

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU ACTION PLAN ON NUTRITION

*A contextual analysis of Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan
and Zambia*

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Lead researcher and author:

Marjolein Smit-Mwanamwenge

Marjolein Smit-Mwanamwenge

is a public health nutritionist with more than 12 years of work experience in Sub Saharan Africa, particularly in Zambia. Her main field of interest is the role of agriculture, food systems and diets in improving nutrition and advocacy to place nutrition and diets in the wider policy space.

Marjolein is currently working as a nutrition consultant.

Lead editor and project manager:

Martine Billanou, Alliance2015

Senior Programme Officer

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FOREWORD

It is with great appreciation for the work across multiple stakeholders in our five focus countries including Alliance2015 itself, that we invite you to engage with the analysis offered in this paper as an expert audience.

As an European alliance of globally active NGOs, whose overarching strategic aim to become more effective joint actors in building community resilience is rooted in a strong focus on food and nutrition security, we are committed to supporting and boosting the EU's global leadership on nutrition. Each year as we launch our Global Hunger Index, we engage our EU counterparts on what the data trends are telling us and what we think we, and they, must do more at global, regional, national and - critically - sub-national level to keep driving down the numbers suffering from all forms of malnutrition. This new research enables a conversation more closely tailored to the design of the EU's own Nutrition Action Plan 2014-2020, and to strategies to ensure its delivery and to design its follow up, rooted in country analysis. By zooming in on the varied but deeply challenging contexts of Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan and Zambia the paper offers a snapshot of important strides made, but equally vital gaps remaining. With a new EU Multiannual Financial Framework now coming clearly into view, and also at the midpoint of the current EU Nutrition Action Plan, the paper shows us that the time to actively step up nutrition-sensitive approaches across sectors (including the private sector intervening in relevant humanitarian and development sectors) is now; it validates the relevance of specific, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches, in particular suggesting the positive effects of enhancing

gender approaches, building nutrition capacity of the agricultural sector, strengthening resilience, and supporting nutrition and gender sensitive value chains for smallholder farmers. Finally, it emphasizes how vital an ongoing, evidence-based dialogue on nutrition is between the whole range of actors, from smallholder farmers, local associations, private sector, governance and research bodies at all levels. We at Alliance2015 appreciate the chance to contribute this very concrete analysis to the ongoing dialogue, at country, regional and EU level, firm in our belief that with continuing leadership, fulfilment of financial pledges, constructive partnerships and smart deployment of the knowledge we already have and will continue to gather, the EU's goals on nutrition can be met and even surpassed as we move towards the delivery of SDG 2.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antonia Potter Prentice".

Antonia Potter Prentice

Director, Alliance2015

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ABBREVIATIONS

3N	Nigeriens Nourish Nigeriens
A15	Alliance2015
AAP	Annual Action Programme
ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy (Nepal)
AfIF	African Investment Facility
BMI	Body Mass Index
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CARD	Contribution to Agriculture and Rural Development
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
CRIS	Common External Relations Information System
CRS	Credit Reporter System
CSO-LA	Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities
CWW	Concern Worldwide
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DAG	Development Assistance Group (Ethiopia)
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
DFID	Department for International Development
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EC	European Commission
EDF	European Development Fund
EEAS	European External Action Service
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
EU	European Union
FIRST	Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation
FNSSA	Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GoS	Government of Sindh (Pakistan)
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan (Ethiopia)
HAD	Health Development Army

ABBREVIATIONS

HSTP	Health Sector Transformation Plan (Ethiopia)
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
INFORMED	Information for Nutrition, Food Security and Resilience for Decision making
MCDP	1,000 Most Critical Days Program (Zambia)
MFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (Zambia)
MIP	Multiannual Indicative Plan
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture (Zambia)
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Ethiopia)
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MSNP	Multi Sector Nutrition Plan (Nepal)
MYCNISA	Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative in Asia
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission (Zambia)
NIP	National Indicative Plan
NIPN	National Information Platform for Nutrition
NNCB	National Nutrition Coordinating Body (Ethiopia)
NNIS	National Nutrition Information System (Nepal)
NNTC	National Nutrition Technical Committee (Ethiopia)
NPC	National Planning Commission (Nepal)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
REACH	Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
VDC	Village Development Committee (Nepal)
WAVE	Water and Agriculture based Village Enhancement
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHH	Welthungerhilfe
ZIPFN	Zambia Information Platform on Food and Nutrition
TCF	Technical Cooperation Facility

1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Child stunting is a largely irreversible outcome of inadequate nutrition and repeated bouts of infection during the first 1,000 days of a child's life, starting from conception. Childhood stunting affects approximately 155 million children under the age of five worldwide (WHO, UNICEF, & WB, 2017). In 2012, the World Health Assembly (WHA) endorsed six specific global nutrition targets for 2025, including a goal to reduce by 40% the number of children under five who are stunted.

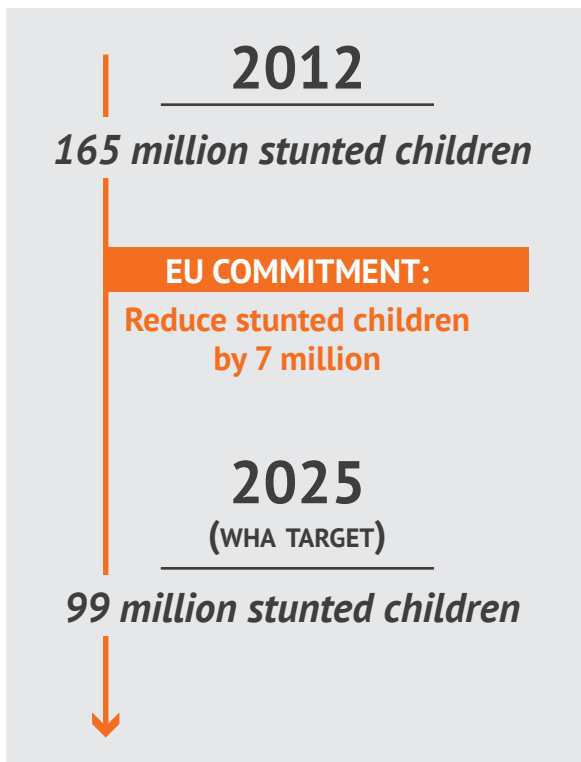


Figure 1 | WHA and EU stunting reduction targets

The European Union (EU) made several commitments to contribute to the reduction of stunting. Firstly, in 2012, the EU committed to support partner countries in reducing the number of stunted children under the age of five by at least 7 million, which corresponds to approximately 10% of the WHA target (Figure 1). Secondly, the EU pledged to allocate 3.5 billion Euros¹ for nutrition in 2014-2020 to achieve its objective of reducing stunting and thirdly, the EU committed to develop a Nutrition Action Plan describing how the EU will use the funds to reach its 7 million stunting reduction target (EU, 2014).

1.2. Alliance2015

Alliance2015 is a strategic partnership of seven European non-governmental organisations engaged in humanitarian and development activities. Alliance2015 members are ACTED (France), Cesvi (Italy), Concern Worldwide (Ireland), HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (Switzerland), Hivos (The Netherlands), People in Need (Czech Republic) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany). The Alliance2015 aims to fight poverty more effectively by cooperating on various levels, working together in the least developed countries and influencing together at EU level.

¹ - 410 million EUR for nutrition specific interventions and 3.1 billion EUR for nutrition

1.3. Study objectives

This study provides a contextual analysis of the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition in Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan and Zambia. The study aims to increase the understanding of the Alliance2015 members and their peer actors on the scope and operations, commitments and challenges of the EU with regards to the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition. The study intends to better inform the desire to engage with the EU on these important shared objectives at both country and global level. The study highlights the successes and gaps in the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition and provides recommendations for advocacy.

1.4. Scope of work

This study reviewed the EU support towards the three specific objectives of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition; (1) enhance mobilisation and political commitment, (2) scaling up nutrition, and (3) strengthening expertise and knowledge for nutrition.

The study selected five countries (Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan and Zambia) based on the high prevalence of stunting and the presence of the Alliance2015 members. The study was conducted based on the analysis of open access documents through the EU website, including National Indicative Plans (NIP), Annual Action Plans (AAP), EC country profiles on nutrition, relevant programme documents and project descriptions of disbursements on the OECD-DAC resource tracker. Phone interviews were conducted with members of the Alliance2015 and EU delegations (both ECHO and DEVCO) in the respective countries (see Annex 2). The study

focused on programmes that were largely implemented under the current NIP (2014-2020).

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) resource tracking methodology was applied to define the intensity to which the funded programmes contributed to nutritional outcomes. A weighting factor of 100% was applied when the programme's main objectives, results, outcomes and indicators were nutrition-sensitive whilst a weighting factor of 25% was applied when part of the programme was nutrition-sensitive, based on the criteria defined by the SUN Donor Network (SUN Donor Network, 2013).

1.4.1. LIMITATIONS

The study method used was intended to provide a better understanding of the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition at country level. The study is desk based and therefore, as an outsider it is difficult to fully appreciate all nuances of the institutional and political environment and the implementation of the EU funded programmes within a limited time frame. The review is largely based on personal interviews with staff from the European External Action Service (EEAS), DG ECHO and Alliance2015 members and programme documents and therefore, may be biased. Although programme documents such as the AAPs include programme specifics such as objectives, fields of intervention, expected results, and budgets, the documents are indicative and adaptations may have been made during further design and programming phases. In addition, their online programme documentation is limited and Alliance2015 members have limited knowledge about the work of the EU at country level.

2

EU POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

2.1. EU policy framework for nutrition

In 2010, the EC issued “an **EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges**”. This policy framework identified food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture among the EU’s key priorities for development cooperation. It prioritised actions to improve food security, including increasing availability of food, improving access to food, improving nutritional adequacy of food intake and enhancing crisis prevention and management. This framework was followed by a **Food Security Implementation Plan**, which was issued to define an operational response to deliver on food security and nutrition policy commitments. Nutrition received particular attention in 2013 when the EU adopted a communication “**Enhancing maternal and**

child nutrition in external assistance: an EU policy framework, aiming to enhance maternal and child nutrition by reducing mortality, morbidity, as well as growth and development deficiencies due to undernutrition. Specifically, the framework aimed to reduce the prevalence of stunting and wasting. Strategic priorities centred around enhancing mobilization and political commitment for nutrition, scaling up nutrition interventions and strengthening technical expertise on nutrition and knowledge on nutrition for decision making (EC, 2013). The related Council conclusions invited the European Commission to develop an Action Plan on Nutrition setting out how it will deliver on its stunting target (Council of EU, 2013). In 2014, the EU published the **EU Action Plan on Nutrition**, with strategic priorities centred on political mobilization, scaling up of nutrition actions and knowledge for nutrition (See 1).

Strategic priorities under the EU plan of Action for Nutrition

- › **Enhance mobilisation and political commitment** by strengthening and maintaining political commitment and good governance at country and international level
- › **Scale up actions** at country level on strengthening capacity and institutions for effective delivery of services relevant to nutrition, and scaling up nutrition specific and nutrition-sensitive actions
- › **Strengthening the expertise and knowledge** base for nutrition

2.2. EU Programming and financing instruments

The key EU programming framework at country level is the National Indicative Programme (NIP), which reflects an agreement between a country’s government and the local EU delegation on sectoral priorities. NIPs represent an important step in the programming of EU aid under the European Development Funds (EDF), whilst the Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIP) reflect the thematic programmes and instruments. The indicative programmes are developed in close collaboration with partner countries and stakeholders, including the UN, NGOs and the private sector. The EU funding

generally focuses on a maximum of three sectors per country. The NIPs are in line with the EU’s vision for development cooperation and the “Agenda for Change”, which calls for resources to be targeted where they are most needed and can be the most cost effective (EC, 2014). The EU budget for development cooperation is divided into different funding instruments, which provide a legal basis for the implementation of various programmes (see Table 1). The instruments have either a geographical or thematic focus. The EDF provides the EU’s largest amount of funding to Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, whilst the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) includes both geographical and thematic programmes.

Geographical instruments and programmes	Thematic instruments and programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Development Cooperation Instrument › European Development Fund › European Neighbourhood Instrument › Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities thematic programme (CSO-LA) (under DCI) › Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › <i>Environment and climate change</i> › <i>Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture and fisheries</i> › <i>Human development</i> › <i>Migration and asylum</i> › <i>Sustainable energy</i> › European instrument for Democracy and Human rights › Instrument contributing to stability and peace

Table 1 | Geographical and thematic funding instruments of the EU

3

THE EU ACTION PLAN ON NUTRITION

3.1. *Enhanced mobilisation and political commitment*

The first strategic objective of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition is to enhance mobilisation and political commitment. Political commitment is required to reduce and eliminate malnutrition in all its forms by effective policy creation and implementation, and system wide commitment including human resource allocation and funding. Important distinctions can be made between political attention (often at a high level, such as mention in presidential speeches), political commitment (such as executive directives or setting of targets), and system-wide commitment (such as the allocation of the necessary authority, accountability, and resources to relevant bodies and the exercise of oversight) (Harris, et al., 2016). Challenges in building political commitment include cross-sector coordination, but also vertical coordination within ministries, as well as coordination among donors, the UN system and other agencies supporting nutrition in country (Harris, Haddad, & Seco-Grutz, 2014). The combined power of high-level political commitment for multi-sector action, a supportive policy environment across sectors and the scaling up of proven interventions, are key ingredients supporting change for improved nutrition (Eggensdorfer,

et al., 2016). SUN countries are proving that building alliances, which include critical sectors and committed stakeholders are transforming nutrition. The EU plays an important role in sharing, learning and building a culture of effective partnership in order to achieve the WHA targets for reducing stunting (Eggensdorfer, et al., 2016).

3.2. *Scaling up nutrition*

The 2013 Lancet series on Maternal and Child Nutrition stated that the “*Acceleration of progress in nutrition will require effective, large-scale nutrition-sensitive programmes that address key underlying determinants of nutrition and enhance the coverage and effectiveness of nutrition-specific interventions*”. However, the scaling up of key **nutrition-specific interventions** with a 90% coverage, will only reduce stunting by 20% (Bhutta, et al., 2013). Therefore, a nutrition-sensitive approach addressing the underlying causes of malnutrition is required. **Nutrition-sensitive interventions** should be supported by strong political and systemic processes that build and enable sustained momentum for nutrition and can create a stimulating environment in which young children can grow and develop to their full potential. The concept of nutrition-sensitive interventions operates on the assumption

that the achievement of nutrition goals is more likely when we leverage other development actors such as agriculture, social protection, and water and sanitation and by incorporating explicit nutrition objectives in their research and programmes (McDermott, Johnson, Kadiyala, & Kennedy, 2015). Nutrition-sensitive development is described in various ways, but always aims to address the underlying causes of undernutrition by intervening in key sectors. The definition from Ruel (2013) is as follows:

Nutrition-sensitive development seeks to promote interventions or programmes that address the underlying determinants of foetal and child nutrition and development – food security, adequate care-giving resources and the maternal household and community levels, and access to health services and a safe and hygienic environment – and incorporate specific nutrition goals and actions.

It is important to note the weight given to having **specific nutrition goals and actions** in the definition of nutrition-sensitive development. Being explicit about expected nutrition outcomes will encourage the generation of additional resources and allow careful monitoring of change in nutrition outcomes. Nutrition-sensitive interventions should make a conscious attempt to improve nutrition outcomes in addition to what would have occurred with a standard intervention. It should draw on the **best available evidence**, clearly specifying the **route from intervention to impact** and be **monitored** through the creation of relevant indicators along this pathway (ACF/IDS, 2013). Importance should be given to **targeting population groups and prioritizing the 1,000 days window of opportunity** and other vulnerable groups, considering gender equity and multi-sectoral planning. The characteristics of nutrition-sensitive development are provided in Table 2.

