



<b>Programme Title:</b>	SCALING UP NUTRITION THROUGH A MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH
<b>Country:</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>PDF version:</b>	<a href="#">Download Joint Programme Document Form</a>

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## II. Programme summary

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**Programme title:**

SCALING UP NUTRITION THROUGH A MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH

**Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives**

Food security and nutrition

Integrated approaches for alleviating child hunger and undernutrition.

Strengthen capacities to generate information through assessment, monitoring and evaluation.

**Joint programme summary:**

The joint programme aims to achieve two key objectives:

- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of government investment on food security and nutrition by highlighting the gaps, opportunities and impact of current initiatives; and
- Achieve attitudinal and behavioural changes through enhanced nutrition education and nutrition promotion on safe and nutrient foods, dietary diversity, nutrient deficiencies and its root causes.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will provide technical and programmatic support to several ministries in carrying out some of the action plans outlined in the Multi Sector Action Plan for Nutrition (MSAPN). WFP will conduct key surveys and pilot studies of fortified rice, double fortified salt and micronutrient powders to identify the viability of current government initiatives. The surveys and studies will focus on a multitude of factors effecting under nutrition. It will also narrow down areas of intervention to highlight geographic areas that are most affected and vulnerable, and need due attention in targeting. The population groups that need prioritized and targeted support will be identified based on communities that are food insecure and currently have high levels of under nutrition. The survey and studies will recommend key aspects of micronutrient deficiencies in products and fortification of rice and salt, which can directly impact in a practical and sustainable manner, and address issues prevalent in the current context.

FAO will aim to change behaviour and attitude by concentrating on nutrition education for school children, training teachers, revising curriculum, improving guidelines and increasing school capacities to address nutrition levels in individual schools.

WFP and FAO in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) built upon the current partnership with the National Nutrition Council (NNC), to support implementation of the Government Multi Sector Action Plan which consolidates existing services by the key ministries, NGOs, and the private sector (where possible) to enhance focus and coordination of different resources towards the nutritionally-at-risk households. This involved multi-sector coordination between existing programmes such as primary health care, Samurdhi (poverty alleviation programme), Divineguma (home garden and livestock development programme), agriculture, education, Aryurveda (indigenous medicine), water and sanitation, social services, housing and employment/skills development services, among others. The joint programme will address the causal factors of poor nutrition at the household level. This ensures sustainable, efficient and effective

services for the nutritionally-at-risk households thereby reducing the prevalence of under nutrition. The Nutrition Secretariat will continue to play the lead role in coordinating the implementation of nutrition interventions under the key priority areas of action in the MSAPN till 2016, at which time it is envisioned that this responsibility will be handed over to the relevant Ministries.

**Duration:**

Wednesday, October 1, 2014 to Saturday, December 31, 2016

**UN Lead Agency:**

World Food Programme (WFP)

**UN Participating Organizations:**

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

World Food Programme (WFP)

**Local Partners:**

- National Nutrition Secretariat of Sri Lanka (NNSL)
- Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute (HARTI)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
- Medical Research Institute (MRI)
- Save the Children (Executor SUN project)
- Ministry of Education and Education Services (MOE)
- Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs (MoCDWA)
- Ministry of Trade (MOT)
- Ministry of Technology and Research (MTR)
- Ministry of Indigenous Medicine (MoIM)
- UNICEF

### III. Programme budget

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**Total amount requested from the SDG-F:**

1 500 000.00

**Total contribution through matching funds:**

1 499 578.00

Aggregate amount requested and broken down by Agency:

**Name of Agency:**

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**Amount:**

749 707.00

**Name of Agency:**

World Food Programme (WFP)

**Amount:**

749 871.00

Aggregate matching funds amounts and broken down by source:

**Short explanation of strategy:**

Matching funds already exist as part of the annual budget of the national government. For 2014 alone in the national budget a total of 7,000 million LKR (53 million USD) has been committed towards nutrition of which 3,300 million LKR (25 million USD) has already been released for specific activities of the MSAP-N

**Name of source:**

National Nutrition Council through the presidential task-force for nutrition as part of the national budget for the MSAP-N

**Amount:**

1 500 000.00

## Aggregate amount requested and broken down by UNDG Harmonized Budget Category

	<b>SDG-F Budget</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
<b>Staff and other personnel costs</b>	374 465.00	339 973.00
<b>Supplies, Commodities, Materials</b>	283 269.00	588 462.00
<b>Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation</b>	37 077.00	100 781.00
<b>Contractual services</b>	400 231.00	212 982.00
<b>Travel</b>	64 615.00	130 379.00
<b>Transfers and Grants Counterparts</b>	22 346.00	
<b>General Operating and Other Direct Costs</b>	219 472.00	76 799.00
<b>Total Programme Costs</b>	1 401 475.00	1 449 376.00
<b>Indirect support costs (not to exceed 7%)</b>	98 103.00	61 538.00
<b>Grand TOTAL</b>	1 499 578.00	1 510 914.00

## IV. Programme description

### Background and rationale:

Sri Lanka made impressive achievements in improving the health and nutritional status of its population between the 1970s and 2000. It is quite well known that Sri Lanka's health indicators are among the best in the region. However, nutrition achievements have lagged behind in the last decade with the country currently experiencing high levels of under nutrition in relation to GDP and infant mortality. Following a rapid decline in stunting prevalence to the year 2000, there has been stagnation since then. In rural Sri Lanka, where 80 per cent of the total population lives, stunting rates are now moderately high compared to other indicators of development. Moreover, while stunting and underweight prevalence decreased, wasting prevalence has remained unusually high and largely unchanged at about 15 per cent for the last three decades.

Causes of high malnutrition rates are attributed to high food and fuel prices that reduce household's access to food. Disasters have increased in scale, frequency and severity, resulting in a surge in the number of deaths, affected people and damage to the country. Large regional differences characterize the country with poverty rates in the Northern Province at 40 per cent, compared to a national level of 9 per cent, and food insecurity in the Northern Province at 40 per cent compared to a national level of 12.3 per cent (2010).

Food security assessments conducted by WFP jointly with the government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has found that the food security situation among the war-affected communities has improved significantly from year 2010 to 2012. However, the most recent comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment (CFSVA), undertaken by WFP and GoSL in April 2012, determined that 1.3 million persons in the Northern and Eastern Provinces were yet food insecure. Two out of five households are still food insecure, and food insecurity was particularly rife among socially vulnerable groups, such as female-headed households, the disabled, recent returnees and populations located in areas with few employment opportunities and under-developed economic infrastructure.

In many developing countries including Sri Lanka, the cumulative impact of the food and fuel crises of 2007 and 2008, and of the financial and economic crises since 2009, have had serious negative impact on efforts to achieve transformational change with regard to women.

The Government, through the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), has recognized that food security cannot be discussed in isolation of water management, since water is the source of life that underpins food production. Sri Lanka is blessed with abundant water, though there are regional disparities. Drought and dry spells are a common phenomenon in this country.

Given the causes of under nutrition are complex and multi-faceted, in line with the National Nutrition Policy (2009-2013), the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has recognized that a multi-sector approach is required to reduce child under nutrition in an effective and sustained manner. In this regard, H.E. President Rajapaksa took the lead in forming a Presidential Task Force-National Nutrition Council. The Task Force, with technical support from UNICEF and other partners, launched an evidence-based Multi-sector Action Plan for Nutrition (MSAPN) to identify priority actions across key cross-cutting areas: communication, community, education, economics, food security and the first 1,000 days of life. This is a reflection of the government's recognition of the importance of a multi-sector approach and their commitment to it. The National Nutrition Action Plan is included in the plans of all relevant Ministries and is supported by a budgetary allocation. (Refer to Annex X: MSAPN for Sri Lanka, vision 2016 Sri Lanka: A Nourished Nation)

Next to the development of the MSAPN, Sri Lanka joined the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement on 4 October 2012, as it recognized the need for adequate advocacy, partnerships and networking with civil society of the country. Jointly with Save the children and the NNSSL, WFP has already been able to secure funding from the SUN movement to establish the SUN Peoples Forum (SUNPF), which aims to reinforce civil society awareness on SUN. It is envisioned that through this forum its complementarity with this joint programme can also be highlighted.

