

# SUN OPERATIONAL PLAN 3.0: NEPAL



2023



—

# SUN OPERATIONAL PLAN 3.0: NEPAL

2023



Government of Nepal  
National Planning  
Commission

## SUN Operational Plan 3.0: Nepal

September 2023

### **Copyright**

© National Planning Commission (NPC), Government of Nepal (GoN).

All rights reserved. Reprint of this document is strictly prohibited. Citation with proper credit while referencing the content(s) of this document is requested.

### **Citation**

Please cite this document as: National Planning Commission (2023). *SUN Operational Plan 3.0: Nepal*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.



# Government of Nepal National Planning Commission



Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Ref. No: 126

## FOREWORD

Nepal is an early riser of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and is the fifth country that joined the Movement on May 5, 2011, to galvanize the efforts towards achieving nutrition-related national and international goals and commitment. Remarkable progress has been achieved in reducing child malnutrition, particularly with the implementation of Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan-I (2013-2017) since 2013 which adopted a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition. Despite the considerable progress, high levels of malnutrition persist as a serious public health concern and a hindrance to achieving the developmental agenda of the country. To address the issues of the triple burden of malnutrition, urgent, coordinated response and scaled-up investments for nutrition and food security are now more crucial from governments, UN agencies, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders, youths, academia including the private sector in the context of the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine-Russia War.

National Planning Commission (NPC) led the process of localizing the SUN Strategy 3.0 and has developed 'SUN Operational Plan (SUN-OP) 3.0 Nepal' with technical support from the USAID/Suaahara, UNICEF Nepal and with engagement from multiple stakeholders across the sectors and at all levels of government.

Aligning with the principles of SUN Strategy 3.0, this SUN-OP 3.0 is developed to strengthen the need for country ownership and leadership to accelerate the improvements in nutrition outcomes and systemic change at all three tiers of the government. The SUN-OP 3.0 outlays the proposed governance and accountability mechanisms to complement one of the objectives of forthcoming MSNP-111 (2023-2030) to establish and institutionalize the nutrition governance mechanism at all levels of government for improved nutrition outcomes. It outlines the duties and responsibilities of all the duty bearers including countries, global partners, networks (UN, Donor, Civil Society, Business, and Academia), SUN Coordinator, and the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat.

NPC appreciates the effort of Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Joint Secretary, and the team of the Social Development Division for their leadership and guidance in the process of finalizing the strategy. The technical backstopping by the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat throughout the process of finalizing the SUN OP 3.0 is highly acknowledged. Lastly, I would like to urge all stakeholders to use this document as a guiding framework aiming to support institutionalizing nutrition governance in all three spheres of government.

Prof. Dr. RP Bichha  
Member  
National Planning Commission





Government of Nepal  
**National Planning Commission**



Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Ref. No: 127

PREFACE

Improving nutrition is a precondition to reduce child mortality, improve maternal and child health and achieve the goal of developing healthy and productive human capital- which contributes to overall economic growth and prosperity of the country. The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement-launched in 2010- is a global, renewed, and collective effort to accelerate the actions to eliminate malnutrition in all forms and improve nutrition through coordinated, harmonized way from the global to the country level. Nepal joined this unique Movement in 2011 to bring different groups of government and non-government actors (United Nations, Donors, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia) for a collective action of ensuring food and nutrition rights of every woman, children, and adolescent in the country. Moreover, Nepal has done extremely well in scaling up nutrition interventions across the country through Multi-sector Nutrition Plan and has demonstrated significant progress in improving most of the indicators related to the nutritional status with the implementation of Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP-I) (2013-2017) and MSNP-II (2018-2022), together with projects aligned with MSNP. Nepal, as a member of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, has committed to reducing malnutrition to meet the targets associated with the SDG 2.

Under this context, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Strategy 2021–2025 (SUN 3.0) was endorsed to prioritize country leadership and emphasize on supporting systemic change at the country level. To this end, under the leadership of National Planning Commission SUN Operational Plan 3.0 (SUN OP 3.0) is formulated to localize the strategic objectives and principles of SUN Strategy 3.0. I am pleased to share SUN-OP 3.0 on behalf of the NPC.

A consultative and inclusive process was adopted in drafting this operational plan as it is built on the inputs and suggestions from government counterparts across the sectors and all levels of government, the recommendations of Mid Term Review of MSNP-II (2018-2022) and from the suggestions of representatives of non-government actors including MSNP Provincial Coordinators and team of National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS).

SUN-OP 3.0 emphasizes the need for strengthened country ownership and leadership for establishing nutrition as a development agenda and investing more resources for nutrition and food security. In line with SUN 3.0 strategy, four strategic objectives have been formulated and specific activities and associated result indicators has been developed to measure its progress and impact. It is anticipated that this operational plan will facilitate and complement forthcoming MSNP-III in institutionalizing nutrition friendly governance mechanism. Moreover, this operation plan will support in strengthening the institutional and human resource capacity for MSNP through technical assistance from SUN regional and global platform and pull foreign assistance and investment in nutrition through advocacy at global SUN platforms and other international arena.

I would like to thank USAID's SUSAHARA II for providing financial and technical assistance for developing this operational plan. I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of Dr. Ojaswi Acharya for drafting SUN OP 3.0 in the beginning. I highly appreciate the contribution from USAID's Debendra Adhikari and USAID/SUSAHARA II's Ms. Pooja Pandey Rana, Ms. Kristine Garn, Mr. Bishwo Raman Neupane and Nutrition Section team of UNICEF who provided the guidance for developing this document. Similarly, thanks to the NNFSS team (Ms. Anju Acharya and Ms. Prativa A.C.) for their contribution in reviewing the draft SUN OP 3.0. Special thanks to Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Sahani, Monitoring, Evaluation and Documentation Consultant from UNICEF seconded at NNFSS for his dedicated efforts in finalizing this plan and bringing this document in its final shape.

I believe that the SUN OP 3.0 will complement MSNP-III and further accelerate our efforts in coordinated and harmonized way to combat malnutrition. I, therefore, encourage all stakeholders and SUN Networks to consider this operational plan as one of the key documents for nutrition related programming.

Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee  
Joint Secretary  
National Planning Commission  
SUN Country Coordinator

## About this Document

This document is an operational plan developed to support the effective nutrition related actions in Nepal in line with Scaling Up Nutrition 3.0 Strategy. Consequently, this document does not in any way substitute the national Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan II (MSNP II) and the forthcoming MSNP-III, but rather complements it. It provides clear guidance on how to nurture and create an enabling environment and sustain a well-functioning governance structure for effective implementation of the MSNP II and forthcoming MSNP III to achieve expected outcomes. The target group of this operational plan includes decision makers at all levels intending to facilitate the strengthening of an enabling environment with multi-stakeholders' contribution and coherent activities.



# Table of Contents

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

### Chapter 1

<b>Background</b>	1
1.1. Introduction to Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) 3.0	1
1.2. What is Scaling Up Nutrition 3.0?	1
1.3. Rationale for developing Nepal's SUN Operational Plan (OP) 3.0	2
1.4. Key considerations in the development of the operational plan	4

### Chapter 2

Nutrition Situation in Nepal: An Overview	5
2.1 Current Scenario	5
2.2 Evolution of Nepal's national plan on Nutrition	5
2.3 Existing key policy provisions related to nutrition and food security	7
2.4 Existing Nutrition Architecture and its function:	10
2.5 Challenges in Scaling Up Nutrition for Nepal	11

### Chapter 3

<b>SUN: Operational Plan</b>	12
3.1 Objective of SUN OP 3.0	12
3.2 Key areas of SUN OP 3.0 for strengthening the conducive environment for nutrition	14
3.3 Plan of Action of SUN OP 3.0	24

### Chapter 4

<b>Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)</b>	31
---	----

4.1 Strategic milestones of the SUN 3.0 Operational Plan	31
4.2 Key results to be monitored	32
4.3 Accountability of SUN 3.0 Operational Plan	35

## List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: Nutritional Status of Nepal against Global Targets	6
Figure 1: Objectives of SUN3.0- creating an enabling environment with strengthened nutrition	13
Figure 2: Framework for Scaling up Nutrition Operational Plan 3.0	15
Figure 3: SUN Network in Nepal	19
Figure 4: Financing for nutrition action at all levels	22
Figure 5: Domains to assess the strategic milestones of SUN OP 3.0	31
Figure 6: Theory of Change of SUN 3.0	32

<b>EndNote</b>	<b>36</b>
----------------	-----------

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DoHS	Department of Health Services
GoN	Government of Nepal
GSS	Global Support System
HL-NFSSC	High-Level Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee
LL	Local Level
LL-NFSSC	Local Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MSNP	Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NGOs NNFSSC	Non-Government Organizations National Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee
NNFSS	National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat
NNS	Nepal Nutrition Strategy
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OP 3.0	Operational Plan 3.0
PL-NFSSC	Province-level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SO	Strategic Objective
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WLNFSAC	Ward Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age

# Chapter I

## Background

### 1.1 Introduction to Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) 3.0

Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) was launched in 2010 as a global movement under the support of the United Nations (UN) to address the world's growing problems of malnutrition through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The SUN was founded on the principle that all people have the right to food and good nutrition. This movement is a response to the high burden of malnutrition and uneven progress toward the nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 targets across the globe.

Nepal, one of the sixty-five countries, joined the SUN movement in 2011. This movement has been crucial for strengthening political commitments and accountability towards global nutrition targets<sup>1</sup>. In Nepal, a multi-sector approach to nutrition<sup>2</sup> as envisioned by SUN Movement has been adopted and operationalized through the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) for a decade now (since 2013), following the recommendation of Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis 2009. The plan brought together five sectoral ministries<sup>3</sup>, UN agencies, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders, private sector including academic and research organizations to work in collaboration for better nutrition outcomes. SUN Movement in Nepal has facilitated and expedited the creation of an enabling environment for better nutrition outcomes by placing nutrition as a key political and development agenda. It has opened the door for financial assistance for nutrition through development partners like the EU, UNICEF, and USAID among others in the country, and facilitated harmonizing the efforts of multiple sectors and stakeholders for better nutrition outcomes.

### 1.2 What is Scaling Up Nutrition 3.0?

The SUN Movement required a new strategy to guide and accelerate progress in its third phase so that the strategy can be fit for purpose in a changing world. To this end, building on the Movement's progress and achievements over the last decade, lessons learned, and feedback received from the Movement, the third SUN Movement Strategy 2021-2025 (SUN 3.0) has been introduced to accelerate nutrition action and systemic change for the 5 years. It is designed to keep nutrition on the global agenda, protect the most vulnerable, prioritize evidence-informed actions, and make the case for investing in nutrition.

## **Strategic Shift in SUN 3.0**

SUN 3.0 has emphasized the impact of nutrition at the country level and country leadership in addressing all forms of malnutrition. Empowering countries to be able to lead and act at scale for combating malnutrition is one of the major departures on SUN 3.0. This strategy continues to emphasize political leadership and government commitment, along with building the skills of stakeholders from different sectors at all levels of government. There has been a shift from a focus on advocacy and setting up multi-stakeholder platforms to a focus on nutrition results at national and subnational levels. Moreover, multi-sector programming from the national to community level including resource mobilization aspects is emphasized. SUN 3.0 has underscored the need to strengthen partnerships to achieve a greater impact on nutrition through food systems, health systems, and social protection systems and has stressed the need for actions by the development actors and private sectors.

Prioritization of effective nutrition-related measures has been refined in SUN 3.0 to continue the momentum, concentrate effort, and foster accountability, all of which are required for achieving national objectives. It prioritizes actions, monitors outcomes, and actions to rectify the path. It focuses on strengthening functional knowledge and resource management platforms for sharing knowledge. Further efforts are strategically planned in SUN 3.0 to track the flow of nutrition resources as a basis for advocacy, implementation, and holding stakeholders accountable. It is committed to fundamental and non-negotiable aspects of effective nutrition action that include equity and the principle of leaving no one behind. During the third phase of the strategy, the SUN movement has included youth leadership across the movement.

