cross cutting issue and to make sure that the investments in agriculture achieve their maximum potential in terms of tackling undernutrition in more sustainable manner.

The links among agriculture, nutrition and social protection are complicated but crucial. The country is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, in particular droughts, floods and also cyclones which affects the rainfed-agriculture activities. Additionally, fragile and insufficient storage, processing and conservation infrastructure, as well as distribution and commercialization networks, have an influence on high post-harvest losses (approximately 40%).

A well-developed agriculture sector may enhance food and nutrition security directly through boosting the economy and increasing physical access to nutritious food. In turn, better nutrition and social protection conditions of farmers may improve their livelihoods by increasing their agrarian productivity, diet quality, and the family income of the most vulnerable farmers.

The biofortification program in Mozambique is implemented by the National Institute for Agrarian Research (IIAM) in collaboration with international organisations such as International Potato Center (CIP), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT),

and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT). Biofortified crops - Flash Orange Sweet Potatoes (OSP) with vitamin A, green beans with iron and quality protein maize are disseminated in the country and regions with high chronic malnutrition are given high priority – aiming to reduce micronutrient deficiency. Nearly 750,000 farmers benefit from the distribution of OSP but there is a need to increase the availability of improved seeds for maize and beans in the markets.

Promotion of horticulture and fruit-culture, and local food production such as moringa, amaranthus, poultry, fisheries and aquaculture, are also encouraged to improve the diet quality of poor households and to bring nutritious foods into the market.

Strong policy framework

Good governance, sound macroeconomic management and decentralisation processes that started in 2003 led to the development of a strong policy framework, particularly in the area of agriculture and social protection.

The Strategic Plan for the Development of Agrarian Sector (PEDSA) falls under 2025 Vision for Mozambique and takes the perspective that a prosperous, competitive and sustainable agriculture sector should be capable of providing sustainable responses to food security and nutrition challenges and target agriculture markets globally. To materialize the agriculture sector's vision, this strategic plan aims to contribute to food security and income of agriculture producers in a sustainable and competitive manner ensuring social and gender equity.

The National Strategy for the Basic Social Protection (ENSSB), has programmes contributing to the development of an inclusive society, allowing assets and assistance to reach the poorest and the most vulnerable population in the rural and urban areas. The ENSSB contributes to the effort to reduce poverty, food insecurity and stunting in the country. The key components include:

1. **Direct Social Action** – implemented by the Ministry of Women and Social Action (MMAS) through its National Institute for Social Action (INAS) with nation-wide coverage. The direct beneficiaries of the programmes are handicap peoples, elderly, children, those affected by chronic HIV and malaria, and households headed by a widow. Key features include:
 - a. monetary transfer of subsidies from 280,000 to 550,000 Meticals (Mts) for the families without the capacity to work;
 - b. social transfer for poorest and the most vulnerable people who are affected by the climatic shocks such as floods, droughts and cyclones and support them to mitigate their effects of the shocks;
 - c. the Service of Social Action programme provides service to institutions to support the people living in a vulnerability situation.
2. **Healthy Social Action** – aims to improve the quality of health of the poor. The key programs include nutrition rehabilitation of children at hospitals; vitamin A supplementation; provision of deworming at school and during the children week; iron and folic acid supplementation; allocation of baby clots kit; and allocation of birth certificate.
3. **Education Social Action** – implemented by the Ministry of Education (MINED) aims to allow the most vulnerable children to stay in school during the lecture period. Education is provided without tuition fee payment for primary classes; free accommodation in the dormitories; scholarship for students in the universities; school feeding programs; and free distribution of school books and education materials.
4. **Productive Social Action** – covers the population that have the capacity to work creating opportunities for vulnerable groups to get short term job-opportunities, particularly during the period of food deficit in rural areas. In the year 2014, about 56,842 people benefitted from the programmes.



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A family reviews nutrition education materials together

Comprehensive instruments

Mozambique's approach to food security and nutrition is holistic and comprehensive, comprising of different aspects including—production and access to food, health care, nutrition and sanitation, access to land and other natural resources (water and biodiversity), trade issues and food reserves, social protection, and food adequacy.

Two main policy instruments guiding the practical implementation of actions in the field of FSN are the Food and Nutrition Security Strategy and Plan of Action (ESAN II) and the Multi-sectoral Plan of Action for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition (PAMRDC). In practical terms, the two plans are guiding instruments as they cut across several sectors, and each sector is required to develop its own specific instruments with sets of indicators, goals and strategies to guide the Government of Mozambique to monitor and evaluate progress.

The food security and nutrition promotion and coordination is articulated by the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (SETSAN) which works under direct leadership of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security. The Food and Nutrition Security Strategy and Plan of Action ensures accountability towards improving coordination and implementation of food security and nutrition activities. A Technical Nutritional Working Group (GT-PAMRDC) chaired by SETSAN was created in 2012 aiming to promote and coordinate some of the key interventions implemented by the seven public sectors: Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Social Protection and Women, Industry and Trade, Education, Public Work and Housing, Youth and Sports, civil society, private sector and academia. Reports are presented bi-annually to the Council of Ministries and disseminated to the donor platform and civil society platform. Since 2013, the decentralization process has been executed through the designing of provincial PAMRDC and approved by Provincial authorities.

Challenges

- **Strengthening of inter-sectoral coordination and the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the PAMRDC at national and provincial level remains a challenge. It is important to ensure that the M&E system is part of the wider process and not just a stand-alone exercise.**
- **Promising interventions from successful experiences demonstrated in a few districts with support from donors need to be scaled up in other districts, particularly those with high levels of stunting and chronic food insecurity. Despite growing national attention for nutrition, there is the need to increase domestic investment for interventions and explore options for mobilization of resources.**
- **The sustainability of the cross-cutting approach is challenged by the continuous strengthening of institutional capacities and human resources with nutritional skills.**

Key Lessons

- **Decentralisation process (PAMRDC provincial, institutionalization, partnership with civil society, private sector, and universities) revealed to be key in order to address accurate nutritional intervention in each province**
- **Scaling up of community based interventions for nutrition, agriculture and social protection has shown to be effective**
- **Increased advocacy for high visibility of nutrition in the country triggered the momentum to mainstream nutrition in the Five Year Program from the Government and UNDAF 2015-2017**
- **Having a centralized body to act as a catalyst proved efficient to bring sectors together for joint planning and set priorities taking into account results from evidence based research**
- **M&E analysis provided an excellent opportunity to positively impact decision-making, properly advocate for nutrition in the agenda and bring visibility to its actions among the different actors in the headquarters as well as in the provinces working in the FSN issues.**