WFP and FAO in consultation with NNSSL and relevant ministries have identified action plans prioritized by the ministries as gaps needing technical and funding support. All the technical activities outlined and incorporated in this joint programme by FAO and WFP are directly linked to action plans outlined in the MSAPN and the UNDAF pillar 1 objective, which has selected nutrition as its flagship initiative, and is part of a larger joint UN and bi-lateral donor support framework to the government. It should be noted that UNICEF through a separate donor (DFAT) would reinforce FAO and WFP activities of the MSAPN by supporting complementary activities, and thereby increase the effectiveness of this joint programme. In addition, the MSAPN and the proposed joint programme will contribute to the government making progress on achieving MDG-1,3,4,5 and 8 and their respective sustainable development goals.

The intended beneficiaries of the joint programme are children under 5, pre-schools children, school children between the ages of 6 and 14, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs), teachers, school communities, educators, civil society stakeholders and the private sector next to all participating line ministries at national, provincial and district level.

While enabling attitudinal changes, the programme will assist the government to take well-informed decisions on targeting the appropriate recipients and in promoting the right combination of micronutrient rich foods.

WFP and FAO activities are sustainable because they are owned by the relevant ministries and are part of a well-analysed multi-sector plan that is result oriented and is based on addressing the root causes of malnutrition. All activities have been formulated in consultation with the ministries and have been communicated to all stakeholders for information sharing and for ensuring continuity across related action

plans.

The surveys and nutrition promotion activities will particularly look at women as a target group to empower and to influence behaviour changes in children and within their households. The surveys will consider gender as a reference point in analysing impact of government investment in household level food supplementation and national level food fortification.

### **Mainstreaming of gender and women's empowerment:**

Over the years Sri Lanka has been at the forefront of advancing women's issues through the United Nations. Sri Lanka became an early party to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (in 1981) and its Protocol (in 2002). Sri Lanka's experience with policies that encourage gender equality and women's empowerment has placed the country in a special category in the developing world. Sri Lanka's political leadership and policy framers recognized early, the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality, rapid economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The Sri Lankan state provides free health, free education to both boys and girls from primary to university levels. The right to participate in the electoral process combined with access to education had a catalytic impact on advancing gender equality in the country. More recently, the MDGs were integrated into the main development policies.

- The age for compulsory school attendance was recently increased to 16. The employment of child labour has been illegal for many years. Sri Lanka's compliance with global labour standards has been favourably commented on by the International Labour Organisation (ILO);
- The adult literacy rate in Sri Lanka for females is 90%, however the census of population and housing of 2001 showed a clear disparity in the estate sector where overall literacy rate was only 75.1%. Among youth (15-24 years) the rate is 99%. Girls outnumber boys in secondary education 50.42% to 49.58% (boys). This statistic also reflects the high value placed by parents on education;
- Life expectancy stands at 78 years for women and 72 years for men;
- The infant mortality rate of 9.4 per 1000 live births in 2012 was comparable to that of many developed countries resulting in UNICEF specifically highlighting Sri Lanka as a success story; and
- The maternal mortality rate had decreased to 35 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010. This is an extremely creditable achievement in a region where infant mortality rates are significantly higher.

Sri Lanka is currently expanding its legal framework to create gender sensitive laws, set up institutional mechanisms and bridge implementation gaps to deal with the areas where gender equality remains inadequately addressed. While Sri Lanka as a result of its political commitment on gender ranks 97 with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.691 amongst 187 countries, it does even better on gender with a rank of 74 for its Gender Inequality Index (GII). The Gender Gap Report of 2012 ranked Sri Lanka 39th among the 135 countries covered in the Report. Regional disparities still exist especially as the cumulative impact of the food and the fuel crises of 2007 and 2008, and of the financial and economic crises since 2009, have had a serious negative impact. In many places, it is the women who continue to spend the major part of the day fetching water or firewood, denying them of opportunities to seek a better life.

Current monitoring information of WFP also showed that there is a slight gender disparity with 65 per cent of the U5 malnourished children being females, while attendance records show both genders attending health clinics equally. The discrepancy therefore has deeper cultural root causes, which so far have not been demonstrated or documented through proper baselines or within the regular national surveys.

Throughout the planning, inception and implementation periods of this Joint Programme, both agencies will advocate for full participation of the SUN Peoples forum and civil communities through regular workshops/meetings and focus group discussions, to increase ownership, knowledge sharing and to ensure that community level best practices are introduced.

With the government driving gender equality, there is a vast network of groups/clubs at the village level organizing women, farmers, schoolchildren, etc. With the parallel running of SUN and the formation of the civil society (SUN Peoples Forum) it is expected that their insights, concerns and suggestions would jointly influence and promote the development of a full participatory, culturally sensitive and integrated health, food and nutrition policy.

FAO and WFP have already established strong links with these civil societies and private sector players, both at national and district levels, and during the inception phase will continue to consolidate these mechanisms. It is expected that with the proposed participatory approach the joint programme will achieve a better understanding of key underlying causes of malnutrition.

FAO and WFP will also pay particular emphasis to mainstreaming gender issues within its activities, its survey tools and reporting formats, which will assist in filling the information gaps on gender disparities. For example, the nutritional surveys will not only look into the collection of gender disaggregated data/indicators, but will also analyse the reasons for these gender disparities, at national, provincial and district levels, especially for those indicators which can't be attributed to access to goods and/or a underlying cultural habits. Women will be among the leaders and committee members of implementation activities.

Finally FAO and WFP will continue to lobby and advocate for awareness campaigns through the Civil Society Alliance (CSA) to address specific and/or cultural habits, and to close the gender gap in the expected results. Both FAO and WFP recognize that women-specific initiatives can create an empowering space for women and act as an important incubator for ideas and strategies than can be transferred to mainstream interventions, and will be an integral part of the success of the MSAPN. WFP and FAO will therefore continue to lobby to ensure that women's groups are included into the CSA.

**Sustainability:**

Aspects of climate change and the environment will be part of the analysis of the nutrition surveys as repeated climate induced shocks have a negative impact on food security and nutrition. This is demonstrated by the drought induced lowering of the ground water table and increased infiltration of seawater in the aquifers, resulting in health and nutrition issues. Therefore environmental and climate change issues will have to be an integral part of the longer term food security and nutrition programmes established by/or resulting of the MSAPN. FAO and WFP will therefore continue to advocate for these aspects to be included in newly developed national food security and nutrition programmes, in line with the post 2015 development agenda.

WFP and other UN agencies are already actively involved in the implementation of several climate change and environmental projects in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy. Both FAO and WFP will coordinate with the programme management units of the different projects to strengthen this programme.

In line with on-going efforts of the UNDAF the proposed joint programme will contribute to capacity building within the government of an improved information management system, especially for food security and nutrition. It will promote evidence-based policy making and programming. Partners will be supported to put in place systems that have the capability to integrate data from multiple sources and sectors, be able to carryout physical, social, economic and environmental analysis and target resources in improving sustainability and resilience. The development of the database should also inform future policies and programming on the link between nutrition and climate change, identifying appropriate measures and interventions that can protect nutrition from climate change and increase community resilience. At the end of the Joint programme the outputs and results of the activities led by WFP and FAO will be fully handed over to the dedicated line ministries through the NNSSL.

As the programme is strongly linked to the MSAPN it will in turn contribute to providing support for public service reform and capacity building in priority areas identified by the Government. Support will be extended towards enhanced sector planning and coordination at all levels, between relevant ministries, District and Divisional Secretariats, Provincial and Local Authorities, the private sector and civil society partners. In particular, strengthening local municipalities and authorities to establish partnerships with development and civil society partners will be a key component of capacity development initiatives and sustainability.

### **Public-private partnerships:**

The joint programme will contribute to Government's efforts in strengthening Public-Private Partnerships and in creating an enabling regulatory environment to address challenges in the food and nutrition sectors.

