

Progress Indicator 1: A multi-sector/multi-stakeholder platform that is functional and effective to scale-up nutrition

Definition: Convened by a Government body with multi-sectoral mandate able to engage relevant line Ministries and key partners from civil society, donors, business, UN system organizations and universities.

Where available, please provide information using the following questions as guidance:

On the convening body:

- What is the name of the convening body?
- Where is the convening body located within the structure of Government/Ministries?
- How is the convening body organized?
- Which line Ministries are officially and regularly convened? **Please list** all relevant line Ministries
- How does the convening body engage relevant line Ministries? Is there a MOU? Is there a separate inter-Ministerial platform that is relevant to nutrition?
- Who does the convening body report to?
- Does the convening body have a secretariat?

On the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platform:

- How often does the platform meet?
- Who is chairing the platform? Who is co-chairing?
- Which are the sectors and stakeholders that participate on a regular basis?
- What types of decisions are undertaken by the platform?
- What types of follow-up are undertaken by the platform?

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. Terms of Reference; Official Endorsements; List of members from line Ministries and partners outside the Government; Organigrams; inter-Ministerial engagement strategies; etc.)

- Afghanistan has recently initiated coordination of multi-sectoral interventions to improve Food Security and nutrition and to scale up of nutrition. The Coordination mechanism has been established under the Chief Executive Office, Coordinated by the Director General of the council of Ministers' Secretariat. Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN-A) coordination framework has a secretariat which is coordinating and communicating with relevant stakeholders on behalf of the Chief Executive Office and AFSeN- A coordinator. The AFSeN-A Secretariat is reporting to the General Directorate of the Council of Ministers who leads the overall process. The whole process is steered by a high-level Food Security and Nutrition Steering Committee, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA). This committee meets every six months which provide policy guidance and oversight.
- The AFSeN-A stakeholders are related government ministries and authorities, private sector, CSOs and the Development partners.
- The high-level Food Security and Nutrition Steering Committee meets every six months, the Food Security and Nutrition Executive Committee meets each month and the working groups meets twice a month.

The AFSeN-A coordination mechanism comprised of the following structure

1. Food Security and Nutrition High Level Steering Committee
2. Food Security and Nutrition Executive Committee
3. Nutrition and Food Security Development Partner forum
4. Food Security Working Group

5. Nutrition Working Group
6. Advocacy and Public Awareness Working Group.
7. Core group

All working groups have terms of references. In addition, Provincial Food Security and Nutrition Committee (PFSNC) has been established to engage sub-national authorities and non-governmental stakeholders to actively articulate the AFSeN-Agenda.

Besides other technical work ongoing, Afghanistan is developing FNS strategic Plan, has developed the Advocacy and Public Awareness framework and Plan which will engage religious leaders as well, the development of a booklet is envisaged as well.

Indicator 1.1: SUN National Focal Point(s)

Definition: A high-level national Government official, who has the influence and capacity to engage different relevant line Ministries and coordinate external financial and technical support from key partners from civil society, donors, business, UN system organizations and universities.

Please provide name, gender, position description, institution and contact details.

Please clarify:

- Does the SUN Focal Point chair the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platform?
If no, how does she/he engage with the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platform?
- How does the SUN Focal Point engage across the Government?
- How does the SUN Focal Point engage with key partners outside the Government?
- Is the SUN Focal Point involved in international forum? If so, please describe recent activities
- In the SUN Focal Point's opinion, did the engagement in the SUN Movement advance national leadership and ownership in scaling up nutrition? If yes, how? If no, why not?
- What are the 3 priority commitments for the SUN Focal Point to advance nutrition scale-up in the next 12 months?
- What are the key 3 expectations of the SUN Focal Point from the engagement in the SUN Movement in the next 12 months?

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. Terms of Reference)

The Director General of the Council of Ministers' Secretariat H.E Nasrallah Aarsalai from the Office of the Chief Executive, GIRoA is also the SUN Focal Point and coordinates the AFSeN-A He is supported and supervising by Dr. Said Shamsul Islam Shams who is the Coordinator of AFSeN-A technical secretariat.

The key priority areas for the SUN Focal Point is to ensure implementation of AFSeN-A strategic plan and coordinates with different implementing partners including key ministries, UN, donors and NGOs.

