
Programme Title:	SCALING UP NUTRITION THROUGH A MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH
Country:	Sri Lanka

I. Joint Programme Information

Joint Programme Information

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.

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, Nutrition, and Indigenous Medicine (MoH)
- Ministry of Agriculture (MoAg)
- Medical Research Institute (MRI)
- Save the Children (Executor SUN project)
- Ministry of Education (MoEd)
- Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA)
- Ministry of Trade (MoT)
- Ministry of Technology and Research (MoTR)
- National Food Promotion Board (NFPB)

Report submitted by

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III. Financial information

SDG-F Funds

UN Agency	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
World Food Programme (WFP)	749,871.00	339,398.00		108,270.00
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	749,858.00	262,450.00		10,959.00
Total	1,499,729.00	601,848.00	0.00	119,229.00

Matching Funds

Total				
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IV. Beneficiaries

Total number of direct beneficiaries to date:

35

Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				

Civil servants/government	34	0	34	WFP supported the training of MRI staff and survey enumerators on data and sample collection and field lab sample analysis for the baseline food and nutrition surveys
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
Other 1				
Total	34	0	34	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments		
SMEs				
Cooperatives				
Government/municipal organizations	1.00	WFP supported technical and institutional capacity development for the Medical Research Institute (MRI) relevant to the national baseline surveys on food and nutrition		
Private sector				
Community-based organizations				
NGOs				
Total	1			

Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
Pregnant and Lactating Women	7,654	7,654.00	0.00	7654 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) have participated in the national food and nutrition baseline survey to date
Total	7,654	7,654.00	0.00	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments		
SMEs				
Cooperatives				
Government/municipal organizations	4.00	The implementing ministries and the supporting agencies participating at JP workshops and meetings are considered indirect institutional beneficiaries		

Private sector	3	Service providers of meeting facilities and potential partner for procuring fortified rice kernels for the pilot programme are considered indirect institutional beneficiaries
Community-based organizations	1	The Scaling Up Nutrition People's Forum (SUN-PF) participated in the consultative workshop for food fortification held in July 2015.
NGOs		
Academia	2	Academics from national universities were involved in presenting research conducted in under-nutrition and in providing inputs regarding the design of the pilot programme for food fortification
Total	10	

Any other information regarding JP beneficiaries*:

The pregnant and lactating women (PLW) who participated in the survey financed by WFP through the JP and conducted by the Medical Research Institute (MRI) of MoH are considered indirect project beneficiaries.

WFP meetings included participants from both genders as detailed below:

No. Name of the workshop/training Male Female Total

1. Consultative Meeting on Food Fortification on Policy Development on July 3, 2015 21 17 38
 2. Follow up Technical Consultation on Food Fortification Policy Directions on September 15, 2015 8 10 18
 3. Technical Consultation on the Design of the Pilot Programme for Fortified Food on September 29, 2015 16 17 33
- TOTALS 45 44 89

FAO conducted two interactive workshops during the reporting period. The gender disaggregation of the participants are provided below:

No. Name of the workshop/training Male Female Total

1. Review the existing circulars on school food consumption initiatives & draft the guideline (Output 11) on Sept. 3, 2015 25 15 40
 2. Identify needs for different age groups of nutrition messages. (Output 11) on Sept. 4, 2015 8 21 29
- TOTALS 33 36 69