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NEPAL

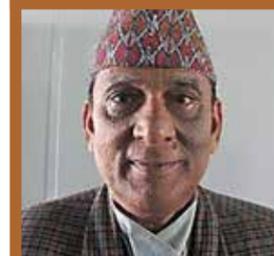
Boosting coordination for enhanced efforts



Yagya Bahadur Karki, Hon. Member of National Planning Commission and SUN Government Focal Point, together with Min Raj Gyawali, Programme Officer (Nutrition), National Planning Commission/ National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS)



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Nepal has developed strategies and plans to address the problem of food insecurity, by promoting nutrition. Social protection schemes in the country are contributing to provide sufficient food and nutritious diet to the poor and socially excluded groups.

Poor nutrition affects the entire population, women and children are especially vulnerable because of their unique physiology and socioeconomic characteristics. Adequate nutrition is critical to children's growth and development. The first two-year period from birth is especially important for optimal physical, mental, and cognitive growth, health, and development (Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) [Nepal], New ERA, and ICF International Inc., 2012).

CHILDREN UNDER 5

Stunting:	40.5%
Wasting:	10.9%
Overweight:	1.5%
Underweight:	28.8%
Low birth weight:	12.4%
Exclusive breastfeeding:	69.6%

Source: NDHS 2011

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in South Asia. A high proportion (estimates range from 25%-55%) of its population lives on less than \$1.25/day. Over 66 percent of the population works in the agricultural sector, predominantly subsistence-oriented family farms. Households employed in agriculture account for more than three quarters of Nepal's poor. Many of these households are vulnerable to and have been affected by the protracted conflict, drought and other natural disasters. Improvements in agricultural productivity have not maintained pace with population growth, particularly among small landholders and farmers.

In 2012/13, the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture Development /Government of Nepal reported that 33 of Nepal's 75 districts faced food deficit, and mountains and hill districts are chronically food insecure (Bhattarai & Subedi, 2014). Some of the households in the Terai¹ area also face acute food shortage.

Almost 32% people in Nepal are living with less than minimum daily requirement of calories required for a healthy life (CBS, Unpublished). However significant disparity prevails between ecological zones, development regions, rural-urban divide as well as across age, gender, ethnic, and caste groups. Compared to Terai (24%), the population living with insufficient calorie intake is higher in hilly (36%) and mountainous (38%) areas. Disparity is evident in the extent of incidences of low calorie intake among development regions ranging from 24.4% in Eastern Development region to 36.3% in Mid-western Development region. By Development Region, the two western (Mid and Far-Western) Development Regions are more calorie deficient compared to three eastern (Eastern, Central and Western) Development Regions. Thus, hilly and mountainous areas of the Mid and Far-Western Development Regions are worst hit by food insecurity and insufficient calorie intake. The hunger situation in Nepal is serious with a Global Hunger Index (GHI) value of 17.3 it is below alarming level, but the condition is considered serious (IFPRI, 2011).

The effect of food insufficiency is well reflected in the health status of the people as high incidences of stunting (low height for age), underweight (low weight for age) and wasting (low weight for height) was observed, particularly among the most vulnerable group of people (NLSS, 2011).

The 2011 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey shows an improvement in child nutritional status between 2006 and 2011 with stunting, wasting and underweight prevalence decreasing from 49% to 41%, 13% to 11% and 39% to 29%, respectively (Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) [Nepal], New ERA, and ICF International Inc., 2012). Nonetheless, chronic undernutrition (stunting) is still widespread, and wide disparities exist across socioeconomic groups and ecological regions² with children from the poorest households and those living in the mountain and hill areas exhibiting the highest levels of stunting.

Agriculture nutrition connection

Nepal is an agriculture-based country. More than 60% of the population rely on agriculture for their livelihood. However, the majority of farmers have low land holding as 53% farmers have ≤0.5 ha of cultivable land (NLSS, 2011). As a result, subsistent farming is most common in the country. Farming is done primarily for family consumption and production endeavour is directed towards the fulfilment of family needs. Therefore, improved agriculture is crucial for enhancing food production and thereby ensuring household food security, adequate dietary intake and nutritional status and health. Improved agricultural interventions are vital in sustaining nutrition and health status of impoverished segments of the society, who are more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.

In Nepal, considerable progress has been made in reducing poverty, increasing productivity, and reducing stunting in children during the decades. However, wasting prevalence or abnormal thinness among children has increased. Disaggregating national estimates reveal important and impressive reductions in childhood stunting across all ecological zones, ranging from a low of 14.7% in mountain districts to a high of 17.2% in the Terai. But stunting prevalence remains at high levels in all three ecologic zones. A different picture emerges with respect to wasting prevalence. The Terai has shown major reductions in childhood wasting; but wasting has significantly increased in the hills and mountain districts. Large disparities in both stunting and wasting rates remain by wealth quintile. Poor children are almost twice as likely to be stunted and wasted compared with their wealthier counterparts.

In order to enhance food and nutrition security in the country, several plans and policies have been developed. The food and nutrition security efforts received impetus after the enactment of the Interim Constitution of Nepal in 2007. At present, there are 12 different policies and 21 different acts to guide the agricultural sector in Nepal. Despite this, prevailing poor coordination mechanisms among major organisations working to enhance food and security, has led to reduced efficiency and effectiveness of the food and nutrition security efforts. The Multi-sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) has been developed to bolster coordination among different relevant sectors.

MSNP has highlighted the importance to all relevant sectors working for enhancing food and nutrition security with particular emphasis on coordinated and collaborative efforts among them. Agriculture sector plan and strategies give emphasis on nutrition and food security. The agriculture sector in Nepal is primarily attempting to: (i) increase the availability of quality foods through homestead food and livestock production; (ii) increase the income of poorer women through credit incentives; (iii) promote increase in consumption of micronutrient rich foods; (iv) reduce the workload of women and provide them with a healthy and efficient energy; and (v) develop the capacity of the sector and strengthens linkages with other sectors. In this context, Nepal has developed the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) and Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action to address the problem of food insecurity and promote nutrition.