The top priority commitments for the SUN Focal Point to advance nutrition scale-up in the next 12 months are:

1. Development of a strategic plan for multi-sectoral interventions which includes: Contextual Analysis, Stakeholder Analysis and mapping, development of a Common Results Framework/the strategic plan and the costing of the strategy.
2. Establishment of 10 sub-national/provincial AFSeN-A committees
3. Establishment of CSO and Business networks under the AFSeN-A secretariat
4. Develop public Awareness and Advocacy Framework and Plan

During the first year of or planning and preparation, the AFSeN A Core Group will as well assess opportunities and develop a road map for the establishment of a UN network.

The key 3 expectations of the SUN Focal Point from the engagement in the SUN Movement in the next 12 months are:

1. Resource mobilization for the roll-out of the AFSeN- A Strategic Plan
2. Establishment of M&E system to track and follow the progress of multi-sectoral interventions in the country
3. Capacity Development of Secretariat and stakeholders

Contact details:

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Dr. Said Shamsul Islam Shams +93799228094 email: shamsrodatwal@yahoo.com

CoMS Secretariat: darulensha@gmail.com

Indicator 1.2: SUN Technical Specialist(s)

Definition: A government official who assists with in-country coordination of efforts to scale up nutrition.

Please provide name, gender, position description, institution, contact details and any other relevant information about all technical specialists.

Please clarify:

- How do the Technical Specialists engage with the multi-sector/multi-stakeholder platform?
- How do the Technical Specialists support the work of the SUN Focal Point?
- Do the Technical Specialists feel their engagement in the SUN Movement has advanced their capacity/know-how on scaling up nutrition? If yes, how? If no, why not?

Dr. Said Shamsul Islam Shams the AFSeN-A Secretariat coordinator supports the SUN focal point in all aspects of technical and coordination forums. He also provides coordination support for the committees and technical working groups to ensure multi-sectoral engagement at all levels. Dr Shams under supervision of H.E Nasrullah Arsalai also coordinates the development of strategic plan and other strategies with the support of two international consultants and two national technical consultants.

There are five other positions at the AFSeN-A secretariat structure which they facilitate technical working groups and coordinate with stakeholders:

1. Nutrition Specialist
2. Food Security Specialist
3. Advocacy and Communication Officer
4. M&E Officer
5. Liaison Officer

Dr. Said Shamsul Islam Shams - +93799228094 email: shamsrodatwal@yahoo.com

Indicator 1.3: Donor Convener(s) and the donor community engagement

Definition: Undertake to bring the donor community together and encourage the alignment of their financial and technical assistance with national plans.

Please provide name, gender, position description, institution, contact details of the **Donor Convener(s)**.

Please list all the donors providing assistance for national plans that are nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-relevant. Kindly provide contact information, as available.

Please clarify:

- How does the Donor Convener(s) engage with the multi-sector/multi-stakeholder platform?

- Does the donor community have its own separate platform? What is it called?
- What outcomes/progress have been seen in donor alignment and coordination behind national plans since the country joined the SUN Movement?

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. Terms of Reference)

A specific person/agency has not yet been assigned as donor convener but Nutrition and Food Security Development Partners Forum has been established to harmonize and align development partners' efforts expected to increase funding and resource mobilization through effective and evidence-based advocacy, improved coordination among development and humanitarian aid organizations for nutrition and food security.

Main donors who support nutrition and food security in Afghanistan includes:

USAID	William Slater	0702626294	wslater@usaid.gov
European Union	Gabriel Leonte	0729071325	gabriel-octavian.leonte@eeas.europa.eu
World Bank	Habibullah Ahmadzai	0701133361	hahmadzai@worldbank.org
Global Affairs Canada	Wassala Nimaga	+93 (0) 794-785-743	Wassala.Nimaga@international.gc.ca
DFID	Francesca Kemp	+93 798 405 639	f-kemp@dfid.gov.uk

Indicator 1.4: UN System Organization(s) engagement

Definition: Refers to all UN system organizations including the 4 agencies directly involved in nutrition (UNICEF, FAO, WFP and WHO) and agencies working in sectors relevant to nutrition (UNDP, UNIDO, UNFEM, UNEP, etc.)