V. Joint Programme Progress

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.1: Understanding the link between health, food security, food consumption and micronutrient deficiencies for the target group of children U5, PLW and schoolchildren</p>	<p>WFP, through discussions with MoH, understood that the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) will be conducted by Department of Census and Statistics and is expected to start at the end of this year. The DHS includes a detailed assessment of nutrition for children under 5. Hence, it was decided not to conduct the baseline nutrition survey for children under 05 through the JP, to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts, and to go ahead with only the school children and PLW surveys.</p> <p>The Medical Research Institute (MRI), which is the government's primary medical research body attached to the MoH was selected as the implementing partner and both surveys were planned with the technical inputs from MRI and WFP. The PLW survey commenced in May 2015 and data collected is expected to be completed in November 2015. Data entry for collected PLW information has already begun.</p> <p>The nutrition survey of school children is planned to be conducted in November 2015. Reports for both surveys will be finalized and published next year.</p>	<p>The estimated budget for the national food and nutrition survey of PLW survey and school children was higher than the budget allocated by the JP. Further, with the administrative changes within the government, the support of NNSSL in obtaining the matching funds did not materialize, as committed in the project proposal. As a remedial measure, the budget allocated for the PLW and school children surveys were pooled, such that sufficient funds could be made available for the PLW survey, which required much greater resources than the schoolchildren survey. Further, after a series of discussions, it was agreed that MRI will contribute their technical and logistical resources to be considered as matching funds from the government.</p>	<p>Data entry is currently being conducted for the information collected during the national PLW survey. Following data entry, data analysis will commence, and the deliverable of published results of the baseline nutrition and food security survey among PLW will be produced in the first half of next year. Data collection, entry, and analysis for the survey of school children will also commence shortly with the publication of results expected concurrently with the PLW survey. The findings of these two surveys will immensely help all relevant sectors of the country to inform their policies and implement effective interventions towards the development of the health and nutrition of the country and towards SDG2.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>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 and/or health centers)</p>	<p>WFP established close collaboration with the government focal point for food fortification. Several consultative meetings were held with technical experts to develop policy guidelines for food fortification and develop methodologies and implementation strategies for the landscape analysis and pilot programme on rice fortification. The ToR for the landscape analysis was finalized and selection of the implementing partner is underway. A team headed by academia and involving MoH, MoAg, and other key stakeholders was nominated to guide the pilot programme on rice fortification. A lengthy discussion was held with key stakeholders to decide on the modality of the pilot programme. Operational feasibility, consumer acceptance, market channel, and production capacity of fortified rice will be piloted in the programme. It was agreed to implement a time bound pilot programme starting with the development of concept note. A trial for the production of fortified rice will be done by the National Food Promotion Board (NFPB) of MoAg in order to check the production capacity, consumer acceptance, and shelf life of the product.</p>	<p>Since MoH had, however, already earmarked the road map for the fortification process, WFP worked with the government counterpart to amalgamate their road map with fortification action plan proposed by the project. At the initial consultative meeting held under the project, sector experts came in to conclusion that there is no need to conduct pilot programmes for MNP and salt since some evaluation studies had previously been conducted to see the efficacy of MNP and salt use as a fortificant vehicle. There were also differing views on the objective of the pilot study to be conducted, with some experts supporting the idea of including a clinical impact assessment of the fortification along with operational feasibility of the fortification process. Further, the consultative experts and technical teams were not in favor of piloting the food fortification programme on school children, as proposed in the project proposal and an alternate modality was proposed to be explored. WFP discussions with stakeholders regarding the design and implementation of the food fortification pilot programme for rice indicated a potential greater requirement of financial resources than allocated. To effectively conduct the pilot programme additional funds should be made available through budget amendments.</p>	<p>A report on the pilot programme on the operational feasibility of rice fortification will be published. This report will certainly be helpful to address the obstacles and issues should occur in the future plans for rice fortification to be done at an island-wide level as a national nutrition intervention.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.3: Review of the capacity for the in-country production of fortified rice & double fortified salt</p>	<p>Following the recommendation of WFP, it was recommended that a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) be formed to give technical guidance for national food fortification process. The Deputy Director General-Public Health Service, MoH was nominated to take the lead of the TAG and representatives from health, academia, agriculture, industry and UN will act as the other members. With the guidelines given by the technical experts, it was decided to expand the scope of the mapping exercise and conduct landscape analysis. This landscape analysis will map out current fortification efforts and give comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence the feasibility and sustainability of the rice fortification.</p>	<p>The government official (Director - Nutrition Division, MoH) who served as the focal point for the fortification, was transferred to the post of Director - Urban and Estate Health Division, following the parliamentary elections and changes in administration. This incident was a difficulty that had to be faced, as it potentially impeded progress made on food fortification efforts due to potential discontinuity of that particular government official's efforts and plans with the JP/WFP on food fortification. Finally, the Deputy Director General of Public Health Service issued directions that the same official can continue as a focal point for the fortification (though it is outside his new mandate) with the cooperation and collaboration of the newly appointed Director - Nutrition Division</p>	<p>TAG group will be appointed to guide and direct the national fortification process and make any decision with regard to fortification process of the country.