A man tends to his crops.

Social protection and social security

The Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007) has guaranteed to protect the rights of every citizen, which states that “the state will follow a policy to pay special attention to protect the interest of women, orphans, children, old age people, and the disabled, incapable and endangered race”.

Social security has been recognized as critical to citizens' rights. Social security is linked to enhancing social equity and justice. In recognition of this fact, the Government of Nepal has included a provision for social security in the Interim Constitution. With the intention of expanding social security rights for citizens, the Social Security Programme (Operational Procedure), 2008 has been formulated and implemented under the Local Self-Governance Act, 1999. The Government of Nepal has been implementing various social security programmes for decades. The growing emphasis on the protection and promotion of the rights of citizens of the country also requires an assessment of current interventions, which may give valuable inputs for the future development of policies and programmes.

The following are some of the social transfer programmes in Nepal that support and target the vulnerable groups in Nepal to address their poverty and to improve nutritional status.

Allowance to the different target groups

Serial Number	Beneficiaries	Amount NRs. (Per Month) (Nepali Rupees 100 ≈ US\$ 1)
A	Senior citizen	500
B	Single women	500
C	Fully disabled	1000
D	Partially disabled	300
E	Endangered race	500
F	Children	200

¹ Flat land in the south stretching from East to West bordering with India.

² There are three physiographic areas in Nepal - Mountain, Hill and Terai. These ecological belts run east-west and are vertically intersected by Nepal's major, north to south flowing river systems. The southern lowland plains or Terai border India and have a subtropical to tropical climate.

Social transfer programmes in Nepal

1. **Cash transfer, social protection programme including safety net programmes and in kind transfers** (e.g. social pensions for senior citizens throughout the country, children, people with disability, endangered indigenous people, scholarships and food for work, school meal programme) and conditional cash transfers (e.g. maternity benefits and school meal programme)
2. **Free social services** (including essential health care services – free drug, free antenatal check-up and incentives of transportation, free uterine prolapsed operation, free immunization and contraceptives etc. and basic education)
3. **Poverty reduction and social empowerment programmes** aimed at various marginalised communities and women (Poverty Alleviation Fund-PAF, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare-MoWCSW) in collaboration with development partners)
4. **Pensions and social insurance** mainly focused on formal sector employees (Employees Provident Fund, Citizen Investment Fund)
5. **Labour market interventions** like labour legislations; vocational and skill development trainings; rural community infrastructure works and so on.

These are some of the other social protection initiatives in Nepal. Food aid is one of the important schemes to reduce hunger and malnutrition by providing food and/or cash to highly food insecure households. School meal programmes address malnutrition by providing nutritious mid-day meals and serve as incentive for regular school attendance. Child protection grants target marginalised children from birth until five years of age in five districts of Karnali, the most remote zone of Nepal.

Key Lessons

- Legal provisions in the act and regulations make local bodies more responsible towards implementing nutrition and social protection programmes at local level
- Circulated directives to the local bodies play vital role for the effective implementation of activities to improve nutritional status of pregnant women and children
- Implementation of interventions and activities jointly among the relevant sectors and stakeholders gives multiple outcomes in reducing the chronic malnutrition.

The following are some other examples of social transfer schemes of the Government with relevance to nutritional security in the country:

- Safe delivery incentive and free delivery service with the incentive to mothers who have attended regular Antenatal Care (ANC) and Postnatal Care (PNC) services addressing maternal and neonatal health
- Free health services for senior citizens, ultra poor, poor, helpless, disabled and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs)
- Formal sector social security and health insurance against unemployment, sickness, accident and for old age
- District block grants and top up grants to finance local governance and community development to promote local development and strengthen good governance locally
- Disability allowance, social pensions for elderly people, single woman's allowance, education grants, technical education scholarship for girl children, geographical grant for disadvantaged groups and marriage allowance (for wedding expenses for widows from socially excluded groups and inter-caste marriages)
- Allowance for ex-combatants of Maoist Party, subsistence allowance for the families affected by insurgency for the political stability and social justice which will ultimately contribute to health and nutrition status of people
- Transportation subsidy on iodized salt distribution for the promotion of the consumption of adequately iodized salt to improve coverage and reduce iodine deficiency disorders.

All the social protection initiatives and relevant interventions ultimately support nutritional issues through increasing purchasing capacity and changing behaviour. All these efforts have been made on the basis of geographic situation, socio-economic condition and focusing the poor and vulnerable communities.

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YEMEN

Building Consensus



In response to high levels of malnutrition and food insecurity, the Government in Yemen has brought the agriculture, food security and social protection sectors together to implement a long term integrated and multi-sectoral action plan for combating malnutrition.

*SUN Yemen country team
Dr. Mutahar Al-Abassi Vice Minister - National Coordinator for SUN-Yemen
Mr. Abdullah Al-Shatter Deputy Minister - Assistant National Coordinator for SUN-Yemen*



The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Yemen has led the development of an integrated multi-sectoral response plan for nutrition by engaging all relevant sectors and stakeholders including agriculture and fisheries, and development partners. Together with a team of consultants, a causal analysis has been undertaken to identify the key determinants of child malnutrition, to complete a trajectory analysis, to set priorities for interventions and to cost a five year (2015-2019) multi-sectoral action plan (USD 1.2 billion).

Developing and costing a multi-sectoral action plan

Child under-nutrition is pervasive and persistent in Yemen with 47% of children chronically undernourished (stunted) and 13% of children affected by acute malnourishment (wasting). The Global Hunger Index 2009 ranks Yemen 74 out of 84 countries analysed (up from 80 out of 88 countries in 2008), with a score of 27 out of 100 (down from 29.8 in 2008), indicating an 'alarming' stage of food insecurity. While other countries in the

What is the scale of the problem in Yemen?

- Chronic malnutrition rates are amongst the highest in the world 47%
- Very few women breastfeed their children (exclusive breastfeeding rates are extremely low) 11.6%
- Yemeni children often have a diet low in nutrients in the first years of life (low dietary diversity)
- Undernutrition contributes to 34% of child deaths in Yemen
- Food insecurity is the highest in the Middle East and extremely high when compared to the overall size of the economy

Middle East and North Africa have seen a significant improvement in ranking, Yemen's score has not changed significantly between 1990 and 2009. Numerous factors have been identified as contributing to the poor state of food security in Yemen, including lack of income to access food, and inadequate national safety nets. The latest estimates indicate that prior to the political crisis in 2011 levels of poverty have risen from 42% of the population in 2009 to 54.5% in 2012.

