

NEPAL





SUN Country Summary | September 2012

Nepal joined the SUN Movement May 2011

"The Government of Nepal is highly committed to improving the nutritional status of children and women as a foundation for future social economic growth and development. This is also a prerequisite to achieving all the MDGs ... there is an opportunity to make substantive and sustained progress in this area with a strengthened global partnership."

-His Excellency Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai
SUN High Level Meeting September 2011

MEASURING PROGRESS IN NEPAL

	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4
NEPAL				

Indicator 1: Bringing people into a shared space for action (the multi-stakeholder platform)

Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai is strongly committed to SUN. He is a member of the SUN Lead Group and spoke at the SUN High Level Meeting that took place during the UN General Assembly in New York. In June 2012, the Cabinet (Council of Ministers) approved Nepal's Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan to speed up improvements in nutrition in the country and among its people.

Under the National Planning Commission (NPC), headed by the Prime Minister, **a high Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee (HLNFSSC) has recently been formed** which is chaired by the Vice Minister of the NPC. It is an inter-ministerial multi-sector platform and the highest body for Nutrition in Nepal representing three areas: social sector; agriculture and development; commerce and supplies. There is also a Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee (NFSSC) that meets more frequently. Members of the Committee include high level government officers in five key ministries: Health and Population (MoHP), Education, Agriculture Development (MoAD), Federal Affairs and Local Development, and Urban Development (responsible for WASH), development partners and others. The NFSSC receives supported from the World Bank.

The NPC has decided to share responsibilities of country SUN related activities with the following arrangements:

1. **SUN Country Focal Point** – Hon. NPC Member (Social Sector)
2. **SUN Country Technical Focal Point (TFP) and Co-TFP**
 - (a) Secretary/Ministry of Health and Population – as TFP and,

(b) Secretary/Ministry of Agriculture development – as Co-TFP

(c) Secretary/Ministry of Education – as Co-TFP

3. SUN Coordinator – Chief, Nutrition Section/ CHD-DoHS/MoHP

The World Bank is the donor convener. There are two separate platforms for the donor community and development partners: (1) National Nutrition Group (NNG); and (2) National Food Security Working Group (NFSWG). They meet once a month to discuss common concerns, exchange updates and information and to enhance coordination.

Civil society organisations and academia are represented on the multi-stakeholder nutrition platform though the private sector is not yet. Action Aid Nepal is leading the INGOs (around 10) working in Nepal through the Association for International NGOs (AIN). There is an alliance for nutrition related national NGOs led by the National Technical Assistance Group.

Indicator 1 Status: 4

Indicator 2: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Nepal will update its **National Nutrition Policy and Strategy** at the end of 2012. Nutrition-specific strategies and plans include micronutrient provision, promotion of good nutritional practice and a multi-sectoral strategy for school health and nutrition. A national **Emergency Nutrition Policy** was adopted in 2008.

The **Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan** covers nutrition-sensitive policies and strategies for key sectors including **agriculture and food security** (National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action being developed), **public health** (National Health Policy, National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2006, Reproductive Health Strategy 2011 and Hygiene and Sanitation Plan 2010) and **education** (School Health and Nutrition Strategy 2006).

Nutrition relevant legislation covers food fortification (flour) and salt iodization. Provisions for the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) are fully endorsed by law. The maternity protection law covers paternity leave and provides 52 days (approximately 7.5 weeks) of maternity leave which is less than the minimum recommended length of 14 weeks (ILO).

Indicator 2 Status: 4

Indicator 3: Aligning programmes around a Common Results Framework

The Multisectoral Nutrition Plan is the common results frame-work where all ministries have agreed on a set of essential nutrition ‘specific’ and nutrition ‘sensitive’ interventions and responsible Ministries are in charge of the identified programmes, under the lead of the NPC.

Additional resources and programmes that are being planned/implemented include:

- National Agriculture and Food Security Program (World bank- USAID) under MoAD in coordination with MoHP
- Golden1000 days (World Bank) under MOFALD (approved recently from Council of Ministers) in coordination with five key Ministries that are part of the MSNP
- Integrated Nutrition Program (USAID) [SUUAHARA] under MoHP
- Feed the Future (USAID-upcoming) under by MoAD
- Action Against malnutrition through Agriculture (AAMA) Project (USAID Child Survival funded)

The MoHP has a nutrition program as per National Nutrition Policy and Strategy 2004 which includes:

- Protein Energy Malnutrition Control
- Micronutrient Deficiency Control and Control of Intestinal Parasitic
- School Health and Nutrition Program
- Behavior Change and communication Monitoring, Supervision and Evaluation of program and activities.
- Organization of Special Awareness Raising Campaign such as Celebration of Breastfeeding Week

Indicator 3 Status: 3

Indicator 4: Financial tracking and resource mobilization around a Common Results Framework

There is a government budget line for nutrition specific interventions that is channeled through the Ministry of Health and Population, Child Health Division. Between 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 it has doubled from US\$ 4.9 million to US\$ 11.7 million and is 90% secured. External assistance has jumped from US\$ 0.2 million to US\$ 5 million.

A basket fund for the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan is being established which will receive funding from the government and development partners. The National Planning Commission will be in charge of releasing funds to sectors and to Districts, and responsible for monitoring of funding. The indicative budget is for around US\$ 150 million.

Indicator 4 Status: 3