## **1.3 Rationale for Developing Nepal's SUN Operational Plan (OP) 3.0**

The Government of Nepal is committed to ensuring the rights to health and food as envisioned in the Constitution of Nepal and achieving development objectives set out in the Fifteenth Plan (2019/2020-2023/24) and the SDGs 2030. These policy documents have included nutrition as a key developmental priority of the country. In addition, the Department of Health Services (DoHS)/Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has also endorsed the National Nutrition Strategy 2077 which aims to address malnutrition in all its forms through the implementation of nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions through the health sector. Besides, the Government of Nepal has made commitments during the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2021 and UN Food System Summit 2021 to transform the approach to combat the challenge of malnutrition and food insecurity. Moreover, to sustain the achievement of MSNP I and II and accelerate the progress towards the nutrition-related national and global targets

(WHA 2025 and SDGs 2030 targets), the National Planning Commission has also initiated the formulation of the third phase of MSNP for the period 2023 to 2030. The forthcoming MSNP III (2023-2030) will be the primary policy document to translate these plans and commitments and achieve global targets.

Nepal has relatively been successful in addressing undernutrition with the implementation of the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan. With the implementation of MSNP and other nutrition-related projects aligned with MSNP, the prevalence of stunting among children under five has reduced significantly from 41 percent in 2011 to 25 percent in 2022 while wasting has reduced from 11 percent to 8 percent, underweight has reduced from 29 percent to 19 percent among these groups in this period (NDHS, 2022). However, there is still a lot to be done to achieve nutrition-related SDGs 2030 targets and improve the nutritional outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

Nepal the early adopter of the SUN movement has developed SUN OP 3.0 to complement the effort of scaling up nutrition through MSNP. SUN OP 3.0 intends to facilitate and accelerate the progress toward achieving national and global nutrition targets by strengthening a conducive environment for the implementation of evidence-based nutrition actions through a system approach as envisioned in the forthcoming MSNP III (2023-2030). Moreover, this operational plan will focus on strengthening the governance aspects of the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan and achieving high political and financial commitment for its effective implementation. This includes supporting actions to strengthen food, health, education, social protection, and water and sanitation systems with a greater emphasis on gender equality. Operationalizing this plan will support the implementation of prioritized actions envisioned by forthcoming MSNP III and beyond.

This operational plan (OP) 3.0 intends to support GoN in prioritizing nutrition actions at the country level and guide the local level for prioritization of activities for strengthening an enabling environment for better nutrition outcomes. Strengthening the enabling environment will lead to increased leadership, ownership, accountability, effective coordination and collaboration, partnership, coherence, and complementaries across the nutrition actions at levels of government and across the sectors. This SUN OP 3.0 will facilitate strengthening the linkage of Nepal with SUN Global and Regional platforms. This will help Nepal navigate the complexities of the financial landscape and harness more domestic resources to support the effective implementation of MSNP. It will also focus on strengthening the capacity of relevant country stakeholders.

## 1.4 Key Considerations in the Development of the Operational Plan

During the process of developing this operational strategy, the following key aspects were considered:

- **High-Level Commitment and Leadership:** Strengthened nutrition governance through strong leadership for nutrition is essential for the effective implementation of nutrition action at the local, provincial, and national levels. SUN 3.0 OP intends to strengthen the government's leadership from the federal to the local level to draft periodic plans and support its implementation to address malnutrition. SUN 3.0 approach aims at making new allies (within defined SUN networks<sup>4</sup>) to assist the GoN with stronger evidence-based policies, improved planning, and strengthened monitoring and evaluation of programs.
- **High-level political engagement:** The engagement of prime ministers, political leaders, public figures, and other leaders including popular nutrition champions has been identified to have a major impact in several countries<sup>5</sup>. SUN OP 3.0 has considered creating influential nutrition champions for increased political buy-in and to take ahead the nutrition agenda.
- **Evidence-informed policies and plans:** SUN 3.0 operational plan builds on what exists and what has worked in the field of nutrition from the national to the local level. This OP will support the development of evidence-informed nutrition policies, plans, and programs.
- **Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance will be needed to materialize the planned interventions for the localization of SUN 3.0. This OP has identified the key areas of technical assistance to accomplish nutrition-related objectives and targets<sup>6</sup>, strengthen NNFSS, and capacitate SUN Government Focal Point<sup>7</sup> including SUN networks in Nepal.
- **Integration and Coherence:** This operational plan emphasizes the integration and coherence of global approaches to nutrition policies and plans including the SUN 3.0 strategy in the Nepalese context.
- **Coordination and collaboration:** This OP will facilitate strengthening the mechanism for effective horizontal and vertical coordination among and across the sectoral ministries, agencies, and stakeholders at all three tiers of government for the effective implementation of nutrition actions.
- **Accountability:** The SUN OP 3.0 will consider shared accountability<sup>8</sup> of the government and non-government actors towards the implementation and outcome of nutrition programs.

# Chapter 2

## Nutrition Situation in Nepal: An Overview

### 2.1 Current Scenario

Nepal has made impressive progress in reducing child malnutrition in the last two decades. The prevalence of stunting among children under five has declined markedly from 57 percent to 25 percent and wasting has reduced from 11 percent to 8 percent between 2001 and 2022 (NDHS, 2022). Despite the progress that Nepal has made in improving child under-nutrition in the last few decades, the prevalence of all forms of malnutrition is still high. Moreover, there are disparities in nutrition outcomes by sociodemographic characteristics. According to NDHS 2022, still 1 in 4 children under 5 years of age in Nepal are stunted, 8% are wasted, and 43% of children and 34% of women are anemic<sup>9</sup>. The prevalence of stunting is highest in Karnali Province (36%), followed by Madhesh Province (29%) and Sudurpaschim Province (28%), and lowest in Koshi Province (20%) (NDHS, 2022). Adolescent malnutrition is also emerging as a serious public health concern in Nepal. According to NDHS 2016, about 30% of girls aged 15-19 years had low body mass index (<18.5) and 44% of them were anemic<sup>10</sup>. The burden of over-nutrition has also increased gradually in Nepal. The proportion of women with overweight or obesity has increased from 9% in 2006 to 13% in 2011 and 22% in 2016. In sum, Nepal is facing the triple burden of malnutrition.

### 2.2 Evolution of Nepal's National Plan on Nutrition

To combat malnutrition in all its forms, the Government of Nepal has been making immense efforts since the 1980s. Nepal initiated the first multi-sectoral nutrition programming through the Joint Nutrition Support Program (JNSP) in 1980. Since then, Nepal has endorsed several policies and plans to address malnutrition in the country including National Nutrition Policy and Strategy 2004. In 2009, a Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis (NAGA) was conducted which recommended for a multi-sector approach to address the issues of malnutrition in the country. Following the recommendation from NAGA 2009, the Government of Nepal formulated its first Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan in June 2012 for the period 2013-2017 under the leadership of the National Planning Commission (NPC) in collaboration with seven different sectoral ministries and with support from UN agencies, development partners to address the multi-faceted and complex issues of malnutrition. In line with MSNP, relevant sectors (health, education, governance, WASH, agriculture, livestock, and women and children) have prioritized nutrition in their policies and programs. Building upon the learnings from MSNP I and to sustain the achievement made during this period, MSNP II was formulated for the period 2018 to 2022 and approved by the cabinet of the Government of Nepal on November 19, 2017. The



MSNP II is under implementation in all the 753 local levels of 77 districts of the seven provinces in varying modalities. The implementation period of MSNP II is coming to an end by mid-2023. Thus, the GoN /National Planning Commission is now developing the third phase of MSNP spanning over 7 years between 2023 to 2030 for sustaining the current achievements in nutrition and accelerating the efforts towards achieving WHA 2025 and SDGs 2030 targets for nutrition. By 2030, Nepal commits to reducing stunting from 25% (2022) to 15%, wasting from 8% (in 2022) to 4%, anemia in women of reproductive age (WRA) from 41% (in 2016) to 10 percent towards meeting national, World Health Assembly (WHA) 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets for nutrition (illustrated in Table I).

*Table 1: Nutritional Status of Nepal against Global Targets*

S.N.	Global nutrition targets for 2025 and 2030	Base year situation 2011	Progress 2016 <sup>11</sup>	Progress 2022	Nepal's WHA target 2025	Nepal's SDGs target 2030
1	Achieve 40% reduction in the number of children under-5 who are stunted	40.5%	35.8%	25%	25%	15%
2a	Achieve a 50% reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age	35%	40.8%	34%	18%	10%
2b	Achieve a 50 % reduction of anemia in children	46.2%	52.7%	43%	23.1%	10%
3	Achieve a 30% reduction in low birth weight	12.1%	24.2%	-	8%	-
4	Ensure no increase in childhood overweight	1.4%	1.2%	1%	≤1.4%	-
5	Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months to at least 50%	69.6%	66.1%	56.4%	>50%	-
6	Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5 %	10.9%	9.7%	8%	5%	4%

## 2.3 Existing key policy provisions related to nutrition and food security

The Constitution of Nepal has enshrined rights to food and rights to free basic health services including nutrition services. Constitutional recognition of food sovereignty as a fundamental right with a separate Act for its implementation offers a great opportunity for Nepal to ensure food and nutrition security for every citizen.

### National policies and provisions:

**i. 15<sup>th</sup> Plan (2019/2020-2023/2024):** One of the visions within the 15th plan is **“A sustainable, competitive, and prosperous agricultural economy with food and nutrition security and food sovereignty.”** To materialize this vision and attain the objective of ensuring food and nutrition security by increasing the production and productivity of the agriculture sector, the following strategies have been undertaken:

### Strategies under the 15<sup>th</sup> Plan addressing nutrition<sup>12</sup> :

- To make necessary arrangements at the federal, provincial, and local levels for addressing the food crisis, including integrated evidence-based plans in food and nutrition-insecure regions and groups
- To ensure food and nutrition security by conserving and promoting agro-biodiversity, developing and expanding climate change adaptation technology, maintaining stability and promoting food availability and utilization.
- To improve food habits for improving the nutritional status of communities by protecting and promoting, native food crops and livestock and disseminating information about them.
- To develop and institutionalize regulatory systems at the federal, provincial, and local levels to inform authorities about the situation of food and nutrition as well as ensure the quality and hygiene of food items.
- To implement the MSNP through coordination and partnership
- To decrease child mortality rate by making improvements in child health.
- To expand the nutrition-related programs to improve the nutritional status of children and adolescents.

**ii. Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2025)** has been endorsed with a vision of having a self-reliant, sustainable, competitive, and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihoods and food and nutrition security. The overall objective of the ADS

includes five dimensions- increased food and nutrition security, poverty reduction, competitiveness, higher and more equitable income of rural households, and strengthened farmers' rights. The activities and the related outcomes within ADS have been developed to contribute to improving food and nutrition security either directly or indirectly.

**iii. National Health Policy 2076 (2019)** has envisaged fighting against malnutrition and improving nutrition through the effective promotion of quality nutritious foods generated locally.

**iv. National Nutrition Strategy 2077 (2020)** has envisioned addressing all forms of malnutrition by implementing nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions through the health sector that provide strategic and programmatic directions for nutrition interventions in Nepal through the health sector.

**v. Multi-Sector Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (2021-2025)** has included interventions that promote the intake of healthy diets and reduce the risk of diet-related NCDs, promote the production of locally available foods, and formulate regulations related to Salt-Intake and Breast-milk substitute.

