The Micronutrient Initiative (MI) is committed to the fundamental principles of equal employment opportunity. Women are encouraged to apply.

Background

Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) is a project led by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) which seeks to improve the capacity of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) countries to design, deliver, and track the progress of nutrition programs and to generate, learn from and adopt knowledge of what works. MI is contributing to TAN by coordinating the provision of Technical Assistance (TA) to help national SUN Focal Points (SUN FP) in select countries to overcome gaps in capacity for the design and delivery of multi-sectoral national nutrition plans, tapping into its global hub to source and deploy the expertise needed.

Undernutrition is a chronic issue in Pakistan with little change over the past two to three decades. In fact, the rate of stunting has been steadily increasing, with 45% of children under five years of age currently stunted, ranking Pakistan at 125th among 132 countries and last among the South Asian countries.¹

Nutrition, as a multi-sectoral development concern, was institutionalized in the National Planning Commission (NPC) during mid-1970s. Although the NPC had a mandate to mainstream nutrition across different sectors, operationalization was based in the nutrition wing of the Ministry of Health. This meant that nutrition projects and operational plans were conceived as a sub-set of health, and remained confined to the Health sector.²

Post 2011, the key relevant ministries were devolved from the centre to the provincial level and the responsibility of planning and implementing programmes started being shared between the federal and the four provincial governments. Of the four, Punjab is the largest province with more than 50% of the country’s population. Though, Punjab has better food security resources compared with the other three provinces, undernutrition is still a grave concern in this province with 34% children under five years of age being underweight, 18% wasted and 34% stunted.³ Also, 51% of pregnant women suffer from anemia.¹

While Punjab province has made some advances in terms of organization and re-structuring for planning and programming of nutrition actions, it is still confined to health. The interventions are implemented as part of the Integrated Nutrition Project, relying heavily on donor support, and are yet to be integrated into other sectors and their plans.

With Pakistan joining the SUN Movement in January 2013, the country has witnessed increased coordination between governments and donors, UN agencies and other development partners. A high level National Nutrition Committee headed by the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD) oversees nutrition planning and implementation across sectors and ensures multi-

¹ Global Nutrition Report, 2016 - Pakistan
² Punjab Province Report: Nutrition Political Economy, Pakistan; August 2013
³ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014; reported December 2015
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sectoral implementation of nutrition interventions. Also, nutrition has been prioritized in the Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year National Development documents, with substantial allocations in the federal and provincial level annual plans.

In line with the government’s devolution context, SUN secretariats have been established at the provincial level to lead efforts of scaling up nutrition in their respective provinces. Punjab was the first province to establish a provincial Multi-Sectoral Committee for Nutrition under the Planning & Development (P&D) Department. It includes representatives from relevant sectors, industries, and co-opted members from the United Nations/ donors. This is supported by a technical working group on nutrition comprising focal people from relevant sectors.

Building upon the Vision 2025 and SUN Declaration of Commitments by the federal government, the Punjab government, through the multi-stakeholder consultations, has designed the provincial Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (MSNS) which is the province’s blueprint for addressing malnutrition. This has to be followed by formulation of the provincial Plan of Action for Nutrition, by guiding the development and consolidation of all the relevant sectoral nutrition plans. In this context, the SUN FP of Pakistan has sought short-term TA from MI under the TAN project to support the government of Punjab province design its multi-sectoral nutrition plan that could be further used for implementation of priority actions and establishing systems for tracking the progress, through collective and collaborative engagement of sectors and stakeholders, thereby facilitating the alignment of the provincial nutrition plan with the national plan.

This process will be coordinated by the SUN FP at the federal level with complementary support from MI, WFP, UNICEF and FAO assisting the four different provincial SUN Secretariats respectively.

Objectives

Overall objective:
Support the formulation of the provincial Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition (MSPAN) for Punjab province aligned with province’s MSNS. The TA will use the provincial level multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral consultative platforms to finalize the plan document.

Specific objectives:
  i. Analyse the nutrition situation in the province, and the existing strategies, plans and budgets of the relevant provincial sectoral partners.
  ii. Facilitate formulation of the sectoral nutrition plans, including suggested nutrition targets.
  iii. Facilitate consolidation of the sectoral plans into the provincial plan of action for nutrition including costing of the priority interventions.

Expectations

This TA is expected to bring a significant contribution to the Punjab province government’s ability in designing the provincial plan of action for nutrition, using multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral consultative platforms. It will:
  • Support gathering evidences on current sectoral plans, programmes and assessment of potential barriers and opportunities for integrating nutrition.

4 SUN Movement Compendium 2014; Pakistan
5 http://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries/pakistan
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- Guide the formulation of sectoral nutrition plans detailing sector-wise costed key priority actions.
- Facilitate consolidation of sectoral plans of action for nutrition to finalize the provincial plan document. This document will further guide the designing, delivery and tracking of nutrition interventions at the provincial and sub-provincial levels.

The successful implementation of the TA will support the provincial government in Punjab in advancing the SUN agenda in the province, with well-defined provincial and sectoral plans of action for nutrition including roles and responsibilities of each sector for implementing the planned nutrition interventions. The TA will support the sectoral partners in integrating nutrition interventions in their existing annual action plans, and in assessing the budgetary allocations, whilst comparing them against the commitments and additional resources required. The main outcome will be the formulation of provincial MSPAN built upon the 5-year National Nutrition Policy (NNP).

Following are the success measures that will ensure effective accomplishment of the TA to the SUN Secretariat in Punjab province:
- Completed Punjab MSPAN is aligned with provincial MSNS and accepted by relevant government sectors and nutrition stakeholders.
- Costed sectoral plans of action for nutrition endorsed by government sectors and stakeholders using multi-partner consultative platform.