Characteristics of nutrition-sensitive development
(Mucha, 2014; SUN Donor Network, 2013; ACF/IDS, 2013)

Explicit nutrition goals; incorporates explicit nutrition goals/objectives into other sectoral policies, strategies and programmes or improves nutrition governance or increases nutrition-sensitive legislation.
Nutrition actions and interventions; has nutrition interventions, activities and actions based on best available evidence and contribute to nutrition-sensitive outcomes.
Prioritizing the 1,000 days window of opportunity; by targeting pregnant and lactating women with children under the age of two, adolescent girls or children.
Addresses the underlying determinants of malnutrition; including access to food, adequate caring capacity and access to health care and a healthy environment.
Measurable nutrition indicators; defines measureable nutrition impact and outcome indicators.
Minimizes negative nutritional consequences; minimizes the unintended negative nutritional consequences of interventions and mitigates potential harms.

Table 2 | Definition of nutrition-sensitive development

3.3. *Strengthening expertise and knowledge for nutrition*

Whereas there is a good understanding of the effectiveness of nutrition-specific interventions there is less evidence about the effectiveness of nutrition-sensitive interventions and policies. Future policies, strategies and activities on nutrition should be based, as much as possible, on evidence of their effectiveness and impact. Nutrition information is important for informing the decision-making process on nutrition. However, at country level, information is often scarce, incomplete, of low quality or is not adequately disaggregated. One of the main challenges in scaling up nutrition-sensitive programmes is defining objectives and indicators within the programmes' logical framework and monitoring framework. To achieve this, national policies need to implement coherent and complementary actions at a sectoral level. This includes developing knowledge on effective and evidence-based nutrition indicators pertinent to the activities and outcomes of nutrition-sensitive sectors (EU, 2016).

4

FINDINGS

4.1. National Indicative plans

The National Indicative Programmes represent an important step in programming EU aid under the European Development Fund. Table 3 shows the focal sectors of the NIPs for the period of 2008-2013 and 2014-2020. Niger is the only country with a specific key sector focusing on nutrition within the NIP. Nutrition is addressed under the key sector of sustainable rural development in Nepal and Pakistan, whilst addressed under agriculture, reduced poverty and improved livelihoods in Zambia. In Ethiopia, nutrition is addressed through two sectors; (1) sustainable agriculture & food security and (2) health.

All selected countries have a specific objective related to improving nutrition within one of their key sectors. Overall there is a clear shift of focus towards food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, when comparing the past and current NIP, which likely comes from the EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges.

Country	NIP 2008-2013	NIP 2014-2020
ETHIOPIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Transport and regional integration (250m) › Rural development and food security (130m) › Macroeconomic support and governance (244m) › Other programmes (20m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Sustainable agriculture & food security (252.4m) › Health (200m) › Roads and transition to energy (230m) › Cross cutting (62.2m)
NEPAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Education (72m) › Stability and peace (44.4m) › Trade facilitation and promotion of trade and economic activities (3.6m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Sustainable rural development (146m) › Education (136.4m) › Strengthening democracy and decentralization (74m) › Support measures (3.6m)

Table 3 | Priority sectors for NIP 2008-2013 and NIP 2014-2020 including budget (in millions of EURO)

NIGER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Support for rural growth and regional integration (including infrastructure and food security) › Governance and support for economic and institutional reforms › General budget support for implementation of poverty reduction strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Food and nutrition security and resilience (243m) › Reinforcing state capacities to implement social policies (200m) › Security, governance & peace consolidation (100m)
PAKISTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Rural development and natural resources management › Education and human resources development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Rural development (340m) › Education (210m) › Good governance, human rights & rule of law (97m)
ZAMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Regional integration and transport infrastructure (117m) › Human development, health (59m) › General budget support (232m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Improved access to clean, reliable and affordable energy (224m) › Agriculture, reduced rural poverty and improved livelihoods (110m) › Advanced democratic governance, accountability & state effectiveness (100m) › Cross cutting (30m)

Table 3 | Priority sectors for NIP 2008-2013 and NIP 2014-2020 including budget (in millions of EURO)

4.2. Ethiopia

4.2.1. NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN ETHIOPIA

The national prevalence of stunting in Ethiopia among children under five is 38%, affecting about 6 million children, whilst wasting stands at 10% (CSA & ICF, 2017). The nutritional status has improved since 2000, when more than half (51.5%) of the children under five were stunted. Chronic malnutrition among women in Ethiopia is high, with 22% of women having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of less than 18.5 kg/m², whilst 8% are overweight or obese. The prevalence of anaemia among children aged 6-59 months is 57% and 24% among women aged 15-49 years (CSA & ICF, 2017).

4.2.2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

In 2015, the Government of Ethiopia launched the ambitious Seqota Declaration, committing to reducing the prevalence of stunting to 20% and underweight to 15% by 2020 and ending child malnutrition by 2030. The Seqota Declaration builds on and supports the implementation of the National Nutrition Programme 2016-2020 (NNP-II). The NNP-II is a multi-sectoral nutrition strategy aiming to improve the coordination of the nutrition approaches through supporting service delivery, institutional strengthening and capacity building and provides a framework for strategic objectives and interventions in all relevant sectors. Governance, communication and

coordination for the NNP-II is supported by the National Nutrition Coordinating Body (NNCB) and the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC). The NNCB has limited power to influence all sectors to integrate nutrition into their relevant programmes. This is mainly because it is an ad hoc committee with no budgetary allocation or accountability towards a higher institution (EAS, 2013), but ongoing discussions are being held for the establishment of a National Nutrition Coordination Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister (EAS, 2013).

A series of ambitious Growth and Transformation Plans (GTPs) have set out the structural transformation of Ethiopia towards becoming a middle-income country by 2025. The GTP prioritizes agriculture as a driver of sustained economic growth and job creation. The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has demonstrated its commitment by mainstreaming nutrition in flagship programmes such as the Agricultural Growth Programme II (AGP-2) and the Productive Safety Net Programme IV (PSNP- 4). In 2016, the Minister of Agriculture spearheaded the development of a Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (NSASP, which was designed through a multi-stakeholder consultation. It aims to increase the production, access and consumption of diverse, safe and nutrient-dense foods from animal and plant sources for all people at all times, with a particular focus on resilience, gender, multi-sectoral coordination and improving the monitoring of agriculture's impact on nutrition (Jateno & Dufour, 2017). In 2005, the Government launched the

PSNP, which provides a predictable safety net support to chronically food insecure people. The Government has approved a National Social Protection Policy (2014) and a National Social Protection Strategy (2016), providing a solid policy foundation for the social protection sector.

In 2015, Ethiopia launched its ambitious five-year Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP). Its overall aim is to provide the highest possible quality of life for all citizen thanks to a comprehensive package of promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services and seeks to reduce child and maternal death by half in the next five years.

Ethiopia has recently embarked on a new social mobilisation scheme which is referred to as Health Development Army (HDA). HDA is a network of over three million women volunteers trained to promote health and prevent disease through community participation and empowerment. The HDA has effectively facilitated the identification of local salient bottlenecks that hinder families from utilising key maternal, neonatal and child health services and has come up with acceptable strategies for addressing ongoing issues.

4.2.3. ENHANCED MOBILIZATION AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

The Development Assistance Group (DAG) is composed of 30 bilateral and multilateral partners and was established to foster and catalyse policy dialogue and coordinate and harmonize development partners' support towards the government of Ethiopia. The DAG has several Technical Working Groups,

under which a sub group that constitutes itself as the Nutrition Development Partners' Group (NDPG), bringing together multilateral and bilateral agencies as well as the most important private foundations and NGOs working on nutrition. The EU is a member of the NDPG which is co-convened by DFID and UNICEF and meets on a quarterly basis (SUN, 2014).

The EU Delegation in Ethiopia has selected nutrition as the core theme through which to collaborate with Member States represented in Ethiopia and is an important donor in the nutrition sector. The EU along with 20 Member States plus Norway, endorsed the EU+ joint Cooperation Strategy for Ethiopia to ensure a coherent response to Ethiopia's development challenges. In 2014, the EU put forward the Roadmap for EU+ joint programming on nutrition to support the second national

nutrition programme (Figure 2). The multi-sectoral EU+ strategy supports the Ethiopia National Nutrition Programme (NNP II) and is in line with the EU Action Plan on Nutrition. The EU+ joint strategy advocates for a comprehensive funding mechanism for the NNP II and the DAG is closely involved in the coordination of the activities of the EU+ joint strategy. The strong and effective partnership of EU+ group embodies the new **European Consensus on Development**² promoting a more coordinated EU and Member States approach to development and joint programming and actions. The EU is also the lead agency for ensuring a gender balance and empowerment of women in nutrition related interventions and maintaining a level of coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development programmes related to nutrition.



Figure 1 | WHA and EU stunting reduction targets

2 - https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/european-development-policy/european-consensus-development_en

4.2.4. SCALING UP ACTIONS

4.2.4.1. Sectors and programmes related to nutrition supported by the EU

The EU and the Government of Ethiopia have identified two focal sectors for the NIP 2014-2020 in which nutrition is integrated; (1) Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security (€240 million) and (2) Health (€200 million). Ethiopia also receives funding through other initiatives including the Global Public Goods and Challenges Thematic Programme (e.g. FIRST).

Humanitarian assistance is needed in Ethiopia for multiple reasons, including droughts, internal conflicts and a large refugee population. Ethiopia is the second largest refugee hosting country in Africa with 883 000 registered refugees. ECHO spent a total of €294 million between 2014-2016 on food aid, material relief assistance and humanitarian and emergency relief. Table 4 provides an overview of the nutrition related (indicative) programmes funded by the EU under the 10th and 11th European Development Fund and other funding streams.

Programmes	Financial commitment (EUR)	Implementation modality	% of investment counted ³
ECHO			
› Various food aid, material relief and humanitarian/emergency relief programmes (2014-2016)	294 000 000 ⁴	Various	25
10th European Development Fund			
› Integrated Nutrition Services within the Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience initiative (SHARE) (2014-2017) ⁵	10 000 000	Indirect management with UNICEF & FAO	100
› Enhancing Skilled Delivery (ESDE) (2014-2017)	40 000 000	Indirect management with UNICEF & MDG pooled fund	25
11th European Development Fund			
› Support to Agricultural Growth Programme II and;	40 000 000	Indirect management with World Bank	25
› Complementary Action to Promote nutrition into AGP II (2016-2020) ⁶	5 000 000		100

Table 4 | Nutrition related programmes funded by EU in Ethiopia (2014-2018)

2 - https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/european-development-policy/european-consensus-development_en

3 - Percentage of investment counted for nutrition spending following SUN resource tracking methodology

4 - Based on CRS data for following sectors; 52010, 72010, 72040 and 72050 (361 000 000 US\$)

5 - CRIS number: 2012/024-355

6 - CRIS number: ET/FED/038-376

› Support to the Productive Safety Net Programme (2015-2020) ⁷	50 000 000	Indirect management with World Bank	25
› Support for National Information Systems for Nutrition ⁸	3 500 000	Grant to EPHI and IFRPI	100
› Addressing social determinants of health for gender equality (planning phase) ⁹	20 000 000	Grants	25
EU Trust Fund			
› Resilience building and creation of economic opportunities in Ethiopia (RESET II)	47 000 000 ¹⁰	Direct management (Grants)	25
EU global public goods & challenges			
› Fortified foods ¹¹	¹²	Technical assistance	
› Food and Nutrition Security, Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) (2016- present) ¹³	¹⁴	Direct management with FAO	
› Information for Nutrition, Food Security and Resilience for Decision Making (INFORMED) (2016- present) ¹⁵	¹⁶	Direct management with FAO	
Other funding streams			
› Inclusive and sustainable value chains and food fortification (2016-2021) ¹⁷	4 000 000	International Potato Centre	100

Table 4 | Nutrition related programmes funded by EU in Ethiopia (2014-2018)

⁷ - CRIS number: ET/FED/2014/037-775

⁸ - CRIS number: DCI-FOOD/2015/38-332

⁹ - CRIS number: ET/FED/040-410

¹⁰ - With EURO 30 000 000 from the allocation under NIP 20140-2020

¹¹ - CRIS number 2014/037-513

¹² - 5 500 000 for global programme; no country specific data available

¹³ - CRIS number: 2014/037-586

¹⁴ - 30 000 000 for the global programme; no country specific data available

¹⁵ - CRIS number: 2014/037-516

¹⁶ - 25 000 000 for the global programme; no country specific data available

¹⁷ - CRIS number: DCI-FOOD/2015/038-326 and EuropeAid/151093/DH/ACT/Multi\

4.2.4.2. Specific objectives and expected results of programmes

The **Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience (SHARE)** initiative aims to increase access to quality nutrition services and a better understanding of the importance of proper infant and young child feeding practices. The **Integrated Nutrition Services** project is an important component of the SHARE programme and contributes to the improvement of household nutrition and dietary diversification, especially for adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under five thanks to nutrition specific interventions (UNICEF) and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (FAO/MoANR).

The **Enhancing Skilled Delivery (ESDE)** programme aims to scale up maternal health and new-born care in order to reduce maternal and new-born deaths.

The **Agriculture Growth Programme II (AGP-II)** is a multi-donor financed programme designed to increase productivity and commercialization of smallholder farmers and contribute to dietary diversity at household level. Specific objectives include (1) increasing access to better quality public agricultural support services, (2) increasing the supply of demand-driven agricultural technologies that enhance productivity, nutrition and commercialization through agricultural research, (3) increasing access to and efficient utilization of irrigation water to boost crop productivity, (4) supporting farmers to commercialize through increased access to input and output markets and value chain development and (5) properly managing resources and implementing the activities in accordance with programme objectives. The programme addresses the adoption of climate smart and environment

friendly agricultural technologies and practices and gender and nutrition mainstreaming.

The **complementary support to the AGP II** aims to contribute to the goal of improving nutritional outcomes through strengthening the implementation of AGP II with regards to nutrition in order to improve dietary diversity and consumption of nutritious foods. This will lead to improved capacity of implementing agencies involved in the AGP II and the NNP II and improved knowledge regarding agricultural and nutrition linkages in Ethiopia.

The **Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)** started in 2003/04, but has undergone several transformations, including the addition of support to pregnant and lactating women in order to enhance nutritional outcomes. A soft conditionality is exercised to ensure that PLW participate in community based nutrition activities including Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) and Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP). The PSNP also promotes other links to social activities and services like day care and health and hygiene and is putting an emphasis on actions which support empowerment of women in general.

The **RESET II** programme addresses the root causes of displacement and irregular migration through the creation of economic opportunities and by strengthening the capacity for resilience of the most vulnerable communities. New in this second phase of the RESET Programme, is a multi-sector integrated approach with entry points for nutrition and food security. Nutrition will be mainstreamed to strengthen the creation of a national system for nutrition focused resilience initiatives. Nutrition related activities will include improved access to

basic health, nutrition and WASH services. The **Social Determinants of Health** programme aims to boost health and well-being by improving social determinants of health such as increasing access and quality of integrated nutrition services and enhancing dietary diversity.

The multi-country **inclusive and sustainable value chains and food fortification programme** aims to reduce poverty and improve the nutritional status. In Ethiopia, the International Potato Centre (CIP) is the lead of a consortium that supports the value chain of the orange fleshed sweet potatoes. The **Fortified Food** Programme strengthens the institutional and technical capacities with regards to food fortification.