About 41% of the Yemeni population are food insecure, though there are no marked differences in malnutrition levels amongst food secure and insecure families, Food insecurity, however, is not the only reason for high rates of malnutrition among vulnerable population groups in Yemen. In Yemen there are no significant differences in malnutrition rates (stunting and wasting) among food secure and food insecure populations (CFSS 2014). Rather, malnutrition is the result of a multi-dimensional and complex interplay of immediate, underlying and basic causes.

Considering the severity of the nutrition situation, development partners and the government in Yemen have been intensely engaged in developing a long term integrated multi-sectoral action plan for combating under-nutrition. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) has led the process for developing this plan by engaging all relevant sectors and stakeholders.

The Yemen country SUN team has engaged with a team of international consultants from Maximising the Quality of SUN (MQSUN) to undertake a causal analysis to identify the key determinants of child under nutrition, conduct a trajectory analysis, set priorities for interventions and cost a five year (2015-2019) multi-sectoral action plan totaling US\$ 1.2 billion.

Common planning and results

MoPIC has worked closely with the SUN Movement Secretariat to finalise the multi-sectoral plan. A team of international consultants from MQSUN has been engaged to assist the Yemen SUN team to finalise the planning documents through specific areas of support i.e. causal analysis, identification of key determinants of malnutrition that influence child nutritional prevalence trajectory analysis, draft intervention impact projection, priority interventions and costing of these interventions.

The planning and development of the common results framework were guided by the findings of the causal analysis which highlight the key food security related determinants that influence child nutrition. These include minimum dietary diversity among children – particularly non-staples and products of animal origin, household consumption of iodized salt, livestock ownership, indebtedness, etc. Low dietary diversity combined with poor care and feeding practices contribute to the high prevalence of non-linear growth and stunting rates found in Yemen. The comprehensive food security survey of 2014 found that only 12.4% of children under two consume an adequately diverse diet. The regression analysis showed that children who

consumed at least 4 of the 7 food groups had a lower risk of wasting.

Based on the causality analysis, key intervention areas were identified through a technical consultation in Amman on 19-20 March, 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to create awareness and buy-in of the relevant sector for the sectoral interventions (health, agriculture, water, education, fisheries) for an integrated national nutrition approach. The intervention packages identified include both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities. During the planning process a consensus was developed among the sectors and stakeholders that the plan should focus on large-scale programmes related to nutrition-specific interventions, in addition to diversification of agriculture products, improved food availability and utilisation, improvement of water and sanitation services, increased production and availability of fisheries products that have an indirect but substantial impact on child under-nutrition.

Participating sectors were engaged in building consensus on the Common Results Framework for nutrition. This entails agreeing on an intervention package based on causal analysis and agreed common results; articulation of a nutrition focus on the respective sector such as ‘nutrition gardening’ instead of ‘home gardening; identification of nutritional objectives through reflection on availability, access and utilisation of means and services; and identification of key target groups i.e. women and children under five and priority geographical areas and timeframe covering the period of 2015-2019. All sectors were engaged in preparing a costed national nutrition multi-sectoral plan.

The agriculture and fisheries sectors worked closely with the High Council for Food Security Group which was established in 2013. The priority areas for the National Food Security Strategy and Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan were aligned in order to address the prevailing under-nutrition of the most vulnerable groups.

What are the key investment priorities and considerations to addressing malnutrition in Yemen?

- Four priority areas have been identified;
- Ensure dietary adequacy and diversity
 - Improve maternal and child health services
 - Improve coverage and access to adequate water and sanitation services
 - Education opportunities for girls the overall size of the economy

Identifying common target areas

The agriculture, food security and social protection sectors have agreed on the principle of programmatic and geographic convergence in that all sectors will work together in 145 out of a total of 333 districts with a high burden of under-nutrition, which contributes to 75% of the total national burden of under-nutrition. Within these 145 districts, each sector came up with a number of common target districts using their sector specific criteria which include food security, water and sanitation services availability, poverty, school enrolment, in addition to high stunting (over 40%) and wasting (over 10%) rates.

Both the agriculture and fisheries sectors have a key role to play in ensuring a supply of nutritious foods while also increasing awareness about locally available nutrient dense foods. Nationally there is significant dependency on imported food stuffs. Production of fruit and vegetables, which can provide vitamins and minerals, is often replaced by oat production, while the fisheries sector focuses mainly on the external market rather than the domestic market. Twenty-four coastal districts with the highest stunting prevalence out of the 145 targeted districts were selected for improvement in the fisheries sector.

Specific interventions include increasing production and storage of sea food, promotion of sea food as part of dietary diversity, increasing income generation activities by provision of small loans to fishermen families.

In Yemen under-nutrition affects people across the wealth spectrum. While not explicitly highlighted in this national framework it is anticipated that existing national systems will be strengthened to address the underlying and basic causes of under-nutrition, in particular the Social Welfare Fund (SWF), the Social Fund for Development (SFD). The social welfare fund supports the most vulnerable in the Yemen population with a money transfers every three months. The social fund for development works closely with the World Bank providing direct technical and financial support to various ministries. The MoPIC, World Bank and SWF are discussing the possibility of including nutrition-specific criteria into the 1.5 million targeted population unconditional cash transfers programme which would help to address the nutritional needs of the vulnerable population.

Selection criteria for target districts by Sector	Scale	Selection Criteria
Health	145 Districts	Stunting + Wasting
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	125 Districts	Stunting + Wasting + Various
Education	61 Districts	Male : Female enrolment ratio/ Net enrolment + Stunting + Wasting
Fisheries	22 Districts	Coastal areas with Stunting + Wasting
Agriculture	25 Districts	Stunting + Wasting + severe food insecurity

Addressing the challenges

The SUN Yemen team faced some challenges in the beginning of the process. It took time to build consensus on planning for common results, alignment with the newly emerging political situation and new Government, and capacity constraints in coordination and multi-sectoral planning. These challenges were addressed with the help of United Nations partners and the SUN Movement Secretariat. As Yemen moves towards implementation, transforming these planning documents into action will be the real challenge especially implementing the nutrition-sensitive interventions. In the current situation mobilizing financial resources for this plan will be a huge challenge for the Government and the SUN Donor Network.

