



Government of Nepal

National Planning Commission

Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

PRESS RELEASE

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National Planning Commission Launches Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan-III

Kathmandu, September 18, 2024 — The Honorable Vice President of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and Chairperson of the High-Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee, Prof. Dr. Shivaraj Adhikari, officially launched the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan-III (2023-2030) today, which envisions ending malnutrition and developing human capital for overall socio-economic development. The official launch event was chaired by Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Secretary of the National Planning Commission. At this event, honorable members of the NPC, the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Rajkumar Shrestha, the Vice-Chairperson and Honorable Member of the Provincial Policy and Planning Commissions from all seven provinces, along with representatives of development partners, joined the launch by expressing their commitment.



Other distinguished attendees included the President of the Municipal Association of Nepal, President of NARMIN, secretaries from key ministries, and representatives from major development partners, particularly the European Union, World Food Program, UNICEF, FCDO, World Bank, as well as nutrition activists, academia, and other relevant stakeholders.

Building on the successes and lessons learned from MSNP-I and MSNP-II, MSNP-III has adopted a system-based approach to address malnutrition and its multiple determinants across the human life cycle. It is expected that the system-based approach will strengthen and improve the accountability of the food, health, education, WASH, and social protection systems to ensure the availability of nutritious food, the delivery of quality nutrition services, and the promotion of adoption of positive nutrition behaviors. The functionality and effective implementation of a system-based approach necessitates the institutionalization of a nutrition-friendly governance system and collaboration with development partners. MSNP-III has adopted a tailored and targeted approach aimed at addressing disparities in nutrition outcomes by region and group and implementing a strategy to scale up nutrition interventions and targeted programs. The total estimated cost of MSNP-III is NPR 189,454 million. This includes the budget allocated for regular nutrition-sensitive activities, nutrition-specific interventions, interventions to strengthen governance mechanisms, as well as the cost for implementing additional interventions provisioned in the plan.



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During the launch, the Vice-Chairperson of the NPC expressed confidence that all three tiers of government will prioritize nutrition and implement the program to achieve the plan's goals. He affirmed the National Planning Commission's commitment to the plan and emphasized that its success, built on collective commitment, ownership, and the collaboration of all stakeholders, will be realized. Similarly, Prof. Dr. R.P. Bichha, Member of the NPC and Chairperson of the Nutrition and Food Security Coordinating Committee, stated that this plan will play a



pivotal role in breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, making the country malnutrition free and fulfilling international commitments such as the SDGs 2030, the Nutrition for Growth Commitment, and the 2021 UN Food System Commitment. He emphasized that this common policy framework provides a valuable opportunity and space for relevant non-government actors, private sectors, civil society organizations, and academia to mobilize resources, increase investments, and offer continued support from their respective sectors.



Secretary Madhu Kumar Marasini, the chairperson of the program, underscored the need for investment in nutrition as a key driver of human capital development. Citing commitments from relevant sectors toward resource mobilization and the effective implementation of the plan, he expressed confidence in improvements within the country's nutrition sector. He formally closed the program expressing his deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for all involved in the program.