4.2.4.3. Specific target groups of programmes

The **NNP** focuses on pregnant and lactating women and children and in particular on adolescent girls. The **AGP II** programme targets smallholder farmers (men, women and youth) residing in areas with the highest potential for agricultural growth whilst the **PSNP** programme targets the food insecure households in rural Ethiopia. The PSNP aims in particular to ensure that vulnerable households affected by nutrition emergencies are targeted. In addition, PLW and mothers with malnourished children included in the programmes will be given access to direct support for a certain period of time, in order to encourage early contact of pregnant women with health services. The nutrition component of the **SHARE** programme benefits over 750 000 mothers and children directly, whilst the **RESET II** programme focuses on vulnerable households in targeted

geographical clusters. However, as the **RESET II** programme has a strong nutrition component, there is a special, but not exclusive, focus on mothers and children. The **social determinants of health** programme put women and adolescents at the centre of the intervention. The **inclusive and sustainable value chains and food fortification programme** have a nutrition-sensitive target group, which provides 15.000 poor households with children under the age of 2 or PLW with access to guidance and knowledge required for homestead production of OFSP and improved nutritional status.

4.2.4.4. Main nutrition indicators used to measure success

The NIP 2014-2020 for Ethiopia is monitored based on a number of indicators, including the under-five stunting prevalence, average food gap of households, percentage of children (6-59 months) receiving vitamin A supplementation and a number of maternal health related indicators. Based on the choice of indicators, nutrition seems to be addressed mainly through the health sector and in the context of humanitarian aid. The indicators in the agriculture sector focus on agricultural productivity. There are no nutrition related indicators under the agriculture related objective.

Sector: Sustainable agriculture and food security	Means of verification
Specific objective 1. Increase agricultural production, productivity and improve marketing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Number of compliant animal health directives and guidelines prepared and implemented › Coffee exports (tons) › % of annual agricultural sector growth › Crop productivity (qt/ha) of major crops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Negarit gazette › MoA publications › MoT annual trade statistics › Reviews
Specific objective 2: Enhance participatory natural resources conservation and sustainable land management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Area of land rehabilitated and sustainably managed › Area covered by forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Report of MoA and the Ministry of Environment and forestry
Specific objective 3: Improve resilience and long term nutrition, including through Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) and safety nets/ social protection approaches	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Average food gap of HHs in chronically food insecure Woredas covered by PSNP › Number of common EU development and humanitarian programmes implemented › Under five prevalence of stunting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › IFPRI and IDS impact assessment › Programme and project reports › Annual nutrition programme report
Sector: Health	Means of verification
Specific objective 1. Further strenghten for universal coverage and quality of health services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › % of births attended by skilled heath personnel › Contraceptive prevalence rate – modern method › % of pregnant women who attended ANC › General practitioners and specialists to population ratio › External evaluation of HMIS reporting conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › DHS › HMIS
Specif obejctive 2: Contribute to the improvement of social and environmental conditions affecting health outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › % of children 6-59 months given vitamin A supplementation every 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Welfare Monitoring Survey

Table 5 | Indicators under "Reduced rural Poverty and improved livelihoods" of the NIP (2014- 2020)

However, a number of programmes funded by the EU do have more nutrition related indicators. The **NNP** aims to integrate appropriate nutrition-specific and sensitive indicators in sector based plans. A major step towards making agriculture in Ethiopia more nutrition-sensitive was the adoption of dietary diversity as an outcome indicator in the most recent report of the **Agriculture Growth Programme (AGP)** (FMoH, UNICEF, & EU, 2016). The **PSNP** monitoring framework includes indicators of participation in community based nutrition activities, household food security, diet diversity and child feeding practices.

4.2.5. STRENGTHEN EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE-BASE

There are number of programmes that support the strengthening of expertise and knowledge base for food and nutrition. The **INFORM** programme aims at providing technical, analytical and capacity building support to relevant government and regional institutions involved in food and nutrition security and resilience analysis for policy and programming design purposes. **FIRST** provided technical and policy advice for the implementation of the Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Strategic Plan (2016-2020) and supported capacity building for effective coordination. It also facilitated a capacity needs assessment to mainstream nutrition within the agriculture sector. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) chairs the Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Working Group of the National Nutrition Programme in Ethiopia, and is in charge of running the **National Information Platform on nutrition (NIPN)**, with technical support from the International Food Policy

Research Institute (IFPRI) and financial support from the EU. The NIPN is an initiative which provides support to countries by strengthening their information systems for nutrition and improving the analysis of data that informs the strategic decisions they are faced with when preventing malnutrition and its consequences. This collaborative effort also conducts research to identify the drivers of stunting reduction.

4.2.6. DISCUSSION

In Ethiopia, the EU and its members work closely together in order to develop a common approach for reducing malnutrition and ensuring the work of the different Member States is complementary. This collaboration has been fruitful and lead to a stronger advocacy position. Under the 11th EDF, nutrition has been mainly prioritized under the key sector of sustainable agriculture and food security. However, from now on, it will also be addressed under the key sector of health as part of the social determinants of the health programme that addresses a number of nutrition specific interventions.

The EU delegation in Ethiopia uses a sector wide approach to nutrition by influencing government and Member States to make their programming more nutrition-sensitive. The EU has been instrumental in increasing the nutrition sensitivity of two major flagship programmes of the Government of Ethiopia by supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in mainstreaming nutrition in the PSNP and the AGP II (objectives, results, activities, targeting and indicators) through raising awareness, advocacy and provision of technical support. Together with Member States, the EU has also

successfully advocated for the inclusion of dietary diversity as an indicator at overall objective level of the AGP II programme. This is a significant step towards re-shaping agriculture in Ethiopia to be more nutrition-sensitive. However, the EU Funded complementary action to promote nutrition into the AGP II, which was conditional for funding the AGP II, is still awaiting implementation, which may reduce the effectiveness of the AGP for improving nutritional outcomes.

Studies have shown that the PSNP has successfully improved household food security, but there is no evidence that the PSNP reduces chronic or acute malnutrition (Berhane, Hoddinott, Kumar, & Margolies, 2017). Also, child diet quality remained poor after the implementation of the PSNP, with no evidence indicating that the PSNP improves children's consumption of pulses, oils, fruits, vegetables, dairy or animal source proteins (Berhane, Hoddinott, Kumar, & Margolies, 2017). However, the EU support of the PSNP under the 11th EDF highlights a much stronger focus on nutrition, whilst nutrition was not even mentioned in the APP for the PSNP under the 10th EDF. Therefore, improvements in nutritional status may become more evident during the next evaluation.

The **integrating nutrition services** project within the broader SHARE programme addresses the gaps in the implementation of the NNP and strengthens nutrition outcomes. It supported a multi-sectoral approach with UNICEF supporting the nutrition-specific interventions, whilst FAO simultaneously addressed the availability and accessibility of diverse and nutritious foods. So far, under the 11th EDF there is no funding for a multi-sectoral nutrition programme in line with the NNP-II. The NNP-II is built on the assumption

that there will be a strong national partnership among nutrition development partners, multilateral and bilateral donors, academia, private sector and the line ministries at all levels. So far, inadequate budget allocation, resource shortages, weak financial mobilization and low utilization have been the main challenges for implementing the National Nutrition Program (NNP-II). In addition, there is no clear government funding mechanism for donors to contribute to the NNP making it more difficult to mobilize resources. The EU+ joint strategy advocates for a comprehensive funding mechanism for the NNP-II. Also, within the EU delegation, efforts are made to ensure that all departments understand the importance of investing in nutrition and how each sector can integrate nutrition within its programmes.

4.3. Nepal

4.3.1. NUTRITION SITUATION IN NEPAL

The nutritional status of children in Nepal has improved over the last 20 years, with the prevalence of stunting reducing from 57% in 1996 to 36% in 2016 (MoH, 2017). Children from the poorest households (49%) and whose mothers have no education (46%) are more likely to be stunted. Recent projections anticipate that Nepal is potentially on track to meet the WHA stunting target by 2025 (EC, 2017). The prevalence of wasting currently stands at 10%. Overall, 17% of women have a low BMI (<18.5) whilst 22% of women are overweight or obese (BMI≥25) (MoH, 2017). Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread with more than half (53%) of the children aged 6-59 months and 41% of

the women aged 15-49 years being anaemic (MoH, 2017).

4.3.2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

Nepal aims to reach a middle income status by 2030 as set out in the ‘envisioning Nepal 2030’ initiative of the National Planning Commission (NPC). This requires sustained inclusive economic growth, with the agricultural sector foreseen as a key driver of growth.

Recognizing the serious consequences and multi-faceted nature of persistently poor maternal and child nutrition, the NPC, together with six key Ministries, developed a costed Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) in 2012. The MSNP focuses on the first 1,000 days of life, with a set of essential nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. The plan complements other sectoral policies and strategies such as the health sector’s National Nutrition Policy Strategy (2004/8) and the agriculture sector’s Food and Nutrition Security Plan as part of the ADS (NPC, 2012). The second MSNP (2018-2022) was launched in December 2017. The NPC chairs the High Level National Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee. This committee provides strategic guidance to the National Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee. Decentralized coordination platforms are currently established at district, village and municipality level in order to plan, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the MSNP. Nepal is in a transition process to a Federal state, with major administrative changes, including the replacement of districts by higher level provinces and lower level municipalities. The MSNP gave a lot of importance to the coordination at district

level, and therefore, there is a need to support new actors at various levels. The Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) is the government’s central sector development strategy for agriculture and rural development until 2035. The ADS aims to transform the agricultural sector into a competitive and sustainable sector that brings economic growth, improved livelihoods and job creation as well as food and nutrition security. One of the flagship programmes of the ADS is the Food and Nutrition Security Program (FANUSEP), which specifically targets the poor and the (geographically) disadvantaged by improving productivity, livelihoods and nutritional practices. The ADS in general, and FANUSEP in particular align with the MSNP.

4.3.3. ENHANCED MOBILIZATION AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

The EU has been instrumental in developing momentum for nutrition as well as in establishing sound links with and supporting the government with regard to nutrition in Nepal. From 2011 to 2015, the EU Funded Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative in Asia (MYCNSIA) programme has greatly contributed to positive developments for nutrition security in Nepal. The high-level ownership and political commitment from the Government of Nepal to reduce maternal and child under nutrition, together with the substantial advocacy efforts carried out by the EU and UNICEF through MYCNSIA has helped lay the foundation for the first multi-sectoral nutrition programme (ETC NEDERLAND, 2016). The current EU funded Partnership

for nutrition programme builds on the MYCNSIA programme and supports the implementation of the second MSNP. Other projects currently being implemented in line with MSNP include SUA AHARA II (USAID funded), Feed the Future (USAID funded), Agriculture and Food Security Project (WB funded) and the Golden Thousand Days (WB loan). Although these programmes are in line with the MSNP, there is no multi donor fund. One of the challenges in establishing a multi donor fund is that the constitution in Nepal makes it difficult to create a government managed Trust fund at sector level.

Another key achievement of MYCNSIA was the support for the development and review of various nutrition related policies, including food based dietary guidelines, IMAM guidelines, and the infant and young child feeding strategy. As a result of the political will created by advocacy and support efforts under MYCNSIA, the government is now committed to scaling up Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and has developed a costed national expansion programme (ETC NEDERLAND, 2016).

The food security donor group serves as the main platform for donor coordination and policy dialogue in the agricultural sector. There is also a coordination committee specifically for the MSNP, where coordination among government, donors and NGOs takes place. The EU is one of the 13 donor agencies that has supported the drafting of the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) with strong levels of ownership and involvement by the government.

4.3.4. SCALING UP ACTIONS

4.3.4.1. Sectors and programmes related to nutrition supported by EU

The EU has increased its development cooperation to Nepal threefold for the current period of 2014-2020, compared to the preceding period. There are three focal sectors in the 2014-2020 MIP for Nepal, with nutrition being addressed in the key sector of sustainable rural development, focusing on agricultural productivity and value addition, job creation, market access infrastructure, and nutrition (EUR 146 million). Nepal receives support through DCI, as well as through the Asia Regional Cooperation.

Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, highly vulnerable to different types of natural hazards. ECHO is committed to supporting initiatives in Nepal focusing on mitigating risk of natural disasters and enhancing the disaster preparedness capacity. ECHO has provided technical assistance and operation support for humanitarian aid in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake and provided food assistance to Bhutanese refugees. Currently, ECHO is not funding nutrition related interventions.

Table 6 provides an overview of the nutrition related programmes funded by the EU.

Programmes	Financial commitment (EUR)	Implementation modality	% of investment counted ¹⁸
Development Cooperation Instrument (MIP 2007-2013)			
› Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative in Asia (2011-2015) ¹⁹	5 440 000	Indirect management with UNICEF	100
› Agriculture and Nutrition Extension project (ANE) (2011-2014) ²⁰	3 644 677	Grant to International Development Enterprises and partners	100
Development Cooperation Instrument (MIP 2014-2020)			
› EU contribution for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) ²¹ & Complementary support (2019 – 2022)	36 000 000 4 000 000	Budget support and complementary support	25 100
› Water and Agriculture based Village Enhancement (WAVE) (2017-2021) ²²	20 000 000	Indirect management with Ministry of Foreign affairs of Finland	25
› Partnership for Improved Nutrition (PIN) ²³	22 650 000	Indirect management with UNICEF	100
ECHO			
› Various programmes (2014-2016) ²⁴	73 000 000 ²⁵	Various	25

Table 6 | Nutrition related programmes funded by EU in Nepal under the MIP and thematic areas

¹⁸ - Percentage of investment counted for nutrition spending following SUN resource tracking methodology

¹⁹ - CRIS number: DCI-FOOD/2012/024

²⁰ - CRIS Number: DCI-FOOD/2011/261

²¹ - CRIS number: ACA/2017/38862

²² - CRIS number: ACA/2016/38029

²³ - CRIS number: DCI-ASIE/2014/030-799

²⁴ - CRIS number: DCI-ASIE/2013/023-283

²⁵ - Based on CRS data for following sectors; 52010, 72010, 72040 and 72050 (90 000 000 US\$)

4.3.4.2. Specific objectives and expected results of programmes

The **Agriculture and Nutrition Enhancement (ANE) programme** (2011-2014) aimed to improve food and nutrition security of the poorest and most vulnerable households, especially women and children. The main approaches were to introduce and facilitate the adoption of productive and environmentally sustainable agricultural technologies and create and improve market linkages for improved food and nutrition security for both producers as well as consumers.

The **Maternal Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative Asia (MYCNSIA)** project (2011 – 2015) combined tailored support for nutrition governance with support for capacity building, information and knowledge management and scaling up nutrition. In Nepal, MYCNSIA supported the development of the first multi-sector Nutrition Plan in Nepal and ensured that all relevant sectors under the plan are engaged (ETC NEDERLAND, 2016).

The **Partnership for Improved Nutrition programme** (Poshanka lagi hatemalo) is a MYCNSIA successor programme, with UNICEF as its sole recipient, but implemented under the leadership of the NPC. The three result areas centre around (1) improving multi-sectoral coordination, (2) promotion of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive services and (3) strengthening multi-sectoral nutrition information, monitoring and evaluation. The project works to reinforce the capacities of the structures and mechanisms put in place by the MSNP.

The **EU Contribution towards agriculture and rural development (CARD)** supports the Government of Nepal in the implementation of its Agricultural Development Strategy

(2015-2035) through policy dialogue, budget support and capacity building. The ADS has five key strategic objectives; food and nutrition security, poverty reduction, higher and more equitable incomes, agricultural trade competitiveness and farmers' rights. The CARD is also contributing to the objectives of the MSNP. A technical cooperation facility is established that provides technical assistance and plays a coordinating role with other ministries and stakeholders and supporting greater nutrition sensitivity. A Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) will be established with a mix of long and short term expertise on demand and resources for training, workshops, surveys and other capacity building measures, and support towards greater nutrition sensitivity.