Please list all UN system organizations providing financial and technical assistance for national plans that are nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-relevant. Kindly provide contact information, as available.

Please clarify:

- Is there a facilitation mechanism like **REACH**?
- How do the UN system organizations engage with the multi-sector/multi-stakeholder platform?
- What outcomes/progress have been seen in UN system organizations' alignment and coordination behind national plans since the country joined the SUN Movement?

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. UNDAF document, contact information, etc.)

UN organizations including FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO are the members of AFSeN-A, Steering Committee, Core Group and other technical working groups. They provide technical and financial support for the AFSeN-A secretariat and they actively participate in all coordination and technical forums.

Name	Agency	Title	email	Mobile
Ms. Adele Khodr	UNICEF	UNICEF Rep	akhodr@unicef.org	0730717100
Tomio Shichiri	FAO	FAO Rep	Tomio.Shichiri@fao.org	0799668336
Paul Howe	WFP	Deputy Director	paul.howe@wfp.org	0706004801
Dr. Qasem Shams	WHO	Nutrition Officer	shamsm@who.int	+93786575824

Indicator 1.5: Private Sector engagement

Definition: Refers to private companies working to scale up national plans that are nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-relevant. Their participation is based on a transparent and fully accountable engagement framework.

Please list all engaged private sectors working in the country to scale-up national plans that are nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-relevant. Kindly provide contact information, as available.

Name	Agency	Title	email	Mobile
Dr. Walid Ghiasi & shafiqullah Atayi	ACCI	NFA Manager	waleedghiasi@gmail.com coo@acci.org.af	0797387738 0799025023
Moh Tahir Wardak	ACCI	Relation woth Gov	grrls@acci.org.af	0794620202
Manijha Ofaq	A womenTC	Director of Chamber	info@awcci.org.af	707691000
Ab. Rahim Faizan	Petroleum and Commerce	Deputy of the Chamber	fd.brothers@yahoo.com	744234000

Please clarify:

- How does the private sector engage with the multi-sector/multi-stakeholder platform?
The private sector has members in the AFSeN-A coordination forums and they actively participate in high-level Food Security and Nutrition Steering Committee and Executive Committees as well.
- Does the private sector have its own separate business platform?
Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce is the business platform coordinating with private sector organizations
- Does the private sector have their own convener agreed by the SUN Government Focal Point and other stakeholders?
The convener for the private sector has not yet been assigned, but the AFSeN-A team is assessing opportunities, and if deemed as useful, the network will be established. This will be under the overall guidance of the AFSeN A coordinator and facilitated by the Ministry of Commerce.
- What outcomes/progress have been seen in private sector's alignment and coordination behind national plans since the country joined the SUN Movement?
The strategic plan is to be developed during the first year. The feasibility of a private sector network will be assessed during the first year; alignment can be reviewed after one year.
- Is there a mechanism/framework in the country to deal with principled engagement of private sector? Ministry of Commerce has private sector entities registered and performs supervision of their legal status.
- How are potential "conflicts of interest" monitored, managed and/or anticipated?

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. terms of commitments with the Government; plans; progress reports from private sector partners; contact information, etc.)

Indicator 1.6: Civil Society Organizations engagement

Definition: Refers to International and National Non-Government Organizations, faith-based organizations, farmer's organizations, women's organizations, community-based organizations, and coalitions working to scale up national plans that are nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-relevant.

Please list all engaged civil society organizations working in the country to scale-up national plans that are nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-relevant. Kindly provide contact information, as available

Please clarify:

- How does the civil society engage with the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platform?

- Does the civil society have its own separate civil society platform?
- Does the civil society have its own convener agreed by the SUN Government Focal Point?
- What outcomes/progress have been seen in civil society's alignment and coordination behind national plans since the country joined the SUN Movement?
- How does the CSO involvement contribute to scaling up nutrition to the communities?

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. plans, civil society progress reports; plans; photos of programs, etc.)

A few civil society organizations are members of the committees and working groups. AFSeN-A secretariat is in the process of establishing a CSO network under food security and nutrition agenda. A ToR has been developed and the CSO members have been identified.