Case Study Bibliography

ⁱ 2009 Global Hunger Index. The Challenge of Hunger: Focus on Financial Crisis and Gender inequality. IFPRI Brief 62 November 2009

ⁱⁱ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/yemen/overview>

ⁱⁱⁱ Comprehensive Food Security Survey for Yemen 2014 United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

^{iv} MQSUN (Maximising the Quality of SUN) is a consortium of leading organisations working on nutrition funded by the UK Government Department For International Development (DFID). The project aims to provide DFID with technical services to improve the quality of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes. The group are committed to providing services in:

- expanding the evidence base on the causes of under-nutrition
- enhancing skills and capacity to support scaling up of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes
- providing the best guidance available to support programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- increasing innovation in nutrition programmes
- knowledge sharing to ensure that lessons are learned across DFID and beyond

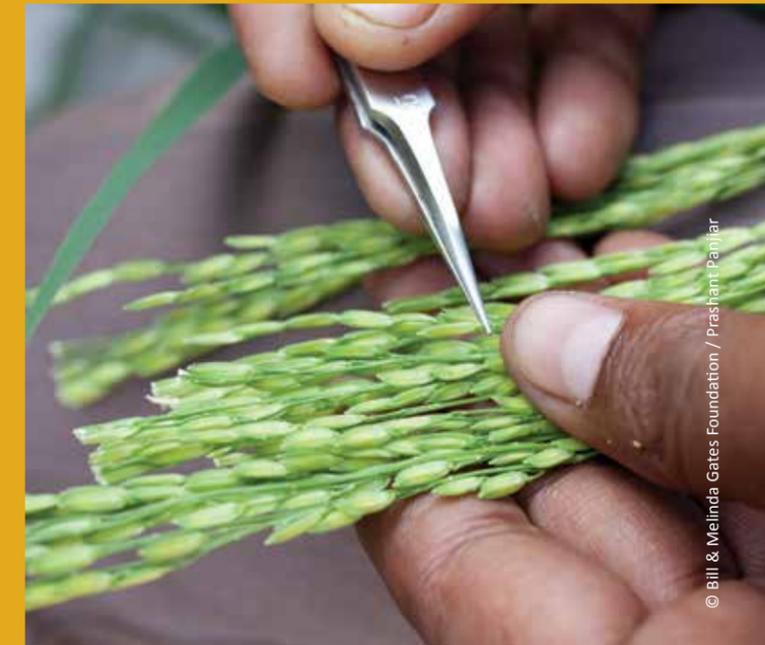
^v Qat is a mild narcotic plant that releases a stimulant when chewed. Qat cultivation in Yemen is increasing by around 12% each year, according to Yemen's Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, and displacing the production of other crops such as fruit, vegetables, and coffee. <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/139596/adam-heffez/how-yemen-chewed-itself-dry#>

Key Lessons

- The regression analysis which was performed by MQSUN was a very important step in the process of preparing the national framework document. Understanding the key drivers of malnutrition in the Yemen context was very helpful in bringing in the country team towards a collective understanding as to the underlying causes of malnutrition and most importantly the subsequent response to malnutrition
- The regression analysis also presented some counterintuitive findings which required the country team to sit and explore some of the contextual issues and practices which are particular to the Yemen context. This exercise was particularly useful in understanding the role of adolescent girls as caregivers in the home and as a result the potential impact of schooling on nutrition indicators at household level
- Through the process of the regression analysis, the costing process and the trajectory analysis, the various sectors and ministries now have a much better grasp of what it means to include nutrition objectives in the planning of interventions which do not necessarily have a nutrition objective.



Key Actions



Key Actions for Improving Nutrition through Agriculture and Social Protection Programmes

Key recommendations for improving nutrition through agriculture and food systems

As described in a check list formulated by multiple stakeholders and guided by the Food and Agriculture Organization, agricultural programmes and investments can strengthen impact on nutrition if they:

1. Incorporate explicit nutrition objectives and indicators into their design
2. Assess the context at the local level, to design appropriate activities to address the types and causes of malnutrition
3. Target the vulnerable and improve equity
4. Collaborate and coordinate with other sectors such as health, environment, social protection, labor, water and sanitation, education
5. Maintain or improve the natural resource base (water, soil, air, climate, biodiversity)
6. Empower women by ensuring access to productive resources, income opportunities, extension services and information, credit, labor and time-saving technologies and supporting their voice in household and farming decisions
7. Facilitate production diversification, and increase production of nutrient-dense crops and small-scale livestock
8. Improve processing, storage and preservation
9. Expand markets and market access for vulnerable groups, particularly for marketing nutritious foods
10. Incorporate nutrition promotion and education.³

Promising areas for action

- Diversification in food supply and production: The diversification of crops grown in homestead gardens has led to increases in dietary diversity and in female income generation. Agro-forestry and legume intercropping also positively affect dietary diversity.
- Access to finance for farmers: Programs that increase access to microcredits and social cash transfers and that provide nutrition education have a positive impact on nutrition outcomes.
- Agricultural research & development (R&D): The adoption of biofortified crops can lead to higher micronutrient intake and therefore warrants further research.
- Increased and improved fertilizer use: Access to more and higher quality fertilizer and more widespread knowledge of enhanced soil management techniques can positively affect nutrition outcomes.
- Continue field-based research to expand the evidence base for decision-making.
- Examine policies and programs around large-scale agricultural investments (not just community-based interventions) to identify potential trade-offs with improved nutrition.
- Achieve consensus on which agricultural factors drive the most significant changes in nutrition outcomes and on how to best track them over time.
- Develop tools to estimate the additional costs of enhancing the nutrition-sensitivity of agricultural investments and to support prioritization among investments.
- Establish dialogue across sectors, for example public health, water and sanitation, to coordinate on resource mobilization and align on specific programing.

Adapted from a study by the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development Earth Institute - Columbia University, examining Agriculture for improving nutrition outcomes.