The focus of the **Water and Agriculture based Village Enhancement** programme is on the improvement of livelihoods and resilience in remote and marginal areas of the Far West and Western regions. The entry point of the programme is water, but it covers a wide range of livelihood related issues, and therefore it is seen as a poverty reduction programme. It aims to achieve community managed water supply and adopt appropriate WASH technologies and behaviour, improving food and nutrition security and sustainable income and mainstreaming capacity to continue integrated water resource planning and support communities in implementing WASH and livelihood activities (FCG & RVWRMP, 2016). Nutrition will be addressed through improved WASH and integrated water resource management for diversification of agriculture.

The overall objectives of the **Trade and Private Sector Development** project is to contribute to the efforts of the Government of Nepal to reduce poverty and stimulate

trade-led economic growth by strengthening trade competitiveness. This is being achieved by enhancing the Ministry of Commerce's capacity, strengthening the system of quality infrastructure to cope with standards and technical regulations and by supporting the coffee value chain. Although this programme does not have any explicit nutrition objectives, the coffee value chain does provide opportunities for women to increase their income and consequently, if spend well, improve nutrition.

4.3.4.3. Specific target groups of programmes

The various programmes towards which the EU has committed funding are complementary and reinforce each other. Given the focus of **ADS** on commercial farming and more favourable agro-ecological regions, the **WAVE** programme targets remote and marginalized areas and population. The **WAVE** programme will contribute to food and nutrition security in areas where the MSNP is not being implemented.

Since farming is becoming increasingly an activity led by women in Nepal, the ADS pays specific attention to their needs, including through a dedicated Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy. The GESI strategy will also be implemented and mainstreamed in all **WAVE** project activities. As part of improving the nutritional status, the **WAVE** organizes “plate” demonstrations during home garden management and sanitation and hygiene trainings. These demonstrations are specifically aimed at young women and mothers with children and teaches them the importance of a balanced diet. Some aspects of Menstrual Hygiene Management

are also being addressed. Equal participation of men and women is expected in all type of committees formed. The WAVE Programme targets the most remote villages in the poorest regions of Nepal.

The **MSNP** targets the “window of opportunity” of the first 1,000 days from conception to the child's second birthday and therefore, the main target are children under two and pregnant and lactating women. However, children under five are targeted for a range of nutrition interventions. There is also a focus on adolescent girls with nutrition education and IFA supplementation.

4.3.4.4. Main nutrition indicators used to measure success

The implementation of the MIP in Nepal is evaluated based on a set of nutrition indicators, especially related to specific objective 3 on improving maternal, infant and child nutrition in rural areas. The specific objectives on supporting the agricultural sectors do not include indicators related to production diversity, dietary diversity or income (See Table 7). A particular objective that has not been achieved, is the inclusion of nutrition indicators and targets in the annual action plans for relevant sectors.

Sector: Sustainable rural development	Means of verification
Specific objective 1. Profitable agricultural commercialization with improved connectivity and market infrastructure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increased market surplus › Rural road network expansion › Access to renewable energy resources in rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › ADS monitoring framework › Reports of various ministries
Specific objective 2. Efficient and sustainable agriculture sector guaranteeing food security in rural areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Agricultural land productivity › Food poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › ADS monitoring framework
Specific objective 3. Improve maternal, infant and child nutrition in rural areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Prevalence of children under five stunted › Prevalence of children under five wasted › Prevalence of children under five underweight › Implementation status of MSNP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › <i>Increased nutrition commitment</i> › <i>Annual plans of all relevant sectors have nutrition indicators and targets</i> › <i>Village development committee plans and programmes have nutrition related indicators incorporated</i> › <i>Nutrition capacity of MSNP implementing agencies is strengthened</i> › <i>Strengthened multi-sectoral coordination at district and village level.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › NDHS › MSNP monitoring framework
Specific objective 4. Strengthen response, preparedness and recovery capacities of communities exposed and vulnerable to recurrent and predictable disasters	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › DRM mainstreamed in agriculture, environmental protection and food security policies, strategies and plans › Proportion of local bodies annual investment of their annual fund in DRM › Resilience of livelihoods of vulnerable VDCs enhanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Climate change adaption and DRM in agriculture priority framework › MoFALD reports › NRRC reports
Specific objective 5. Maximise the development impact of migration and to minimise its negative consequences in rural areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › % of returnees using targeted assistance from the employment services aimed at their reintegration in the labour market › Decreased poverty in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › World Bank › ADS Monitoring framework

Table 7 | Indicators under "Sustainable rural development" of the MAIP (2014- 2020)

4.3.5. STRENGTHEN EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE-BASE

The Nepali government in collaboration with stakeholders developed a food security information system to compile, analyse and disseminate comprehensive information on food security. A key element of the information system is the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). The EU supported the Nepal **Khadhya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)** that comprehensively monitors and analyses the food security situation using the IPC methodology. The NeKSAP is now institutionalized in the Ministry of Agriculture, with financial support from WFP. One of the specific objectives of the EU support towards the MSNP is to strengthen the multi-sector nutrition information, monitoring and evaluation for central and local governments to provide basic services in an inclusive and equitable manner. The MYCNSIA project in Nepal achieved outstanding results in mainstreaming nutrition into the Health Management Information System (HMIS). Within two years, health facilities in Nepal were able to provide nutrition data on a monthly basis (ETC NEDERLAND, 2016).

4.3.6. DISCUSSION

The EU has been instrumental in developing momentum for nutrition in Nepal as well as in establishing sound links with and supporting the government with regards to nutrition. The MIP 2014-2020 has included a specific objective to improve maternal, infant, and child nutrition in rural areas under the focal sector of sustainable rural development.

The substantial advocacy efforts carried out by the EU and UNICEF through the MYCNSIA helped to lay the foundation for the first MSNP in Nepal. 16% of the sustainable rural development key sector indicative budget, is allocated to the coordination and implementation of the MSNP through the Partnership for Nutrition programme. This programme works to reinforce the capacities of the structures and mechanism put in place by the MSNP and is fully aligned with the EU Action Plan on Nutrition.

41% of the sectoral budget for rural development is spent on the CARD and the WAVE programme. The EU contribution towards the CARD represents around 9% of the total indicative budget needed for the full implementation of the ADS. The EU support towards the ADS contributes to the specific objective of profitable agricultural commercialization and sustainable agriculture, but it will also contribute partially towards improving nutrition, as the ADS is aligned with the MSNP. Although the EU facilitated a nutrition-sensitive approach to the ADS and the needs of adapting approaches to different agro-ecological areas and farm categories are recognized within the ADS, there are concerns about its focus on commercialization and how the strategy will contribute to improved nutritional outcomes for subsistence farmers (UNSCN, 2012). In addition, the budget for the agricultural sector has been inadequate in past, therefore there is a need for adequate funding from government and donors to achieve adequate allocation for the ADS implementation.

The three main programmes supported by the EU (MSNP, ADS, WAVE) have a strong synergy. By diversifying agricultural productivity, the ADS will reinforce the MSNP, whilst the WAVE programme

addresses key constraints with regards to irrigation, markets, water and sanitation consequently strengthening the implementation of the ADS programme. The earthquakes in 2015 have caused widespread damage across the country. With the support of the international community, Nepal is recovering although the situation remains fragile. This also has an impact on the government's efforts for scaling up nutrition efforts (SUN, 2016). Due to the major impact of the earthquake on the population, the EU has decided to front-load the allocation for the MIP as much as possible and has suggested general budget support in order to provide global support to the Government of Nepal irrespective of sector and geographical area (EU, 2016). Civil society organisations' involvement by the EU in Nepal is limited, with most funds allocated directly towards the government or through indirect management with the UN or other donor agencies.

4.4. Niger

4.4.1. NUTRITION SITUATION IN NIGER

The prevalence of malnutrition in Niger is high, with 44% of the children under five being stunted, of which 22% are severely stunted (INS & ICF, 2013). Niger has experienced a slow decline in the prevalence of stunting since the late 1990s, with an increase in the number of stunted children due to population growth. Recent projections anticipate that Niger will neither meet the government's own target by 2022 or the WHA target by 2025 (EU, 2017). 18% of the children under five are wasted. The double burden of malnutrition is also visible

in Niger, with 16% of the women having a low BMI, whilst 18% of the women are overweight or obese and 44% of the women residing in Niamey having a BMI above 25 kg/m² (INS & ICF, 2013). Micronutrient deficiencies are common with 46% of women aged 15-49 and 73% of children under five being anaemic (INS & ICF, 2013).

4.4.2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) provides the strategic framework for the development agenda of the Government of Niger. The PDES II (2017-2021) includes the promotion of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in one of its strategic objectives and aims to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition and double the agricultural productivity and income of smallholder farmers. Its implementation is carried out via the 3N Initiative (Nigeriens Nourish Nigeriens), which is a multi-sectoral programme linking different initiatives under a common framework, launched by the President of Niger in 2011. The 3N Initiative is led by a High Commission under the Office of the President. The High Commission has no operational power but a strong political leadership. The aim of the 3N Initiative is to strengthen the agricultural sector while building resilience to food crisis and improving the nutritional status. Over time, nutrition is receiving higher prioritisation within the 3N initiative, with 5% of the overall budget being allocated to nutrition in the first strategic plan, while the current Plan of Action allocates 18% of its budget towards nutrition. The 3N Initiative has become the flagship programme in Niger for the fight against hunger and undernutrition (ACF, 2012).

The National Nutrition Security Policy (PNSP) was developed in 2006 and revised in 2015, providing a multi-sectoral framework for strengthening the impact of nutrition actions in Niger, with ambitious targets and policies to reduce malnutrition.

4.4.3. ENHANCED MOBILIZATION AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT

By spearheading support towards the development of a multi-sectoral approach for nutrition, the EU has become an important stakeholder in the nutrition sector. With funding from the EU, the REACH initiative (Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition) has provided pivotal facilitation, analytical and financial support to the nutrition policy review process in Niger. The series of analytical exercises, including a nutrition analysis, nutrition stakeholder mapping and a policy overview of relevant policies and strategic frameworks, has helped structure the dialogue and created momentum for integrating nutrition better into various sectors and has helped instil further national ownership in efforts to address malnutrition (REACH, 2016). REACH has created a solid base for the implementation of SUN. DG ECHO has financially supported the establishment of the Niger Nutrition Alliance in 2013. The alliance is a network of NGOs acting to prevent and manage severe acute malnutrition in Niger, providing a platform for communication, partnership, advocacy and sharing of best practices. Members are encouraged to adopt a common discourse and harmonise their approaches. The EU is a SUN donor convener in Niger, supporting the coordination of stakeholders and mobilising resources for nutrition.

4.4.4. SCALING UP ACTIONS

4.4.4.1. Sectors and programmes related to nutrition supported by the EU

Food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural development are seen as the primary tools for development and the eradication of poverty (EC, 2017). The total budget for the main sector of food security, nutrition and resilience is being allocated to sectoral reforms, offering budget support to the Government of Niger. In addition, Niger receives funding from the EU through Europaid, focusing mainly on food fortification and the establishment of a platform for nutrition information. Humanitarian needs in Niger are significant due to persistent food insecurity, high undernutrition of children under five and forced displacement of people as a result of the Mali and Lake Chad crises. In 2018, the EU's humanitarian response will continue to support the treatment and prevention of severe acute malnutrition for the most vulnerable populations. ECHO will support the strengthening of emergency and response preparedness of communities, in particular for food and nutrition crises. In 2017, ECHO supported the treatment of acute malnutrition of approximately 40% of the total caseload. Food assistance is provided mostly through cash and voucher schemes, with complementary nutritional food rations provided to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant or lactating women from vulnerable households.

Programmes	Financial commitment (EUR)	Implementation modality	% of investment counted ²⁶
10th European Development Fund			
› Initiative for accelerating progress towards MDGs (2012-2017)	10 000 000	Indirect management with UNICEF	100
11th European Development Fund			
› Sector Reform Contract for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development (SANAD) (2016-2020) ²⁷	233 000 000	Budget support for Government of Niger	25 ²⁸
	11 000 000	Direct management EU (tender)	100
› Technical assistance (2018-2020)		(tender)	
EUROPAID			
› National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) ²⁹	3 500 000	Grant to Institut National de la Statistique (INS)	25
› Food Fortification Support Project (PAFAN) (2017-2021) ³⁰	4999 995	Grant to GRET	25
› Fortification of Processed Foods for Consumption (FOPAT) (2017-2021) ³¹	4 994 944	Grant to WFP	25
› Nexus – Water, Energy and Food Security	20 000000	Partnership of GIZ and Niger Basin Authority	0

Table 8 | Overview of EU programmes funded in Niger under NIP 2014-2020

²⁶ - Percentage of investment counted for nutrition spending following SUN resource tracking methodology

²⁷ - CRIS number: NE/RED/038-320

²⁸ - This action supports the operationalization of the 3N initiative. The action document does not indicate the percentage of funding per DAC code or intervention area, but the financing agreement indicates the indicative amounts for the variable tranches of which 41.5% is allocated towards the intervention area of improving the nutritional status. Therefore, 41.5% of the budget is considered nutrition-sensitive.

²⁹ - CRIS number: DCI-FOOD/2015/38-332

³⁰ - CRIS number: FOOD/2016/151093-2/45

³¹ - CRIS number: FOOD/2016/151093-2/21

› Food and Nutrition Security, Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) (2016- present) ³²	33	Direct management with FAO	
› Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH) ³⁴	3 500 000	Grant to WFP	25
ECHO			
› Various programmes (2014-2016)	127 000 000 ³⁵	Various	25

Table 8 | Overview of EU programmes funded in Niger under NIP 2014-2020

4.4.4.2. Specific objectives and expected results of programmes

The overall objective of Acceleration of the **Millennium Development Goals Initiative** is to contribute to improving the nutritional status of children under five through preventative interventions around maternal and child health. The programme is implemented together with financial support to the Government of Niger to improve access to water and hygiene practices. The overall objective of the **Sector Reform Contract for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture Development** is to provide financial support towards the implementation of the 3N initiative. The support intends to increase the financial capacity of the government to achieve the sectoral policy objectives, promote sectoral policies and reforms, strengthen governance at the sectoral level and meet the basic needs of the population through improved

access to services in the areas of sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security. The main objective of the Action Plan 2016-2020 for the 3N initiative is “zero hunger” in Niger. Therefore, the 3N Initiative will focus mainly on (1) increasing and diversifying agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production, (2) increasing market access, (3) improving resilience to climate change and food crisis, (4) improving the nutritional status and (5) supporting an institutional environment for the 3N initiative. The area of intervention for improving the nutritional status, focuses on both nutrition specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, as well as creating a favourable environment or nutrition security. Additional support in the form of technical assistance, institutional support and capacity building is provided by an European Consortium covering the whole sector needs of the next three years, with a service contract signed in March 2018.

The EU supports two food fortification

³² - CRIS number: 2014/037-586

³³ - 30 000 000 for the global programme; no country specific data available

³⁴ - CRIS/2012/275-751

³⁵ - Based on CRS data for following sectors; 52010, 72010, 72040 and 72050 (156 000 000 US\$)

programmes in Niger. The **Food Fortification Support Programme (PAFAN)** aims to strengthen local production, dissemination and promotion of quality and affordable fortified food for women and young children, as well as supporting the Government in the establishment of a national legislative regulatory framework for nutrition fortification. The **Fortification of Processed Foods for Consumption (FOPAT)** project also aims to support the fortification of locally processed foods.