**vi. Nutrition Friendly Local Governance (NFLG) guidelines 2021** has been endorsed to strengthen the nutrition governance mechanism at the local level. This guideline aims to promote the adoption of nutrition-friendly local good governance by reforming local-level policies, plans, programs, and service delivery for improving nutrition outcomes at local levels.

### **Global Commitments:**

**i. Sustainable Development Goal 2030:** The SDGs include “Ending Hunger, Improving Food Security and Nutrition, and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture” as one of its goals. In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, Member States are required to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”<sup>13</sup>. The Government of Nepal is committed to scaling up evidence-based nutrition interventions through its MSNP to reduce all forms of malnutrition.

**ii. Nutrition for Growth Commitment 2021:** In December 2021, Nepal made commitment for Nutrition for Growth (N4G)<sup>14</sup>. This commitment is across five different themes: Health, Food, Resilience, Data and Financing. The following six types of commitments were made by Nepal under this global effort:

- *Political and Governance Commitment:* Strengthen mechanism for improved nutrition governance and accountability.
- *Policy Commitment:* Improve policy environment for equitable and effective delivery of nutrition services

- *Financial Commitment:* GoN is committed to increasing financial investment in nutrition. The Government of Nepal has committed to invest approximately NPR 97,032 million for nutrition to achieve the country's nutrition commitments for the period of 2022 to 2030.
- *Operational Commitment:* Strengthen system, community, and individual capacity to deliver quality nutrition services and ensure universal coverage.
- *Monitoring, Reporting, and Research Commitment:* Strengthen country-led system for comprehensive research and evidence generation, monitoring, evaluation, and use of data.
- *Impact Commitment:* Reduce the prevalence of all forms of malnutrition, in line with the SDGs 2030 nutrition target, WHA targets, and national nutrition targets.

**iii. UN Food System Summit 2021:** Nepal together with UN agencies, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders, civil society made commitments to contribute to the transformation of the Food System to develop an equitable, resilient, and sustainable food system. To this end following 5 key action tracks have been considered:

1. Ensuring safe and nutritious food for all
2. Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns.
3. Boosting nature-positive production
4. Advancing equitable livelihoods
5. Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses

The SDGs with 'eradicating hunger' as a goal, the MSNP II with reducing malnutrition as a key objective, and the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) (2015-2025) with emphasis on food and nutrition security are conducive policy provisions to facilitate efforts towards meeting nutrition targets. The SUN OP 3.0 is aligned with all the aforementioned policies, plans, and strategies related to nutrition and food security and the government's global commitments namely SDGs 2030 targets, Nutrition for Growth Summit Commitment 2021, UN Food System Summit Commitment 2021 and the forthcoming Multi-sector Nutrition Plan-III (2023-2030). This operational plan will facilitate the implementation of nutrition actions envisioned in these policy documents and commitments.

## 2.4 Existing Nutrition Architecture and its function:

The nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions defined under the MSNP II are being implemented under the leadership and guidance of the National Planning Commission, with technical and financial support from a range of development partners predominately from the EU and UNICEF Nepal. National Planning Commission has been coordinating multi-stakeholder platforms on nutrition at the federal and provincial levels. Under the guidance of NPC, nutrition, and food security architectures are established and functional at all three tiers of government. At the federal level, within NPC, the High-Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee (HLNFSSC) provides policy guidance and advocates and manages resource, while the National Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee (NNFSSC) facilitates policy implementation, review progress, and provides guidelines to Provincial Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees (PNFSSC). At the province, PNFSSC facilitates the formulation of policies and strategies on nutrition and food security complying with federal-level policies, identifying, and ensuring resources for MSNP, reviewing the progress of MSNP, and facilitating local nutrition and food security steering committees. Similarly, at the local level, the Local Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee and the Ward-Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee facilitate the planning, implementation, and monitoring of MSNP at local levels. Further, to provide technical, operational, and management support to these committees at the federal and provincial levels, the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariate (NNFSS) within the NPC is established.

The National Planning Commission in Nepal with support from NNFSS is thus well positioned to facilitate and coordinate the following roles:

- To develop and operationalize country-driven, country-led, and country-centered operational strategy and align the different national and sectoral strategies for achieving commitments on Nutrition.
- To actively participate in the global support system<sup>15</sup> as defined in SUN 3.0 strategy.
- To support different sectors as they work on multi-sector nutrition plans to advance sectoral objectives for better nutrition and to ensure effective coordination for the implementation of nutrition interventions.
- To strengthen the Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee at the national, provincial, and local levels- as a platform to facilitate cross-sector and cross-province learning and exchange of experience.
- To lead the budget tracking process for nutrition and annual joint assessments of MSNP at the national and provincial level with support from sectoral

ministries.

- To organize Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) as defined under SUN processes for updating the progress achieved annually<sup>16</sup>. The JAA process captures progress in institutional and systemic shifts for nutrition and helps to assess the capacity building, training, and integration needs<sup>17</sup>.
- To coordinate and liaise with SUN structures and networks and support the SUN country coordinator.

## 2.5 Challenges in Scaling Up Nutrition for Nepal<sup>18</sup>

During the process of development of this operational plan, the following issues were identified that could have constrained the implementation of the nutrition program and impacted the nutrition outcome.

1. There is a well-established coordination mechanism within NPC to take ahead the national plan on nutrition through MSNP. However, frequent transfer of focal persons within the sectoral ministries and departments constrain the effective coordination for the smooth implementation of nutrition programs.
2. Insufficient harmonization across multi-sectoral policies on nutrition-sensitive and specific interventions.
3. The functioning of the Monitoring and Evaluation System for MSNP at the local, provincial, and federal levels is a challenge in the federal governance structure due to inadequate coordination, collaboration, and shared accountability across three tiers of government. Challenges persist in introducing effective tools for progress tracking, monitoring and further prioritizing nutrition actions at the local and provincial level<sup>19</sup>.
4. An evidence-based policy and advocacy practices are in place. The mechanism to develop context-specific and tailored plans as per the aspiration and need of provincial and local government and produce disaggregated data and sub-national level evidence is inadequate.
5. Least functional budget tracking mechanism for nutrition-related interventions across different ministries and sectors.
6. Resource constraints for implementation of MSNP.
7. Less clarity on the roles of different sectors and multi-stakeholders' responsibility to meet the commitments on nutrition.

# Chapter 3

## SUN: Operational Plan

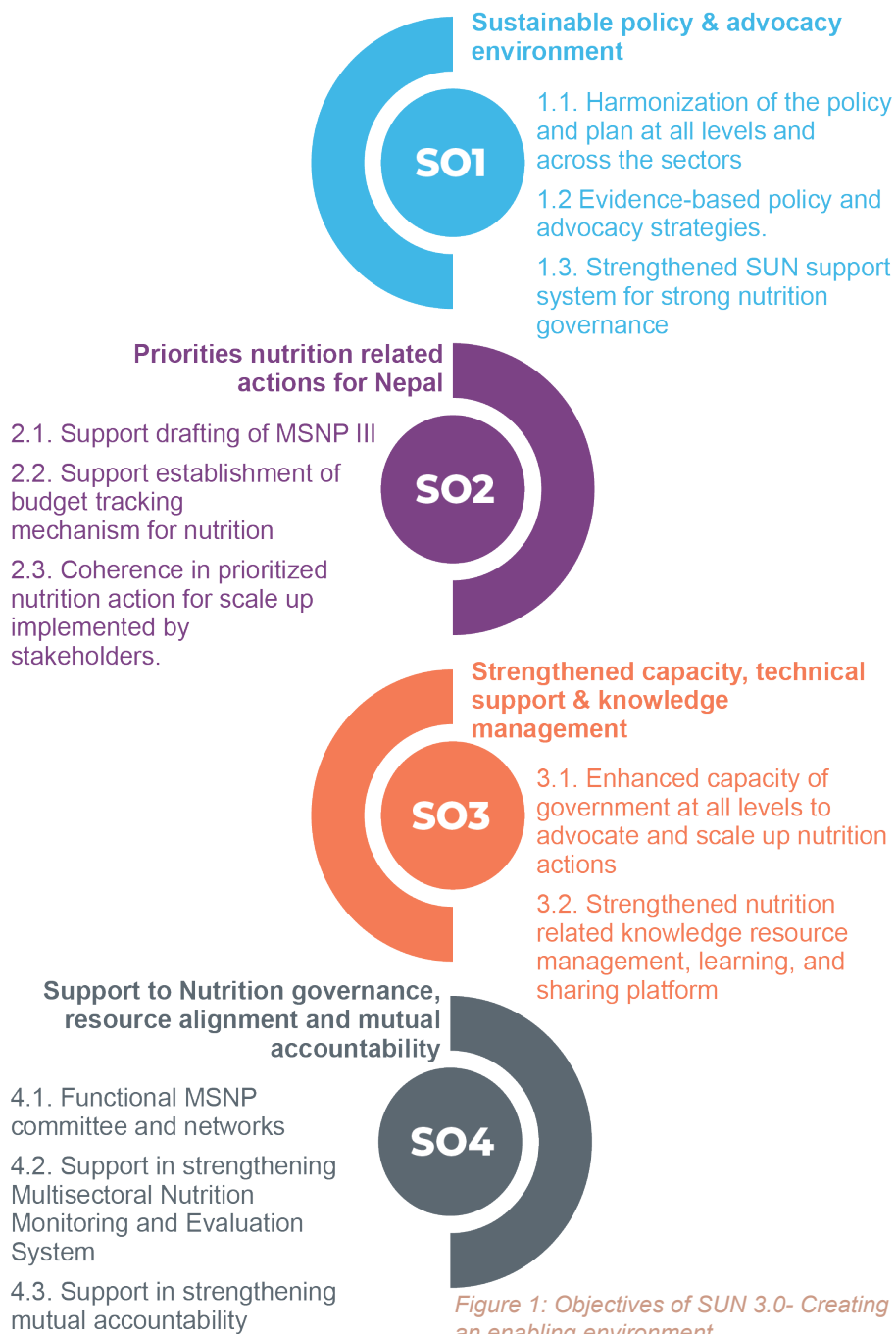
The Government of Nepal has made global and national commitments in nutrition to eliminate malnutrition in all forms among adolescents, maternal, infant, and young children in Nepal. These commitments are well demonstrated through the 15th Plan (2020-2024), MSNP I (2013-2017), MSNP II (2018-2022), the Kathmandu Declaration during SUN Global Gathering in 2019, as well as commitments made during N4G Summit 2021 and UN Food System Summit 2021. The various consultations conducted with different stakeholders<sup>20</sup> highlighted that to successfully translate existing nutrition-related policy and plans of GoN into successful scaling up of programs at the local level, the following aspects/components have to be focused on:

1. Functional coordination platforms between government and multi-stakeholder SUN Networks with clear roles and responsibilities that will allow for joint planning, budgeting, and implementation of nutrition actions.
2. A well-functioning M&E framework that will allow for continuous tracking of the progress of MSNP implementation, identifying gaps in interventions and budgets, and facilitating timely course correction.
3. A well-functioning knowledge management mechanism that will facilitate evidence-based programming for nutrition.

The success of the SUN movement significantly relies on the collective and collaborative efforts that accelerate improved nutrition outcomes and systemic as well as sustained change in nutrition actions at all three tiers of government (national, provincial, and local). **Realizing the significance of collective and collaborative efforts for improved nutrition outcomes and systemic change, SUN OP 3.0 has envisioned “to strengthen an enabling environment for nutrition actions in Nepal and contribute to achieving global nutrition-related targets specifically WHA 2025 and SDGs 2030 targets” as its primary goal.**

### 3.1 Objective of SUN OP 3.0

SUN 3.0 has defined four strategic objectives (SOs) that would strengthen the system and help in creating an enabling environment to effectively implement different sectoral interventions in an integrated manner. The objective of SUN OP 3.0 is aligned with these four SOs and is illustrated in Figure 1.