National and International NGOs implementing Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) are the main agencies providing integrated nutrition services as part of BPHS. Their main nutrition activities are assessment of nutrition situation, prevention of malnutrition and treatment of malnutrition. In addition, international NGOs implement nutrition projects in coordination with Nutrition Department of MoPH. The major INGOs are Save the Children, ACF, Medair, World Vision, IMC, PU-AMI, Agha Khan Foundation, IRC and FHI360.

Indicator 1.6: Academic sector engagement

Definition: Refers to Universities, Research Institutes and Training Centers that contribute to the capacity development of required human resources to ensure the scaling up of national plans that are nutrition-specific and/or nutrition-relevant.

Please list all engaged universities, research institutes and training centers contributing to capacity and knowledge building. Kindly provide contact information, as available.

Please clarify:

- How does the academic sector engage with the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder platform?
- Is there a separate network or platform for the academic sector?
- What is their recognized contribution to scaling-up nutrition?
- What are the key barriers for better inclusion?

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. plans, progress reports, etc.)

There is no any university or institute to train nutrition professionals in the country but recently, EU has started supporting the Kabul Medical University (KMU) and Ghazanfar Institute of Health Science (GIHS) to establish a new department of Nutrition in KMU and develop a nutrition curriculum with technical support from a medical science university of Iran that will be designed for a Post Graduate Diploma in Nutrition for those who work in the field of health and nutrition. This project will continue until the end of March 2019 and extends also to the GIHS campuses.

Another option envisaged is to work with higher education institutions providing trainings courses for agriculture and extension services under agriculture faculties. More details and options will be assessed during the planning process of the first year. The MAIL has included the food security subject in the Faculty of Agriculture in Kabul

Progress Indicator 2: A coherent legal and policy framework that enables Government ownership and buy-in from external partners

2.1 Nutrition relevant legislation and/or Laws

Definition: National legislation with a bearing on nutrition, such as endorsement of the Code of Breast-milk Substitutes, Maternity Leave Laws, Food Fortification Legislation; etc.

Legislation/law with bearing on improved nutrition	Year Enacted	Comments
Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes	XXX	
Salt Iodization	XXX	
Food safety law	XXX	
Maternal leave in Labour law (14 weeks in public sector)		
Food Fortification Regulation	XX	Draft, work on progress

Kindly attach copies of relevant legislation and/or laws, as available.

2.2 Nutrition-specific policies, strategies or plans

Definition: National nutrition-specific policies, strategies and plans including those already in place or in the process of being developed or revised. These commonly refer to the evidence-based direct intervention to prevent and treat undernutrition as presented in the SUN Framework or Food and Nutrition Security policies, strategies or plans.

Name of nutrition policy, strategy or plan	Year enacted or status of development	Key nutrition targets	Key nutrition indicators
Public Nutrition Policy and Strategy	2015-2020	Children under the age of five and WRA	Stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies
National Nutrition Communication Strategy	2015-2020	Children under the age of five and WRA	Promoting optimal IYCF practices
Nutrition Action Framework	2012-2016		
IYCF strategy (draft)	Work in progress		Improving IYCF practices
Micronutrient guidelines (draft)	Work in progress	Children under the age of five and WRA	Improving MN deficiencies
Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guideline	Work in progress	Children under the age of five and PLWs	Treatment of children under five with AM

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. Text for Infant and Young Child Feeding policy; Maternal and Child Health policy; Templates for strategy development; etc.)

2.3 Nutrition-sensitive policies, strategies or plans

Definition: These enable all people to enjoy good nutrition. They are relevant to improved nutrition outcomes because they have women's empowerment and good health at the core, are focused on improving the availability, accessibility and utilization of healthy foods and minimize the risk of infectious diseases.

Please list and specify year(s) of endorsement and/or status.