The **Nexus Dialogue Programme phase 1 (2016-2018)** is a programme implemented in different geographical areas and highlights the interdependencies between achieving water, energy and food security for human well-being, while ensuring ecologically sustainable use of essential resources. No specific nutrition related interventions are included.

4.4.4.3. Specific target groups of programmes

The 3N initiative specifically targets communities or rural households considered to be “chronically” vulnerable to food insecurity. The nutritional interventions primarily target the most vulnerable to nutrition; children under five, in particular under two, pregnant and lactating women, adolescents and poor households with recurrent food insecurity. The direct target group of food fortification programmes are the farmer organisations and (social) food processing enterprises in order to stimulate the production of nutritious and fortified foods. The targeted consumers of the fortified foods are particularly children and pregnant and lactating women.

Sector: Food and nutrition security and resilience	Means of verification
Specific objective 1. To increase the availability of food and income	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Irrigated land area › Number of farmers with land rights › Farmers income › Area under sustainable water and land management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › MoA
Specific objective 2. Increase resilience for food security and climate change food security	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Food need coverage during food crises › % of population benefiting from social protection › Frequency and dietary diversity of those benefiting from social protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Institut National de la Statistique

Table 9 | Overview of indicators for NIP 2014-2020 for key sector of Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience

Specific objective 3. To improve the nutritional status of vulnerable HHs, in particular children under five	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › % of underweight among children under five › % of stunting among children under five 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › National nutrition survey
Specific objective 4. To build capacity of institutions involved in the implementation of the different axes of the Nigeriens feed Nigeriens Initiative	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Number of farmers benefiting from training (as part of I3N) › Number of communities with an integrated plan for I3N › Number of people participating in activities preventing malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Annual report

Table 9 | Overview of indicators for NIP 2014-2020 for key sector of Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience

4.4.4.4. Main nutrition indicators used to measure success

The main nutrition related indicators under the NIP 2014-2020 for Niger include the percentage of underweight and stunting among children under five, dietary diversity score, and the number of communities with an integrated plan for the 3N initiative. The **SANAD** is evaluated based on two impact indicators; percentage of food insecure households and the prevalence of stunting (expecting an annual reduction of 1%). Other indicators include agricultural productivity, women’s dietary diversity score and access to water and sanitation. Although women’s empowerment in agriculture is associated with improving child nutrition as women are more likely to invest their income in food and nutrition (Smith & Haddad, 2000), the indicators are not aggregated by gender. Performance indicators are related to the allocation of budget to different sectors, audits conducted etc. The special conditions of the financial agreement between the EU and the Government of Niger include that

the performance under the sector reform is linked to the financial agreement, with temporal suspension or cancelling of the financial agreement as a consequence of inadequate progress.

4.4.5. STRENGTHEN EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE

The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) supports the creation of a unit within the National Institute for Statistics (INS) to manage, analyse and disseminate nutrition related information and build capacity for measuring progress towards nutrition targets.

4.4.6. DISCUSSION

The EU delegation in Niger is committed towards improving the food nutrition security situation in Niger, with a key sector of the NIP 2014-2020 focusing exclusively on food security and nutrition. The total sectoral budget has been allocated to

the Government of Niger in support of the 3N initiative. In addition, Niger has received funding for food fortification and the establishment of a National Nutrition Information Platform. ECHO is one of the main actors supporting the integrated management of acute malnutrition in Niger. The 3N initiative stems from a strong political will to combat hunger and poverty. However, the 3N initiative is biased towards agriculture with only one of the five areas of the plan aiming directly to improve the nutritional status. Investments in agriculture and food systems are essential to improve the availability, accessibility and consumption of nutritious foods. However, improving agricultural production and value chains is not necessarily impacting the nutritional status. These investments can be leveraged in favour of nutrition but doing so requires explicitly considering the nutritional implications of investments. Efforts should be made to diversify production and diets, improve processing methods to make healthy foods available longer and convenient to prepare, ensure that investments are equitable and mindful of the environment, consider the impact on women and children and educate populations on the importance of nutrition in order to empower consumers to make healthy food choices (FAO, 2015). The budget supporting of the implementation of the 3N initiative can largely be divided in three sectors; sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition security, with the latter covering both nutrition specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. Based on the information available, it is difficult to track financial investment in nutrition using the SUN donor network group guidance on resource tracking. The financial support

for two out of the three sectors can be considered nutrition-sensitive, whilst their sustainable agriculture sector has scope to become nutrition-sensitive if adequate changes to the programme are made. The total estimated budget for the implementation of the Action Plan for the 3N Initiative 2016-2020 is 1,546,627 million CFA, which is approximately 2.3 billion Euros. The EU contribution towards the sectoral reforms is therefore approximately 10% of the required budget. The Action Plan indicates a financing gap of approximately 543 billion CFA (800 million Euros). Therefore, close monitoring of the implementation is needed in order to ensure that adequate resources are allocated the section of the 4th area of intervention focused on improving the nutritional status. A report by ACF (2012) highlights that the implementation of the 3N Initiative is heavily constrained by the lack of adequate capacity and the limitation of financial resources. Therefore, the additional support to provide technical assistance and capacity building is an important complementary action to the budgetary support. A service contract with an European Consortium has been signed in March 2018 for this purpose.

4.5. Pakistan

4.5.1. NUTRITION SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

According to the 2012-2013 DHS, the prevalence of stunting among children under five stands at 45%, with stunting being more common in rural areas (48%) compared to urban areas (37%). Pakistan has the third highest population of stunted children in the world, with more than 9 million stunted children, of which more than half are severely stunted. In addition, 11% of the children under five are affected by acute malnutrition (NIPS & ICF, 2013). There are significant provincial variations, with the highest percentage of stunting and wasting in the Province of Sindh. 14% of the Pakistani women are underweight, whilst 40% of the women are overweight or obese, indicating a double burden of under and over nutrition (NIPS & ICF, 2013). Chronic poverty and food insecurity are key factors driving the persistence of undernutrition, exacerbated by ongoing conflicts, displacement and reoccurring natural disasters.

4.5.2. POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR NUTRITION

The long-term development vision of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is to become an inclusive upper middle-income country by 2025 as laid out in the Pakistan Vision 2025. The Government became a member of the SUN movement in 2013 and launched a Zero Hunger Programme focusing on the right to food and small farmer agriculture. At national level, the nutrition high level

multi-stakeholder platform is the National Nutrition Committee within the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms. As a consequence of the devolution in 2012, the responsibility for food security and nutrition policy belongs jointly to the Federal and Provincial governments. The Federal Government is responsible for designing the overall policy framework, whilst the Provincial level is tasked to localise this policy through the elaboration and implementation of Provincial Multi-sectoral Nutrition strategies. In 2011, the “Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy” (PINS) was launched to address chronic malnutrition by drawing on the strengths of the relevant sectors. The provinces have adjusted the PINS to meet their provincial specific needs and capacities and take the lead in coordinating the multi-sectoral response to nutrition.

The nutrition support of the EU focuses on Sindh province. The Government of Sindh (GoS) Inter-Sectoral Nutrition Committee provides a coordination platform for nutrition in the province. A nutrition coordination section was established at the end of 2015 by the Planning & Development Department to coordinate both nutrition specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions across various sectors. Recognizing the need to address malnutrition as a top priority, an Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) named “Sehatmand Sindh” was developed with the aim to reduce stunting and malnourishment in Sindh from 48% to 30% in first five years, by 2021, and to 15% by 2026, by increasing and expanding coverage of multi-sectoral interventions that are known to reduce stunting in the first five years of children’s lives (GoS, 2016).

4.5.3. ENHANCED MOBILIZATION AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

The flash floods of 2010 and 2011 instigated a coordinated development partner response in affected areas of four provinces of Pakistan (Zaidi, et al., 2013). The visibly high level of maternal and child undernutrition triggered the development of the Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy at federal level in 2011, led by UNICEF. Nutrition became a new public policy agenda, spearheaded by international development partners in all provinces and was positioned towards cross-sectoral action on nutrition (Zaidi, et al., 2013). However, nutrition efforts in Pakistan have been implemented through fragmented initiatives, mostly in form of short-term projects funded by the United Nations agencies, and funding through NGOs (Zaidi, et al., 2013). A Multi Donor Trust Fund for nutrition administered by the World Bank was established to support the scaling up of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions mainly undertaken by the Provinces of Pakistan (Sindh & Punjab). However, few donors have joined this trust fund. Whilst the nutrition activities funded by the World Bank are implemented through the provincial government, the EU funds nutrition interventions in the same province through NGOs. Policy dialogue and development partner coordination and harmonisation will be a key element of the EU funded PINS (Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh) programme to address the lack of a consolidated nutrition roadmap among donors. This will allow stakeholders to coordinate more effectively GoS priorities and support the

strengthening of systems and develop functional capacities at all levels. ECHO played an important role in the internal advocacy (within EU) and external advocacy among stakeholders in Pakistan to put nutrition higher on the development agenda. ECHO supported a shift from addressing nutrition within a humanitarian response towards a multi-sectoral development response for nutrition and advocated with stakeholders to ensure nutrition-sensitive programming in addition to nutrition-specific interventions. They also supported the development of guidelines for the integration of nutrition into food security interventions in emergencies, developed by the Food Security group. These guidelines aim to broaden the understanding on the why and how to plan food security and livelihood response to emergencies with a nutrition lens.

4.5.4. SCALING UP ACTIONS

Improving the nutritional status of women and children in rural households affected by severe undernutrition is one of the specific objectives under “rural development”, one of the key sectors under the MIP 2014-2020.

4.5.4.1. Sectors and programmes related to nutrition supported by the EU

In Pakistan, EU’s support to nutrition is provided at all steps of the humanitarian – development continuum, ranging from humanitarian assistance (through ECHO) and service delivery by NGOs and building the capacities of public authorities to deliver nutrition services in a long-term and sustainable perspective, within a

clear and efficient policy framework with funding from EuropeAid (EU, 2016). With regards to food insecurity and malnutrition, ECHO concentrates its efforts on tackling severe acute malnutrition in areas that are not supported by Government or development donor programmes (EU, 2017). ECHO supports the CMAM surge model and supports enhanced WASH facilities and nutrition education. Food support is provided through cash grants where possible and is closely linked to efforts to restore or promote livelihoods or resilience. The total gross disbursement for humanitarian aid and food assistance from 2014-2016 reached US\$118 million according to the OECD-DAC database³⁶. ECHO support for Pakistan is phasing out with support towards the Humanitarian

Action Plan of ECHO for 2018 reduced to €5.5 million, of which only €2 million is allocated to nutrition, disaster risk reduction and resilience. However, there is still need for emergency nutrition interventions, especially in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where the local population is returning to their original area after years of displacement. ECHO has spearheaded reviews to seek guidance in terms of increasing the impact of humanitarian food assistance on nutrition and to ensure enhanced nutrition sensitivity of its programmes. The EU support focuses on Sindh, with some activities at the Federal level. Table 10 provides an overview of nutrition related programmes funded by ECHO and DEVCO under the MIP 2014-2020.

Programmes	Financial commitment (EUR)	Implementation modality	% of investment counted ³⁷
ECHO funded			
› Multi-sector nutrition-sensitive response to drought emergency in Pakistan (2015-2016) & one year follow up	3 000 000	Implemented by Concern and WHH	100
	3 000 000		100
› Combating malnutrition among women and children affected by emergencies	4 000 000	Indirect management with UNICEF	100
› Livelihoods and Nutrition in Drought-Stricken Sindh	4 500 000	Indirect management with WFP	100
› Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	450 000	Indirect management with FAO	25

Table 10 | Nutrition related programmes funded by ECHO and DEVCO in Pakistan

³⁶ - Based on CRS data for following sectors; 52010, 72010, 72040 and 72050 (118 million US\$)

³⁷ - Percentage of investment counted for nutrition spending following SUN resource tracking methodology

› Other humanitarian programmes (2014-2016)	81 000 000 ³⁸		25
EuropeAid funded projects			
› Women and Children/Infants Improved Nutrition (WINS) (2013-2017)	30 000 000	Implemented by Action contre la Faim, Merlin and Save the Children	100
› Programme for Improving Nutrition in Sindh (PINS)(2017-2021) ³⁹	60 000 000 ⁴⁰	Direct management (grants and procurement of services)	100
› Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening (SUCCESS) (2016-2021) ⁴¹	77 500 000	Implemented by National Rural Support Programme LBG	0
› Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) (2019-2024) ⁴²	50 000 000	Indirect management with International Trade Centre	0
› Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRDCEP) (2017-2021) ⁴³	45 000 000	Direct management, grants, call for proposals	0
› Improved Land Tenancy in Sindh Province (2017 - 2020) ⁴⁴	4 000 000	Indirect management with FAO	0
› Food and Nutrition Security, Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) (2016-present) ⁴⁵	46	Direct management with FAO	
› Information for Nutrition, Food Security and Resilience for Decision Making” (INFORMED) (2016-present) ⁴⁷	48	Direct management with FAO	

Table 10 | Nutrition related programmes funded by ECHO and DEVCO in Pakistan

³⁸ - 118 000 000 US\$ minus costs for nutrition specific costs mentioned in table 10.

³⁹ - CRIS number: 2016/038-937

⁴⁰ - EUR 30 000 000 is allocated towards nutrition specific activities, EUR 30 000 0000 towards nutrition-sensitive interventions, capacity building and M&E.

⁴¹ - CRIS number: DEC - DCI-ASIE/2014/ 037-462

⁴² - CRIS number: ACA/2017/039-280

⁴³ - CRIS number: ASIE/2015/038-094

⁴⁴ - CRIS number: DCI-FOOD/2015/381-01

⁴⁵ - CRIS number: 2014/037-586

⁴⁶ - 30 000 000 for the global programme

⁴⁷ - CRIS number: 2014/037-516

⁴⁸ - 25 000 000 for the global programme

4.5.4.2. Specific objectives and interventions of programmes

ECHO's support towards UNICEF aims to increase the coverage of community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), whilst WFP supports drought affected vulnerable communities by providing livelihood and cash support to improve resilience and food security. ECHO's support also aims to strengthen the health system's capacity to effectively manage increased caseloads of malnutrition during predictable emergencies without undermining the health system.

In 2013 DEVCO, with the support of the Government of Sindh, initiated the **Women and Children/Infants Improved Nutrition programme (WINS)**, with a specific objective to improve the nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women in three districts of Sindh. The WINS programme was the first large scale nutrition programme implemented in Pakistan. An important objective of the WINS project was to have a more robust understanding of the causes of malnutrition and to expand the sector-wide evidence based approaches for improving nutritional outcomes. The mid-term evaluation of the WINS project showed encouraging results, with a positive impact on the nutritional status of children and pregnant women, improved IYCF, health and hygiene practices and kitchen gardening (Save, 2015).

The **Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS)** builds on the lessons learned from the WINS programme and aims to sustainably improve the nutritional status of children under five and pregnant lactating women in Sindh by building the capacity of the Government of Sindh, while providing direct assistance in order to significantly

and rapidly reduce malnutrition.

The **Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS)** programme has several objectives related to reducing poverty, diversifying income, increasing access to public services and women empowerment. Although the programme does not include nutrition objectives, the expected results include improved food security and nutrition.

The **Improved Land Tenancy in Sindh (ILTS)** aims to contribute to improved food security, improved livelihoods and poverty alleviation as well as sound management of natural resources and focuses on exploring how more effective governance of tenure can enhance rural livelihoods, food security and nutrition status for rural women.