As a sign of strengthened private sector collaboration through the on-going SUN programme in the country, led by Save the Children and managed by WFP, Cargills Limited has expressed interest (Food City market retail chain) in joining the steering committee as a private sector stakeholder. It is expected that through increased joint work between the government the UN agencies and through the SUN Peoples Platform, the civil society and more stakeholders from the private sector will join the efforts of the government to improve nutrition and food security in Sri Lanka.

WFP has been able to establish a strong link with the private rice sector stakeholders. A delegation of 25 participants including 6 representatives of 7 ministries, representatives of large, medium and small scale rice millers, UNICEF and WFP will be attending a regional Rice fortification workshop in September 2014, partly funded by WFP.

In addition WFP in the past has technically and financially assisted the MOH and the subsequent private sector firm, to improve the production both in quality and quantity of Thriposhia, a specialized locally produced supplementary food to prevent and treat malnutrition, which is now commonly used through the health sector.

### **Civil society participation:**

The Multi Sector Action Plan for Nutrition was developed after a series of consultations among nutrition professionals representing the Government, UN agencies, World Bank, INGOs, academics and Civil society organizations. The government realizes that outputs of the MSAPN cannot be achieved unless it penetrates grassroots levels with active involvement of the civil society and non-government organizations. This enhances the two-way communication between the grassroots level civil societies and policy makers to identify gaps and take corrective actions.

It is believed that with the formation of a SUN civil society, called the Sun People Forum (SUN PF) it will encourage the alignment of civil society and other actors engaging in food and nutrition security. The forum will strengthen the realization of the national and district plans, through the coordination of activities among implementing parties to monitor and evaluate the progress and implementation of the MSAPN.

This joint programme in collaboration with the NNSL will continue its work to facilitate the establishment of the Sun People Forum (SUN PF) and will work with the SUN PF in Sri Lanka to create and provide opportunities to share and learn and to mobilize both internal and international support to scale-up nutrition up to the community and household level.

An analysis of households indicate that nutrition promotion and education have fallen short of making the expected impact on household behavioural patterns. Community participation, engagement and empowerment will be key in strategizing food fortification, food supplementation and food production. The aim is to implement nutrition education and promotion activities hand-in-hand with ownership aspects and

community empowerment in reducing under nutrition in children. This strategy will ensure the implementation of community led and household owned action plans and will setup the process for parents and communities to take more responsibility in safeguarding their child's nutrition status.

FAO initiatives will therefore when applicable and relevant, engage school communities in discussion to facilitate ownership in addressing nutrition issues at a household level and in promoting nutrition within the school community. In addition, cooperation with civil society will be critical for the success of the WFP planned pilot studies of fortified foods in addition to ensuring that the mapping exercise of on-going fortification initiatives in the field are captured comprehensively.

**Justification of the Joint Programme modality:**

A joint programme lends to sharing of knowledge from past experiences in poverty alleviation, specifically related to food and agriculture production and nutrition trends. Past technical contributions by the two agencies in Sri Lanka would complement the proposed activities, and provides an opportunity to tap into needed expertise in implementing proposed action plans. FAO and WFPs long standing presence in Sri Lanka and the knowledge base related to development work will contribute immensely in the successful implementation of the initiatives. FAO and WFP will work in consultation with UNICEF to enhance the planning process.

Although within Sri Lanka there is an abundance of data (mainly paper based), the lack of systematic collection of data in central databases, and the lack of analysis of this data results in serious information gaps. The available data in many cases is incomplete and/or limited in geographical coverage, and in many cases not disaggregated by gender or livelihood group. These shortcomings make analysis of achievements weak, and does not allow the government to cost efficiently and effectively implement its food security and nutrition responses, as it is unable to target its limited resources efficiently to the right people, age group and specific locations where the needs are the highest. Through the implementation of the proposed joint programme some of these information gaps will be fulfilled and will assist both agencies in providing the technical support requested by the government as per budget speech for 2014.

Both FAO and WFP as part of the UN system are well placed to leverage global and regional expertise while exposing the domestic public sector and local institutions to new thinking. At the same time, both agencies in collaboration with UNICEF can help Sri Lanka share its own experiences globally with other countries. FAOs and WFPs ability to tap into international knowledge and the ability to provide high-level technical assistance and advice is well accepted by Sri Lankan stakeholders.

Internal and external consultations as part of FAOs and WFPs country strategy development work, identified the following comparative advantages and added value of FAO and WFP in Sri Lanka:

- **Technical Assistance and Catalyst Role:** FAO and WFP are recognized as catalysts for national action, able to transfer innovative technologies to enhance national nutrition and food security responses, while working closely with both the medical and agricultural research Institutes, the line ministries and the Bureau of Census.
- **Trust, Integrity and Accountability:** The Government and donors trust FAO and WFP as independent and unbiased advisors, working in a transparent and accountable manner. This presents an opportunity for FAO and WFP to advocate for national policy development and strengthening.
- **Strong Track Record in Humanitarian Actions:** Both FAO and WFP have been the partner of choice both for response, analysis and impact determination. FAOs and WFPs ability to organize in-depth food security and nutrition assessments/surveys have led to the request of the government.

Improving the nutrition, knowledge and dietary practices of schoolchildren is a key area of focus for FAO. FAOs Nutrition Education and Consumer Awareness Division works with government agencies, universities, training institutions and non-governmental organizations to identify, enhance, develop and strengthen

national capacities to provide nutrition education for the general public, school children and highly vulnerable groups. FAO provides nutrition information materials, technical guidelines and tools for use by nutrition professionals, trainers and educators. FAO trains national staff in innovative nutrition education methods and communication strategies.

FAO recognizes school children as a priority for nutrition interventions and views the school as an ideal setting for teaching basic skills in food, nutrition and health. FAO promotes nutrition education that combines classroom learning with practical learning activities, creates a nutrition-supporting school environment, and involves the whole school community and parents. FAO initiatives encourage information flow from children and the community to teachers and the school, and specifically targets vulnerable groups and children from disadvantaged households. Engaging children and their families in activities such as growing fruits and vegetables in school gardens (FAO Manual for setting up and running a school garden) and developing/ preparing meals as per guidelines, reinforces learning and improves nutrition.

#### School Materials and Resources

FAO provides assistance to ministries of education, health and agriculture to develop nutrition education materials for teachers and students, especially at the primary school level. FAO has developed the "Eating well for good health" lessons on food and nutrition and has produced a "Planning guide for nutrition education curriculum development" to help countries include food and nutrition education in the primary school curriculum.

#### Training Needs for Nutrition Education

FAO has expertise in integrating food and nutrition topics into the basic school curriculum and supports teaching and learning through the preparation of class materials for children and training for teachers on how to use the materials (pupil's book and teacher's book). The effects of training and teaching are more sustainable when comprehensive, self-explanatory, procedure-based training materials are left in place. Based on FAO's materials-led training approach, the Planning Guide was employed not only to develop a local curriculum, but later as one of the instruments in in-service and pre-service teacher training, which included guidelines for in-service training of nutrition educators and in the learning materials for in-service teacher training. The children's materials not only enabled children to learn, but also guided teachers on classroom approaches, techniques and activities, which were often new to them.

#### Curriculum development expertise

Utilizing the Planning Guide, FAO in one project implemented a participatory curriculum development exercise facilitated by a project Task Force. Participants were teachers, head teachers, teacher trainers, local nutritionists and doctors; school parents and schoolchildren were consulted. The workshop identified seven priority topics to be addressed in the learning materials: under nutrition, vitamin A deficiency, iron deficiency anemia, personal diet, malaria, diarrhea, and personal and environmental health and hygiene, and recommended related learning objectives.

#### Capacity building for nutrition education

FAO's work on nutrition education has included building capacity for nutrition education in schools, such as through the following projects:

- Nutrition Education in Primary Schools in Argentina. This project addressed the inadequate incorporation of nutrition education in schools by strengthening the capacities of the education sector to deliver effective nutrition education;
- Supporting the development of basic education curriculum to improve education in nutrition and food security in El Salvador. This project aimed at enhancing the development of a basic education curriculum in areas related to nutrition and food security beginning with 12 pilot schools and 3 controls in the three regions of the country. It incorporated the strengthening of basic education curriculum, teacher training,

Healthy School Stores and a teaching tool for use with school gardens.