*Figure 1: Objectives of SUN 3.0- Creating an enabling environment*



The SUN 3.0 Strategy sets out four strategic objectives as reflected in the SUN 3.0 strategy framework<sup>21</sup> and Theory of Change:

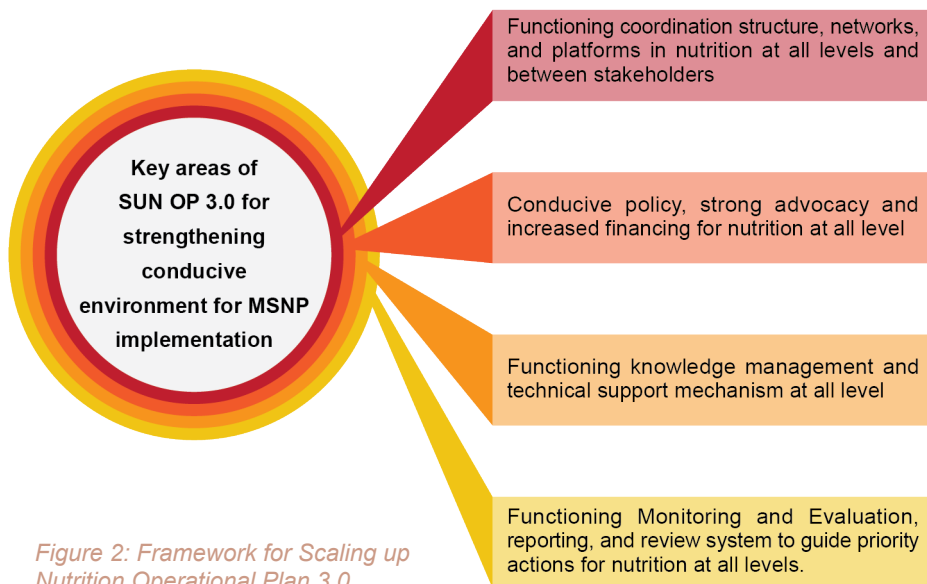
- To strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments at the subnational, national, regional, and global levels to position nutrition outcomes as a key maker and marker of sustainable development.
- To develop and align shared country priorities for action.
- To build and strengthen the country's capacity to develop, prioritize, finance, implement and track country actions through strengthened technical assistance and knowledge management.
- To ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all Movement stakeholders behind country priorities, and strengthens mutual accountability between Movement stakeholders and those most at risk of malnutrition, with robust mechanisms to encourage and ensure such promotion, alignment, and mutual accountability is realized.

## **3.2 Key areas of SUN OP 3.0 for strengthening the conducive environment for nutrition**

To create an enabling environment and good governance for nutrition, this Operational Plan focuses on the following four major areas around MSNP (illustrated in Figure 2):

1. Functioning coordination structure, networks, and platforms in nutrition at all levels and between stakeholders
2. Conducive policy, strong advocacy and increased financing for nutrition at all levels
3. Functioning knowledge management and technical support mechanisms at all levels
4. Functioning Monitoring and Evaluation, reporting, and review system to guide priority actions for nutrition at all levels.

## Enabling Environment and Good Governance for Nutrition



*Figure 2: Framework for Scaling up Nutrition Operational Plan 3.0*

### I. Functioning coordination structures, networks and platforms

In the course of drafting this OP, it was realized that within the current MSNP, there are areas (defined in priority operational actions within this chapter) that need to be strengthened to create a conducive environment to implement nutrition-related interventions and programs. The focus is mainly on strengthening and capacitating the federal, provincial and local level nutrition and food security steering committees and NNFSS to monitor and review the progress towards nutrition-related indicators and provide timely feedback and policy guidance for course correction. Different sectoral ministries and agencies defined within MSNP and supporting MSNP interventions should support the steering committee at all levels by providing timely relevant information and being accountable to individual sectoral contributions toward achieving the results of MSNP III. NFSSC should support and facilitate provincial and local structures through multi-stakeholder nutrition platforms. The existing steering committees and coordination committee actively engaged in ensuring nutrition governance mechanism includes HLNFFSSC, NNFSCC at the Federal Level, Provincial Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees (PLNFSSC) at the Provincial level, Local Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees and Ward level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees at local level. The SUN OP will complement the government to strengthen the capacities of these governance structures and mechanisms defined under MSNP II and MSNP III for data-informed planning and budgeting, monitoring, and coordination

for effective implementation of nutrition intervention to achieve better nutrition outcomes. SUN OP will also work to revitalize/ strengthen the capacity of SUN Networks to make it more proactive and functional.

### **Priority actions for strengthening coordination for nutrition in Nepal<sup>22</sup>:**

The following priority actions are identified to strengthen coordination and build a stronger support system for better nutrition outcomes:

1. Provide technical backstopping to province and local level through NPC/ NNFSS for guiding and monitoring provincial and local level nutrition and food security steering committees' performance and functionality as defined within MSNP. The Joint monitoring visit<sup>23</sup> would be important to have guidance, timely course correction, recommendations, and follow-up.
2. Strengthen the province-level coordination platform (Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee).
3. Establish or revitalize SUN networks - Business Network, Donor Network, Youth Network, Academia Network, Civil Society Network and UN Network.
4. Strengthen the governance of SUN CSO Network and quarterly update SUN CSA activities.
5. Biannual discussion<sup>24</sup> with stakeholders by SUN country coordinator/NNFSS on progress, issues, and challenges encountered during MSNP implementation and also share with Global Support System (GSS) to receive its support to address challenges identified in the form of technical assistance.
6. Interaction between SUN Country Coordinator/NNFSS and nutrition stakeholders on SUN Networks and other international commitments/ initiatives.
7. Advocate for financing from the global support system for increased investment in nutrition for the effective implementation of MSNP III.

### **Roles and functions of SUN Networks defined by SUN-OP:**

SUN 3.0 has adopted a multi-sectoral approach and has envisioned involving multi-stakeholders within different SUN Networks. The capacity of the SUN government focal point/country coordinator<sup>25</sup> at the NPC is support National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat including SUN structures and networks. This operational plan holds all SUN structures and networks accountable for supporting the defined nutrition priorities. NPC with support from NNFSS and in collaboration with SUN Networks should ensure capacity strengthening of key personnel and stakeholders across sectors related to nutrition. The SUN networks that are well-established in Nepal are briefly described below (Figure 3).

## **i. SUN Business Network**

The SUN Business Network assists in the development of consumer awareness campaigns in Nepal with the support of NPC/NNFSS and other SUN networks in the country including the Global SUN Business Network. In Nepal, the World Food Program (WFP) has supported the establishment of this network together with Private Sector Stakeholders<sup>26</sup>.

The SUN Business Network will commit to:

- Expand the network and its membership at the national, provincial and local levels with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) including multinational food companies. Such expansion is anticipated to act, invest and innovate to ensure the availability and regular supply of diverse, healthy and nutritious food year-round at affordable prices at the HH and community levels for improved food security during normal and humanitarian situations.
- Support SMEs to produce and sell more locally produced nutritious foods and secure their access to markets.
- Promote women-led businesses and those with the potential to reach women consumers.
- Build strategic partnerships with key national and provincial business associations and investors to promote the nutrition agenda and cross-institutions learnings and exchange.
- Advocate for public-private dialogue by engaging with governments to create an enabling business environment and unlock business investment through legislation, regulation, finance instruments, and incentives that promote businesses to contribute to nutrition and public health-related goals.
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms for business houses and private companies for the production and marketing of quality healthy and nutritious diets.

## **ii. SUN Civil Society Network**

The growth of this network has a significant increase in the non-profit sector's participation in nutrition policy making. The Civil Society Network strategies, action plans, and sustainability plans that align and support MSNP would be key milestones to bring a substantial change in the field of nutrition. This Operational Plan intends to support SUN Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition Nepal (CSANN) to align their strategies to SUN 3.0 strategy specific to civil society. Civil society's contributions in engaging youth and towards achieving the results of MSNP, National Nutrition Strategy 2077 for better nutrition would be prominent. The latest Civil Society Network 3.0 strategy has been designed for the Network by

the Network, aligning with the overall SUN Movement 3.0 strategy. Thus, SUN OP 3.0 recommends CSAAN to adopt the 6 commitments in the SUN 3.0 strategy.

The global SUN Civil Society Network has made six commitments in line with the SUN 3.0 strategy. This OP has adapted and emphasized the implementation of those six commitments and is enlisted below:

1. Hold all stakeholders accountable, including its own member organizations, for commitments and actions at the national, provincial and local levels.
2. Enhance the capacity of national, provincial and local civil society organizations through technical support to the Network's national-level platforms (Civil Society Alliances).
3. Strengthen provincial and local networking and collaboration to ensure mutual assistance, funding, learning, coordination, and geography-specific support to Civil Society Network - Chapters.
4. Support national, provincial, and local Civil Society Networks to expand their membership to encompass all community perspectives.
5. Boost the advocacy capacity of the Network in bringing the grassroots and community perspectives to provincial and national decision-makers, prioritizing vulnerable groups, and developing the Youth Leaders/Champions for Nutrition Programme.
6. Support civil society organization members as program implementers.

### **Youth Participation in SUN Civil Society Network**

SUN 3.0 enshrines youth leadership across the Movement and engages youth in all SUN governance structures as a core part of Civil Society. The Civil Society Network is recommended to work in collaboration with young people, including the Youth Leaders for Nutrition. It has been seen in the past that one of the successes of SUN 2.0 was the engagement of youth leaders<sup>27</sup>. In Nepal as well, successful youth initiatives have been noted such as the formation of the loose forum of youth volunteers which aims to combat the silent emergency of malnutrition in Nepal. Thus, within Sun 3.0 Youth network will be formed through their active participation and providing an enabling environment for youths to contribute to national actions and innovations related to nutrition

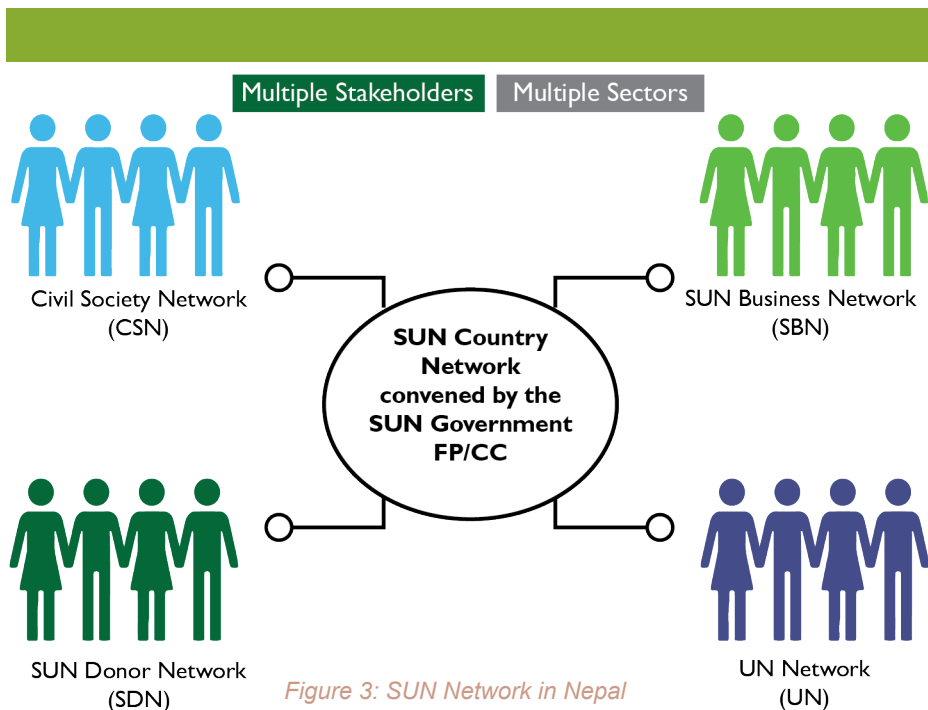


Figure 3: SUN Network in Nepal

### iii. SUN Academia Network

The power of academia is illustrated by the collaboration of multiple research organizations to publish the Lancet Series 2008 on undernutrition, and more recently under the banner of the Standing Together for Nutrition consortium<sup>28</sup>, which has provided rigorous, consensus-based projections of the impacts of COVID-19 on nutrition. This OP creates an opportunity to formalize an academic network within the SUN Movement for Nepal at national and subnational levels. This network has the potential to bring forward the evidence through quality research highlighting the magnitude of the malnutrition problem in Nepal and provide specific evidence-informed policy recommendations to solve the emerging issue of the Triple Burden of Malnutrition (TBM) among women, adolescents, and children. The set of evidence-based solutions guided through this network should be driven by the local epidemiological context so that it is helpful to design contextual policy and implementation strategies. While the elevation of academia's formal role has merit, the need for and feasibility of a SUN Academia Network will be explored more in the operationalization phase. The potential mandates of the SUN Academia Network, as defined by the Global SUN 3.0 strategy (2021-2025), include:

- Elevate the role of academia in generating the evidence base to inform

policy decisions.