The **Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP)** aims to support gender inclusive income and employment generation, enhance productivity and profitability of SMEs involved in primary production, service provision and value addition in and around selected clusters of production.

The **Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP)** aims to build and empower resilient communities, identifying and implementing socio-economic development activities in partnership with local authorities.

4.5.4.3. Specific target groups of programmes

The **WINS, PINS** and the **multi-sectoral programmes for nutrition** have a specific focus on children (especially those under five) and pregnant and lactating women. The **ILTS** programme pays attention to

women and the promotion of gender equality and considers that in many societies, women contribute the bulk of agricultural work force. Special measures are being designed for the GRASP programme to reinforce the inclusion of the most vulnerable and to optimize the impact of the interventions on nutrition outcomes with a focus on women and children, thereby promoting enhanced resilience. The **SUCCESS** programme focuses on women only, as direct beneficiaries of the programme, whilst the **BRDCEP** programme focuses on the most vulnerable members of society including people with special needs, children and women.

4.5.4.4. Main nutrition indicators used to measure success

The MIP (2014-2020) has included indicators under the key sector “rural development” on stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. Other nutrition relevant indicators are related to poverty and WASH.

Sector: Rural development	Means of verification
Specific objective 1. Reinforce the performance of local government structures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Fiscal space available to local authorities › Extent of civil society participation in planning and decision making process › % of population with access to water › % of population with access to sanitation › Number of households provided with access to sustainable energy with EU support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Provincial budget papers › CSO maturity index › MDG report › Project reports
Specific objective 2. Increase income generating activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Number of people lifted out of poverty through increased incomes from work in areas provided with EU support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project reports
Specific objective 3. Augment the nutritional status of women and children in rural areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › % of stunted children under five targeted by the programme › % of children under five and PLW facing micronutrient deficiencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › National nutrition survey

Table 11 | Indicators under "Reduced rural Poverty and improved livelihoods" of the MAIP (2014- 2020)

The **WINS** and **PINS** programmes, which both comprise a large nutrition-specific component, are monitored and evaluated against various indicators related to nutritional status, diet and access to WASH and health services. The other programmes have no specific indicators related to food availability, diet or health. The **GRASP** programme has included indicators related to gender inclusive income and employment creation, the **BRDCEP** has included indicators related to women's income and empowerment and indicators for the ILTS programme focus mainly on land governance.

4.5.5. STRENGTHEN EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE-BASE

The EU has established a strategic partnership with the FAO to implement the **Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST)** programme. The FIRST programme provides technical assistance to the Government of Sindh in implementing the Food Security Policy and the inter-sectoral Nutrition Strategy. FIRST also provides support to the National Food Security Council for making timely and evidence-based decisions, reviewing and implementing provincial strategies, preparing operational plans and monitoring frameworks, and strengthening FSN data and analysis.

The **Integrated Phase Classification** is implemented by FAO within the framework of the **INFORM** programme to improve food security related coordination, information, management and response analysis. Both IPC and INFORMED assist the government in taking appropriate actions and timely

decisions based on reliable food and nutrition and resilience measurement indexes. Building government capacity and knowledge sharing are core to the programme.

The EU (through PINS) plays an important role in developing a comprehensive nutrition strategy and a roadmap for nutrition related capacity development. This roadmap will allow stakeholders to more efficiently coordinate towards priorities owned and agreed by GoS.

4.5.6. DISCUSSION

Pakistan is one of the countries with the highest absolute number of stunted children. Focusing efforts on high burden geographical areas will help achieve the global stunting reduction objective. The main focus of the EU Nutrition programme is the Province of Sindh. There are several reasons for this choice, including the strong commitment of the Government of Sindh towards nutrition, the high prevalence of malnutrition and security risks in other areas (including the province of Balochistan).

The EU support to Pakistan focuses on both humanitarian and development assistance, with humanitarian response for nutrition being gradually adjusted towards a more development response. Both ECHO and DEVCO have played an important role in shaping the nutrition agenda in Pakistan. ECHO has spearheaded a multi-sectoral approach for nutrition within an emergency response. DEVCO developed the first large scale nutrition programme (WINS), which is seen as a forerunner of the government led PINS programme, playing an important role in shaping

government nutrition programming. The EU also plays an important role in providing and analysing data for informing food and nutrition security policy and programming through the FIRST, INFORMED and IPC programmes. ECHO is phasing out from Pakistan, reducing year by year the funding allocated to the country. The current role of ECHO with regards to nutrition programming is focusing on improving the CMAM surge capacity and social protection. The main nutrition programme of DEVCO is the support towards the Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy in Sindh Province, with 18% of the rural development budget allocated towards the implementation of the PINS. There are several other programmes under the key sector of “rural development” (GRASP, SUCCESS, ILTS and BRDCEP) which have a potential to improve nutritional outcomes but have so far little deliberate nutrition consideration. Therefore, there is scope for the EU to define a theory of change for nutrition, develop relevant nutrition target criteria, and include deliberate evidence-based nutrition interventions within these programmes to increase its impact on nutritional outcomes. Strong coordination of support and collaboration among donors is instrumental in achieving progress. The EU is playing an important role in donor cohesion through the development of comprehensive nutrition strategy and a roadmap for nutrition related capacity development under PINS. This will allow stakeholders to more effectively coordinate GoS priorities, support the strengthening of systems and develop functional capacities at all levels.

4.6. Zambia

4.6.1. NUTRITION SITUATION IN ZAMBIA

In Zambia, 40.1% of the children under five are suffering from stunting, approximately 1.10 million children. The stunting prevalence ranges from 35.7% in Lusaka Province to 48.5% in Northern Province (CSO, MoH, & ICF, 2014). Over the past 12 years, the average annual reduction rate of stunting has been around 1%. About 23% of the women aged 15-29 years are overweight, indicating a double burden of disease. Furthermore, 12.4% of Zambia's population aged 15-49 year is affected with HIV (UNAIDS, 2016).

4.6.2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Seventh National Development Plan 2017-2021 outlines the government's desired developmental outcomes as well as the accompanying strategies and programmes. The plan departs from sectoral based planning to an integrated, multi-sectoral development approach under the theme “Accelerating development efforts towards the vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind”. Nutrition is playing a more prominent role within the 7th NDP, with a specific strategy on enhancing food security and nutrition. Since Zambia joined the SUN movement in 2011, nutrition has become more prominent on the policy agenda, with major nutrition commitments made during the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2013. A new food and nutrition security strategic plan 2018-2025 is currently being finalized. The National

Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) is coordinating a multi-sectoral programme focusing on the first 1,000 days, with the overall aim of reducing the prevalence of stunting (MCDP) and measurable commitments for national stunting reduction rates. The NFNC Act of 1967 has been revised and is awaiting adoption to broaden the law for a multi-sectoral response to the nutritional problems affecting Zambia.

4.6.3. ENHANCED MOBILISATION AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

The international community of donors, NGOs and the UN have played a big role in setting, driving and maintaining the nutrition agenda in Zambia. Before Zambia joined the SUN movement in 2011, donors supported separate nutrition projects according to their own agendas. SUN called for a better alignment of donor support for nutrition, and therefore, post 2011, existing donors formed the SUN donor group, with DFID and UNICEF as co-conveners and the EU as one of its member organisations (Seco Grutz, Sadlier, & Brunet, 2014). The EU has been an active member in engaging policy dialogue on nutrition issues and the promotion of systematic inclusion of nutrition concerns in relevant sectors through the SUN donor group. The mandate of the SUN donor group was to support government nutrition policy priorities, provide support in scaling up nutrition and to achieve the objectives of the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan, with a focus on the prevention of stunting in the first 1,000 days of life. The SUN donor group works according to clear terms of reference, including the representation

of the health and agricultural sector, and meets with government partners on a bi-monthly basis. In 2012, facing difficulties in getting increased government buy-in, donors developed a more structured advocacy plan to promote higher political will for nutrition through coordinated and strategic policy dialogue, identifying key people to target, key messages and key asks from government. The SUN fund, a pooled funding mechanism under an external fund manager, was established to catalyse implementation of nutrition programmes. This mirrors the general trend in aid for efficiency through a sector-wide approach rather than project support and improved donor coordination (Seco Grutz, Sadlier, & Brunet, 2014). The EU, which was not part of the first pooled fund, will, together with DFID and SIDA, support the second phase of the government led 1,000 Most Critical Day Programme (MCDP II), which will help substantially increase the scope and reach of nutrition interventions in Zambia.

The EU delegation in Zambia also plays an important role in ensuring sound nutrition governance approaches, for example through the advocacy for a single food and nutrition service cutting across the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL).

4.6.4. SCALING UP ACTIONS

4.6.4.1. Sectors and programmes related to nutrition supported by EU

The focal sectors supported under the National Indicative Plan (NIP) 2014-2020 are (1) improved access to clean, reliable and affordable energy, (2), reduced rural poverty and improved livelihoods and (3)

democratic governance, accountability and state effectiveness. Nutrition is prioritized through the rural poverty and improved livelihood. Table 12 provides an overview

of the nutrition related (indicative) programmes by the EU under the 10th and 11th European Development Fund and thematic areas.

Programmes	Financial commitment (EUR)	Implementation modality	% of investment counted ⁴⁹
10th European Development Fund			
› Accelerating progress towards maternal, neonatal and child morbidity and mortality (MDG 1c, 4 and 5) project (2013-2017) ⁵⁰	44 000 000	Joint management with UNICEF	25
› Conservation Scaling Up Agriculture Project (2013-2017) ⁵¹	11 800 000	Joint management with FAO	25
11th European Development Fund			
› Agriculture Sector Performance Enhancement Programme II (PEPII) ⁵²	10 000 000	Indirect management with GRZ	100
› Support to sustainable commercialization of Zambia's smallholder famers ⁵³	87 000 000	(tender)	
› Increased participation of smallholder farmers in market-integrated value chains on functional, environmentally sustainable and equitable terms	20 000 000	Grants	

Table 12 | Nutrition related programmes funded by EU in Zambia

⁴⁹ - Percentage of investment counted for nutrition spending following SUN resource tracking methodology

⁵⁰ - CRIS: ZM/FED/024-304

⁵¹ - CRIS: ZM/FED/023-201

⁵² - CRIS: ZM/FED/037-359

⁵³ - CRIS: ZM/FED/039-612

› Contribution to AfIF– blending	15 000 000	Contribution to AfIF	
› Support to E-voucher programme	10 000 000	Indirect management with GRZ	
› Conservation Agriculture Support Programme II	12 000 000	Indirect management with FAO	25
› Climate smart agricultural water management for smallholder farmers introduced in districts of the lower Kafue sub-catchment	12 000 000	Indirect management with GIZ	
› Improved nutritional status of women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under five through appropriate and sustainable key interventions (contribution to SUN pooled funds)	10 000 000	Indirect management with DFID	100
› Other costs related to AAP	10 000 000		
Other funding streams			
› Scaling up Nutrition Interventions at community and district levels (CSO-LA) (2015)	4 000 000	Grants	100
› Aquaculture programme (to be developed)	13 000 000	TBD	

Table 12 | Nutrition related programmes funded by EU in Zambia

4.6.4.2. Specific objectives and expected results of programmes

The EU allocated support for nutrition specific interventions as part of the **acceleration progress towards maternal, neonatal and child morbidity and mortality project**. This project aimed to increase

access to quality health and nutrition services by vulnerable women, adolescents and children in 11 districts. One of the expected results is to improve the nutritional status of children and women. The project was implemented by the Ministry of Health with technical support from the UN and NGOs. Nutrition activities

were fully aligned towards the 1,000 MCDP. The **Conservation Agriculture Scale Up (CASU) programme** intended to contribute to reduced hunger, improved food security, nutrition and income while promoting sustainable use of natural resources in Zambia. The project target aimed to reach at least 40% of female smallholder farmers. The EU plays a key role in strengthening the capacity of the agriculture and livestock sectors in Zambia for delivering nutrition-sensitive interventions. The **PEP II project** has a specific objective to ameliorate dietary diversity of women and children in poor rural households by improving nutrition-sensitive farmer extension and services facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). By also enhancing the capacity of MoA staff, they will be able to coordinate and provide extension services that contribute towards food and nutrition security in smallholder households. The **PEP II project** has a strong nutrition component and supports the position of a nutritionist within the ministry. The EU also allocated support towards the sustainable commercialization of Zambia's Smallholder farmers, with the overall objective to support the Government of Zambia's policy objectives to reduce rural poverty and malnutrition and improve rural livelihoods. In this regard, several programmes are currently being designed and implemented. The development of the agribusiness sector will be stimulated through an innovative financing mechanism blending with financing institutions, in order to increase **participation of smallholder farmers in market-integrated, nutrition- and gender-sensitive value chains**. A blended scheme will be established based on a grant and a loan component.

The EU will also promote agricultural diversification and commercialization among smallholders by supporting the Government **e-voucher system**, developing the capacity of the ministry, training farmers, developing and disseminating training materials, providing ICT assistance with gender and nutrition sensibilization. Such actions will systematically be included through the ministries front line technical advisory service delivery.

The second phase of the **CASU project (CASU II)** aims to increase productivity, income and facilitate commercial orientation of smallholder farmers, while maintaining environmental resilience of the natural resource base for sustainable production. Whilst the first CASU project did not mention nutrition within one of the expected results areas, CASU II expects that the capacity development to support the scaling up and adoption of sustainable intensification practices, particularly by women smallholder farmers, will result in increased agricultural production and diversification leading to increased dietary diversification and better nutrition. The training and extension component will span beyond the confines of agronomic and animal husbandry advice and includes a focus on nutrition, business development and market linkages, strengthening farmers groups and organisations and access to rural finance.

The project on **water management for smallholders** aims to increase productivity and resilience to climate change by supporting a range of activities around environmentally sensitive and socially fair agricultural water management. The project will include messaging around nutrition and dietary diversity.

The EU will also contribute towards a **multi**

donor trust fund for the implementation of the first 1,000 most critical day program, which supports the National Food and Nutrition Commission and relevant line ministries to implement the second phase of the multi-sectoral 1,000 MCDP. The programme aims to reduce stunting by 25% in 30 targeted districts by 2022 through scaling up high impact nutrition interventions, while further strengthening multi-sectoral policy and coordination as well as the capacity of institutions, management and systems at all levels. The EU, under its thematic programme “Civil Society and Local Authorities” funded several CSO’s with the objective to provide a comprehensive and holistic approach to scale up nutrition through sustainable agriculture, health and WASH in Zambia. The EU also supported the Strengthening Cash Transfers to Access to Finance, Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship (SCALE) (2013-2017), implemented by CARE in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, which aimed to strengthen civil society working on social protection as a pre-condition for a more equitable, inclusive and democratic society. Although there were no specific objectives on improving nutrition, there is a potential for social protection programmes to be designed to have a positive impact on nutrition.

4.6.4.3. Specific target groups of programmes

The **acceleration progress towards MDGs** specifically addresses the nutritional needs of vulnerable women, adolescents and children. The 1,000 MCDP targets pregnant and lactating women, with a specific focus

on adolescent girls and children under the age of two.

The agricultural projects target smallholder farmers. The **PEP II project** focuses on the empowerment of female farmers, the **CASU project** includes a target of 40% women farmers and **the programme supporting agribusiness** has a special focus on women as they are traditionally discriminated in terms of access to agricultural productive assets and decision-making power.