- WHO/China School Nutrition Project. As part of its technical assistance to the Government of China in the promotion of health-promoting schools, WHO collaborated with FAO in six pilot schools in Zhejiang Province with a focus on nutrition. FAO provided technical assistance in the field of nutrition education (curriculum and material development), capacity building among local education, nutrition and health professionals, as well as in project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Enhancing monitoring and analysis for decision-making to bridge the divides between agriculture, nutrition and health.

While the Medical Research Institute (MRI) under the ministry of Health (MOH) is able to implement nutritional surveys and micro-nutrient studies, MRI does not have the technical knowledge nor capacity to scientifically assess and demonstrate the actual link between malnutrition, food security poverty and food consumption. WFP as the joint global cluster lead agency in food security can therefore provide the essential technical skills, capacity building and expertise to establish such links and build a common understanding of the root cause of malnutrition in Sri Lanka.

WFP is already in the process of negotiation and developing the methodology to enhance the nutritional survey for PLWs, Children under 5 and primary school aged children to capture the aspects of food security, poverty, and coping and food consumption patterns at household levels. The funding requested is therefore only to cover the added cost to the nutritional surveys to include survey questions on food security, coping and food consumption as per using WFP standard vulnerability and Mapping (VAM) techniques. The government MOH and other stakeholders will continue to be responsible to cover the cost of the regular yearly nutrition survey for both macro and micronutrients. These costs will be covered by the matching funds and additional funding support of other stakeholders.

Supports governments to carry out national food security and nutrition plans.

Based on the established opportunities, gaps and challenges through the planned mapping of the national capacity and review, WFP will leverage partnerships and use its core strengths in procurement and logistics to promote local fortification and the local production of specialized nutritional products within Sri Lanka. WFP will therefore also advocate for the use of fortified locally produced nutritious foods to address remaining malnutrition.

Strengthen the capacity of governments and communities to design, manage and scale up nutrition programmes and create an enabling environment that promotes gender equality and brings under nutrition below critical levels.

Through country-led multi-stakeholder initiatives, it will support governments to analyze food access and dietary intake, address underlying gender inequalities and vulnerabilities, and integrate nutrition into social protection schemes. It will build the capacity of local processors to produce fortified and complementary foods. WFP in Sri Lanka partners with the private sector to apply the latest advances in food science and fortification technology to increase the impact, lower the cost and expand the range and availability of supplementary foods. WFP will implement a review of the capacity for the in-country production of fortified rice & double fortified salt based on WFPs core strengths (people, presence, partnerships and performance). It is expected that the experience from the pilot studies of the double fortified salt, fortified rice and micronutrient powders will benefit smallholder farmers, private sector partnerships, including women's groups. In addition the WFP VAM unit in Sri Lanka is already implementing the capacity building and roll out of the Cost of Diet technique with HARTI. This technique will allow to review on a quarterly basis the actual cost of a healthy and nutritious diet, this to capture the seasonality and price fluctuations. This process will be handed over by end of 2014 to the government. WFP will continue to advocate for quality education, supporting gender equality, and contributing to poverty reduction and economic growth.

To ensure WFP can provide adequate technical support to the government, in the collection and analysis of data and in building the capacity of the relevant stakeholders, a team of 3 WFP staff (one M&E officer, one VAM officer and one nutritionist) will be providing technical support for a period of 2 years. They will continue to work closely with United Nations agencies, international organizations and others to identify and fill evidence gaps and to increase understanding of nutrition needs and the most appropriate interventions.

**Regions of intervention:**

While the MSAPN is developed for implementation till end 2016, the rollout has been planned in 2 phases. Initially 10 districts will be prioritized based on their ranking for the following nutritional indicators: Wasting, Stunting, Underweight and Anemia. The 10 districts are Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Moneragala, Mullativu, Badulla, Vavuniya, Mannar, Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa and Kandy (see map 1: Geographical location of the priority areas as per the governments roll-out plan for the MSAPN in Annex VI) Special focus will be on schools in nutritionally vulnerable areas and thereafter island-wide.

Under this joint programme FAOs technical support will be provided to relevant educational authorities and will include nation-wide stakeholders as appropriate. Working through relevant central ministries and provincial authorities will ensure application of interventions in localities with actual need for support.

For WFP activities the regions of intervention will be nation wide, as the nutritional surveys will be country wide and applicable at a minimum to district level. The sample size for the baselines will therefore be a representative sample of 30x30 from each of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka.

To ensure comparability between the different surveys and to assist the government in geographical targeting of its interventions, follow-up at District/GN levels where the representative sample size will be determined based on the estimated prevalence for the nutritional status indicators, the desired precision, and an assumed design effect and a non-response of 10% (including refusals) at the individual levels. Thereafter all 25 administrative districts will be included in the multi stage sampling procedure to identify the households to be included.

For the pilot studies of fortified rice, double fortified salt and micronutrient powders, the sample will be based on the findings of the baseline surveys and taking into account the different livelihoods, incomes and areas of living (urban, rural, estate) for the target group, this to ensure that also environmental aspects which influence the foods consumed, quality of care, health and access of the target population to services can be taken into account.

**Targeted groups:**

In line with the MSAPN this Joint Programme will target the most nutritionally vulnerable areas as per the attached MSAPN roll-out plan (10 Districts) and thereafter island-wide (15 Districts) for its direct and primary beneficiaries (see MSAPN roll-out map). Due to the activities in guideline development and at advocacy level, there will be secondary indirect impact to the lives of the overall population in the country, with a specific focus on Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs), children under the age of 5 and school aged children.

The latest available Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2006/07 (excluding northern province) demonstrated that nearly 17 percent of infants are born with low birth weight, while wasting, stunting and underweight among children under five were 15, 18, and 22 percent, respectively. In 2009, a joint food and nutrition assessment by the Government, WFP and UNICEF showed these rates as 11.7, 19.2 and 21.6 percent, respectively. The assessment showed that the districts with significantly higher prevalence of stunted children were Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Trincomalee, Ratnapura and Colombo. Jaffna district, along with the rural and estate sectors, showed a higher risk of anemia. The 2012 National Nutrition and

Micronutrient Survey indicates that among all children in the age group 6-59 months, 13.1 percent were stunted, 19.6 per cent wasted, 23.5 per cent underweight and 7 per cent were overweight. The prevalence of anemia in children aged 6 to 59 months was 15.1 per cent, with male children having a higher prevalence than female children. The department of census and statistics reports that respectively 50 percent and 25 percent of pre-school children are underweight and stunted.

PLWs, children under the age of 5 and school-aged children are the key target group of the project and this as they are the most vulnerable in any society. For both FAO and WFP schoolchildren are a priority group because an appropriate diet is crucial to their healthy physical and mental development. They are present and future consumers, and they constitute an important link between the school and the home and with the community at large. Pre-primary school participation of gross enrollment ratio is approximately is 84%. It is estimated that about 90% of new grade 1 entrants (approximately 390,000) attend preschool, although on a non-systematic basis (i.e. for periods ranging from few months to one or two years). Pre-primary education is offered by local authorities, religious bodies, voluntary organizations and the private sector. Pre-primary schools generally cater to children aged 3-5. Primary education is free in government schools, while urban areas have private schools at a cost.

Pre-service and In-service Teachers - Sri Lanka has a dual system of teacher education, which provides both pre-service and in-service training programmes. The pre-service component is concerned with initial professional development. Some of the in-service programmes focus on the training of untrained teachers; others are concerned with the continuous professional development of all categories of in-service teachers.

