



Scaling-Up Nutrition through a Multi-Sector Approach



World Food Programme



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Background

While Sri Lanka has made impressive achievements in meeting Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), nutrition achievements have lagged behind in the last decade. Based on the latest micronutrient survey in 2012, levels of under nutrition – especially wasting, stands at 19.6% for under-fives. Around 2.4 million people out of the total population of 21 million are food insecure, of which 1.1 million is from the Northern and Eastern province. Following a rapid decline in the prevalence of stunting level up until the year 2000, gains stagnated with stunting now at 13% for children under five, and micronutrient deficiency a major public health problem in Sri Lanka.

Objective of Scaling-up Nutrition through a Multi-sector Approach

The government has developed a Multi-sector Action Plan for Nutrition (MSAPN) in order to scale up nutrition status with relevant stakeholders. World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in consultation with relevant ministries have developed action plans targeting areas needing technical and/or funding support to scale up nutrition.

The aim under the scaling up nutrition through a multi-sectoral approach is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the government's investments in food security and nutrition. Enhanced nutrition education and nutrition promotion of safe and nutrient-rich food and dietary diversity, will contribute to achieving attitudinal and behavioral changes.

Target Group:

In line with the multi-sector action plan for nutrition this joint programme will directly target 61,000 beneficiaries in the most nutritionally vulnerable areas. The advocacy of the joint programme will have indirect impact to the lives of the overall population in the country, with a specific focus on pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), and children under the age of five and school going children.



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Output

WFP and FAO will work with the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine and the Ministry of Education on conducting several nutrition baseline surveys, pilot initiatives on food fortification methodologies to assess efficiency and cost effectiveness, and develop advocacy programmes to promote fortified foods. The results of the surveys and initiatives will help WFP/FAO together with the Government focus on specific areas of intervention and priority geographical areas, under the multi-sectoral approach to nutrition. WFP/FAO will also support relevant government authorities to strengthen inter-linkages of health, nutrition and food security as a national development priority at all levels.

In consultation with the Ministries of Education and Childrens' Affairs and other Ministries, WFP/FAO will

focus on developing a school feeding policy and provide support for the training of teachers, Development Officers, master trainers, and others, for better health and nutrition promotion in schools and communities. Interventions will also focus on introducing school garden-based learning, work on activities related to nutrition in curriculum, the strengthening of school nutrition information systems and improving nutrition promotion through education

Funding Partner

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDG-F) is a development cooperation mechanism created by Spain and UNDP, on behalf of the UN system, to support sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional joint programmes.