Key recommendations for improving nutrition through social protection

1. Target the nutritionally vulnerable, such as orphans, the elderly, people living with HIV/AIDS, sick people, pregnant and lactating women, and children from 6 to 23 months
2. Incorporate explicit nutrition objectives and indicators
3. Empowering women and making them the recipients of social protection benefits with a focus on increasing a women's access to education, assets and resources; while considering women's work burden and time constraints
4. Promote strategies that enable households to diversify their diets and sources of income" (and change following numbers accordingly)
5. Strengthen linkages to health and sanitation services, such as by improving the access to and/or quality of health and sanitation services and by providing health education
6. Integrate nutrition education and promotion: Interventions can also integrate nutrition promotion activities, e.g. growth monitoring of children
7. Scale up safety nets in times of crises: shocks can be reduced if social protection systems already in place can be expanded and adapted in a timely manner.^{4,5}

Promising areas for action

- Advocate for the integration of nutrition, gender, food security, and health in long-term social transfer programmes, interventions, and legislation.
- Collaborate with health and nutrition policy-makers to develop, enact, and promote social transfer policy frameworks that are comprehensive and multi-sectoral, and address the problems of undernutrition, gender, poverty, and food insecurity.
- Support social transfer programmes in achieving nutrition objectives by:
 - Training social transfer programme staff and community health workers on appropriate nutrition practices.
 - Developing nutrition communication strategies and practical nutrition messages targeted to beneficiary households.
- Use nutrition indicators to monitor and assess effectiveness, such as child growth indicators or food diversity



© Government of Yemen

³ These recommendations have been formulated following an extensive review of available guidance on agriculture programming for nutrition, conducted by FAO (see: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/aq194e/aq194e00.htm>), and through consultation with a broad range of partners (CSOs, NGOs, government staff, donors, UN agencies) in particular through the Ag2Nut Community of Practice. They are also referred to as "guiding principles" by some partners.

⁴ *Nutrition and Social Protection*, FAO 2015 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4819e.pdf>)

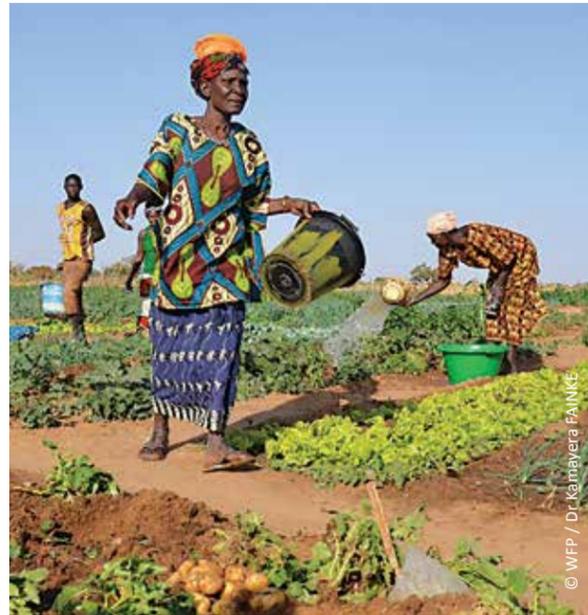
⁵ Adapted from a series of UNICEF EAPRO and European UNION briefs, *Multi-sectoral Approaches to Nutrition: The case for Investment by Social Protection Programmes*

Agriculture and social protection linkages to diets, income and health care

Malnutrition is usually the result of a variety of interconnected economic and social risks and vulnerabilities, and not a consequence of a single cause. Given this fact, the most efficient and effective response requires significant support of the food and agriculture and social protection sectors. This causal framework, which doesn't claim to be comprehensive, includes **underlying determinants** such as food insecurity, inadequate health and care practices, as well as more **basic structural determinants**, such as governance, policy frameworks, economic growth, and existing social and legal structures.

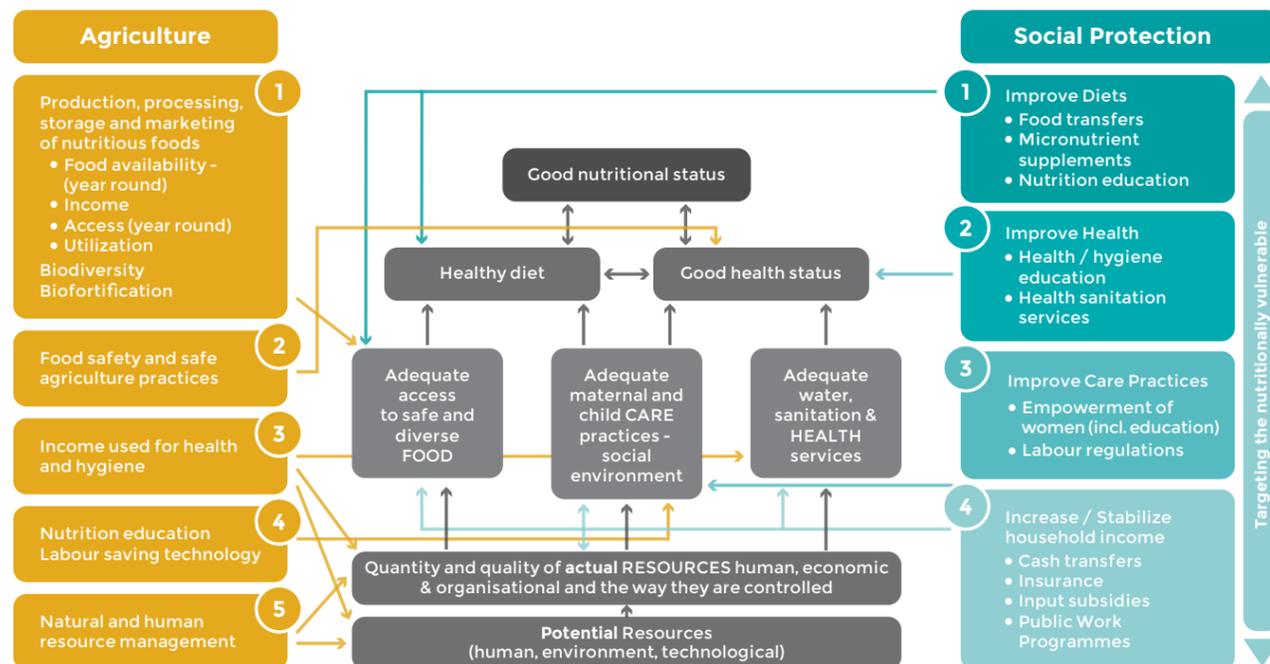
The agriculture sector is vital to improve the diets of people by increasing the availability, affordability and consumption of diverse, safe and nutritious foods. Income from agriculture still remains a major contribution to households' investments in health, water and sanitation and education in many countries. Women a major portion of the workforce in this sector and thus, reducing their workload with the introduction of labour-saving technologies can increase the time and resources for child care. Food and nutrition education is key for informed farmers' production choices, consumers purchasing decisions and household food preparation and distribution. Safe food and agriculture practices improve overall public health and food utilisation, and consequently improve nutrition.