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.4: Strengthening advocacy for use of fortified locally produced nutritious foods</p>	<p>Development of national policy guidelines for the fortification has been identified as a key requirement in the government roadmap for the fortification. Therefore, WFP, through the JP, has extended support to develop policy guidelines under the leadership of MoH by providing financial support for a stakeholder consultation meeting held on September 15, 2015 and by providing technical expertise. The project played strong advocacy role to convince the government of the need of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the fortification. The JP took the lead to encourage the formation of a national level technical authority responsible for guiding the food fortification process of the country and making all decisions related to the national fortification process, while highlighting fortification as a major topic in the country's health sector</p>	<p>Despite WFP sending a large delegation of officials and private sector representatives to a food fortification meeting in Bangkok prior to commencement of the project, no major follow up on fortification had occurred since. Through the JP, WFP liaised with a delegate from MoH to forge a partnership on addressing food fortification as an important avenue for national nutrition interventions. Expertise from technical consultants were considered in developing the policy directions. The main issues that arose were disagreement on the types of fortification and fortificant vehicles to be included in to the policy directions. Finally, all experts came to an agreement for including rice, wheat, and salt as the fortificant vehicles and iron, folic acid, zinc and vitamin A as types of fortificant to be addressed in the food fortification policy being developed.</p>	<p>National policy direction will approved and published; this will help to technically guide and streamline future fortification activities in the country.</p>
<p>JP Output 1.5: Increased awareness of the inter-linkage of health, and nutrition food security as a national development priority at all levels</p>	<p>Through its Country Programme, WFP has developed a Cost of Diet Analysis and a Food Security Atlas in collaboration with HARTI, MoAg. These documents will serve as complementary tools for linking health, nutrition, and food security data at national level and can be leveraged for building capacity for developing an integrated data system under this JP.</p>	<p>Given the national priority for this action, it is ideal that NNSL takes the lead on this activity. With the change in administration impacting the national coordination of the NNSL, initiation of this activity was delayed. WFP will support NNSL to reactivate their operational functions to ensure the inter-linkage of health, nutrition, and food security as a national development priority at all levels.</p>	<p>WFP will support NNSL to organize awareness-raising workshops with regard to this activity in first quarter of next year.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.6: Agreement reached that an integrated food, health and nutrition policy would assist in achieving zero hunger and reduce poverty</p>	<p>Planned for next year; WFP will work with HARTI, MoH, and civil society alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition People's Forum (SUN-PF)</p>	<p>Given the national priority for this action, it is ideal that NNSL takes the lead on this activity. With the change in administration impacting the national coordination of the NNSL, initiation of this activity was delayed. WFP will support NNSL to reactivate their operational functions to ensure the inter-linkage of health, nutrition, and food security as a national development priority at all levels.</p>	<p>WFP will support NNSL to organize awareness raising workshop with regard to this activity in the first quarter of next year.</p>
<p>JP Output 1.7: Increased availability of local produced fortified food commodities for the general public</p>	<p>WFP has collaborated with the National Food Promotion Board (NFPB) of MoAg to explore local production of fortified foods, including their involvement in the pilot programme for food fortification</p>	<p>Experienced various difficulties in deciding main fortificant vehicle to be produced at commercial level with different technical opinion. TAG was formed as a national authority to giving technical guidance to produce main fortified foods for general public. Limited budget allocation for the activity from the project will be a major constraint for the activity. Budget amendments will be considered.</p>	<p>WFP will work with other stakeholders to build up private public partnership for large scale production of fortified food.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 1.8 Minimum standards/guidelines with health and nutrition component implemented for improved levels of nutrition in pre-school children	Children's Secretariat has already developed the minimum standards. During the inception workshop held on July 22, 2015, it was identified that the present need is to cover the gap in the existing guidelines by developing a manual on Health & Nutrition for Pre-school.	Due to the recent political changes of the Government of Sri Lanka, since project concept formulation stage until present, government project implementation agency heads changed three times between January and September 2015. This has slowed down the project implementation and decision-making. This difficulty will be discussed at a meeting initiated by FAO officials with the Secretary of the MoWCA on October 16, 2015.	Review in progress of the already developed minimum standards by the FAO consultant to identify gaps in the implementation of health and nutrition component of the minimum standards and provide recommendations to fill up the identified gap. FAO nutrition consultant to discuss with the relevant key persons' at Children's Secretariat to identify the framework of the proposed health and nutrition manual and propose a draft framework for review by Children's Secretariat by December 2015.
JP Output 1.9 Nutrition promotion to pre-school children and communities (parental programmes) enhanced for improved nutrition levels of children in schools and at household level	Activities under this component will start implementation only after activities under JP outcome 1.8 is completed	N/A	Implementation of activities will commence in 1st Quarter 2016
JP Output 1.10 Pre-school meals enhanced in nutritional value to improve nutrition levels of pre-school children	This output will be implementing in parallel to JP Output 1.9.	N/A	Implementation of activities will commence in 1st Quarter 2016