4.6.4.4. Main indicators used to measure success

The implementation of the NIP (2014-2020) in Zambia is monitored based on a number of indicators. Stunting is one of the outcome indicators for measuring improvement in nutritional status. There are also a number of indicators related to nutrition, including crop diversification index, number of farmers practicing Conservation Agriculture (CA) and yield under CA and the percentage of female farmers with access to agricultural inputs, assets, and services (See Table 13).

Sector: Reduced rural poverty and improved livelihoods	Means of verification
Outcome 1. Improved and sustainable rural livelihoods	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Incidence of rural poverty › % of small scale farmers with access to financial services › % of female farmers with access to agricultural inputs, assets & services › Status of agriculture service centres for improved access to services & markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Living conditions monitoring survey › MAL › Agricultural Service Centres
Outcome 2. Improved nutrition and food security	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Stunting prevalence › Yield per hectare for maize and soya beans under CA › Crop diversification index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › MDG report › UNDP
Outcome 3. Improved environmental sustainability and climate change resilience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Number of farmers practicing CA › Soil erosion rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › MAL

Table 13 | Indicators under "Reduced rural Poverty and improved livelihoods" of the NIP (2014-2020)

4.6.5. STRENGTHEN EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE-BASE

In 2017, the EU approved substantial funding and technical support for the development of a comprehensive Zambia Information Platform on Food and Nutrition (ZIPFN). The NFNC will become the host and principal manager of ZIPFN. The **ZIPFN** aims to collate new information, organization, analysis and dissemination components to complete a high grade, functioning effective knowledge management system that supports advocacy, planning, implementation, monitoring and guidance for the implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan 2017-21. The EU also supports technical capacity to

build capacity through the **PEP II project**, which supported the development of a nutrition module to be delivered to all students from all agricultural training institutes to increase their understanding of the role they can play within their sub sector in enhancing nutritional outcomes.

4.6.6. DISCUSSION

In Zambia, the EU supports sustainable growth and job creation focusing on sustainable agriculture, sustainable energy, fostering reforms and facilitating investment opportunities with a focus on private sector investments. The strong focus on nutrition-specific interventions

under the health sector of the NIP 2008-2013, has moved towards a focus on a multi-sectoral approach for nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture under the current NIP. Under the NIP (2014-2020), 2.2% of total budget, and 9% of the budget allocated to the key sector of reduced rural poverty and improved livelihoods is allocated towards the pooled SUN funds, which addresses both nutrition specific and sensitive interventions.

The focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture is visible in the Annual Action Plan on “Sustainable commercialization of Zambia smallholder farmers” with the word “nutrition” being mentioned 64 times. The EU in Zambia strongly supports the mainstreaming of nutrition within the agricultural sector through research, extension, agricultural training and the inclusion of nutrition related indicators in the agricultural sector (PEP-II).

The current and upcoming programming targets inclusive value chain development and sustainable commercialization of emerging farmers, as part of a wider approach that includes dedicated components on water management, climate-smart agriculture, agribusiness development and nutrition. Sustainable and responsible agribusiness development will be supported through innovative financing mechanisms and blending with financing institutions. These activities assume increased participation of smallholder farmers in market integrated, nutrition and gender sensitive value chains. However, expectations of the private sector delivering on public nutrition objectives need to be tempered by the reality that most firms within food value chains – even most socially responsible firms – are businesses whose first intention is to create

and distribute profits to owners (Maestre, Poole, & Henson, 2017). Fundamental to any nutrition-sensitive intervention is that the action is aimed at women, adolescent girls and/or children. The project must contribute towards nutrition-sensitive outcomes, and there need to be nutrition objectives and indicators. The private sector can be leveraged for improved nutrition outcomes, but deliberate actions will need to be taken to increase the impact on nutrition outcomes whilst ensuring profitability for key actors.

5

OVERALL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU ACTION PLAN ON NUTRITION

Overall, the commitment of the EU towards stunting reduction is commendable and ambitious. This chapter will provide an overall analysis of the implementation the EU Action Plan on Nutrition and will provide a number of entry points for discussion around the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition in the selected countries.

5.1. *Actual nutrition related programmes vs. financial commitments*

The financial commitment of the EU for the reduction of stunting for the period 2014-2020 totals 3.5 billion Euros. The Commission identified countries of strategic priority support for nutrition, based on (1) a high burden of stunting, (2) a politically committed government and (3) requested support from the EU delegation to address undernutrition. Currently, there are 42 priority countries for nutrition. The table below provides a rough estimate of nutrition commitments and/or disbursements during the period 2014-2020 (both under the 10th and 11th EDF). The amounts do not include the global programmes (such as FIRST and INFORMED) as the amount allocated for each individual country is not specified.

ECHO funding as indicated in the OECD-CRS tracker has been included for the DAC codes identified as potentially nutrition-sensitive using the SUN resource tracking methodology (general food aid, material relief and humanitarian/emergency relief). However, there was no adequate information available to identify the weighting factor. Therefore, a weighing factor of 25% was assumed.

Although Ethiopia and Pakistan have the highest total budgetary allocation towards nutrition interventions, the spending per stunted and/or under five children is the lowest, due to the high absolute number of children.

The World Bank together with stakeholders has estimated that it will cost approximately an additional \$8.50 per child **per year** to meet the global stunting target (World Bank, R4D, CIFF, 1000 Days, & BMG).

Country	Nr. of stunted children	% of stunted children ⁵⁴	Total nr. of children under 5	Nutrition commitments (EUR)		Commitment per stunted child (EUR)	Commitment per child under 5 (EUR)
				DEVCO	ECHO		
ETHIOPIA	5,689,38	38.4	14,816,117	71,750,000	73,500,000	25.5	9.8
NEPAL	989,816	35.8	2,764,849	49,734,677	18,250,000	68.7	24.6
NIGER	1,821,932	42.2	4,317,374	48,173,748	31,750,000	43.9	18.5
PAKISTAN	9,898,168	45	21,995,929	90,000,000	34,862,500	12.6	5.7
ZAMBIA	1,102,607	40.1	2,749,643	36,950,000	-	33.5	13.4

Table 14 | Total financial commitment and commitment per (stunted) child

Limitations

Accountability and transparency are needed to track commitment and actual disbursements. The Creditor Reporting System (CRS) managed by OECD monitors the commitments and actual disbursements of DAC countries and several institutions.

The OECD CRS database was used to check whether major relevant funded programmes were included in this study. However, there are significant challenges with tracking financial commitments and disbursements. A challenge when using CRS data for tracking nutrition-sensitive interventions, is the use of single purpose codes for each activity, even if multiple purpose codes would describe the activity more accurately (Brough, 2017). In addition, the CRS does not provide any information on project documents, making it difficult to assess their relevance to nutrition (Brough, 2017). In Table 14, the weighting factor used for allocating programme funding was either 100% for

nutrition specific programmes or 25% for nutrition sensitive programmes following the SUN methodology. However, the actual percentage may differ based on country context and the specific activities. The SUN resource tracking methodology assumes that the OECD-DAC purpose codes related to food aid, material relief assistance, humanitarian/emergency and relief coordination are related to nutrition. However, information on ECHO programmes is limited, and therefore, the total amount disbursed for these budget codes was considered partial nutrition-sensitive with a weighting factor of 25%. The amounts as presented in the table are for nutrition programmes implemented from 2014 onwards. However, some programmes started earlier under the 10th EDF, but had a significant disbursement in 2014 and beyond and therefore, the allocations were included.

5.2. Indicative programmes of EU delegations

5.2.1. DEVELOPMENT OF NIPS

For each programme, country or region the EC develops an indicative programme (NIP/MIP) providing a strategic orientation towards a 7-year horizon, reflecting the development needs of each country. The NIPs are a result of a consultative process with the respective governments, non-state actors and the private sector. There is a clear shift in focus of EU programming with nutrition receiving more attention in the current NIP, as compared to the previous. However, only Niger has explicitly mentioned nutrition in one of its key areas. The current NIP is for the period of 2014-2020, and its development largely coincided with the development of the EU Action Plan on Nutrition. Therefore, it cannot be expected that the NIPs reflect the areas covered by the EU Action Plan on Nutrition. However, the Food Security Implementation Plan issued in 2013, has likely contributed to the prioritisation of food and nutrition security in the NIPs of many countries (Alliance2015, 2014). The sectors of agriculture, food security and rural development are the principal avenues for mainstreaming nutrition under the NIPs 2014-2020. As programming for the current NIP has largely been decided on, with most funding already committed or disbursed, there is less scope for advocacy for improving the implementation of the current NIP. However, the development of the NIP 2021-2027 will provide a great advocacy opportunity to further strengthen the nutrition sensitivity of the programming under the NIPs.

5.2.2. MONITORING PROGRESS

The EU evaluates its national indicative plans based on existing data, often collected through national surveys or program documents. All countries measure change in the percentage of stunted children by its inclusion as an impact indicator in the NIP through periodically conducted Demographic and Health Surveys, national nutrition surveys or Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys. However, it remains debatable whether stunting is considered an appropriate impact target for agricultural interventions. Indicators measuring dietary indicators may be more feasible and appropriate for nutrition-sensitive programming. However, there are no diet related indicators included in the NIPs.

5.2.3. FINANCING MODALITIES

The EU uses a wide range of financing instruments, modalities and aid channels. The Commission's ability to draw on a wide array of instruments, allowing interventions in the short and longer terms as well as in different sectors. The data of the present study showed that the funding is roughly equally divided between the UN/ World Bank, partner government (budget support) and grants, and with about 5% of funding managed by Member States. The role of NGOs is limited, except in Pakistan, where they play an important role in the implementation of various nutrition related programmes. The second progress report on the EU Action Plan on Nutrition highlights the large shifts in the proportion of funding going to partner country government and the UN bodies. The data of 42 countries

showed that in 2016, partner governments received 71.5% of the funding that included nutrition, compared to 1.2% in 2014. In contrast, the share going to UN bodies has dropped from 54.7% to 14.1% in the past three years. Funding through NGOs, call for proposals and procurement reduced from ± 25% to less than 5%. These shifts are explained in the context of significant rises in the size of overall commitments to nutrition (EU, 2017).

5.3. Enhancing mobilization and political commitment

Leadership, good governance and national ownership are central in tackling nutrition. Good governance for nutrition has received increased attention as a critical success factor for nutrition. The SUN movement identified that the existence of a national nutrition plan, an inter-sectoral mechanism for nutrition and a national nutrition monitoring system are associated with good governance (Kennedy & Fekadu, 2016). Given the position of the EU and its capacity to influence governance, the EU has an important role in establishing good governance for nutrition in all five countries. The EU delegations engage in dialogue on nutrition governance at the highest level and engage with focal points on nutrition in relevant ministries (especially health and agriculture) to incorporate nutrition objectives and indicators. The EU is a strong advocate for establishing effective national nutrition coordination mechanisms. There is close coordination with other key partners, notably EU Members States, and joint advocacy frameworks have been drafted in Ethiopia and Zambia. In all countries, the EU has fostered and/or participated in the

development of multi-sectoral nutrition strategies. The EU has also spearheaded nutrition development in Nepal and Pakistan, where EU funded nutrition programming formed the basis for further government led nutrition programming. Advocacy is informed by increasing national level analytical data on nutrition, food security and resilience. The approach taken by the EU for improving nutrition is advocating for the inclusion of recommended activities in specific sectors either in their programmes or for government or other member states programmes. In the case of Ethiopia for example, the complementary action to promote nutrition in the AGP II was conditional for its funding.

The EU Action Plan on Nutrition identifies support for sound and responsible involvement of civil society and private sector entities, requiring appropriate participatory mechanisms and exchange of information at country level. In general, the EU consults with CSOs and private entities in the early stages of the development of the NIPs. CSOs are often important members in the multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition. However, CSOs receive limited funding from EU for nutrition programmes as most funds are channelled through governments and UN agencies, except for Pakistan, where NGOs play a larger role in the implementation of nutrition activities. The shift of increased funding towards governments relative to CSOs is explained by the significant rise of overall commitments to nutrition (EU, 2017). Through the European External Investment Plan, the EU will promote inclusive growth, job creation and sustainable development and so tackle some of the root causes of irregular migration. The EIP aims at

crowding in private investors where viable business proposals meet social needs, and where limited public funds can attract private money (EU, 2017). The private sector has a vital role to play in improving nutrition by ensuring that diverse and nutritious foods are available for all through access to markets, own production and income generation along the value chain. However, there is limited understanding and evidence on how to best engage the private sector for improved nutritional outcomes. Zambia is the only country, where a significant role for the private sector is envisioned in improving nutrition.

5.4. *Scaling up nutrition actions*

5.4.1. NUTRITION SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

In all five countries, the EU works in partnership with UNICEF for improving nutrition through nutrition specific actions. This is in line with the EU Action Plan on Nutrition that proposes collaboration with key organisations with a mandate in nutrition and in-country presences such as UNICEF. The focus of each programme is country specific with large programmes (>EUR 40 million) supporting Ethiopia to improve skilled deliveries, and Zambia in addressing nutrition within a broader programme aiming at improving maternal, neonatal and child morbidity and mortality. The EU in Pakistan and Nepal support smaller programmes (<EUR 5 million) that focus on IMAM and IYCF. In addition, the support towards the multi-sectoral nutrition programmes also includes several nutrition specific actions.

5.4.2. NUTRITION-SENSITIVE INTERVENTIONS

Fundamental to the design of any nutrition-sensitive interventions is the focus on individuals (women, adolescents, and children), its contribution towards nutrition-sensitive outcomes or results and the inclusion of nutrition objectives or indicators. The EU plays a critical role in all five countries in increasing the nutrition sensitivity of the agricultural sector. In Ethiopia, there is also strong support for nutrition-sensitive social protection, which falls under the responsibility of the agricultural sector, while in Nepal, the EU aims to integrate nutrition within its support towards the WASH sector. Considering the fundamental role of WASH in nutrition outcomes and strengthening community resilience, it is surprising that only Nepal has considerable funding allocated to the WASH sector. The education sector receives support through a specific key sector in Nepal and Pakistan, while in Zambia, there are a few small projects aiming to improve the quality of education in the country supported by the EU. The education programmes are mainly focusing on improving quality and enrolment, while no specific nutrition aims or objectives are included to strengthen the integration of nutrition with the education policies and programmes.

Investments in agriculture and food systems are essential to improving the availability, accessibility and consumption of nutritious foods. However, improving agricultural production and value chains is not necessarily improving the nutritional status. These investments can be leveraged in favour of nutrition but doing so requires explicitly considering the nutritional implications of investments. Efforts should

be made to diversify production and diets, improve processing methods to make healthy foods available longer and convenient to prepare, ensure that investments are equitable and mindful of the environment, consider the impact on women and children and to educate populations on the importance of nutrition in order to empower consumers to make healthy food choices (FAO, 2015).

Although the EU has developed several reference documents on addressing undernutrition through integrated approaches (EC, et al., 2011), there are still enough opportunities to modify the design of programmes in relevant sectors and thematic areas. Many of the agricultural based projects focus on agricultural production and are monitored mainly on agricultural growth, productivity and market surplus, whilst there are few indicators related to food consumption or dietary diversity. Especially in Pakistan, there is a scope for review of large EU funded programmes and to identify where programmatic changes or complementary actions could be made to increase the impact on nutritional outcomes. Most nutrition specific interventions target pregnant or lactating women and children, particularly those under two or five years of age. Target populations for food security and agriculture-based activities have often a much wider scope. They are likely to include smallholder farmers, but may also include producers, low income consumers and value chain actors, which may not necessarily have much overlap with a population targeted according to nutrition criteria (UNSCN, 2014). Agricultural programmes may be biased towards male smallholder farmers due to social norms and women having limited access to agricultural extension services and agricultural inputs (UNSCN, 2014). As

the EU supports the integration of nutrition within agricultural based programmes, there is need to reconsider effective targeting for improved nutrition.