- Strengthen research capacity at national and subnational levels.
- Prioritize implementation science and research based on needs identified by SUN countries.
- Leverage academic voices to advocate for and position nutrition as a development agenda.

#### **iv. SUN Donor Network (SDN)- Nepal**

The SUN Donor Network for Nepal will provide a space where donors at national levels can work together and in collaboration with other SUN Movement stakeholders and networks. The donor network support would help improve nutrition for all, by promoting high-level political commitment to nutrition and providing adequate financial assistance to implement evidence-based policies and actions related to nutrition and food security, predominantly MSNP. The proactive functioning of the SUN Donor Network will lead to increased and rationale financing for nutrition in line with national nutrition priorities and, effective monitoring of progress and impact including sharing of best practices.

By joining the SDN, member organizations commit to:

- Emulate the Good Nutrition Donor Partnership Principles and the SUN Movement Principles of Engagement<sup>29</sup>.
- Engage proactively and regularly to support the SDN activities.
- Contribute towards achieving the SDN strategic objectives.
- Ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are at the core of all nutrition policies and activities.

#### **v. SUN UN Network**

Aligning to SUN 3.0, the following role of the UN Network for SUN is envisioned at the country level by SUN OP 3.0, especially for strengthening governance and accountability:

- Provide periodic updates of collective United Nations actions- supporting national priorities, providing technical assistance and capacity strengthening, and fostering United Nations joint programming.
- Create a conducive space for key humanitarian agencies (Global Nutrition Cluster, OCHA, UNHCR) to join the SUN Movement and ensure a multi-sectoral approach for better nutrition outcomes during normal and humanitarian situations (crises, conflicts and natural disasters) with particular

attention to migrants, displaced populations and refugees.

- Provide support to country stakeholders in policy formulation and its program design and implementation on technical aspects.
- Document Nepal's experiences to inspire and share at the regional and global levels.
- Support to galvanize diverse actors and foster synergies for nutrition actions.
- Provide a platform for greater learning and cooperation through exchanges.
- Participate in strengthening country-regional-global feedback loops that support country-driven guidance on nutrition-related issues.

## II. Conducive policy, strong advocacy and increased financing for nutrition at all levels

### Policy and advocacy:

SUN OP 3.0 intends to engage SUN networks to ensure an enabling policy environment for nutrition. To this end, these networks will facilitate relevant sectors for the following:

- **Coherence:** Coherence across the nutrition policies, strategies, and actions to minimize the potential duplication of efforts and resources will be ensured.
- **Mainstreaming nutrition:** Mainstreaming of nutrition into relevant sectoral ministries/ departments/sections periodic policy, plans, and budget will be ensured.
- **Complementarity:** The interventions within all nutrition programs will be aligned with MSNP. SUN OP 3.0 recommends designing the interventions to complement each other in order to act on the different determinants of malnutrition. Activities that have the highest potential to contribute to achieving this nutritional goal will be prioritized.
- **Synergy:** It occurs when the combined effect of interventions is significantly greater than the sum of the effects of their separate parts. SUN OP 3.0 recommends designing interventions that not only complement each other but also interact amongst themselves to maximize their nutritional impact.

### Financing for nutrition

Nepal has developed and implemented a costed MSNP I (2013-2017) and II (2018-2022). For the effective implementation of MSNP intervention at the proposed scale and coverage, Nepal must secure the resources estimated for MSNP II and forthcoming MSNP III. Resource allocation and mobilization to scale up and



continue the multi-sectoral action for nutrition is a broad process and requires the contribution of various sectors, SUN Networks, and a diversity of stakeholders, including development partners. To complement MSNP, this operational plan has also been costed to generate funds and resources for MSNP and mobilize resources to achieve national nutrition targets. The SUN 3.0 Operational plan takes into account the following areas under financing for nutrition actions at all levels (illustrated in Figure 4):

- Develop resource mobilization strategies for nutrition and compelling proposals for fundraising for the costed MSNP.
- Strengthen capacity at all 3 tiers of government to improve resource mobilization and budget expenditure for nutrition.
- Advocate for “nutrition budget code” by SUN Networks for better financial tracking of nutrition investment.
- Advocate for increased investment in nutrition with GoN and development partners and at SUN global platforms.

Further, as evident in many countries<sup>30</sup>, the role of nutrition champions in advocating for nutrition, formulating policies, and coordinating and implementing action in nutrition have increasingly been recognized as powerful to secure additional financing for nutrition. In Nepal, thus, the SUN 3.0 operational plan has underscored the need to develop nutrition champions from different sectors (government, civil society, and private sectors) and strengthen their capacity to advocate for adequate resource mobilization for nutrition.

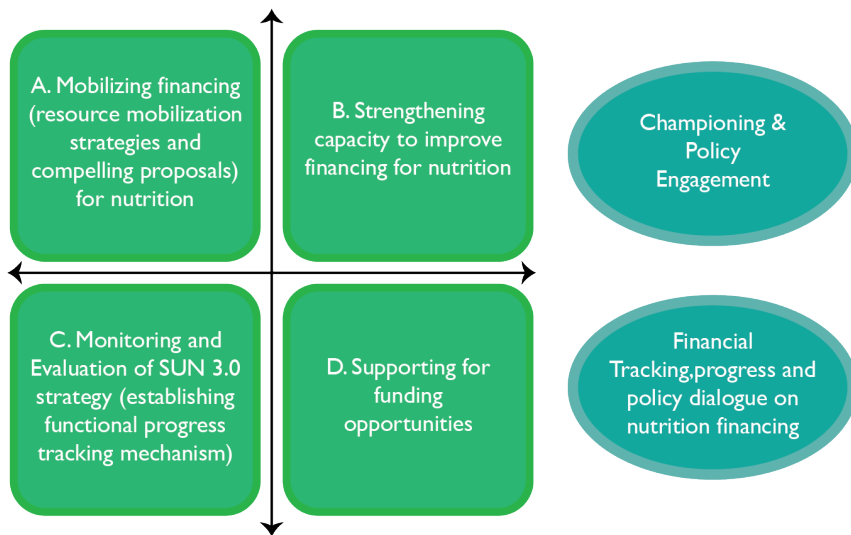


Figure 4: Financing for nutrition action at all levels

Resource mobilization for nutrition within this plan refers to the process of raising and leveraging financial and non-financial resources, domestic public funding, and funding from development partners to support the implementation of the interventions and activities detailed in the SUN 3.0 operational plan and MSNP (at federal, provincial and local levels). Within the operational plan it is identified that along with GoN, the SUN Networks (especially the UN network and Donor Network) play an integral part in resource generation for the country's plan.

### **III. Functioning knowledge management and technical support mechanism**

One of the strategic shifts from SUN 2.0 to SUN 3.0 is regarding knowledge management and technical assistance. More strategic knowledge management and technical assistance are made available to countries like Nepal by a global system on demand<sup>31</sup>. Implementation of nutrition programs requires the involvement of stakeholders from different sectors with a broader understanding of malnutrition, its causes and consequences, and a way to combat it. Capacity-building activities, focusing on malnutrition and a multi-sectoral approach, should complement traditional sectoral training. Identification of a set of priority actions as done in this OP aligns with the SUN movement, which would help to define the specific technical support required by the SUN country coordinator and NNFSS for strong leadership. According to SUN Strategy 3.0 “on the few occasions when the request for technical assistance cannot be met by either in-country partners or global network partners, the SUN country coordinator with knowledge of other country stakeholders, advises the Global/Regional SUN Movement Secretariat so that it can find global/regional partners or additional resources to support<sup>32</sup>”.

At the National Planning Commission, the NNFSS also has a key role in facilitating the sharing of relevant learnings between the sectors, provinces, SUN networks, and with stakeholders as defined within MSNP. SUN OP 3.0 recommends strengthening knowledge management practices. The SUN 3.0 strategy also highlights the need for more strategic Knowledge Management and technical assistance to countries like Nepal on-demand<sup>33</sup>. SUN Networks will support in prioritizing knowledge generation and sharing for nutrition within respective organizations. Piloting innovative approaches, and documenting experiences and lessons learned will also be promoted through SUN OP 3.0.

### **IV. Functional M&E, reporting, and review system to guide priority actions for nutrition**

Progress has been made in identifying the most relevant and efficient responses to malnutrition, however, defining an appropriate local context-adapted response that has a tangible impact on nutritional status has remained a challenge, particularly in the federal context. It remains essential to demonstrate an intervention's impact on nutrition outcomes and to understand the pathways through which the inputs and

activities translate into such outcomes. Identifying high-impact and cost-effective interventions as well as key factors for the success of the nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities, is required before promoting their replication and scale-up.

NPC and concerned stakeholders, as part of this operational plan, would systematically assess the effectiveness of all programs (including nutrition-sensitive programs within sectoral strategies) against their nutritional impacts to ensure that strategies implemented are effective and/or adjusted accordingly. The investment in nutrition should also contribute to building the evidence base, through documenting experiences and lessons, evaluating interventions, conducting research, and piloting innovative approaches. SUN Networks are recommended to commit to sharing the findings of its field experience and research and use these to enhance the efficiency of the interventions and influence national policies and plans. All relevant stakeholders should continue to engage in technical capacity development, both internally and externally, on M&E to enhance evidence-informed planning and effective implementation of food and nutrition security strategies and interventions.

### **3.3 Plan of Action of SUN OP 3.0:**

Based on the four strategic objectives of SUN 3.0, a plan of action (detailed in the table below) has been developed to ensure the timely implementation of multi-sectoral and comprehensive nutrition interventions at scale.