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.11 School feeding policy developed to implement a comprehensive guideline for school feeding inclusive of healthy practices</p>	<p>Comprehensive guidelines for school feeding/food consumption are being reviewed through a stakeholder consultations on September 3 and gaps were identified. The gaps will be addressed at a meeting planned for October 29-30 to update the school feeding circular.</p> <p>Recommendations to address the identified gaps are being incorporated to update the existing circular on school feeding to be distributed island-wide to all 10,000 schools by January 2016.</p> <p>A workshop organized by the Ministry of Education was held on September 4, 2015 with stakeholders including participants from the Ministry of Health, National Institute of Education, academia, and education officers throughout the country to identify the nutrition messages focusing on different age groups to incorporate into current curriculum of schools</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Education regarding development of a school feeding policy or an overarching school nutrition policy</p> <p>WFP has conducted SABER previously and is currently conducting a situation analysis on the school feeding policy through another programme, per WFP global mandate; the policy recommendations can be developed per this output following completion of the situation analysis</p>	<p>The inputs obtained from the stakeholder consultations will be reviewed by the nutrition consultant and integrated into one guideline with the inclusion of healthy practices by November 2015</p> <p>The nutrition consultant will review the current curriculum of schools and the suggestions obtained from the workshop held on Sept. 4, 2015 and give recommendations to National Institute of Education for validation by December 2015</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>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</p>	<p>A database Consultant has been identified to be recruited in October 2015 The database implementation strategy was drafted by the nutrition consultant & FAO Project Manager</p>	<p>Discussion with the database consultant and officials at MoEd revealed that providing a web-based database is more appropriate based on available technology rather than producing software CDs to disseminate to 10,000 schools; therefore, the database implementation strategy was developed according to the revised approach</p>	<p>A stakeholder meeting will take place November 2 2015 to formulate a technical committee comprising of MoE, MoH and FAO officials to also discuss and agree on the draft implementation strategy and guide the database consultant for database development and smooth implementation of activities under this output Database is expected to be developed by March 2016.</p> <p>Training of education specialists in school database and relevant activities are planned for 2nd quarter 2016</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Activities under this output are planned for the 2nd Quarter 2016 following distribution of school feeding circular</p>	<p>None at this time</p>	<p>Activities under this output are planned for the 2nd Quarter 2016</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 1.14 School garden programme improved to increase nutrition levels of school children	Two consultants were recruited to provide technical translations of the FAO garden tool into Sinhalese and Tamil languages and reflect the local context. Work is ongoing and is expected to be completed by the end of November 2015. Collection of secondary information on School gardening in 10 districts is ongoing through a survey format distributed to all the schools by the MoEd.	Since the first phase of the project is concentrating only on 10 districts, a survey is ongoing with the Ministry of Education to obtain number of schools that have space for school gardens to plan the activities under activity 1.14.1a. Once this survey is completed, it is expected that number of schools that have space for school gardens will be less than 3,286. Furthermore, UNHABITAT is also supporting a school garden programme in Northern Province. If their activities are similar to activities under JP, we have to exclude those schools supported by UNHABITAT to avoid duplication. Once those numbers are also taken in to consideration, eligible schools to implement activity 1.14.1a will be much lesser.	Printing of the technical translations of FAO garden tool booklet in two local languages by December 2015. Training of education specialists in managing school garden-based learning is expected to commence in the 1st quarter of 2016.