Sectors	Policy title (year)	Strategy title (year)	Plan title (year)	Comment on why are the mentioned documents relevant to improved nutrition outcomes
National Development	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Afghan Context			There are some specific targets (SDG 2) for improving the nutrition status.
	Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF)	2017-2021		Contain nutrition sensitive interventions
Poverty Reduction	- Women's Economic Empowerment – National Priority Program (WEE-NPP)	2016		Women empowerment can reduce poverty which can improve household food security
Agriculture	MAIL's Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Strategy	2015-2019		Contain nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions.
	National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program (Agriculture NPP)	2016-2020		Contain nutrition sensitive interventions.
Social Welfare/Protection	Social Policy, Social protection sector strategy			Nutrition sensitive interventions
Education				
Health	National Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy,	2017-2021		Nutrition sensitive interventions address underlying causes of malnutrition.
	National Health Policy	2015-2020		Nutrition is a priority area in this policy

	National Health Strategy,	2016-2020		Nutrition is a priority area in this strategy
Women's Affairs	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan	2008- 2018		Nutrition sensitive interventions
	National Violence Against Women Strategy and Implementation Plan	2016-2020		Nutrition sensitive interventions
Others				

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. Policy text; plans; implementation strategies; etc.)

Progress Indicator 3: A common Results Framework agreed by relevant Government sectors and key partners to align country-owned programs for improved nutrition outcomes

Definition: A common Results Framework is based on consensus across the Government (i.e. key line Ministries and Government Departments) and key non-Government partners (i.e. bilateral Donors, UN system organizations, civil society organizations, etc.) on the contribution that each stakeholder can bring to improved nutrition outcomes. The formulation of a coherent Results Framework helps to align existing nutrition specific and nutrition-sensitive strategies and programs. The Results Framework draws as much as possible on available relevant targets, indicators, programs and means of verification. The agreement on a common Results Framework can help to identify major gaps in the multi-sectoral response to reduce undernutrition.

AFSeN-A technical secretariat is in the process of developing a multi-sectoral strategic plan for food security and nutrition. **Development of a Common Results Framework is part of the assignment** that MQSUN+ is working with AFSeN-A secretariat.

Indicator 3.1 Country-owned programs that have an explicit bearing on improved nutrition

Please list all on-going country-owned programs (and/or services delivered through decentralized structures) that have a bearing on improved nutrition. Kindly specify the starting and ending year (if applicable) and the program coverage in percentage and number (institutional, households and/or geographic).

Note: The identification of relevant on-going country-owned programs and/or services could be facilitated by using the life-cycle approach (e.g. adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, infants below six months, infants 6-23 months, etc.) and/or the UNICEF malnutrition conceptual framework

Please clarify:

- Who is the responsible line Ministry or responsible Ministries in charge of the identified programs?
- Do the identified programs have an explicit nutrition focus and/or stated aim/efforts to improve nutrition status?
- Do the identified programs include a nutrition goal, target or expected outcome?
- What relevant indicators are already collected by these programs that can be usefully shared across engaged sectors and partners?
- What are the means of verifications already set up by these programs? Are these indicators already shared across sectors? Are there mechanisms for cross-sectoral analysis?

Programs (indicate starting and closing date + coverage)	Ministry in charge of the Program	Program stated expected outcomes	Program stated indicators	Program Means of Verification
Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)	MoPH	Primary health service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve health status of Afghans 	HMIS and national surveys
Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS)	MoPH	Primary and health service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve health status of Afghans 	HMIS and national surveys
Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	MoPH	Treatment of acute malnutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce morbidities and mortalities caused by acute malnutrition 	PND database and national surveys
Community based Nutrition Package (CBNP)	MoPH	Prevention of malnutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce prevalence of acute malnutrition and stunting 	PND database and national surveys
Micro-nutrients Supplementation (Weekly Iron Folic acid supplementation (WIFS))	MoPH	Treatment and decline of malnutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of micronutrient deficiencies 	
MAIL Crops & livestock production, Irrigation development, Early warning and food and nutrition security information (FEWS NET), strategic grain reserve, farmers and women	MAIL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Citizen Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP);	MRRD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Afghanistan- National Rural Access programme (NRAP)	MRRD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Rural Water Sanitation Programme (Ru_WATSAP)	MRRD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP)	MRRD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
....		

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (program document, log-frame, etc.)