Addressing poverty by fostering social inclusion and reducing peoples' economic vulnerability can address immediate,



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underlying and basic causes of malnutrition. Good nutrition can be achieved by facilitating access to improved diets (e.g. by providing food through food transfers, school feeding programmes), and can facilitate access to health care (e.g. through conditional cash transfers that encourage the use of health services and/or enable households to access hygiene items and safe water). Individuals and households affected by malnutrition are more vulnerable to shocks and stresses, thus building resilience against emergencies are key tools to protect households.



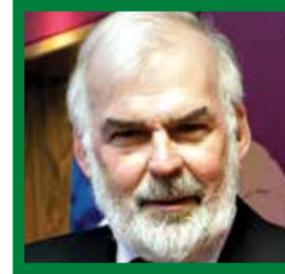
What has been learnt?



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What has been learnt?



Observations by
Tom Arnold,
SUN Movement
Coordinator (Ad Interim)

As we see from these case studies, there is widespread recognition that nutrition-sensitive development needs to be integrated and to promote nutrition as a goal of multiple sector policies in order to accelerate national development. Agriculture, social protection, water and sanitation, health, and education programmes, all have specific and achievable actions they can make by incorporating a nutrition focus.

Countries across the SUN Movement are making significant strides in their multi-sectoral approaches to improving nutrition. In many countries, growth in the agricultural sector has contributed strongly to economic growth— yet improvements in nutrition are not keeping pace. As we can see from the examples of Nepal and Mozambique in this In Practice Brief, investing in agricultural production alone has not resolved the high rates of underweight and stunted children.

Increasing access to nutritious diets based on knowledge of appropriate nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation, should be essential elements of agricultural practice and such approaches are being translated into action as described throughout the case studies. From these examples, it becomes clear that the agriculture sector can further maximise its impact to ensure it is improving nutrition outcomes for families.

Many SUN Countries that are experiencing significant economic gains, have realised that not all people have benefited from this growth. Throughout this brief, there are examples of social protection programmes which are helping to provide a safety net, so that families can be healthy and productive. But without good nutrition from the start, the outcomes of social protection programmes are undermined. By employing nutrition-sensitive interventions, social protection programmes can maximise their impact from the start and effective targeting is critical.

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have achievable actions they can make by ensuring a nutrition focus is incorporated.

Throughout the SUN Movement, in the face of significant challenges, multiple sectors are incorporating specific nutrition goals and actions in addition to their own goals. Sectors are working to become more nutrition-sensitive by:

- **Strengthening their nutrition goals, design, and implementation**
- **Improving targeting, timing, and exposure to interventions during the first 1000 days, from a mother's inception to the child's second birthday**
- **Using conditions to stimulate demand for programme services, while ensuring good service quality, such as cash transfer programmes and school feeding programmes**
- **Optimizing focus on women's nutrition and empowerment.**

Challenges and opportunities

As has been noted throughout this In Practice Brief, multi-sectoral programming is challenging. Building consensus across sectors and agreeing on common results were identified as a major challenge in Yemen. Similarly harmonising the points of view of multiple stakeholders has posed some challenges in Burundi in the development of the Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (MSPFSN). Linked to this challenge of reaching consensus and agreeing on common results, are the hurdles that need to be overcome relating to implementing these multi-sectoral actions in varied and challenging decentralised contexts.

This rings true in Nepal and Mozambique, but what's clear is managing this process is essential for taking nutrition interventions to scale and ensuring the most vulnerable are reached. At the heart of this, effective coordination is critical and we heard from Mali regarding their firm belief that a sustainable mechanism is vital to ensure sectors can coordinate effectively. In Lao PDR, I strongly took away the need for this pioneering work to be viewed as a process of learning and capacity building is key here, as actors implement such complex but life-saving nutrition interventions from the national to the community levels.

Finally, Mozambique shared its success with effective high level advocacy which provided a catalyst to ensure nutrition was a priority in the Government's Five Year programme and UNDAF 2015-2017. Continuous advocacy and engagement with sectors at the highest levels will be needed to ensure countries can move forward with these plans and continue to translate actions into results. I commend the authors of this In Practice Brief who have shared their approaches for the learning benefit all countries in the SUN Movement. This marks a significant start to our sharing of nutrition sensitive approaches in the Agriculture and Social Protection space.

SUN countries are paving the way

As countries in the SUN Movement look for the most effective ways to reduce child nutrition, it is imperative that we continue to share the solutions and methods from across sectors, from the breadth of the SUN Movement.

We know that diverse and strategic agricultural production can improve nutrition—which will result in a more productive work force for the agricultural sector and beyond. Policy-makers and programme implementers can help create nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions that will increase impact and improve health for generations to come. Countries are also demonstrating that by integrating nutrition into social protection programmes, we can help sectors deliver better nutrition results. We must elevate these learnings and project them across the Movement.

Building on these important learnings is critical and there are several additional opportunities for action which can further enhance our efforts. A study from Columbia University on The Importance of Context in Nutrition Decision Making, provides us with some key steps which can help guide us, such as:

- **Continuing field-based research to expand the evidence base for decision-making**
- **Examining policies and programs around large-scale agricultural investments**
- **Working to build consensus on which agricultural factors drive the most significant changes in nutrition outcomes and on how to best track them over time**
- **Developing tools to estimate the additional costs of enhancing the nutrition-sensitivity of agricultural and social protection investments and to support prioritisation among investments**
- **Establishing dialogue across sectors, for example public health, water and sanitation, to coordinate on resource mobilisation and align on specific programing.**

Together, we are demonstrating that nutrition-sensitive programmes can help enhance the scale of nutrition-specific interventions and create a stimulating environment in which children can grow and develop to their full potential.