Background of beneficiaries who will directly benefit from WFP and FAO interventions:

- Children under 5 that includes pre-school children attending total duration of pre-school - approximately 327,000. Pre-primary school participation of gross enrollment ratio is approximately is 84%. It is estimated that about 90% of new grade 1 entrants (approximately 390,000) attend preschool, although on a non-systematic basis (i.e. for periods ranging from few months to one or two years)
- 10,000 people (2,500 HH) and 14,000 primary schoolchildren will be selected to participate and benefitting from the pilot studies of fortified rice, double fortified salt and Micro Nutrient powders
- Primary school children up to grade 8 as well as junior secondary school children up to grade 10
- Of a total of 34,000 pre-school teachers 1,500 will be initially targeted and then scaled up for national outreach through existing mechanisms
- 1,250 community organizations- school community members including parents through parental societies

Targeted primary beneficiaries of the Joint Programme:

Beneficiary category Estimated targeted population

Female 43,647

Male 17,709

Total Individuals (Female and Male): 61,356

Of total Children <5yrs 1,000

Of total Children 5-14 yrs. 15,490

Of total Adults 15-64 6,700

Of total Adults >65 810

Of total pre-school teachers 34,000

Of total Community organizations/parental societies 1,250

Of total Educators of pre-service and in-service teacher education 500

Of total ECCD, WDO and CRPO officers on TOT 250

Of total Education specialists on school level nutrition management (9 provincial level and 97 zone level)

106

Of total Education specialists on school gardens 1,250

Total 61,356

The following Staff and educators of government institutions will receive training to improve knowledge and skills:

- 1) 5 staff at Medical Research Institute (MRI) will be receiving transfer of knowledge and skills to link food security, poverty and micro nutrient deficiencies
- 2) 5 staff at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian research and Training Institute (HARTI) will be receiving transfer of knowledge and skills to link food security, poverty and micro nutrient deficiencies
- 3) 10 staff of the MOED, MOT and the MOTR will benefit from the mapping and the review of the capacity for the in-country production of fortified rice & double fortified salt
- 4) 500 educators of pre-service and in-service teacher education - Sri Lanka has a dual system of teacher education, which provides both pre-service and in-service training programmes. The pre-service component is concerned with initial professional development. Some of the in-service programmes focus on the training of untrained teachers; others are concerned with the continuous professional development of all categories of in-service teachers
- 5) Of a total of 1,100 trainers of whom 250 (10 from each of the 25 districts) will be initially targeted (TOTs - Early Childhood Care and Development Officers (ECCD), Women's' Development Officers (WDO) and Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPO)
- 6) Education specialists on school-level nutrition management (9 provincial level and 97 zone level) - 106
- 7) Education specialists on school gardens-1250

WFP and FAO will work with the following institutions that are key to efficient collaboration of activities:

- Medical Research Institute (MRI) of the Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian research and Training Institute (HARTI) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
- A total of 17,500 pre-schools of which 1,500 will be targeted and then scaled up nationally through existing mechanisms-pre-primary education is offered by local authorities, religious bodies, voluntary organizations and the private sector. Pre-primary schools generally cater to children aged 3-5
- 10,000 primary and junior secondary schools
- Children's Secretariat
- Education Services Ministry-School Health and Nutrition Division

Estimated indirect or secondary targeted beneficiaries are:

As the activities will be implemented nationally, the total population of the beneficiary category is targeted.

Beneficiary category Estimated targeted population

Male Female Total

Children 6-59 months 882,753 860,609 1,743,362

Pregnant and lactating women 0 810,886 810,886

Pre-school children 161440 165560 327,000

Primary age school children 2,160,904 2,198,046 4,358,950

Total 3,205,097 4,035,101 6,913,198

### **Design, mutisectorial strategy, results and implementation plan:**

The goal of the proposed joint programme concept is to provide technical expertise and programmatic support to the government of Sri Lanka to rollout specific initiatives of the nutrition multi sector plan "Vision 2016 Sri Lanka a Nourished Nation", in response to the President's budget speech for 2014 in November 2013 requesting UNICEF, WFP and FAO to collaborate with the government on nutrition.

The overall objective of this proposal is to provide the required technical and financial support to government and non-government organisations to rollout specific action plans of the MSAPN "Vision 2016

Sri Lanka a Nourished Nation” to achieve the following key objectives set within the MSAPN.

- (a) Reduce stunting and underweight, wasting, overweight among children under five years;
- (b) Reduce low birth weight and underweight/overweight among women;
- (c) Reduce Anaemia;
- (d) Reduce food insecurity;
- (e) And improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene among households.

To effectively break the intergenerational cycle of under nutrition it requires a multi-dimensional approach focusing on improving the nutritional status of women, adolescent girls and children as recognized by the government of Sri Lanka with the launch of the MSAPN.

The key objectives of the joint project are:

- To assist the government to document the impact and opportunities of government investment on food security and nutrition through 3 surveys and 3 pilot comparative studies on in-kind fortified commodity distributions in a controlled setting-this to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of on-going and planned activities.
- In addition the project will contribute towards achieving attitudinal and behavioural changes through nutrition education to educators, school children and empowered communities on safe and nutrient rich food products, nutrient deficiencies and the importance of dietary diversity.

The key assumptions are:

- 1) The government will continue to prioritize nutrition and will continue to strengthen its MSAPN through the provision of adequate funding and capacity support to implement the proposed activities, through matching funds
- 2) All major ministries and institutions will commit to implement the activities set-out in the project
- 3) Community capacities and behaviour changes can be increased by bolstering civil society networks, mobilizing community support groups and empowering households and communities to take ownership with adequate levels of advocacy
- 4) Capacity building of the community, private sector and government, in combination with a strong M&E system and the political understanding and agreement that an integrated food security and nutrition policy is an essential requirement for the final success of reducing malnutrition in Sri Lanka and achieving Zero hunger.

The expected outcome and the outputs of the joint programme are:

#### JP Outcome1

Reduce maternal and child under nutrition and contribute to breaking the intergenerational cycle of under nutrition, by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the government nutrition programmes

JP Output 1.1. Understanding the link between health, food security, food consumption and micronutrient deficiencies for the target group of children U5s, PLWs and schoolchildren

JP Output 1.2. Identification of cost efficient and most efficient use of fortified foods to address existing micro-nutrient deficiencies including distribution mechanism (schools, health centres and/or schools)

JP Output 1.3. Review of the capacity for the in-country production of fortified rice & double fortified salt

JP Output 1.4. Strengthening advocacy for use of fortified locally produced nutritious foods

JP Output 1.5. Increased awareness of the inter-linkage of health, and nutrition food security as a national development priority at all levels

JP Output 1.6. Established agreement with the government is in place and reached that an integrated food, health and nutrition policy for achieving zero hunger and reduce poverty

JP Output 1.7. Increased availability of local produced fortified food commodities for the general public

JP Output 1.8. Minimum standards/guidelines with health and nutrition component implemented for

improved levels of nutrition in pre-school children

JP Output 1.9 Nutrition promotion to pre-school children enhanced for improved nutrition levels of children in schools and at household level

JP Output 1.10 Pre-school meals enhanced in nutritional value to improve nutrition levels of pre-school children

JP Output 1.11 School feeding policy developed to implement a comprehensive guideline for school feeding inclusive of healthy practices

JP Output 1.12 Awareness and knowledge base of education officers improved to address under nutrition in schools and to implement comprehensive guideline for food consumption in schools

JP Output 1.13 Technical capacity developed to further enhance the inclusion of food and nutrition in the pre-service & in-service teacher education programmes

JP Output 1.14 School garden programme improved to increase nutrition levels of school children

As a result of the joint programme it is expected that through understanding of the link between health, food security, micronutrient deficiencies and root causes of malnutrition, the required policy changes can be developed with technical support of the UN, private sector, civil society and donors to enable behavioural changes and efficiency of investment in nutrition for sustainability of SDG-F project activities. (See Figure 1: Theory of change)

### **Coordination and governance arrangements:**

Within the formulation of the nutrition strategy (2009-2013) it was recommended that National Nutrition Council would be formed as the coordinating body to ensure the full implementation of the national nutrition policy including the preparation of a MSAPN. The National Nutrition Council, which decides on nutrition policy and is chaired by His Excellency the President, consists of relevant Ministers, Chief Ministers of the nine Provinces and Members of Parliament from all parties who have experience in nutrition.

