Myanmar

Joined: April 2013

Highlights

• Establishment of the President-led National Committee for Food and Nutrition Security in pursuit of the Zero Hunger Challenge will integrate with the SUN Movement multi-stakeholder platform.
• Nutrition has been highlighted in the National Comprehensive Development Plan (2011-2030).
• The multi-donor funding mechanism (Three Millennium Development Goal Fund) has been established to have a nationwide impact on improving maternal, newborn and child health.
• The Civil Society Alliance for nutrition launched in 2014 and brings together organisations and the media who are involved in nutrition.

Country Progress 2014 - 2015

Under five stunting: 35.1%
Low-birth weight: 8.6%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: 23.6%
Under five wasting: 7.9%
Under five overweight: 2.6%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 30.3%

*Data sources detailed in Annex 1

*See page 29 for more information about 2015 scoring against each progress marker
The multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for the SUN Movement in Myanmar brings together the national coordinating platforms such as the Central Board for Food and Nutrition (CBFN), National Nutrition Centre (NNC), sub-national nutrition coordination mechanisms and other non-governmental actors (United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society organisations, development partners and the private sector).

The NNC has strengthened engagement and dialogue with other key actors, e.g. Food Drug Administration, the Attorney General Office and Myanmar Nutrition Technical Network (MNTN).

The Myanmar National Committee on Food and Nutrition Security (NCFNS) has been recently established by the President as the country strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The new architecture of NCFNS presents an opportunity for sustained impact of the MSP by integrating and elevating ongoing initiatives in the country.

The UN Network is chaired by UNICEF and is working towards strengthening UN coherence on nutrition. Plans are underway for a UN REACH partnership with the Government in August 2015.

The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) is the nominated donor convener and along with other key donors, are part of multi-donor funding mechanisms. There is bilateral engagement with the private sector and plans with the government to launch the Myanmar SUN Business Network in 2015. The Civil Society Alliance (CSA) was launched in early 2014 and has steadily increased membership with local organisations and have increased media engagement in nutrition.

The National Plan of Action on Food and Nutrition (NPAFN) (2011-2015) has been reviewed by the NCFNS to inform the development of a new multi-sectoral national plan. The new National Social Protection Strategy Plan endorsed by the President prioritises nutrition and includes provision for women and children. Nutrition is also emphasised in the National Comprehensive Development Plan (NDCP 2011-2030) and the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW 2013 - 2022). The Order of Marketing of Formulated Food for Infants and Young Children under the National Food Law has been endorsed and since March 2014, maternity leave has been extended up to six months for working mothers in public sector. In addition, if both the parents are government employees, there is also provision for 2 weeks of paternity leave.

The Secretariat of NCFNS with several line Ministries (National Planning and Economic Development; Agriculture and Irrigation; Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development; and Health) have recently developed the new multi-sectoral Myanmar National Action Plan on Food and Nutrition Security (MNAPFNS) with a 10-year vision. The MNAPFNS is the agreed Common Results Framework (CRF) for nutrition with a monitoring and evaluation framework and an agreed set of key indicators.

The nutrition indicators identified by the MNAPFNS have been integrated into Myanmar Health Information System (HMIS) and early warning systems, but data accuracy and availability needs to be strengthened.

At the decentralised level, the Integrated Plan of Nutrition brings together local partners working in key sectors of health, agriculture, water sanitation, and social protection, to align actions around common nutrition sensitive targets.

The NPAFN has been costed but due to delays, the data was used to support the development of the new MNAPFNS. Although, there is no formal financial tracking mechanism in place for nutrition, planning tools are being used by the Government to identify resource needs for scaling up. The establishment of a formal mechanism for partners and stakeholders to report and share their contributions and spending for scaling-up nutrition is being considered by the NCFNS.

National budget allocation for nutrition supplies and health infrastructure have increased significantly in the past year. External funding is aligning to fill gaps from the government. Multi-donor funding mechanisms include the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG Fund) and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). The Ministry of Health is now on the board of the 3MDG Fund as a step towards coordinated action.

Progress reported through in-country self-assessment exercise