Pakistan

Joined: January 2013

Highlights

- Decentralisation of SUN will include the establishment of sub-national SUN units. These are planned in provincial Planning & Development Departments and will be established with the support of United Nations agencies and the Micronutrient Initiative.
- The 11th Five Year National Development Plan includes a nutrition component and allocations for nutrition are being made in Public Sector Development Plan’s at federal level and Annual Development Plan’s at provincial level.
- The mechanism tracks nutrition related allocations for programs at federal and provincial level in public sector budgets. The allocations are reported yearly and are made available online.

Under five stunting: 45.0%
Low-birth weight: 25.0%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: 37.7%
Under five wasting: 10.5%
Under five overweight: 4.8%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 51.1%

*data sources detailed in Annex 1
Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Pakistan has made significant progress in moving forward their nutrition agenda. Their multi-stakeholder platform is the high level National Nutrition Committee (NNC) in the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms (M/o PD&R). A national Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat has been established with the support of the World Food Programme in M/o PD&R.

Decentralization of SUN will include the establishment of sub-national SUN units. These are planned in provincial Planning & Development Departments (P&D/DD) and will be established with the support of United Nations (UN) agencies and the Micronutrient Initiative (MI).

The UN network is proactive in planning and coordination. Each agency has harmonized their efforts under the SUN umbrella.

High level political commitment for nutrition can be seen with the recognition of nutrition in the Pakistan Vision 2025 and the pledge to establish a Centre of Excellence for Nutrition at Federal Level.

The 11th Five Year National Development Plan includes a nutrition component and allocations for nutrition are being made in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) at federal level and Annual Development Plan’s (ADPs) at provincial level.

A National Nutrition Policy is under preparation and will be reviewed and finalized in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Common objectives for nutrition are focused on to reduce malnutrition through cost effective interventions. Government has allocated budgets dedicated to nutrition through the PSDP and ADPs, covering key sectors, including health, agriculture, education, water and sanitation and social protection.

The National Nutrition Action Plan (NNAP) will act as Pakistan’s Common Results Framework (CRF) and is under preparation in consultation with all provinces and partners.

The Ministry of National Food Security & Research (M/o NFS&R) is planning a National Zero Hunger Pilot Program with UN agencies and also working with Harvest Plus, Pakistan for bio-fortification especially bio-fortified variety of wheat. Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (M/o NHSR&C) through NFA is leading the coordination, policy formulation and development of regulatory framework for large scale food fortification in the country including wheat flour fortification and universal salt iodisation.

At provincial level, Integrated Nutrition Projects (PC-1’s) have been approved. Projects are financed jointly through Government’s and donors’ resources. These PC-1’s were approved in line with nutrition policy guidance notes and inter-sectoral strategies. Currently Sindh and Balochistan province PC-1’s are health sector specific and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab PC-1’s are health reform plans integrated with nutrition.

Pakistan participated in the SUN Movement Budget Analysis Exercise and shared their financial tracking mechanism for nutrition-specific and nutrition sensitive interventions. The mechanism tracks nutrition related allocations for programs at federal and provincial level in public sector budgets. The allocations are reported yearly and are made available online.

The Donor Network, engaged with other sectors (non-health sectors and actors) to embed and strengthen nutrition sensitive interventions within all related sectors. Donors have leading advocacy efforts to improve coordination processes.

The Pakistan Scaling Up Nutrition Civil society Alliance (CSA) has approved their 2015 Work Plan and is enhancing their engagement at national and provincial level with stakeholders to promote accountability and carry out advocacy for nutrition.

The SUN Business Network is under establishment with commitments being made by the businesses involved. The National Fortification Alliance (NFA) brings together the fortification sector and actively engages with the NNC. They recently established an NFA Secretariat.

An Academia and Research Network was established in May 2015 and is expected to play envisaged strong role in the development of Pakistan’s SUN Movement strategy.

Pakistan went through a devolution process in 2011 and 2012 and various national ministries were devolved to the provincial level. In the post-devolution context, enactment of legal frameworks requires more time and resource although it is conducted in a harmonized manner. The establishment of SUN Secretariat’s at provincial level and the current reformulation of M/o NHSR&C will help to drive progress and implement existing strategies.

At provincial level, the CSA is guided by provincial inter-sectoral nutrition strategies and Pakistan Vision 2025.

The NFA, under the chair of federal minister for NHSR&C, with strong representation from federal ministries including M/o PD&R, provincial departments and stakeholders is working with development partners including UN agencies, GAIN and MI to implement fortification programs.

Progress reported through in-country self-assessment exercise