MI is committed to gender equality. The Consultants are requested to indicate how they will ensure that gender equality considerations are included in the provision of the TA.

Scope of Work

The purpose of the TA is to facilitate the formulation of the provincial plan of action for nutrition, aligned with the national plan, by guiding collaboration, dialogue, and consultative meets between the sectoral partners and relevant stakeholders.

This support would be provided through placement of a short term Consultant, with experience of similar international consultancy assignments.

The Consultant will undertake the following tasks in close coordination with the SUN FP of the Punjab province and the MI.

Assessment of the nutrition policy & program guidance:
- Undertake desk review of the available annual plans and budgets of the relevant sectoral partners in Punjab province to identify nutrition interventions and budget allocations across sectors.
- Develop tools for discussion with the relevant sectoral partners and stakeholders.
- Consult sectoral heads and other relevant stakeholders to gain thorough understanding of their nutrition agenda and plans ahead.
- Analyze information on integration of nutrition interventions into the sectoral plans.
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Formulation of the sectoral plans of action for nutrition:
- Identify sectoral nutrition goals, objectives and targets in consultation with the sector partners, under the guidance of the provincial SUN FP.
- Support the sectoral partners in formulation of the appropriate nutrition strategies and activities as per the identified goals and targets.
- Guide appropriate costing of the interventions.
- Support the sectoral partners in assessing their budgetary allocations and availability, comparing against the commitments and additional resource requirements, and also brainstorming on the ways to meet the resource gaps.
- Use provincial level multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral consultative platform(s) to discuss and finalize the sectoral plans of action for nutrition.
- Ensure the sectoral nutrition plans are synergistic and avoid overlap across sectors.

Consolidation of the provincial MSPAN:
- Facilitate consolidation of the sectoral plans into the MSPAN.
- Finalize the MSPAN through provincial level sectoral and stakeholder consultative workshop.
- Support the provincial SUN FP in initiating the development of the Provincial Implementation and Monitoring Framework (PIMF) based on the final plan document.

Duty Station/Location

The Consultant will be embedded with the SUN Secretariat in Punjab province, based at the Planning and Development Department, Lahore. The consultancy is for a period of five months.

Travel

The Consultant is expected to undertake some travel within the province to meet the relevant sector partners and stakeholders and participate in meetings and workshops. Costs related to travel required under this consultancy will be covered.

Timeline

This would be a five-month TA to the Punjab SUN Secretariat from October 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017. The Consultant providing this TA will be working full-time for the duration of the assignment.

Deliverables

- Desk review report including identified existing nutrition interventions and budget allocations across sectors in Punjab province.
- Tools for discussion with sectoral partners and stakeholders.
- Progress updates with summary of discussions with all sector partners and stakeholders.
- Draft costed sectoral plans of action for nutrition.
- Provincial consultative workshop to validate w/ key stakeholders, with report.
- Validated costed sectoral plans of action for nutrition.
- MSPAN.
The applicants are requested to provide the proposed activity and deliverable-wise timeline for this assignment as a part of their technical proposal.

**Management and Reporting/Coordination mechanisms**

1. The Consultant will work under the direct supervision of and report to the SUN FP of the Punjab province. The Consultant will also work closely with the Punjab Planning and Development Department, Federal SUN FP, and MI team members.
2. The SUN Secretariat of Punjab province will facilitate the operational linkages with all the other relevant sectors and stakeholders for this assignment.
3. The MI will provide the funding for the assignment, and payment will be subject to performance and reaching deliverables as agreed upon at the moment of contract signing.
4. The MI will provide technical input into the assignment and is responsible for assuring the quality of the work being delivered by the Consultant. MI will review the Consultant’s work and share with the provincial SUN FP for feedback prior to sharing externally (as needed).

**Profile/qualifications of Consultant**

The Consultant will be selected following a recruitment process. The profile of the Consultant has been presented below:

**Education:**
- Doctoral or full time Post-graduate level qualifications in Nutrition/ Food and Nutrition/ Community Nutrition/ Public Health Nutrition/ Public Health/ Public Policy/ Public Administration/ any other related field(s).
- Qualification in Nutrition is mandatory.

**Language Skills:**
- Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory.

**Experience:**
- At least 12-15 years of experience of technical work in the fields of nutrition/ public health policy planning including program designing and/or implementation/ monitoring.
- Excellent knowledge of Government of Pakistan and/or Punjab province’s nutrition and health portfolio and programmes.
- Experience of providing strategic policy advice to national governments, and social planning and/or national/ sub-national level policy and programmes development.
- Proficiency in guiding costing of interventions, and assessing budgetary allocations and availability against resource commitments and additional requirements.
- Involvement in advocacy with the national governments and other relevant stakeholders.
- Experience in collecting and analyzing data, and extracting trends, observations and policy implications for nutrition policies and investments.
- Direct programming and/or policy development experience in integration of nutrition into at least one of the following sectors: social protection, education, agriculture, public health, water and sanitation, etc.
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- Proven experience in managing multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral working groups in national and/or international settings, particularly in the field of nutrition.
- Experience in planning, organizing and managing national or international workshops/conferences.
- Experience of working in a multi-cultural environment is an asset.

Interested candidates are invited to submit the following by email to TechnicalAssistance@micronutrient.org before August 31, 2016.

- **Technical proposal**: not exceeding five pages, describing the consultant’s understanding of the tasks and key responsibilities and how (s)he meets the mentioned candidature.
- **Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV)**.
- **Financial proposal**: including monthly fee rate, suggested number of trips/days in-country and any other expenses required to fulfill the terms of the consultancy (field trips, meetings, materials, etc.).

Kindly mention ‘Application to support the development of Punjab’s MSPAN under TAN’ in the subject line of the email.