Further Reading

Changing Food Systems for Better Nutrition

Can food systems be changed for better nutrition? And if they can, how can these changes be achieved? Current information on what is being done by countries and by international stakeholders to ensure that nutrition considerations are built into agriculture and food system policies for better nutrition outcomes.

More information available at: http://www.unscn.org/files/Publications/SCN_News/SCNNEWS40_final_standard_res.pdf

The Nutrition Sensitivity of Agriculture and Food Policies

Eight country case studies (Brazil, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Thailand) as well as a synthesis report were completed which describe and analyze national policies in the area of food and agriculture, including trade and related sectors using a value chain approach in selected countries at different stages of the nutrition transition.

The individual Country Case Studies can be found at: http://www.unscn.org/en/publications/country_case_studies/the_nutrition_sensitivity2.php

CAADP Agriculture Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union Commission (AUC) have launched an initiative to strengthen capacity for addressing nutrition through the formulation and implementation of National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities and with the support of FAO and USAID.

More information available at:

<http://www.fao.org/food/fns/workshops/caadp-nutrition/en/>
<http://www.nepad.org/fr/foodsecurity/news/3153/integrating-nutrition-national-agriculture-and-food-security-investment-plans>

Agriculture and Nutrition: A Common Future

A Framework for Joint Action by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural (CTA), The European Union, FAO and the World Bank Group

More information available at: <http://cta.int/images/publications/Agriculture-Nutrition-ICN2%20%281%29.pdf>

Food composition tables and databases

A detailed repository of information at the INFOODS website, which was first compiled in 1988 and continues to be update.

More information at: <http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/tables-and-databases/en/>

Guidelines for Measuring Household and Individual Dietary Diversity

This tool represents a rapid, user-friendly and easily administered low-cost assessment tool.

More information at: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/wa_workshop/docs/FAO-guidelines-dietary-diversity2011.pdf

FAO impact evaluation e-learning course

More information at: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/food_composition/images/IA_Course_Brochure-en-2.pdf

What Risks Do Agricultural Interventions Entail For Nutrition?

Agricultural development status impacts individual nutrition through food, health, and care practices. This working paper identifies six categories of risks related to incomes, prices, types of products, women's social status and workload, sanitary environment, and inequalities.

More information at: <http://www.spring-nutrition.org/publications/resource-review/updates/what-risks-do-agricultural-interventions-entail-nutrition>

Infant and Young Child Nutrition "Nutritional Impact Assessment Tool"

A tool for maximizing the positive impacts of agricultural interventions on nutritionally vulnerable and food insecure populations.

More information at: http://www.manoffgroup.com/4IYCN_Achieving-nutritional-impact-and-food-security_0211.pdf.pdf

The Family Nutrition Guide

The Family Nutrition Guide is a book that can help in this educational process. It provides an up-to-date summary of the relevant nutrition information and gives many suggestions on how to share this information when working with groups of people.

More information at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5740e/y5740e00.pdf>

A New Deal for School Gardens

This FAO document suggests what governments and their development partners can do to promote school gardens as a seed ground for the nation's good nutrition and better health.

More information at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1689e/i1689e00.pdf>

Simulating Potential of Nutrition-Sensitive Investments by the Center for Globalization and Sustainable Development, The Earth Institute, Columbia University.

The overall purpose of this study is to help decision-makers in SUN countries prioritizing key nutrition-sensitive investments across different sectors as part of their wider efforts to improve nutritional outcomes.

More information at: http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/SUN-Report-CU_Jan-21-2014.pdf

How Agriculture Can Improve Child Nutrition

This report by Save the Children examines and explores how nutrition can be prioritised within agricultural policies, strategies and investment plans, and demonstrates the power of agricultural bio-diversity, social behavioural change, enterprise diversification, and women's empowerment in improving nutrition in rural areas.

More information at: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/nutrition-sensitivity>

DFID Evaluation of Future Agricultures: 2008 - 2013

A major evaluation of Future Agricultures has been published by the Department for International Development (DFID), our main funder, looking at the impact and influence of our work and how it is being used in policy and practice.

More information at: <http://www.future-agricultures.org/about-fac/dfid-evaluation>

Multi-sectoral Approaches to Nutrition (UNICEF EAPRO Briefs)

This series of briefs provide tangible guidance for policymakers on integrating nutrition in public health, agriculture, social transfer and education programmes.

More information at: http://www.unicef.org/eapro/12205_22043.html

Can Agriculture Interventions Promote Nutrition?

This evidence paper provides a critical review of the strength and quality of the evidence base linking agriculture-based interventions and nutrition outcomes

More information at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292727/Nutrition-evidence-paper.pdf

Tackling Agriculture – Nutrition Disconnects in South Asia: Policy and Politics

A presentation by Stuart Gillespie articulating the political, institutional and policy-related challenges to enhancing the nutrition-sensitivity of agricultural systems in South Asia.

More information at: <http://scienceforum13.org/sites/default/files/download/session5/Stuart-Gillespie-Tackling-Agriculture-Nutrition-Disconnects-in-South-Asia.pdf>

Secure Nutrition

This portal aims to bridge knowledge gaps between agriculture, food security, and nutrition. This platform offers a space to exchange experiences and to disseminate and gather information. Please join us in our quest to foster open development through increasing coordination and collaboration in the generation and sharing of knowledge.

More information at: <https://www.securenutritionplatform.org>

Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice (Ag2Nut CoP)

The Ag2Nut CoP is a global network of professionals working on issues pertaining to the intersection of agriculture and nutrition. The group is informal, and designed to facilitate information sharing and networking.

More information at: <http://www.unscn.org/en/nut-working/agriculture-nutrition-cop/purpose.php>

“ Acceleration of progress in nutrition will require effective, large-scale nutrition-sensitive programmes that address key underlying determinants of nutrition and enhance the coverage and effectiveness of nutrition-specific interventions. ”

**Marie T Ruel and Harold Alderman,
Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division,
International Food Policy Research
Institute (IPRI)**

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WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Go to www.scalingupnutrition.org
for more information about the SUN Movement.