Cross-cutting issues

How has the JP addressed during the reporting period (please provide concrete actions):

1) The **sustainability** of the JP work. (200 words)

With regard to environmental sustainability and climate change, the analysis of the nutrition surveys, planned to be conducted in the next few months following completion of data collection and data entry, should indicate whether repeated climate shocks have a negative impact on food security and nutrition. Information derived from the surveys and other analyses conducted by WFP and FAO will be leveraged to ensure climate change resilience and adaptation measures are included in development programmes for food and nutrition security in line with the government's Multi Sector Action Plan for Nutrition (MSAPN). All activities implemented by WFP and FAO are supporting activities of the ongoing MSAPN.

Both WFP and FAO are working closely with the Ministry of Education to update the existing national circular on school feeding and develop a school feeding policy and guidelines. The revised school feeding circular will be adopted by the government and implemented nationally. The revisions improve school feeding and nutrition of school children and will ensure a long-term, sustainable, positive impact on the nutritional health of children.

Some of the initiatives undertaken by the JP, including the baseline surveys and pilot rice fortification

programme, will serve as the foundation for the national level interventions in the future. WFP is working with the Ministry of Health to formulate and officially adopt a national policy on food fortification to ensure government standards and requirements are met and adhered to through roll out and long-term implementation of national food fortification initiatives.

During the reporting period, FAO has initiated activities pertaining to nutrition database development for school children, school feeding policy and guideline development, and school gardening including developing the database implementation strategy, recruiting a database consultant, and conducting discussion with relevant government officials. The long-term sustainability and usability of the nutrition database is assured through appointing a committee comprising of MoE and MoH officials for monitoring and guidance, ensuring that anthropometric information of school children is collected, collated, and analyzed to inform necessary nutrition interventions. It is proposed that the database will be hosted on a government server, to ensure accessibility and sustainability of the information system for long-term monitoring.

Pertaining to the school gardening component, FAO will support TOT (training of trainers) programmes to ensure continuation of school gardening efforts following the closure of the JP.

2) The promotion of **women's empowerment and gender equality**. (200 words)

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

The survey among PLW will provide more information on how women are benefited from household-level food security. The relationship between household-level food security and nutritional status among mothers will reveal women's role in decision-making in purchasing food and areas to be considered in women empowerment within the home.

During the planning and consultative workshops held by WFP and FAO, gender equality of participants was evident. This promoted suggestions and recommendations from men and women in influencing policy decisions and programme implementation, thereby ensuring gender sensitive considerations, including those that empower women within households to become educated and informed on nutritional values of food consumed within the home.

Further, in selecting project personnel, including consultants, both genders were afforded equal opportunity to apply for available posts.

3) The engagement in **public-private partnerships**. (200 words)

Establishing partnerships with the private sector in the fortification process was discussed at the consultative meetings of technical experts. WFP has included a private sector agent in discussions of food fortification, particularly regarding the procurement of iron and folic acid-fortified rice kernels for the pilot programme that is currently being planned.

In addition, in the first stakeholder consultation on food fortification held on July 3, 2015, WFP included participation from the Scaling Up Nutrition People's Forum (SUN-PF) to represent and voice public sector concerns and suggestions on national policy and implementation of fortified food interventions.