<b>Prioritized Operational Actions</b>	
SOI	Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments to position nutrition outcomes as a key maker and marker of sustainable development.
1.1	<p><b>Harmonization of the policy and plan at multi-sectoral level:</b></p> <p>Integration of nutrition in different sectoral ministries' policies and programs is essential. In addition, the convergence of sectoral policy/plans/programs is pivotal for scaling up essential nutrition interventions. The priority nutrition action herein creates an environment to ensure there are harmonized strong nutrition policies in place. These policies and programs should be coherent across different sectors and provide complementarity and synergy to the activities across their respective guidelines and implementation plan. These actions will also support the integration of nutrition into universal health coverage. The magnitude of malnutrition and its driving factors/ underlying causes are different in each province; therefore, it is important to provide clear strategic guidance for context-specific intervention based on those drivers of each province.</p>
1.1.1	Harmonization of National Nutrition Strategy 2077 with other relevant sectoral policies and plans <sup>34</sup> . (When amended)
1.1.2	Align the priorities and activities of different sectoral policies, plans, and strategies with the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan. While revising these policy documents, Gender, Equity, and social inclusion components across all the policies and strategies <sup>35</sup> should be ensured.
1.1.3	SUN Networks support NPC/NINFSS and other sectoral ministries to build stronger policies, plans, and strategies aligning with MSNP. (Network's technical support to NPC) <sup>36</sup> .
1.2.	<p><b>Stronger evidence-based policy and advocacy environment for nutrition:</b></p> <p>Advocacy and communication are important in influencing policy changes sensitizing the target population and promoting the adoption of positive health and nutrition-related behaviors. Advocacy and communication are unique in their ability to generate demand for nutrition services and raise awareness about the importance of nutrition for human capital development at all levels and among all key actors in the nutrition sector. Advocacy with high-level political leaders and decision-makers towards accelerating the nutrition action for improving nutrition programs and increasing the accountability towards its results is pivotal. Concerted and continued advocacy is also crucial for the increased allocation of resources (financial and other) to nutrition programs. Currently, there is limited evidence highlighting the gaps in human resources in Nepal on nutrition. The priority actions herein include the generation of evidence and information for sharing, documentation, dissemination of best practices, and innovations to inform policy and programs.</p>

1.2.1	Support for annual trend <sup>37</sup> analysis of nutrition-related data in collaboration with NNFSS and share with NPC, MoFAGA, and Nutrition Section (DoHS) and other relevant sectoral ministries/departments/sections with recommendations
1.2.2	Facilitate in conducting Organization and Management (O & M) Survey to identify the cadres of human resources and competency needed to materialize the goal of MSNP
1.2.3	Conduct specific activities (defined under N4G) that have an impact on nutrition-related policy, regulations, and legislation in Nepal <sup>38</sup> .
1.2.3.1.	Facilitate the amendment of the Mother's Milk Substitute (Control of Safe and Distribution) Act and Regulation, and ensure its effective implementation
1.2.3.2.	Technical assistance (TA) to review, amend and develop (when and if needed) fiscal policies to encourage private sectors to produce, fortify and distribute healthy, safe, nutritious, and affordable foods and also promote the consumption of healthy foods
1.2.3.3.	TA for the development of a national nutrition profile model to implement restrictions on the marketing of unhealthy foods to children and implement labeling regulations
1.2.3.4.	TA to support the development and implementation of a national strategic road map to reduce the intake of salt and sugar.
1.2.3.5.	Facilitate the discussion on supporting the establishment of nutrition-sensitive fair-price shop
1.2.3.6.	Advocate enacting legislation to provide at least 24 weeks of maternity leave with 100% salary
1.2.4	Support in developing the costed Advocacy and communication strategy led by NNFSS/National Planning Commission <sup>39</sup>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Strengthened support system for stronger nutrition governance:</b>
	NPC with support from NNFSS and SUN Networks convenes and coordinates all multi-sectoral nutrition stakeholders for advancing the nutrition agenda. National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat provides technical support to the chairs of the multi-sector platform and SUN Country Coordinator for scaling up nutrition and ensuring the smooth functioning of MSNP architectures/coordination mechanisms at all levels. NNFSS with guidance from NINFSCC facilitates the creation of an enabling environment for SUN networks in regard to nutrition response with different sectors.
1.3.1	Activate or revitalize /strengthen SUN Networks – Civil Society (Youth), Business, Donor, UN, and Academia.
1.3.2	Support National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat and coordination committees at all levels <sup>40</sup> for effective implementation of nutrition-related acts, policies, strategies, and plans.

1.3.3	Discuss with SUN Networks <sup>41</sup> and sectoral ministries to identify support including that of GSS <sup>[2]</sup> to manage emerging issues and challenges <sup>42</sup> under the leadership of the SUN Country Coordinator.
<b>SO2</b>	<b>Develop and align shared priorities for action</b>
2.1	<b>Support for implementation and prioritization of nutrition interventions:</b> The MSNP currently has a large number of activities. This is recommended to be prioritized for MSNP III based on the review of interventions that have worked or have not, geography, the burden of malnutrition, and other socio-demographic contexts including poverty, population density, Human Development Index among others, and the availability of resources. NPC together with the concerned sector convene and harmonize the implementation of nutrition programs/projects by various partners to ensure it is coherent with national priorities and minimizes the duplication of efforts.
2.1.2	Review MSNP progress against the targets, identification of bottlenecks and recommendations
2.2.	<b>Support the establishment of a budget tracking mechanism for nutrition:</b> Local authorities need technical, financial, and managerial capacity and political will to implement nutrition actions as described and envisioned within the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan. To effectively address the challenge of mobilizing adequate financial resources and tracking investment and expenditure, the authorities require a nutrition budget code at the national, provincial, and local levels. The capacity-building activities should focus on making government and non-government counterparts realize the need to mobilize adequate nutrition funds, create a nutrition budget code, and, comply with GoN planning, budgeting, procurement, accounting, auditing, and reporting procedures.
2.2.1.	Support in creating a Nutrition Budget code for nutrition-related activities by the Ministry of Finance and high-level advocacy by the NPC
2.2.2.	Support in developing the guidelines and tools for Budget tracking on nutrition covering local, provincial, and federal level <sup>43</sup>
2.3.	Stakeholders support and align its actions to prioritize nutrition action for scale-up: The NNFSS/SUN country coordinator should be supported by SUN Networks and stakeholders from relevant sectors including the private sector to align, harmonize, and link nutrition-related activities for better nutrition outcomes. To scale up the interventions, it was found during the consultations that a review of existing defined activities within MSNP is crucial. This review will guide all three tiers of government in developing annual planning and budgeting to support MSNP implementation.
2.3.1.	Periodic update of progress to NPC by MSNP focal persons from sectoral ministries; SUN Network and other nutrition stakeholders on their support to the nutrition priorities
2.3.2.	Facilitate discussions on nutrition-related issues organized for resource mobilization and prioritizing activities

SO3	<b>Strengthened capacity, technical support &amp; Knowledge Management</b>
3.1	Support to enhance the capacity of government at all levels to advocate and scale up nutrition actions: There is a need to strengthen the capacity at the local level in particular through dedicated and regular technical assistance for effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of nutrition interventions. This technical assistance should support the enhancement of capacity at ward, rural/municipality, province, and federal levels for data and knowledge management, and data use in developing evidence-based advocacy strategies. PLNFSSC should further support the rolling out of evidence-based advocacy approaches at their respective local level through LL-NFSSC and WL-NFSSC. Capacity building at the local level will enrich them with the technical skills to apply for special grants and other resources for nutrition-related programs, projects, interventions, etc. in their respective area.
3.1.1.	Facilitate NNFSS/SUN Country Coordinator at NPC and sectoral focal persons across different ministries to review the data and progress towards nutrition indicators with reference to local, provincial and national targets.
3.1.2.	Develop advocacy training package on nutrition for provincial and local government under the guidance of NPC/NFSS and in coordination with National and Provincial Training centers i.e., sectoral training centers such as Health, Agriculture, Governance related and as per feasibility and relevance.
3.1.3.	Provide technical assistance at the local, provincial, and federal levels to support the scaling up of nutrition interventions
3.1.4.	Build the capacity of Nutrition governance/coordination structures at national, provincial, and local government on coordination, planning, and monitoring.
3.2	<p><b>Strengthen nutrition-related resources, learning and sharing platform:</b> Documentation of experiences and learnings in collaboration with all stakeholders, including researchers, academic institutions, and think tanks is important for timely course corrections, scaling-up efforts based on best practices and developing evidence-informed policies and plans. Conducting qualitative nutrition research in collaboration with all stakeholders, including researchers, academic institutions, and think tanks will also help to prioritize nutrition actions.</p> <p>Knowledge management and information sharing on nutrition-related activities need to be improved in the current situation. The achievements of the SUN movement also need to be documented more systematically. Participation in Regional learning opportunities which are created for the SUN country coordinator and other stakeholders to share, learn and empower themselves is needed. As part of this OP, NPC could initiate nutrition research in collaboration with stakeholders, including researchers, academic institutions, and think tanks.</p>
3.2.1.	Support to update Nepal Nutrition and Food Security Portal to make it a digital knowledge Hub for nutrition.

3.2.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct Qualitative and Quantitative research on nutrition including SMART survey<sup>44</sup> and Coverage assessments.</li> <li>- Conduct periodic effectiveness and evaluation studies to provide evidence on the effectiveness and impact of nutrition programs and interventions.<sup>45</sup></li> </ul>
3.2.3.	Create or update the existing online virtual platform for capitalizing experiences, training, and learnings on nutrition with the support of SUN Network- esp. academia and youth networks jointly with NPC and MoFAGA and link it with NINFSP
3.2.4.	Conduct an Annual Conference on Nutrition Research
3.2.5.	Participate in international platforms and exchange/learning visits
<b>SO4</b>	<b>Support for Nutrition governance, resource alignment, and mutual accountability</b>
4.1.	Functional committees and networks: In order to implement MSNP through a coordinated approach, the nutrition-related mechanism formed at the provincial and local levels should be strengthened. Assessing the functions of MSNP defined steering committees at all levels, and SUN networks are planned under this operational plan to recommend changes in their functions as per the relevance and the changing context. Moreover, advocacy meetings by mobilizing champions on nutrition should be done for increased resource mobilization for nutrition at the federal, provincial, and local levels.
4.1.1.	Identify and mobilize champions for nutrition at all levels
4.1.2	Facilitate NPC/NINFSS to review the structure, roles, and responsibilities of the Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee at all levels and make recommendations for its strengthening
4.2.	Support to build robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System: The activity within this section focuses on creating an enabling environment for building a robust Monitoring & Evaluation system under MSNP. Conducting monitoring and evaluation of core indicators by NPC and sharing the findings with concerned stakeholders would help in improving the quality and sustaining the efforts that have worked and making adjustments/ revisions in the intervention and approaches that are not performing well to bring the intended outcome. This M & E system under MSNP should be an integrated information system to generate quality disaggregated data on nutrition services, food availability, accessibility and affordability, and nutrition commodities.
4.2.1.	Review and analyze the existing M and E system within MSNP and of different sectors and at all levels and provide recommendations for its strengthening.
4.2.2.	Incorporate recommendations from M&E analysis in designing of the M&E framework of MSNP and revising sectoral M&E system.