It is supported by:

- National Steering Committee on Nutrition (NSCN) - The NSCN is the implementation arm of the NNC and comprises Secretaries of the Ministries represented at the NNC, Chief Secretaries of Provinces, & Civil Society Representatives. International Agencies are invited as observers to the NSCN.
- Technical Advisory Committee on Nutrition (TACN) - The TACN provides technical guidance and supports the formulation of policies and plans and comprises subject professionals and experts from various related fields, including those from international agencies. The TACN also advises in monitoring and evaluation.
- National Nutrition Secretariat of Sri Lanka (NNSL) - The NNSL is established within the Presidential Secretariat and supports the formulation of plans, coordinates activities among implementing parties and monitors and evaluates the progress of implementation on behalf of the National Nutrition Council. The NNSL enlists the support of international agencies to provide technical assistance and financing as and when needed.

The technical support activities proposed in the Joint Programme by FAO and WFP are contributing to the MSAPN and will be jointly planned, but implemented individually by the specific UN agency in conjunction with the relevant line ministry and/or a specialized and recognized institution as per the overall Government Structure. (See Figure 2), where required both agencies will request assistance from the other agency, UNICEF and UNCT-HCT (UN Country Team-Humanitarian Country Team) members.

The ministries will provide administrative, operational and coordination support to facilitate successful implementation of activities under the action plan, and will be the approving authority for that action plan. Overall management and technical support for the initiatives will be provided by the agency as defined by the activity.

The National Nutrition Secretariat will coordinate the consultations and collaboration between the agencies

and the government to ensure ease of implementation. The Nutrition Secretariat and the corresponding ministries will ensure the appropriate technical standards are applied to all activities as required. The agencies and the NNSL will ensure close collaboration and participation at all levels by the civil society, through the SUN Peoples Forum and the private sector. (For more detailed roles and responsibilities of each of the stakeholders, please see Annex I: Responsibilities of various project stakeholders as per the government mechanism)

As the Ministry of Finance and Planning is mandated with the responsibility to monitor and facilitate the implementation of all donor funded and locally funded development projects and programmes, the department of Project Management and monitoring has and will continue to be fully involved in the joint programme and will provide independent oversight. For more details please see the below M&E section.

The implementation cost will be unique to each agency based on the individual activity and each agency will be responsible for the day-to-day execution of the joint programme activities as per the Project Committee.

### **Risk analysis:**

When reviewing the MSAPN and the Joint Programme 8 clear risks for under/non-achievement have been identified. Please see Annex IIX: Risk Analysis Matrix/SDG-F Joint Programme for more details on the risk ranking and likelihood of identified risks.

1. Matching funding does not materialize on time - A budget review of the 2014 MSAP-N indicates that currently the government and the line ministries have only budgeted for 24.28% of the total cost of implementing the MSAPN. Since there is only few other donor funding available to meet the shortfall, the Joint Programme runs the risk of facing significant gaps in the implementation of crucial activities, including ensuring adequate monitoring and evaluation and nutritional surveys.
2. Lack of capacity of stakeholders at all levels (both in staffing, skills and equipment) - While vast capacity building activities are supported through national budget allocations, in addition to bi-lateral funding of governments, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the UN agencies, high level of staff rotations and delays in deployments and logistical constrains and delays in arrivals of specialized equipment, can potentially result in lower actual capacity than expected during the planning phase.
3. Regional discrepancy not detected - Due to lack of resources, sample sizes of the surveys are reduced to a minimum but as a result the resolution does not allow detecting specific regional discrepancies.
4. Breakdown in co-operation - While the 3 agencies commend government efforts of collaboration between the ministries at a high level and jointly having developed this plan with UNICEF, this co-operation is not evident in all districts. This is well illustrated by the positive launch in the Mannar District while even with the support of UNICEF in coordinating; this could not be achieved in the Mullativu District.
5. Shift in requirements due to impact of recurring natural disasters or other external factors (food security, health and nutrition indicators are negatively affected). The geographical priority list will have to be adjusted to ensure that the multi-sector aspect and link between food security and nutrition is also incorporated in the periodization of the districts to ensure full achievement of the overarching nutrition goals.
6. Lack of staff levels within the UN agencies -The needs are shifting in the country and therefore UN programmes are scaling down and focusing only on specific direct implementation targets and this has an effect on capacity to technically support and ensure adequate documentation of interventions while research, baselines and surveys get postponed.
7. Priority conflicts between ministerial priorities and the MSAPN priorities - Close follow-up on achievements against indicators will be required to ensure that set goals are met especially as the MSAPN is only funded for 24.28% while 9 ministries (60%) have not foreseen any funding at all, only 1 ministry has a 100% of the

required funding. Also the NSSL does not have a designated budget. This could result in Ministries not fully giving the MSAPN the priority it requires and the NSSL not being able to provide the oversight required.

8. Political - In light of the budget gap it will be important that there is a political will to accept targeting of resources to those who need it the most, not only in the geographical areas as has already been done with the prioritization of the 10 priority districts to launch the MSAPN, but also considering the combination of food security, health and nutrition indicators by livelihood.

While the current proposal is focussing on a small and very technical aspect, and in limited and specific activities of the MSAPN, the above 8 risks could still affect the output of the programme. (Please see Annex IIX: Risk Analysis Matrix/SDG-F Joint Programme)

The following mitigation measures will be taken:

1. Insure that not only project activities are captured into the quarterly progress reports but also the financial commitments and progress fully reflected highlighting financial shortfalls in a timely manner
2. Ensure that the specific line ministries request through their annual national budgets the matching funds required for the implementation of the SDGF project
3. As part of the framework development also map the requirements for staffing, skills and equipment and ensure adequate resources are made available
4. Ensuring sample sizes are adequate to ensure conclusions can be made both by gender and geographical location (minimal by district level) and by livelihood and ensure this is built into all frameworks and methodologies including reporting tools
5. Continued lobbying with the support of the NSSL to ensure adequate support of all stakeholders mainly by continued progress reports at all levels including through the SUN PF and the private sector
6. Ensure that through the RBM flexibility objectives can be achieved while taking into account shifts in context, following contingency planning processes
7. Inclusion of dedicated staff and related costs for travel and running costs specifically recruited for this project at each agency in the budget
8. Ensure commitment of all stakeholders through the inception period and the framework development phases of the activities and the M&E system
9. Monthly MSAPN progress meetings at national and district level and ensuring high level coordination mechanisms help to raise nutrition, health and household food security issues in the government agenda

#### **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E):**

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for the joint programme is based on targets set in the MSAPN and involves multi-stakeholder inputs and participation in its development. The Monitoring and Evaluation activities, indicators (qualitative/quantitative), targets and baselines with the respective budgets have been represented in the following attached plans and frameworks:

Annex II: Joint Programme Monitoring plan

Annex III: Annual Work Plan and budget Joint Programme

Annex IV: Results Framework Matrix joint Programme

Annex V: Performance monitoring Framework/SDG-F Joint Programme

Annex VI: Integrated Monitoring Evaluation and Research Framework/SDG-F Joint Programme

The specific reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the joint programme will be done as outlined in the governance arrangement in close collaboration with the Ministry of Plan Implementation.

The RCs office, with the inputs of the NSSL, the 2 agencies and the Department of Project Management and Monitoring is responsible for providing to the SDG-F the key reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the joint programme.

These key reports are:

- A project Concept note
- A project proposal
- 3 integrated health, food and nutrition baseline reports
- The comparative report of the efficiency and effectiveness of in-country fortified foods
- Annual Project Performance Reports (PPRs) on the status of project implementation, including disbursements made. These follow the standard SDG-F PPR template, and need to be submitted no later than two months after the end of each project year.
- A project completion report within six months after project completion (the final PPR acts as the project completion report).
- A final evaluation report, prepared by an independent evaluator selected by the NNSL and the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (Min. of Finance and planning). The final evaluation report needs to be submitted within nine months after Project completion.

These reports shall be submitted through the RCs office to the SDG-F and copied to all stakeholders and all members of the NSCN, the NNC and the UNCT members.

Field reporting, day-to-day monitoring and evaluation - The Programme committee members, the NNSL and the stakeholder line-ministry representatives at District level will be responsible for field level reporting, and field level monitoring.

M&E outcomes, outputs and activities are aligned exclusively with the SDG-F Strategic Results Framework, and will be monitored during project implementation using data compiled by the Programme committee members, the NNSL and the stakeholder line-ministry representatives at District level.