Communication and Advocacy

Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication actions that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?:

Yes

Please describe communication activities developed as part of the JP. :

The JP was officially launched in Sri Lanka at an event on March 18, 2015 under the auspices of Honorable Dr. Rajith Senarathne, Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine, D. M. R. B. Dissanayake, Secretary to the Ministry, Ismail Omer, Representative and Country Director of WFP Sri Lanka and representatives from FAO. The press release for the launch event was published on several media platforms, including the WFP website, local newspapers (print and online) and other online publications. Links to the press release of the launch include:

•

<https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/un-and-government-sri-lanka-launch-multi-sector-initiative-against-undernutrition>

• <http://www.ft.lk/article/401075/UN--Government-launch-multi-sector-initiative-against-undernutrition>

• <http://www.nation.lk/edition/news-online/item/39782-to-fight-under-nutrition.html>

In addition, a flyer on the SDG-F JP in Sri Lanka was developed and posted on the WFP website and an article was prepared for being featured in the October 2015 FAO Sri Lanka Newsletter.

Please provide concrete gains on how the the JP communication and advocacy efforts have increased awareness on SDGs.:

With data collection for the PLW survey completed in 23 out of 25 districts island-wide and data entry started for analysis, WFP is supporting the Medical Research Institute (MRI) of MoH to produce a national baseline survey report on the food and nutrition security of PLW, which will inform policy decisions and necessary interventions regarding SDG2 and, in turn, address SDG 5: Gender Equality within the household. WFP is also supporting MRI to conduct a national baseline survey on the food and nutrition security status of school children and this report will also contribute towards achieving SDG2. The reports of these two baseline surveys are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2016 and will serve as concrete advocacy tools for government, public, and private sector interventions to improve nutrition. The school feeding policy and the food fortification policy being supported by the JP and the databases and information systems being developed will ensure dissemination of accurate information for nutrition interventions.

In terms of visibility of the SDG-F and Spanish Cooperation, the donor agencies have been highlighted in the press release issued after the launch of the JP, a flyer detailing the SDG-F JP posted on WFP's website, and a feature in the FAO newsletter. Further, a banner highlighting the project name, implementing UN agencies, and donor agencies was prominently displayed at all workshops supported by the JP, thereby providing donor visibility for the ministry officials, academia, civil society forums, and other participants of the meetings.

JP twitter handle:

@

Other social media channels managed by joint programme (Instagram, Google+, You Tube...):

One UN Coordination and Delivering as One

The SDG-F is based on the principles of effective development cooperation, inclusion and participation and One UN coordination.

Actions	Description
Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	The two implementing UN agencies, i.e. WFP and FAO met weekly for the first three months of implementation (June to August) and then fortnightly to review progress and discuss implementation strategies. In addition, a meeting of the project team including the Heads of each agency was held in July 2015 to review progress and agree on joint collaboration on the school feeding policy. Further, during the reporting period, the JP obtained clarification from the SDG-F Secretariat and agreed on the financial monitoring format (i.e. against the detailed action plan rather than by budget line type).
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	WFP also includes FAO in consultative meetings on food fortification to incorporate the technical expertise within those organizations. FAO is working in collaboration with WFP and MoEd in developing the school feeding policy.
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	WFP and FAO are collaborating to develop the school feeding policy together with the Ministry of Education.
Other, please specify:	

What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery? :

As described above, the joint programme meets regularly to review project progress and jointly discuss implementation strategies and collaborations with the relevant ministries and government agencies. The Joint Programme Coordinator is responsible for organizing these meetings and liaising with the coordinating government body, the National Nutrition Secretariat of Sri Lanka (NNSL). Both agencies also attend and contribute to the workshops to enhance collaboration on JP activities and promote One UN coordination.

Specifically, with the school feeding policy, since WFP has been working on generating the baseline information and conducting the situation analysis through their Country Programme, FAO is working closely with WFP to build upon already established information and develop the school feeding policy with due consideration of previous and current efforts of WFP on the same activity. During the project inception phase, the WFP liaised with MoEd to encourage MoEd collaboration with both UN implementing agencies on school feeding. FAO takes the lead on working closely with MoEd to review and update the national circular on school feeding, which is circulated annually. These school feeding guidelines, led by FAO and the other WFP efforts on school feeding serve as complementary activities in formulating the school feeding policy and promote joint collaboration of the two UN implementing agencies with MoEd. Further, as WFP works closely with the Ministry of Health, WFP provided assistance in the coordination of relevant officials to liaise with FAO and the Ministry of Education on the school nutrition database.