4.2.3.	Embed and monitor core indicators of the M & E Framework of MSNP into the forthcoming 16th Development plan of GoN and other sectoral M&E systems
4.2.4.	Monitor nutrition-related activities in the field (Joint monitoring visit <sup>46</sup> ), provide recommendations, and follow up.
4.3.	<b>Improved review and analysis to support mutual accountability:</b> Adequate mechanisms to foster sufficient progress sharing between all partners should be in place. SUN Movement will be audited against the Global Nutrition Report recommendations on equity.
4.3.1.	Conduct a Joint Annual Nutrition Review including both Nutrition Specific and Sensitive interventions (recommended for conducting before JAR meetings conducted by MoFAGA and MoHIP)
4.3.2.	Conduct annual SUN processes <sup>47</sup> :
4.3.2.1	- Joint Annual Assessment <sup>48</sup>
4.3.2.2	- Member Engagement Survey <sup>49</sup>
4.3.3.	Conduct an audit against GNR on equity as per the Global guidance to the country
4.4.	<b>Oversight in multistakeholder nutrition programming &amp; resource generation:</b> For successful implementation of MSNP, support and facilitation of the National Planning Commission to MoFAGA on the implementation of Nutrition Friendly Local Governance implementation guidelines 2020 and other projects aligned with MSNP that are implemented by different stakeholders in Nepal is crucial. With the strong leadership of government and support from multi-stakeholders, it would be possible to establish nutrition-friendly institutions with adequate infrastructure, trained human resources on nutrition; equipment, and information to deliver quality services.
4.4.1.	Support MoFAGA for rolling out Nutrition Friendly Local Governance through Nutrition Score Card (NSC) <sup>50</sup>
4.4.2.	Establish or revitalize a technical working group with multi-stakeholders to support NINFSS activities under MSNP
4.4.3.	Advocate to embed social accountability <sup>51</sup> at the local level under MSNP III
4.4.4.	Facilitate to conduct budget expenditure analysis to identify available and funding gaps for nutrition actions <sup>52</sup>
4.4.5.	Conduct Annual Resource Mobilization Roundtable (RM-RT) event to SUN 3.0 with support from GSS <sup>53</sup>

# Chapter 4

## Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

### 4.1 Strategic milestones of the SUN 3.0 Operational Plan

The strategic milestones are developed based on strategic objectives set and guided by SUN 3.0 global strategy and are divided into four major categories namely programmatic, process, policy and impact (Figure 5). These milestones are recommended to be taken into consideration while designing the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the forthcoming MSNP III.

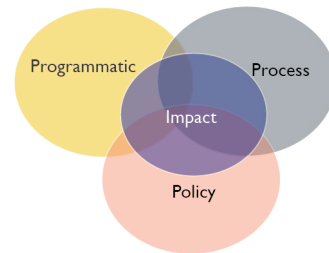


Figure 5: Domains to assess the strategic milestones of SUN OP 3.0

#### Programmatic milestones

- Domestic funding for nutrition increases and leverage of public-private funds.
- Donors mobilize both long-term and short-term funding for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in all its forms and recognize acute malnutrition as a long-term development issue.

#### Process milestones:

- Nepal is well represented in the SUN Movement's structures (Lead Group, Executive Committee, and SUN Movement Secretariat).
- By 2025, Nepal improves its performance on nutrition indicators and is known as the front-running country in meeting its global commitments.
- Well-functioning SUN networks: Civil Society Network including Youth, Business Network, UN Network, Academia Network, and Donor Network as relevant<sup>54</sup>.
- Local governments are capacitated, especially in prioritized and vulnerable areas, to deliver nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs as defined by the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan.
- Nutrition governance and planning processes are clearly defined.
- Increased youth engagement, as measured by the number of youth champions

and their participation on SUN platforms.

### Impact milestones

- The annual decline in malnutrition is in line with the progress needed to meet SDG 2 targets on nutrition<sup>55</sup> and food security.
- WHA targets (by 2025), N4G commitments, and SDGs targets are met (by 2030).

## 4.2 Key results to be monitored

SUN movement’s Theory of Change (ToC) as demonstrated in Figure 6, shows how multiple stakeholders from different sectors come together, change their behaviors, mobilize resources, and align implementation efforts to achieve results, ultimately improving nutrition status. SUN OP 3.0’s MEAL framework is guided by the movement’s ToC. Nepal has made several international commitments and monitoring the progress against this global commitment is pivotal. Thus, the MEAL Framework of this OP has monitoring indicators aligned to N4G, SDGs, and WHA targets<sup>56</sup>. Largely, the M & E framework of MSNP III and its implementation will contribute to assessing the impact, evidence generation, and knowledge management of SUN OP 3.0.

Vision	By 2030, a world free from malnutrition in all its forms. Led by countries and governments, supported by organizations and individuals – collective action ensures every child, adolescent, mother, and family can realize their right to food and nutrition, reach their full potential and shape sustainable and prosperous societies			
Goal	Speeding up progress towards WHA global targets on all forms of malnutrition			
Outcomes	Outcome 1: Greater priority given to nutrition in national development		Outcome 2: Country priorities scaled up	
Strategic Objectives	1: Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments to position nutrition outcomes	2: Develop and align shared country priorities for action	3: Build and strengthen country capacity with technical assistance and knowledge management	4: Ensure SUN governance promotes country leadership and government responsibilities, aligns resources and strengthens mutual accountabilities
Approach	Collective, coherent, and evidence-based action leads to accelerated improvement in nutrition outcomes and systemic change at the national and subnational level			

Fundamental Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food systems deliver healthy, accessible, affordable, and sustainable foods</li> <li>• Health systems provide quality nutrition services for all, including in hard-to-reach areas</li> <li>• Social protection systems integrate nutrition outcomes, particularly those focusing on the first 1,000 days, from conception to two years of age</li> <li>• Private sector (including large, medium, and small food and non-food businesses) shifts its resource base/core business towards improved nutrition and aligns with global and national norms</li> <li>• Girl's education is crucial to an improved nutrition legacy</li> <li>• Safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services support improved nutrition outcomes</li> <li>• Improved nutrition leads to gender equality and improved gender equality leads to improved nutrition</li> <li>• Nutrition placed at the forefront of tackling the climate crisis on national and international agendas</li> <li>• Independent humanitarian space and humanitarian actors are promoted and protected to provide impartial needs-based assistance and humanitarian assistance leveraged to deliver nutrition in countries affected by fragility and conflict and other humanitarian contexts</li> <li>• Promotion of civil society and community-based organizations to ensure community voices are heard</li> </ul>
-------------------	---

*Figure 6: Theory of Change of SUN 3.0 (Adapted)*

Besides, ensuring the alignment of MEAL framework with SUN 3.0 Strategy and its theory of change, MEAL of this operational plan has taken the following assumptions/ concepts into account during its development.

1. Multiple stakeholders from different sectors come together to tackle malnutrition and build an enabling environment for improving nutrition with equity.
2. Multiple stakeholders from different sectors change their behaviors and commit to achieving common nutrition results for everyone, everywhere.
3. Multiple stakeholders mobilize resources and align implementation to optimize the coverage and effectiveness of their actions.
4. Results are achieved by ensuring alignment during planning and implementation in a far greater way than what could have been achieved by each stakeholder on its own.
5. Women, children, adolescents, and families thrive leading to the end of malnutrition by 2030.

Key Outcomes of SUN OP 3.0	Results to be recorded, monitored, analyzed and reported
<p><b>Outcome 1: Greater priority is given to nutrition in national development.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MSNP III and SUN OP 3.0 are coherent.</li> <li>- Sectoral policies and plans coherent with MSNP/ Nutrition in sectoral policies and plans.</li> <li>- Legislation in place that enables effective nutrition actions.</li> <li>- Integrated and one-door policy in place for program implementation, resource mobilization, and monitoring.</li> <li>- Functional Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee (at all levels) including SUN networks/ alliances (UN agencies, CSOs, businesses, donors, academia)</li> <li>- Youth representation in SUN structures and networks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 2: Country priorities scaled up.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gradual increase in resource mobilization for nutrition by government/sectoral ministries, development partners, private sector, and civil society.</li> <li>- Reduced funding gap for evidence-based high-impact nutrition interventions (both nutrition-specific and sensitive)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased coverage of services for nutrition</li> <li>- Increased food security at the household level</li> <li>- Improved supply of quality food.</li> <li>- Equitable distribution of resources and core nutrition actions at the sub-national level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 3: Country capacity strengthened.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress in the four SUN Movement processes<sup>57</sup> and related progress markers and evidence.</li> <li>- Existence of well-functioning integrated information systems for nutrition</li> <li>- Enhanced capacity of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms to coordinate their partners' response to identified annual priority action areas in the Joint-Annual Assessments</li> <li>- Improved Compliance of partners with the SUN Movement Principles of Engagement</li> <li>- Evidence-informed national multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder action plans executed</li> <li>- Common Results Framework developed adapting to the changing environment.</li> <li>- Mobilization of high-level advocates (champions, parliamentarians, media)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Outcome 4: Governance promoting country leadership and mutual accountability strengthened</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roles and responsibilities are agreed upon and understood by all SUN Movement actors.</li> <li>- All stakeholders embrace routine accountability.</li> <li>- The 360-degree accountability mechanism is implemented successfully.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal:</b> Progress towards WHA global targets on reducing all forms of malnutrition advanced.</p>	<p>Progress toward WHA global nutrition targets Prevalence of malnutrition in all its forms</p>

### 4.3 Accountability of SUN 3.0 Operational Plan

NPC, sectoral ministries together with all SUN networks and stakeholders should align and support the implementation of SUN-OP and MSNP-defined interventions and are accountable for the results of MSNP III. SUN network partners will coordinate with various concerned sectoral ministries supporting the MSNP vision and goals, using the existing MSNP platform to facilitate the strengthening of a conducive environment.

SUN OP 3.0 recommends the promotion of a 360-degree perspective to assess the mutual accountability of the Movement actors at all levels. For this, an online engagement survey can be conducted to allow all Movement actors to express their views on how well different SUN components are working at various levels. The potential questions may include the extent of facilitation of the Executive Committee in supporting the SUN Coordinator, the Secretariat, and networks. A few other questions may include how well the NPC and sectoral ministries are facilitating the prioritization and implementation of action plans; how well the national, provincial, and local SUN networks or stakeholders working on nutrition are supporting provincial and local priorities; how well donors are coordinating their actions at the national levels; how well the SUN Coordinator is articulating the needs of nutrition for advocacy in the wider development landscape; and how well the actions of NPC, sectoral ministries and multistakeholder platforms are aligned with National Development Plans, global initiatives, and commitments (WHA, SDGs 2030)<sup>58</sup>. Moreover, NNFSP can be strengthened to capture, leverage and disseminate key lessons and opportunities for improvement as a part of learning and knowledge management. While SUN 3.0 Global Accountability Framework is being finalized at the Global level, NNFSCC with support from NNFSS should guide to define how this can be adapted in the country context for strengthening and tracking accountability at all levels.

**Tracking donor financing for nutrition-specific actions:** There should be a national system to track progress in key areas of nutrition financing. SUN donor network should support the NPC and Ministry of Finance to follow up on donor reporting in nutrition for Nepal through the online system.

