

Abstract

The presentation is a glimpse of major highlights on Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement in Nepal. It reflects initiation of multi-sectoral and multi stakeholder coordination to address nutrition issues along with civil society engagement in advocating and sustaining political will for government action.

Context

More than half child death in Nepal is associated with under nutrition, significantly higher than infectious diseases (Lancet 2013). The high incidence of chronic malnutrition, about 41% children is suffered affecting on social and economic development of the country. About 45 % child mortality is associated with under nutrition. Therefore, child mortality reduction is less likely without Improvement in nutrition. The Government of Nepal has committed on SUN global initiatives (focuses on the 1000 day window of opportunity between the start of pregnancy and the child's second birthday) and highly prioritized nutrition with adoption of Multi Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) 2013-2017 addressing nutrition as multifaceted and multidimensional problem. This plan offers a package of a set of focused interventions to attain priority strategic objectives for each of the key sectors that over five years, should all contribute to a reduction of more than 20 per cent of currently prevalent rates of chronic malnutrition. Nepal is 27th early raising SUN country among 45 committed countries.

Nepal's SUN Architecture

- The National Planning Commission developed MSNP in 2012 jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Ministry of Health and Population and the Ministry of Urban Development.
- National Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee – Country coordination mechanism for SUN initiatives under the NPC leadership
- The honorable member of the NPC (Social Sector) act as chair – SUN Country Focal Point
- Chief Nutrition Section MoHP, is the SUN Technical Focal Point
- Participated in the SUN Annual Meeting on 2011, 2012 and 2013
- A coherent policy and legal framework – Draft strategies on comprehensive IYCF, Nutrition and IDD plan in line with MSNP linkage with key sectors
- National Nutrition & Food Security Secretariat – coordinating body at NPC
- Nutrition Technical Committee under MoHP
- Capacity Building of sectoral ministries to develop sectoral plan at National level and at 6 MSNP piloting districts (Bajura, Achham, Napaparasi, Parsa, Jumla & Kapilvastu)
- Increased donor resources for nutrition (e.g. KISAN, *Sunaula Hajar Din*, SUSAHARA etc)
- Public campaign and media mobilization (e.g. ODF campaign and Radio programmes)
- National Civil Society Alliance established for advocating/ lobbying through campaigns such as policy brief, public debate, mass/media campaigning in multi stakeholder platform for ensuring MSNP implementation.
- Mapping matrix of CSOs working in the field of Nutrition has been developed and consultative meeting has been done on nutrition alliance establishment
- Interim committee of 11 members drafted and shared TOR for alliance with wider group
- Periodic SUN teleconference of the SUN country focal points and relevant stakeholders – Civil society participated
- Establishment of secretariat in process

Gap Analysis

Save the Children in Nepal is coordinating the active and sustained CSO's engagement in nutrition issues through the establishment of CSA that will ultimately result in improved nutrition outcomes in the country. Currently, there are many CSOs implementing a variety of nutrition activities in Nepal. The CSO alliance is expected to harmonize and bring together the different shades of CSO advocacy activities to ensure consistency and unity in achieving optimal outcomes in nutrition as envisioned by the MSNP. Although nutrition is recognized across all sectors as an important ingredient for development, the burden of malnutrition remains stagnant with increasing investment in nutrition. Currently, there is several nutrition related projects in the country funded by USAID and World Bank (e.g. KISAN, *Sunaula Hajar*

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Din, SUSAHARA etc). There is need to stream line the activities and ensure efficient flow of funds with coordinated effort in design, implementation and monitoring. On this aspect, the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) seems very important on advocating both nutrition 'specific' and 'sensitive' interventions in line with global SUN movement.

Though the role of CSO's during MSNP preparation was negligible, an established relationship between the CSO wing of SUN and National SUN now will definitely bring synergy effect during the course of program implementation phase of MSNP in Nepal.

Learning and Recommendation

- National Nutrition Centre under National Planning commission (NPC) should be established, instead of (Poshan Shakha) "Nutrition Department" in Child Health Division
- Advocacy for high level attention on nutrition – Separate budget cost on nutrition heading and increased national budget allocation

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