National Ownership: Paris, Accra and Busan Commitments

The SDG-F strengthens the UN system’s ability to deliver results in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner by supporting the Joint Programme modality and by bringing together United Nations Agencies and national counterparts in a collective effort to ensure ownership and sustainability of results of JPs and advance towards the SDGs.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Government (specify national/local)	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Budget Service Provision	<p>All activities of the JP are conducted in close collaboration with the government; especially with the MoH, MoAg, MoEd, and MoWCA, as detailed above. In addition the National Nutrition Secretariat of Sri Lanka (NNSL) serves as the government oversight and coordination body for the JP. A few specific examples of government involvement, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoEd informs the priorities and needs to be addressed by the school health and nutrition database being developed • Matching funds for conducting the baseline surveys are provided by the government (MoH through MRI) • MoH took the lead in development of policy directions for the fortification with the support of the JP • MoH extended technical and logistical support for the nutrition surveys conducted under the JP.
Private Sector	Slightly involved	Procurement Service Provision	<p>The private sector is involved in providing services such as meeting room facilities for stakeholder consultations and workshops. In addition, a representative from a private organization was included in a technical meeting on food fortification to provide input on procurement of fortified rice kernels for the pilot programme to be conducted in the first quarter on next year. The company representative provided concurrence for providing the required fortificant for the pilot programme.</p>
Civil Society	Slightly involved	Policy-decision making	<p>Representatives from the SUN PF civil society organization participated in the initial consultative meeting on food fortification and highlighted their concerns and opinions</p>
Academia	Fairly involved	Policy-decision making	<p>Experts from universities attended both consultative meetings and the technical discussion organized through the project on food fortification. The academics provide technical inputs for policy development and the design of the pilot programmes on food fortification. A senior lecturer from a leading university in the country will work as the head of the technical team for the pilot programme.</p> <p>The academic sector participated in all FAO-organized consultative workshops to provide input into revising the school feeding circular and reviewing the nutrition-related curricula</p>

* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

Please briefly describe the current situation of the government, private sector and civil society on regards of ownership, align:

The Presidential elections held in January 2015 resulted in a new Head of State and significant changes to

the government administration, including new appointments at the NNSL, which is under the Presidential Secretariat. This JP was developed during the previous administration with the thorough involvement of NNSL to support specific actions highlighted in the government's MSAPN. The SDG-F JP was designed with the NNSL continuing to play a major role in the coordination and oversight of project activities and in ensuring the collaboration of the four ministries identified to implement the activities of this project; however, following the administrative changes, which coincided with the commencement of the JP, the function of NNSL was stalled due to the appointment of completely new officials, with minimal transfer of information, which resulted in no coordinating role being done and materialization of matching funds not being met. Following recruitment of the Joint Programme Coordinator and the FAO Project Manager in June, the JP team met with the new officials of the NNSL in July 2015 to inform them of the project and the important role of the NNSL in coordinating and overseeing this multi-sectoral project. Following this introductory meeting, NNSL has offered their full support in overseeing the JP.

In addition, in June 2015, the Parliament was dissolved pending general elections to be held in August. This resulted in ministries operating without a Minister and with the Secretary in charge of affairs. Further, following confirmation of ministers in September 2015 in the new parliament, ministry secretaries were also re-assigned and some government officials were transferred to different posts. This, together with the lag at the NNSL, affected decision-making and collaboration with implementing agencies causing delays in project activities. The Secretary at the State Ministry of Education who had closely collaborated with the JP was no longer at the same post following the parliamentary change and senior government officials within the Nutrition Divisions at MoH, with whom the JP working with closely, were transferred to new roles impacting project progress. In addition, MoWCA is seeking the oversight and coordination of the NNSL and is awaiting the PMC meeting for additional direction.

The private sector, so far, has mainly been involved as a service provider in providing meeting room facilities for the consultative workshops. Recently, an agent representing a fortificant provider was involved in planning discussions for the fortified rice pilot programme.