The District line-ministry stakeholders will provide monthly progress updates (physical and implementation issues) to the national line ministries, which will consolidate the monthly District line-ministry stakeholders reports along with financial progress information into the online Integrated National Development Information System (INDIS) system of the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (Ministry of Finance and Planning). Project specific indicators used in (INDIS) are those utilised in the project log frame. These will be used by the Department of Project Management and Monitoring to monitor and evaluate project progress, against the baseline data established at the beginning of the project. Project evaluations by the Department of Project Management and Monitoring can be undertaken upon request, and jointly implemented in consultation with the project donor (including peer review panel, joint evaluation teams and TORs).

A discussion on project progress will be a line item on the agenda of the existing Monthly District Coordination Committees, chaired by the GA.

The Project management committee (PMC) shall use the monthly progress reports submitted to the Department of Project Management and Monitoring as the basis for the quarterly progress reports to be provided to the RC and the NSCN. The quarterly reports to the RC and the NSCN will include physical, financial and monitoring information.

The PMC will be responsible for consolidating, reviewing and verifying the monthly progress reports into the quarterly report. The PMC will add all relevant financial information, including the disbursements received and made for the quarterly period. It will also include monitoring and evaluation information as per the monitoring and evaluation plan of the Project Proposal, the objectives, outputs and indicators in the attached M&E framework and the Annual Action Plan (see Annex II-VI for details).

- The report will be submitted by PMC to the Secretary of the presidential task force, through the NNSL. Once approved, the Secretary will submit the quarterly report to the UNRCs office (copying the WFP and

FAO representatives).

- The quarterly progress reports mentioned above shall be used as the basis for the PMC including WFP and FAO Project Coordinators, to create an annual Project Performance Report (PPR) for the FDG-F, following the standard FDG-F PPR template. The PPR will be submitted to the NSCN for review and approval. Such reports would be made available in time for the NSCN to review and discuss before being submitted to WFP no later than one month after the end of the project year. The NSCN will then transmit through the NNSL to the RCs office no later than two months after the end of the project year. To fulfil its reporting obligations to the SDG-F, the RCs office consultation with the NNSL might provide additional project pertinent information in PPRs.
- The PSU and SDG-F steering committee will ensure that the PPRs are supplemented by annual project work plans for the next Project year, also to be approved by the SDG-funding. The annual plan for the forthcoming year will include details on specific project activities, roles and responsibilities.
- The PMC, through the NNSL and cleared by the secretary of the presidential taskforce, and the RCs office shall submit a Project completion Report (the final PPR), including any specific project information reasonably requested by the FDG-F, within four months following project completion.
- The annual PPR reports as well as the evaluation reports and audit are mandatory deliverables to the SDG-F and essential for sound management of the Project. Final copies of these reports will be provided to the NNSL and the NNC for their records.

A standard Narrative mission report will be used by all project staff

The RC office and any representative of the SDG-F in the country may conduct independent field monitoring exercises or an independent evaluation of the project subject to its internal legal framework to ensure its compliance with SDG-F rules and regulations. Parties may consult on the terms of reference for the evaluation plan and schedule.

Both FAO and WFP will continue its support in data collection and analysis not only at national level but also assist the government to generate reports and data that is disaggregated by province, district and/or by village level in addition to age and sex disaggregation.

It is expected that the result of the outcomes of the improved and more comprehensive nutritional surveys and the pilot studies, the understanding of the link of malnutrition, with food security and food consumption combined with the results of the cost efficiency and effectiveness study of selected fortified products will lead to:

1. Improving complementary feeding practices' I.e. Children 6 to 23 months, pregnant and lactating women if a nutritional problem is identified
2. Improve fortification of in country produced commodities with the correct micronutrients to address micronutrient deficiencies
3. Improve access and availability of improved nutritional products for specific targeted age groups
4. Cost efficiency measures and improved targeting mechanisms to close the last gap in malnutrition and break the generational cycle of hunger
5. Policy advocacy and increased discussions on:
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Improve social safety net programmes
  - Fortification of food commodities

This data collected through the joint project activities will therefore be used as advocacy tools to inform cost effective, evidence based decision making (policy, planning and budgeting) with an equity focus at the national, provincial and district level. It will also assist in strengthening the capacity of national, provincial and local partners for rigorous and continuous comprehensive monitoring of the national nutrition

interventions through process analyses, including establishment and updating baselines.

### **Communication and advocacy (C&A):**

Communication and advocacy is the key responsibility next to coordination and monitoring of the NNSSL as defined within the MSAPN and the Nutritional Council. The NNSSL is the main counterpart of the joint programme, and as such, no specific activities related to communication and advocacy have been budgeted within this joint programme, and is considered to be covered by the matching funds of the government.

In line with on-going national efforts to improve information management and promote evidence based policy making and programming as outlined in the UNDAF, FAO and WFP will be supporting technically the establishment of integrate data systems from multiple sources and sectors as well as carryout food and nutritional analysis to support policies and programmes and target resources to improve cost efficiency, effectiveness and ultimately sustainability and resilience.

WFP has however foreseen a total budget of 30,000 USD to assist in the publication of key survey results, pilot studies and other reports. FAO will place significant emphasis on sustainable mechanisms and information flow between government authorities and the target institutions, whereby the application of FAO outputs/material is disseminated effectively.

FAO and WFP jointly with the NNSSL will ensure that throughout the project the multi-sector and multi-partner nature of the SDG-F's programmes is re-enforced. Both agencies and the NNSSL where possible will provide high-quality communications materials including photo stories and stories worth telling of programme beneficiaries and how the project activities have changed their lives. These materials will be used for advocacy and awareness raising at national level and to secure complementary funding from other sources. Adequate references and visibility of the SDG-F and Spanish Cooperation's logos will be included in all documents and other visibility material produced for and by the project.

### **Knowledge management (KM):**

FAO and WFP will forge and maintain their partnerships with national Government counterparts, strategic donors and other international and national actors in the country, with a special focus on joint planning with other UN agencies.

By seeking complementarities with the UN country team, FAO and WFP will aim to increase cooperation while recognizing each agencies comparative advantages.

In order to effectively address food and nutrition insecurity, FAO and WFP will adopt a coordinated integrated programming approach, applying the following guiding principles:

- Contribute to national food and nutrition security
- Working in partnership with traditional and non-traditional partners;
- Capture knowledge using innovative tools, focus on results and contribute to the knowledge base of Sri Lanka.

Using the INDIS system of the Department of Project Management and Monitoring, will allow all stakeholders access to project related information and help keep abreast of project progress and status. In addition knowledge and best practices will be shared during the regular meetings, grassroots focus group discussions and interactions with donors.

In addition the knowledge collected through the quarterly and annual reports, reviews, studies and baselines will be shared with all stakeholders and donors.

It is expected that the process and impact monitoring and evaluation will inform and enhance national programmes while working to establish Sri Lanka as a regional player with respect to integrated food and nutrition security interventions.

### **Contribution to the post 2015 development Agenda:**

The post 2015 development agenda is still being developed, recognizing the need for a transformative change for an inclusive, people-centred economic, social and environmental development, which is key for long term sustainability. Any food security and nutrition interventions planned under this joint programme or nationally should support the post 2015 agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Both FAO and WFP are heavily involved in the development of a common set of target areas and possible indicators for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, based on the UN Secretary- Generals (UNSG's) Zero Hunger Challenge which with its five pillars provides a good framework for the vision "The Future We Want for All".

In Sri Lanka the government's current public investment strategy 2014-2016 is laid out in the "Mahinda Chintana - Vision for the future - Unstoppable Sri Lanka 2020". The vision with its clear strategies focusing on ensuring the wellbeing of its people will provide a key platform for both FAO and WFP. FAO and WFP will therefore continue to advocate to ensure that the MSAPN is fully implemented and that the wellbeing of the country's people remains a key focus of the government. The existence of the NNSL and NNC in combination with the results of this joint programme will facilitate this advocacy process and facilitate an environment of transformative change.

Currently Sri Lanka jointly with India and Pakistan have indicated that a goal on poverty alleviation would be more appropriate while other countries in the Asia region expressed strong support to the UNSG's Zero hunger Challenge. It is hoped that based on the outputs of this joint programme a dialogue with the private sector, CSA and the government could be initiated to ensure the wellbeing of the Sri Lankan people.