Blending has gradually evolved into an important tool of EU external cooperation, with globally almost 50 million Euros of grant funds supporting the local private sector, notably MSMEs, in strengthening local production capacity and fostering job creation. In Zambia, the EU will support smallholder's inclusion in value chains through innovative business models (grant and loan operations) including agribusiness operators and smallholders. This activity assumes that it will increase participation of smallholder farmers in market integrated, nutrition and gender sensitive value chains. However, an important implication is that expectations of the private sector delivering on public nutrition objectives need to be tempered by the reality that most firms within food value chains – even most socially responsible firms -are businesses whose first intention is to create and distribute profits to owners (Maestre, Poole, & Henson, 2017). Thus, a significant public-sector role in the market system will be needed in the form of food distribution, public investment, public services, subsidies, taxation, standards and regulation (Maestre, Poole, & Henson, 2017).

5.4.3. STRENGTHEN HUMAN CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY/SYSTEMS

Significant efforts have been made by all countries to consider nutrition into the strategic objectives of the national agricultural policy and/or strategies. However, in general, a major constraint is

the inadequate capacity at different levels of the agricultural sector to deliver nutrition-sensitive programming. The EU, has in all countries, except Pakistan, a complementary action with one of the specific tasks to build capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to improve the impact on nutritional outcomes of their work.

5.4.4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There has been some controversy around the EU Action Plan on Nutrition as it solely focuses on stunting without addressing actions related to the **reduction of wasting** (Alliance2015, 2014), whilst both were addressed in the previous communication on enhancing maternal and child nutrition. The fragmentation of interests and perspectives on childhood undernutrition has negative consequences for advocacy efforts that aim to bring attention and resources to child nutrition across the globe (Angood, Khara, Dolan, & Berkley, 2016). However, only in Zambia, wasting is not addressed in the national nutrition plan for stunting reduction, whilst wasting is part of the national nutrition plan (NNP-II, MSNP, PIN, 3NI) for the other countries and there ECHO has a strong focus on the treatment of acute malnutrition and therefore, it will be partly addressed through the committed support towards these plans. In addition, several countries fund specific programmes that have a component related to the integrated management of acute malnutrition. Globally, programmes to **support adolescents** are lagging behind the international call for focus on this area and the general increase in attention on nutrition (Save the Children, 2015). The only reviewed programmes that deliberately address adolescent nutrition are

the multi-sectoral nutrition plans of each country and some of the nutrition specific programmes and the **Social Determinants of Health** programme in Ethiopia that puts women and adolescents at the centre of the intervention. There are no nutrition-sensitive interventions addressed by the EU, that deliberately target adolescents for improved nutrition.

The ability of the EU to achieve its stunting reduction targets relies heavily on the work of the EU delegations in **supporting countries that have a high rate of stunting** (EU, 2014). Pakistan and Ethiopia are among the countries with the highest absolute number of stunted children. However, even within a country, there are often large differences in the prevalence of stunting, with the prevalence of stunting in rural areas being higher as compared to urban areas. However, considering the population density in urban areas, the absolute number of stunted children is high. As nutrition is mainly addressed through the focal sector of rural development and agriculture, the focus of the EU support is mainly on the rural areas, with little focus on urban areas. There is increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity, alongside persistent undernutrition rates. Although the EU Action Plan on Nutrition focuses on stunting, there is a need to consider **the double burden of malnutrition** and how interventions can have a positive impact on both under and overnutrition.

5.5. *Strengthen expertise and knowledge*

A key aspect of the EU's accountability is its emphasis on evidence-based action to use resources effectively and efficiently.

The EU recognizes the importance of nutrition-sensitive information systems and its contribution to multi-sectoral platforms that coordinate nutrition interventions. Existing research and information systems on food and nutrition security can be very informative to both the context analysis and the strategic priorities developed at national level by governments (Nicholson, 2016). This study showed considerable support of the EU towards the development of nutrition information systems. The NIPN is an initiative from the EU that provides support towards countries to strengthen their information systems for nutrition and to improve the analysis of data to better inform the strategic decisions they are faced with to prevent malnutrition and its consequences. The NIPN supports the adoption of ambitious, but feasible stunting reduction targets. In Nepal, Pakistan and Zambia, the contribution towards the establishment of an information system for nutrition is channelled through the support towards the multi-sectoral plan for nutrition, whilst Ethiopia and Niger receive a separate grant towards supporting the national information system.

Nutrition research supported by the EU is limited to Ethiopia, where research is conducted on the drivers of stunting. In strengthening expertise and knowledge, the EU could explore ways to include, support and collaborate with local research institutes to build research capacity and to increase local ownership of research findings. The INFORMED project, implemented in about 35 countries, has also significantly contributed to improved access to quality data and information supporting policy makers in food security related issues.

The current level of funding for local research is low, with the EU only providing

financial support towards nutrition research in Ethiopia through IFPRI and EPHI that conducts research on the drivers of stunting. This is important, as there is still little global and country specific information available on the best way to support agriculture for improved nutritional outcomes. There are opportunities to engage existing (agricultural) research institutions to include a focus on food and nutrition security or to integrate operational research for nutrition into existing or new programmes.

6

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, this study shows that the programming of the EU is aligned with the EU Action Plan on Nutrition. The EU plays a leading role in improving nutrition governance at country level, it plays a key role in shaping governments nutrition programming and fosters the development of multi-sectoral plans for nutrition. Nutrition-specific interventions are supported through the multi-sectoral nutrition plans and through indirect management by UNICEF. Throughout the programming, it is recognized that multi-sectoral coordination and programming is essential to nutrition-sensitive programming. There is a clear shift towards making programmes more sensitive towards nutrition by making nutrition more explicit throughout the objectives, indicators and activities. Emphasis is placed on nutrition-sensitive interventions by enhancing gender approaches, building nutrition capacity of the agricultural sector, strengthening resilience and supporting nutrition and gender sensitive value chains for smallholder farmers.

This study provides a number of recommendations to further the EU's progress towards achieving its stunting commitments.

1. The development of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and NIP 2021-2027 will provide a great advocacy opportunity to increase funding towards nutrition and further strengthen the programme design for improved nutritional outcomes. The experience and lessons learned from Alliance2015 with regards to nutrition programming will provide a good basis for country-level dialogue with the EU. The planning of consultations for the upcoming NIP will depend on each country, but are likely to start in 2019.
2. It is important to understand programme pathways and impact that lead to improvements in food security and nutritional outcomes. To maximize nutritional outcomes of existing programmes, there is a need to review currently funded programmes with a potential to improve food and nutrition security and provide recommendations to increase the nutrition-sensitivity of the programmes.
3. Many of the agricultural based projects focus on agricultural production and are monitored mainly on agricultural growth, productivity and market surplus, whilst there are few indicators related to food consumption or dietary diversity. Therefore, advocacy should focus on including appropriate nutrition related indicators.
4. There is a need to invest in evidence on how the private sector could be leveraged for improving food and nutrition security, with a specific focus on stunting and how the European

External Investment Plan can be leveraged for improved nutrition, whilst taking into account the potential risks of engaging the private sector and the safeguards that need to be put in place. Programmes encouraging development of local markets should integrate specific indicators on how investments contribute to improving nutrition outcomes, while also taking into consideration environmental sustainability and climate change resilience.

5. As the EU funding to CSOs is relatively limited, Alliance2015 members should

identify and promote the added value of their engagement in programme implementation, developing and testing innovative approaches to nutrition development within EU supported programmes.

6. Active participation in EU programming and further dialogue with the EU delegations is necessary to follow up on programme commitments to maximise impact on nutritional outcomes. The table below provides a number of country specific entry points for engagement with the EU delegation.

ETHIOPIA

- › The **complementary action to promote nutrition within the AGP II** is of importance to ensure that the AGP II is leveraged for improved nutrition. However, the implementation has not yet started, and therefore, there is scope for dialogue with the EU on the Technical Cooperation Facility to be established for shaping the complementary action to maximise nutritional impact.
- › There is no evidence yet that the **PSNP** has an impact on nutrition. Therefore, there is a need for research to identify the most effective ways to leverage the PSNP for improved nutrition.

NEPAL

- › The EU facilitated a nutrition-sensitive approach to the ADS and recognizes the need for adapting approaches to different agro-ecological areas and farm categories within the ADS. However, there are concerns about its focus on commercialization and how the strategy will contribute to improved nutritional outcomes for subsistence farmers. The Technical Cooperation Facility, as budgeted for under the complementary support towards the CARD, provides the opportunity for the provision of technical assistance and capacity building in order to maximize the impact of the ADS on nutrition outcomes. The extent to which the TCF focuses on nutrition is a possible entry point for dialogue with the EU delegation.
- › The specific objective to measure progress of NIP on the inclusion of nutrition indicators and targets in annual plans of all relevant sectors has not been achieved yet. Therefore, there is scope for advocacy around this theme.
- › Identifying strengths and value addition of civil society partners for increased participation of civil society actors in the planning and implementation of EU funded nutrition related programmes is an important entry point for advocacy with EU.

Table 15 | Possible entry points for engagement with EU delegation at country level

NIGER

- › The EU has recently signed a service contract with an European consortium for providing technical assistance and capacity building toward the implementation of the 3N initiative. It is important that the support has a strong nutrition component to improve nutrition impact of the 3N initiative, and therefore needs to be monitored.
- › The implementation of the 3N Initiative needs adequate monitoring to ensure that adequate resources are allocated towards nutrition security and that the sustainable agriculture interventions are nutrition-sensitive in order to maximise impact on nutritional outcomes.

PAKISTAN

- › There are several programmes under the key sector of “rural development” (GRASP, SUCCESS, ILTS and BRDCEP) which have a potential to improve nutritional outcomes but have so far little deliberate nutrition consideration. Therefore, there is scope for the EU to define a theory of change for nutrition, develop relevant nutrition target criteria, and include deliberate evidence-based nutrition interventions within these programmes to increase its impact on nutritional outcomes. This may be a good entry point for dialogue with the EU around nutrition.

ZAMBIA

- › There is a strong commitment towards increasing the impact of EU funded programmes towards nutrition. However, relatively little funding is supporting the pooled donor fund for the national stunting reduction plan. The majority of funds are allocated towards actions with the intention to improve nutrition through inclusive value chain development, sustainable commercialization of emerging farmers, agribusiness development and climate smart agriculture. However, deliberate actions will need to be taken to increase impact on nutrition outcomes whilst ensuring profitability for key actors. Sharing learning experiences of A2015 members in working with private sector for nutrition outcomes and nutrition-sensitive interventions could be an entry point for dialogue with the EU. Also, the PEP II programme provides, with technical nutrition staff sitting within the ministry of agriculture, a great opportunity to strengthen institutional capacity and agricultural policy implementation for improved nutrition outcomes.

Table 15 | Possible entry points for engagement with EU delegation at country level

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ANNEX 1.

SUN RESOURCES TRACKING METHODOLOGY

The OECD-DAC uses a sector code for reporting activities that are aimed primarily at direct nutrition interventions.

Tracking nutrition-sensitive interventions is less straightforward as nutrition is often included as part of a larger programme.

The SUN donor network has developed an

approach to accurately and effectively track external nutrition development assistance.

The SUN resource tracking methodology considers a project or programme nutrition-sensitive if actions fulfil ALL the following criteria (SUN Donor Network, 2013);

SUN resource tracking methodology for nutrition-sensitive programming

- › Select an area of potentially relevant projects, using 35 DAC purpose codes and 67 keywords.
- › Review each project document and determine whether the project is nutrition-sensitive, according to the following criteria (all of which must be met):
 - › *Aimed at individuals (and intended to improve nutrition for women or adolescent girls or children)*
 - › *Contain a significant nutrition objective or nutrition indicator (including an explicit aim to take action to improve nutrition)*
 - › *Contribute to a defined set of nutrition-sensitive outcomes (which are itemised in the same document).*
- › Classify the “intensity” of nutrition-sensitivity into “dominant” or “partial” according to whether the full project or only part of the project is nutrition-sensitive. The amount of investment counted is 100% or 25% of the total project value respectively.

Box 2 | Nutrition-sensitive resource tracking methodology (SUN Donor Network, 2013)

ANNEX 2.

LIST OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

	Name	Position/organisation	Country
1	Pierre-Luc Vanhaeverbeke	Attaché – nutrition coordinator, EEAS	ETHIOPIA
2	Ursula Truebwasser	Nutrition consultant to EEAS	ETHIOPIA
3	Asja Hanano	Country director, WHH	NEPAL
4	Badri Bastakoli	Senior programme officer, Helvetas	NEPAL
5	Mona Sherpa	Deputy county director, Helvetas	NEPAL
6	Sushil Ghimire	WHH	NEPAL
7	Nico Amini Tsongo	Nutrition and health advisor, CWW	NIGER
8	Nicoletta Avella	Team leader rural development, EEAS	NIGER
9	Sandrine Robert	Technical assistant, ECHO	NIGER
10	Dr. Alam Mazar	Nutrition and health advisor, CWW	PAKISTAN
11	Roselyn Mullo	ECHO, Bangkok	PAKISTAN
12	Shohreh Naghchbandi	EEAS	PAKISTAN
13	Viviene Rigler	Team leader rural development, EEAS	PAKISTAN
14	Danny Harvey	Country Director, CWW	ZAMBIA
15	Marion Michaud	Programme officer, EEAS	ZAMBIA

ANNEX 3.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job title	Alliance2015 Research consultant
Reports to:	Alliance2015 Senior Programme Officer
Job location	Brussels office of Alliance2015 and/or homeworking
Days of work	Approx. 40 days
Background	This is a temporary function to provide research support to two of Alliance2015 key working groups (Advocacy group and Food and Nutrition Security Group)
Job purpose	The objective is to support two specific pieces of research and to support and contribute to the drafting of two position/technical papers.
Main duties and responsibilities	<p>Contextual analysis – EU Action Plan on nutrition (50%)</p> <p>This aspect of the work will be undertaken in close cooperation with the members of the Advocacy Group and entails producing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">› A comprehensive, clear and succinct contextual analysis of EC and EU members' commitments and actual support to achieving the EU Action Plan on Nutrition. This will also entail an analysis of the different position of potential allies to the plan but also of the obstacles for its full implementation› The documentation of actual trends in commitment, gaps between objectives and commitments and coherence between commitments and country level action plans› The documentation, in a user-friendly format, of the key features of country action plans and trends & gaps for achieving the overall nutrition objectives› Identification of the various global events and initiatives that could constitute a potential opportunity for Alliance2015 to promote their messages and position its work over the next 1-3 years.

Main duties and responsibilities

Private sector interventions and the impact on food and nutrition security of the poor

This aspect of the assignment will be undertaken in close cooperation with the members of the Food and Nutrition Security Group and entails:

- › Producing a comprehensive literature review of private and public actors' main approaches and lessons learnt from their Private Sector engagement and cooperation to address Food and Nutrition Security of the poor.
- › Writing case studies to illustrate different approaches (engagement with private sector for food and nutrition security) and results;
- › Reviewing and editing the A2015 FNS technical paper based on the literature review
- › Using the FNS paper and different A2015 members' approaches, draw together commonalities and draft initial A2015 position statements.

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www.alliance2015.org

Alliance2015

Residence Palace

155 rue de la loi, bte. 48

1040 Brussels, Belgium

info@alliance2015.org

+32 (0) 2 235 23 25/6

 [@Alliance_2015](https://twitter.com/Alliance_2015)