The civil society organization, SUN-PF provided inputs in the initial consultative meeting on food fortification. This group and other CSOs will be engaged in project activities planned for next year.

Please briefly provide an overall assessment of the governance and managerial structures :

As detailed above, the changes within the government of Sri Lanka that continued from January 2015 through September 2015 impacted the government coordination, oversight, and decision-making mechanisms with the regards to activities of the JP. Despite these challenges, the JP has been making progress on project activities by working with dedicated staff within the government implementing agencies through horizontal coordination between project officers and government officers and has made significant strides in areas including the baseline surveys, food fortification initiatives, updating of the school feeding circular, development of a nutrition information database, and technical translations of the school gardening tool.

Vertical coordination between the UN RC, heads of the two UN implementing agencies and JP staff in decision-making, monitoring progress, and advising on addressing bottlenecks has been instrumental in the achievements of the JP thus far. Further, horizontal coordination between the two UN agency heads in progress reviews and in collaboration on the school feeding policy has strengthened the JP 'Delivering as One'. Regular meetings of the JP team has ensured teamwork and partnership in implementing project activities.

NNSL has continued to support JP activities through meetings and discussions and will hold the first PMC meeting, involving UN RC, WFP, FAO, and the four line ministries on November 6, 2015.

VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 2	The JP was designed around SDG2 and primarily focuses its efforts on nutrition and food security. The baseline surveys on PLW and school children; the policy development and introduction of fortified foods; and nutrition promotion in pre-school and school children and teachers are the main components of the JP and all contribute to SDG2 - Zero Hunger Target: 61,356 estimated direct beneficiaries
Goal 3	Through collaborating with MRI and MoH on the baseline food and nutrition surveys and food fortification initiatives, the JP is supporting the capacity development and training of the health workforce. Also, by promoting nutrition and food security through the activities of the JP, a major contribution is made towards the management of national nutrition-related health risks. Target: 61,356 estimated direct beneficiaries
Goal 4	By revising and updating the school feeding circular, developing a school feeding policy, developing technical material in food and nutrition, and encouraging school gardening, the JP encourages attendance and promotes learning in children, teachers, and parents with regards to nutrition. Further, the nutrition promotion activities, including teacher training, supported by FAO for pre-school children enhances quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education, in line with the targets for SDG4 Target: 10,000 schools, and 1500 Pre-schools

VII. Additional Information

Additional Comments:

While the JP is now picking up momentum in implementing activities together with the relevant ministries and stakeholders, the change in the political situation in the country that coincided with the commencement of the project and the recruitment of dedicate project staff in June 2015, impacted project progress, as detailed above.

Further, collaborating ministries and government agencies were hesitant to commence activities of the JP with the implementing UN agencies until formal notification of the JP to the counterpart authorities was obtained from the Department of External Resources. This letter was received only in May 2015.

In addition, having commenced partnerships with the relevant ministries and having had numerous discussions on project activities, it has been noted that certain programme and budget amendments are necessary. These amendments are planned to be discussed at the upcoming PMC meeting and will be forwarded to the SDG-F Secretariat for concurrence after consensus is reached.

Given the difficulties in initiating project activities and the subsequent delays in implementation, the JP foresees the requirement of a no-cost extension and will communicate with the SDG-F Secretariat regarding this in due course.

Attachments

Performance Monitoring Framework *:

 [20151110 SDGF Performance Monitoring Framework.docx](#)

Other publications:

 [SDGF Flyer_Final_WFP-FAO_20150525.pdf](#)

Press releases:

 [20150331 SDG-F JP Launch_WFP News.pdf](#)

 [20150318 SDG-F JP Launch_The Island.pdf](#)

 [20150331 SDG-F JP Launch_Daily FT.pdf](#)

 [20150404 SDG-F JP Launch_Nation.pdf](#)

Additional documentation:

 [20151110 SDGF JP Sri Lanka_Photos with Captions.docx](#)

 [20151109 RC Cover Letter to SDG-F Secretariat.pdf](#)

 [20151110 SDGF Monitoring_Report_FINAL.docx](#)