## **V. SDG-F - Joint Programme Management Arrangement**

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### **Coordination and Oversight Mechanisms**

The Fund will rely on UN Resident Coordinators (RC) to facilitate collaboration between Participating UN Organizations to ensure that the programme is on track and that promised results are being delivered. The Resident Coordinator will exercise his/her authority over the programme by being entrusted with leadership of the overall programme design, ongoing programmatic oversight of the Fund's activities by co-chairing the National Steering Committee meetings.

To ensure proper checks and balances of programme activities the RC is called upon to establish committees at two levels:

- A National Steering Committee (NSC), and
- Programme Management Committee(s) (PMC).

The NSC consists of the Resident Coordinator, a representative of the national Government in the role of Co-Chair and a representative of the AECID or in its absence from the Embassy of Spain and/or other sponsoring partner entity, according to the SDGF ToR.

The responsibilities of the PMC will include:

1. ensuring operational coordination
2. appointing a Programme Manager or equivalent thereof;
3. managing programme resources to achieve the outcomes and output defined in the programme;
4. establishing adequate reporting mechanisms in the programme;
5. integrating work plans, budgets, reports and other programme related documents; and ensures that budget overlaps or gaps are addressed;
6. providing technical and substantive leadership regarding the activities envisaged in the Annual Work Plan;

7. agreeing on re-allocations and budget revisions and make recommendations to the NSC as appropriate;
8. addressing management and implementation problems;
9. identifying emerging lessons learned; and
10. Establishing communication and public information plans.

## Fund Management Arrangements

The Joint Programme will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channeled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each Participating UN Organization receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

The Administrative Agent will:

- Establish a separate ledger account under its financial regulations and rules for the receipt and administration of the funds received from the donor(s) pursuant the Administrative Arrangement. This Joint Programme Account will be administered by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to it, including those relating to interest;
- Make disbursements to Participating UN Organizations from the Joint Programme Account based on instructions from the Steering Committee, in line with the budget set forth in the Joint Programme Document.

The Participating UN Organizations will:

- Assume full programmatic and financial responsibility and accountability for the funds disbursed by the AA.
- Establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.
- Each UN organization is entitled to deduct their indirect costs on contributions received according to their own regulation and rules, taking into account the size and complexity of the programme. Each UN organization will deduct 7% as overhead costs of the total allocation received for the agency.

The Joint Programme team will consolidate narrative reports provided by the Participating United Nations Organizations and provide them to the AA no later than 31 March per the MOU Participating UN Organizations will submit financial reports no later than one year after the completion of operational activities

The MPTF Office will:

- Prepare consolidated narrative and financial progress reports, based on the narrative consolidated report prepared by the Joint Programme Team and the financial statements/ reports submitted by each of the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with the timetable established in the MoU;
- Provide those consolidated reports to each donor that has contributed to the SDGF, as well as the Steering Committee, in accordance with the timetable established in the Administrative Arrangement.
- Provide the donors, Steering Committee and Participating Organizations with:
  - Certified annual financial statement (“Source and Use of Funds” as defined by UNDG guidelines) to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year;
  - Certified final financial statement (“Source and Use of Funds”) to be provided no later than seven months (31 July) of the year following the financial closing of the Joint Programme.

Consolidated information will be available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

(<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SDG00>)

**Budget Preparation** - The Programme Coordinator will prepare an aggregated/consolidated budget, showing the budget components of each participating UN organization.

**Fund Transfer** - The initial transfer will be made based on the approved and signed Joint Programme document. The subsequent instalment will be released in accordance with Annual Work Plans approved by the NSC and always based on the SDGF ToRs and Guidance for JP Formulation. The release of funds is subject to meeting a minimum expenditure threshold of 50% of the previous fund release to the Participating UN Organizations combined. If the 50% threshold is not met for the programme as a whole, funds will not be released to any organization, regardless of the individual organization's performance. On the other hand, the following year's advance can be requested at any point after the combined disbursement against the current advance has exceeded 50% and the work plan requirements have been met. If the overall expenditure of the programme reaches 50 before the end of the twelve-month period, the participating UN Organizations may upon endorsement by the NSC request the MPTF Office to release the next instalment ahead of schedule. The RC will make the request to the MPTF Office on NSC's behalf. Any fund transfer is subject to submission of an approved Annual Work Plan and Budget to the MDTF Office.

**Interest on funds** - Interest will be administered in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of each UN organization and as documented in the Standard Administrative Arrangement signed with the donor.

**Balance of Funds** - The disposition of any balance of funds remaining at the end of programme implementation will be in accordance with the agreements between the Participating UN Organizations and the implementing partners as well as donors where applicable.

## Accountability, Monitoring, Mid-Term Review and Evaluation

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Joint programmes are required to provide narrative reports on results achieved, lessons learned and the contributions made by the Joint Programme. Monitoring reports are prepared and presented to the JP SC twice a year and include updated work and monitoring plans.

JPs will produce annual monitoring reports plus a final evaluation report. Evaluations quality will be according with UNEG and OECD-DAC rules. Ongoing monitoring and results management will take place in line with UN standards and SDGF ToRs and Guidance for JPs Formulation.

All communication materials developed as part of a JP should acknowledge its several partners. The SDGF and Spanish Cooperation's logos should always be used jointly in all JP's communications.

**Audit** - The Administrative Agent and Participating UN Organizations will be audited in accordance with their own Financial Regulations and Rules and, in case of MDTFs, in accordance with the Framework for auditing multi-donor trust funds which has been agreed to by the Internal Audit Services of participating UN organizations and endorsed by the UNDG in September 2007.

### Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

The following governing cooperation or assistance agreements between the Government of

Sri Lanka

and the UN participating organisations will be the legal basis for the relationships for conducting activities: For each UN Agency please indicate the title and date of the agreement between the Agency and the National Government:

Agency name	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement	Date agreement was signed
Food and Agriculture Organisation	Appointment of an FAO Representative in Sri Lanka	January 4 1979
World Food Programme	Basic agreement between the government of Ceylon/FAO World Food Programme concerning assistance from the World Food Programme	November 10 1968

## VI. Annexes

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### Letter signed by Resident Coordinator:

 [Letter with SDG-F Concept Note.pdf](#)

### CN Endorsement of National Steering Committee:

 [Presidential Secretariat Endorsement and Matching Fund Commitment Letter.pdf](#)

### Commitment of matching funds:

 [Presidential Secretariat Endorsement and Matching Fund Commitment Letter.pdf](#)

### Results Framework:

 [Joint programme Results Framework Matrix.docx](#)

### Budget break-down per outcomes, outputs and activities:

 [New Annual Workplan and budget edited.docx](#)

### Budget break-down per UN Agency \*:

 [WFP and FAO combined budget-final.docx](#)

### Submission letter signed by JP partners \*:

 [Signed letter from WFP and FOA.pdf](#)

### Joint programme monitoring plan \*:

 [Joint Programme monitoring plan.docx](#)

### Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Research Framework \*:

 [Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Research Framework.doc](#)

### Performance Monitoring Framework \*:

 [Performance Monitoring Framework.doc](#)

### Minutes of formulation meetings and events \*:

 [Minutes of Meetings-Workshops and Attendance.pdf](#)

### Participants list of consultation meetings and events \*:

 [Minutes of Meetings-Workshops and Attendance.pdf](#)

### Risk analysis \*:

 [Risk Analysis.docx](#)

### Joint Budget Plan:

 [Sri Lanka Joint Programme Work Plan and Budget.xls](#)

### Additional documentation:

 [Letter from Spanish Embassy - Carta a Sr Bruno Moro Dir SDG-F.pdf](#)

**Additional documentation:**

 [Additional information request to concept note.docx](#)

**Additional documentation:**

 [apply.sdgsfund.org - Sri Lanka - 2014-06-17-FINAL.pdf](#)

**Additional documentation:**

 [The Role of the SDG-F project stake holders - final.doc](#)

**Additional documentation:**

 [SDG-F Project Proposal Final.doc](#)

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