Indicator 3.2 Consensus across Government sectors and partners outside the Government

Please clarify:

- What is the delivery system of the identified programs/services under Indicator 3.1?
- Are the identified programs supported across Government sectors and administrative levels? If so, please specify which other Ministries and Government Departments are involved.
- What kind of explicit support is provided across Government sectors (e.g. shared assessment and planning, targeting of beneficiaries, shared logistic, shared training of frontline professionals, community education, etc.)?
- Are the identified programs supported by partners outside the Government? Please, specify which partners are using Government budgetary instruments and which one are providing direct financing

Programs (indicate start and closing date and coverage)	Government			Outside Government	
	Program delivery system	Other involved Ministries and Government Departments	Across sector support	Financial and technical partners (contributing through Government budgetary instruments)	Financial and/or technical partners (providing direct contribution; off-Government budget)
Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)	Primary health care services contracted out with NGOs as implementing partners across the country	MoPH		World Bank USAID EU	National and international NGOs
Essential Package of Hospital Services	Secondary health care services contracted out with NGOs as implementing partners across the country	MoPH		World Bank USAID EU	National and international NGOs
Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	Treatment of SAM and MAM via health facilities	MoPH...		UNICEF, WHO and WFP	National and international NGOs as implementing partners
Community Based Nutrition Package (CBNP)	Community based malnutrition prevention programme	MoPH	Community-based nutrition used as entry point		UNICEF, USAID

Micro-nutrients Supplementation (Weekly Iron Folic acid supplementation (WIFS))	IFA distribution through schools for adolescent girls	MoE and MoPH			UNICEF, USAID
MAIL Crops & livestock production, Irrigation development, Early warning and food and nutrition security information (FEWS NET), strategic grain reserve, farmers and women					
Citizen Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP);					
Afghanistan- National Rural Access programme (NRAP)					
Rural Water Sanitation Programme (Ru_WATSAP)	Water supply and improving sanitation in rural communities.	MRRD			UNICEF, USAID
Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP)					
...			

Kindly attach relevant documents as available (e.g. Results Framework; inter-ministerial TOR, etc.)

Kindly outline any mechanisms for social accountability built into existing programs (e.g. in the Cash Transfer Program, etc.)

Progress Indicator 4: Resources aligned and/or mobilized behind a set of country-owned programs relevant for improved nutrition outcomes

Definition: This is based on programs included in the common Results Framework.

Please clarify for the Government funding:

- Is there a specific budget line for nutrition?

There is no any specific budget line in the government budget for nutrition. All nutrition programmes in the country are donor funded.

Please clarify for each listed programs/services you identified under indicator 3.1/3.2:

- What is the total budget estimated for each program?
- What is the allocated overall Government budget?

- Is there a budget line specific for nutrition? If so, please specify the amount
- What is the traceable amount from external partners that are contributing through Government budgetary instruments (e.g. Ministry of Finance)?
- What is the estimated contribution from external partners that are providing off-Government budget contribution? These partners may provide technical assistance, supply and/or direct financing at local level. It might be only possible to estimate the “value” of their contribution.
- Is there an agreed financial gap by all stakeholders (Government and external partners)? If yes, what is the agreed amount?

Costing of nutrition programmes is part of the assignment which MQSUN+ will conduct after development of CRF. That exercise will identify the existing resources and financial gaps.

In Afghanistan, nutrition specific and sensitive interventions that contribute to the common goal of improving nutrition, including emergency nutrition, are to a large extent donor and partner funded. WB is managing a Multi-Donor trust fund that provides the budget to the GoIRA, EU has a similar set up a funds intervention through on-budget support. All other donors finance implementing partners directly (off-budget support).

Programs (indicate start and closing date and coverage)	TOTAL estimated budget	GOVERNMENT allocated <u>overall</u> budget	GOVERNMENT earmarked nutrition budget line (if available)	EXTERNAL PARTNERS allocated budget through Government budgetary instruments	EXTERNAL PARTNERS estimated valorized contribution (off-Government budget)	Agreed financial gap by Government and external partners
...		

Please kindly outline if there are already plans in place to address the financial gaps.

Kindly attach relevant documents as available

Additional Progress

In addition to all items mentioned above, please describe any **other events, activities or advancements** that you would use to illustrate progress in your work to scale up nutrition.