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Nepal's Commitment for Nutrition for Growth (N4G) 2021 commitments, SDGs Commitments
- <sup>2</sup> A multi-sector approach to nutrition—one that systematically and comprehensively engages multiple sectors and/or agencies—is the most effective way to address malnutrition.
- <sup>3</sup> Health, Agriculture and Livestock, Governance, Education, WASH, and Women and Children.
- <sup>4</sup> SUN Networks includes – CSA network (includes youth), Academia Network, UN Network, Donor Network, Business Network.
- <sup>5</sup> Mobilizing and advocating for impact, Building and sustaining nutrition champions
- <sup>6</sup> As defined within MSNP and National Nutrition Strategy
- <sup>7</sup> In Nepal, the government has nominated SUN Government Focal Point/ SUN Country Coordinator (Joint Secretary of Social Development and Good Governance Division, National Planning Commission as SUN Government Focal Point) who convenes multi-stakeholder platforms, including SUN networks, to bring together actors from all sectors. SUN Country Coordinator also focuses on its work with multiple stakeholders to create an enabling environment at all levels of government that are relevant for effective nutrition actions.
- <sup>8</sup> Mainly the recommendation for MSNP III
- <sup>9</sup> In addition to gender, the main causes of undernutrition are inadequate access to nutritious and diverse food, poor use of available foods, infectious diseases due to unsafe water and poor hygiene, untimely treatment of diseases, poor use of health services, heavy workloads and poor awareness.
- <sup>10</sup> 2016 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey.
- <sup>11</sup> MoH, New Era and ICF 2017 and \* CBS 2015
- <sup>12</sup> The fifteenth plan, GoN
- <sup>13</sup> The meeting of the HLPF in 2021 was held from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. High-Level Political Forum 2021 (HLPF 2021): Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (un.org)
- <sup>14</sup> Nepal's Commitment for Nutrition for Growth (N4G); Tokyo, Japan; December 7-8, 2021
- <sup>15</sup> Overall coordination for the SUN Movement takes place at global level through Global Support System (GSS). Enhanced mechanisms for decentralization will be explored during the first year of SUN 3.0 to improve coordination and support to countries (like Nepal) for approval by the Executive Committee. The SUN Global Support System, including different networks, works seamlessly together in providing support to countries, at the international, regional and country levels.
- <sup>16</sup> The objective of this JAA includes demonstrating the contribution of Country-level stakeholders to overall progress towards nutrition, documenting the alignment of efforts and investments of stakeholders with country's priorities, modeling the commitment to accountability towards SUN movement as a SUN member country and advocating for nutrition within the country, and the way forward.
- <sup>17</sup> SUN Strategy 3.0
- <sup>18</sup> Identified by MSNP II Review, Secondary data analysis, KII to local level, provincial coordinators, sectoral ministries
- <sup>19</sup> Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interview at Provincial and Local level highlighted this issue.
- <sup>20</sup> MSNP focal person from sectoral ministries, civil society network representatives, business network representatives - private sector working in the field of nutrition, youth organization
- <sup>21</sup> SUN 3.0 Strategy (2021-2025)
- <sup>22</sup> Functionality of steering committee: effective coordination and follow up from NNFSS/Provincial coordinators, MSNP volunteers. Human Resources: Vacant at health facilities at few places, in new-set up following federalization – inadequate technical assistance as one provincial coordinator oversee the implementation in over 100 municipalities while in unitary governance system there used to be a District Coordinator in each district to support MSNP implementation. Positioning and role of district coordination committee.

- <sup>23</sup> The Joint Monitoring Visit from MSNP defined multi-sectoral focal points from different ministries and stakeholders, SUN Network members (as per the need and feasibility).
- <sup>24</sup> These discussions should include progress, alignment and compliance with nutrition agenda and protocol.
- <sup>25</sup> Provide strategic guidance and support in achieving targets; Undertake and lead representation, advocacy, and liaison tasks with multi-stakeholders; providing updates on progress against the SUN Movement's Strategy and its deliverables; Promote direct communication between different networks on policy and program issues; Monitor the SUN Movement's progress towards key targets and regularly report to the Executive Committee and take joint responsibility, along with the government sectors and different networks, to ensure adequate and predictable resources for all as defined under MSNP and SUN OP 3.0 for Nepal.
- <sup>26</sup> The ToR has been finalized and as of Feb 2022, the network has planned for wider dissemination in coming month.
- <sup>27</sup> SUN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK 3.0 STRATEGY (2021–2025)
- <sup>28</sup> Standing Together for Nutrition (STfN) formed as a multidisciplinary consortium of nutrition, economics, food and health system experts working to address the scale and reach of COVID-related nutrition challenges.
- <sup>29</sup> Derived from the Senior Officials meeting on nutrition held in Ottawa November 30 and December 1, 2010, between donors and development partners, these principles highlight what is needed to emulate the hallmarks of effective partnerships to ensure successful roll-out of the SUN and the achievement of results. [https://8b61f43a-b396-45da-b285-91e7ac59c2a6.filesusr.com/ugd/cc1040\\_6faa65d3d49b4a2bb51d797368fd56d5.pdf?index=true](https://8b61f43a-b396-45da-b285-91e7ac59c2a6.filesusr.com/ugd/cc1040_6faa65d3d49b4a2bb51d797368fd56d5.pdf?index=true)
- <sup>30</sup> Learnings from Peru, Brazil, Thailand and the Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Championing nutrition: Effective leadership for action | IFPRI: International Food Policy Research Institute
- <sup>31</sup> SUN 3.0 Strategy 2021-2025 - Strategic shifts from SUN 2.0 to SUN 3.0
- <sup>32</sup> SUN Strategy 3.0 (2021-2025)
- <sup>33</sup> Based on recommendations from MTR & SR and guidance from Lead Group in Sep 2019.
- <sup>34</sup> The national nutrition strategy is recommended to be reviewed in the view of Nutrition for Growth 2021 commitment incorporating details of quality-of-care standards for nutrition services in a way to ensure effective integration of nutrition within universal health coverage.
- <sup>35</sup> Strategies related to other sectors namely WASH, Education, Agricultural development, Livestock development, Women, Children and Senior Citizen and local governance should be reviewed for mainstreaming nutrition. The MSNP II describes the interventions for each nutrition sensitive services. The data on those interventions should be reported (via the portal or as agreed with NPC) and analyzed by respective sectors and provided to NPC for a collective analysis. The sectoral ministries should share the challenges and difficulties faced in execution in a timely manner to NPC.
- <sup>36</sup> SUN Networks consist of multi-stakeholder groups with experts. These networks should engage with different sectors to support in MSNP implementation for building stronger and feasible policies and plans (including work with local government). SUN Network members can assist with Technical Assistance to develop policy and plans.
- <sup>37</sup> Statistically significant representative sample at province levels should be considered for this trend analysis.
- <sup>38</sup> SUN Networks with support from NNFSS (NPC) and Sectoral ministries<sup>38</sup> conducts round table discussion and provides TA around the below mentioned topics. These round table discussions should target decision makers and law makers (such as parliamentarians, relevant parliamentary committees, experts to review and draft act/regulations etc.) to guide for the tangible actions and make relevant policies and regulations.
- <sup>39</sup> Engage political leaders and elected representatives in nutrition platforms to create advocacy packages to roll out at local level focusing on nutrition related policies, plans, regulation and legislation.
- <sup>40</sup> This also includes province level coordination platform strengthening with support from other actors and mobilization of SUN Networks – as this will act as a link between municipalities and NNFSS. Nutrition for Growth commitment also highlights the importance to ensure active functioning of nutrition platforms for effective implementation of nutrition-related acts, policies, strategies and plans. Unfolding NNFSS role based



on learnings for MSNP III. Meeting's hosted by secretariate needs to have well discussed agenda and a system for follow up of recommendation

<sup>41</sup> Discussion includes progress, alignment and compliance with nutrition agenda and protocol.

<sup>42</sup> During the implementation of this operational plan if there are any emerging issues or challenges SUN Country Coordinator would discuss with Sectoral ministries, SUN Networks as well as seek support from GSS to address those issues and challenges.

<sup>43</sup> These guideline and tools should include a process for all level to develop a costed periodic plan for a multi-sectoral nutrition program at federal, provincial, and local levels that will ensure allocation of budget in the direction to meet the nutrition needs of the most vulnerable as well as socially and economically marginalized people in development and humanitarian situation.

<sup>44</sup> Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions

<sup>45</sup> Some of the recommendations are: Collaboration with universities to develop capacity on nutrition research and carry-out cutting-edge scientific research to inform policy and programing. Documentation of the nutrient profile of indigenous crops and prioritization of available funds to conduct nutrition research and evaluation. Evaluate the effectiveness of nutrition, sensitive intervention such as food assistance programs especially providing food in educational institutions

<sup>46</sup> Joint Monitoring Visit As defined within MSNP II guided by NNFSCC. As relevant this should also include District Coordination Committee's engagement to monitor within provinces as specified in MSNP II (2016-22) and also SUN Networks where ever feasible and relevant

<sup>47</sup> Four SUN processes include: (P1) Bringing people together into a shared space for action: Enabling environment; (P2) Ensuring a coherent policy & legal framework: Enacted Legislations; (P3) Aligning actions around common results: Interventions & Food Supply; SDGs Drivers of Nutrition & IYCF & Dietary intake; (P4) Tracking finance and mobilizing resources: Finance for Nutrition

<sup>48</sup> The JAA consists of two components: the consultation meeting and the JAA report. The consultation meeting feeds into the completion of the report. The JAA contains 15 progress markers to ensure a minimum level of continuity in relation to overall monitoring in Nepal and then to global level. The markers allow to self-reflect and rank Nepal's progress in important areas at the end of each section. Following the JAA, a strategic discussion between the SUN GSS and the SUN Country Focal for Nepal should lead to a documentation with an agreed set of support actions that will be implemented over the coming year as part of this operational plan. The agreed actions will be reviewed during country calls and adjusted through mutual agreement.

<sup>49</sup> Mechanisms to be established to monitor whether SUN values are being upheld by SUN network members

<sup>50</sup> Introducing Nutrition Score Card (NSC) – to support Nutrition friendly local governance -A score card which ranks local government on their adoption of nutrition targets and progress towards the national and local nutrition targets. The score card can reflect on how the Municipality/ Rural Municipality is performing, in regard to level of engagement and progress as high, medium, low, very low, no or insufficient data.

<sup>51</sup> Sharing of experience of stakeholder on their experience with social accountability

<sup>52</sup> Conducting Financial Gap Analysis: To successfully advocate for funding for MSNP), it is not only important to know how much the plan costs (i.e., its budget), but it is equally important to identify the financial gaps of the plan. A financial gap analysis will provide information for understanding the extent to which funds are allocated to and amongst the MSNP's strategic objectives and its results to implement the activities at the required scale to meet nutrition targets. The financial gap analysis is, therefore, a key tool for preparing resource mobilization events and for planning and administering the financing to come. Knowledge of the MSNP's financial gap will permit the NPC, Sectoral Ministries and its nutrition partners, including donors, to improve planning and prioritization of key nutrition interventions, advocate for and support resource mobilization for the plan and increase accountability for the implementation of the plan. As the current COVID-19 global pandemic or other global or national health/financial/political crises will exacerbate challenges in fundraising for nutrition, conducting a financial gap analysis in such times, combined with an assessment of impact of prioritized and deprioritized interventions within MSNP can be a powerful tool to maintain some momentum for nutrition spending in countries. Guide and Tools for the gap analysis as

recommended by MQSUN+ 089\_Financial-Gap-Analysis-Tool\_v2.1.xlsx (live.com)

<sup>53</sup> Annual Resource Mobilization Roundtable event to SUN 3.0: Support from GSS: The main goal of this annual Resource Mobilization- Round Table (RM-RT) is to support the longer-term process of mobilizing resources for adequate funding and the full implementation of this plan, MSNP and National Nutrition Strategy. Common steps in this process of resource mobilization includes Identifying resource partners, engaging for policy and practice, negotiating for commitments, Managing and reporting and Communicating results for trust, visibility and accountability. The specific objectives for the resource mobilization roundtable include: Sharing of the government's vision for nutrition, as mentioned in the MSNP, & demonstrate its importance & the government's commitment to its implementation. Securing the engagement and buy-in of all sectors and development partners for the implementation of the MSNP and ensuring resource commitments for the implementation of the MSNP aligning to the costed plan. (As of February 2020, 14 countries in the SUN Movement had shared plans to hold a national resource mobilization event for nutrition)

<sup>54</sup> Such as: Events organized jointly by SUN networks at the local, provincial and federal level

<sup>55</sup> Wasting, stunting, overweight and anemia

<sup>57</sup> The four SUN movement processes are according to the four strategic objectives as reflected in the SUN3.0 strategy and supported by global networks (Financial tracking & resource mobilization; Common result framework, Coherent policy & legal framework and Bringing people together). These four processes in Nepal should be supported by SUN Networks mainly Donor, UN, CSO and Business.

<sup>58</sup> Nutrition for Growth, SUN Movement, WHA targets, SDGs targets



**Disclaimer:** This document is prepared with the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this document are the responsibility of National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government