- What key events/meetings have taken place that have brought attention and/or strengthened political commitment to improving nutrition?
- Have nutrition champions been identified?
- Are there advocacy and communication strategies for scaling up nutrition in place at national or regional level?
- Are there examples to illustrate how a SUN advocacy and/or communication strategy led to increased commitment or another beneficial result?

Kindly attach relevant materials as available (e.g. photos from launch events and programs; media articles; reports; maps; etc.) to help illustrate your progress.

Afghanistan government is in the process of developing a multi-sectoral strategic plan to address malnutrition and food insecurity in the country. MQSUN+ is assigned to provide technical support to AFSeN-A secretariat to conduct a contextual and stakeholder analysis, development of a multi-sectoral strategic plan with a common results framework and costing of the strategic plan.

AFSeN-A secretariat with the support of USAID is in the process of developing an advocacy and communication strategy which aims to create an enabling environment for nutrition targeting both authorities and public.

Key identified gaps and constraints and suggested way-forwards

Based on all items mentioned above, please describe any **gaps and constraints** that you would like to highlight/prioritize and **suggested way-forwards**.

It can help to think in terms of:

- Capacity development: human, institutional and organizational
- Extent of the gap between endorsed policies/plans and programs/services implemented on the ground (including considerations on funding)
- Level of consensus and alignment in decision-making, effective funding allocation, progress monitoring and support for capacity development
- Availability and/or optimal use of information systems in relevant sectors for information sharing, cross-sectoral analysis and progress monitoring

According to the stakeholder mapping and analysis of the AFSeN-A which has been conducted recently, the following main gaps are identified:

- Shortage of human resources, especially female
- Poor institutional capacity to implement policies
- Low capacity at sub national to develop, implement and monitor plans and budgets
- Lack of training programs for nutrition counselors/nutritionist in the country
- Poor implementation of the nutrition component of BPHS/EPHS
- No capacity for researches /robust surveys in nutrition /evidence generation/analysis for advocacy and programming
- Low coverage of nutrition programs in the country
- Off-budget activities usually are planned based on the needs in a specific area the same practice exists for emergency response.
- Little culture of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation which is a prerequisite for success - not only but - particularly in the field of food and nutrition security;
- Budgetary constraints and limited financial resources
- Protracted complex emergencies
- Poor data quality for nutrition specific/sensitive services

The stakeholders suggested to prioritize the following recommendations to address the above gaps:

- Provide training to improve the capacity of national, provincial and district staff on food security and nutrition issues, programs and project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Employ and train more female staff, to cover and reach women in all provinces and districts with food security and nutrition messages, skills training and support.
- Ensure coordination and cooperation with other ministries and organizations concerned with FSN
- Close cooperation with relevant ministries and organizations for advocacy awareness raising on food security and nutrition issues.
- Incorporate FSN objectives in sectoral and cross sectoral policies, strategies and programs;
- Strengthen FSN multi sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination structures;
- Increase national budget on Agriculture sector/FSN;

- Establishment of a comprehensive food security and nutrition information system
- Humanitarian responses and off-budget should be aligned with national program and development efforts;
- Given, that stunting is a significant problem in Afghanistan the focus should be on 1,000 days window with specific activities to include and prioritizing counseling on infant and young child feeding.
- Develop a financial tracking system for nutrition investments in the country
- Further strengthening the coordination among the nutrition stakeholders at the subnational level
- Increase resilience of farmers and market orientation/participation
- Increase agricultural productivity and sustainability
- Strengthen sustainable management of natural resource forming the basis for agricultural activities
- Strengthening the capacity of BPHS/EPHS implementers in order to better implement nutrition component of these two packages
- Strengthening the capacity of Public Nutrition Department of the MoPH to better monitor and guide implementation of the nutrition interventions, policies and guidelines in the country
- Considering the food quality, it will better to review the current regulation and strengthen their enforcement
- Resource mobilization to address the priority needs and gaps (e.g. Full funding of nutrition component under BPHS/EPHS; Costing and funding of National Nutrition Policy and Strategy 2015 – 2020; HRP 2018 – 2021; Nutrition Communication Strategy; and other national agreed strategies/plans).
- Increase nutrition staff at facility level (e.g. nutrition counsellor in each health facility)
- Expand community-based Nutrition programs (CBNP) implementation through government to full coverage.