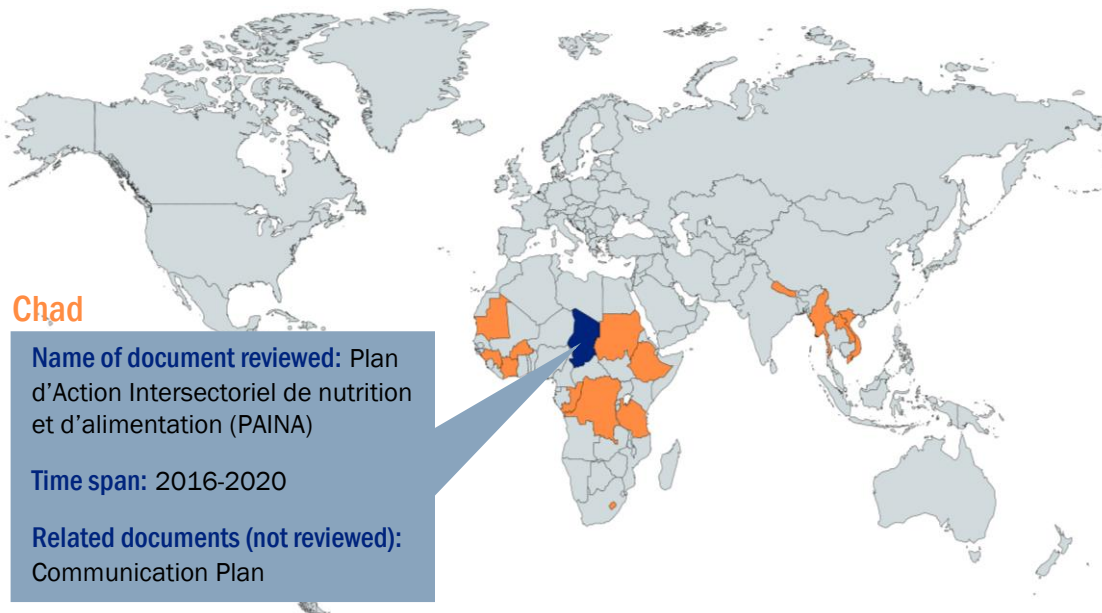


# National Nutrition Plan Assessment: Chad

In December 2016, the United Nations Network for the SUN Movement and the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS), with the support of an expert group, developed and launched the [Checklist on the Criteria and Characteristics of “Good” National Nutrition Plans](#) (“SUN Checklist”). In 2018, at the request of the SMS, the Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition Plus (MQSUN+) project undertook a systematic assessment of the main planning document of 15 countries’ multisectoral national nutrition action plans, according to the criteria in the SUN Checklist. This brief summarises select strengths (✓) and suggested areas for improvement with recommendations (-) for Chad, organised by each of the five areas in the SUN Checklist: (1) situational analysis and policy and programming review; (2) stakeholder engagement and high-level political commitment processes; (3) costs and budgetary framework; (4) implementation and managing arrangements; and (5) monitoring, evaluation, operational research and review. A section on gender considerations is also included.



## Overview

Chad’s *Plan d’Action Intersectoriel de nutrition et d’alimentation (PAINA)* is the five-year strategy emanating from the country’s current food and nutrition policy. Finalised in August 2015, it constitutes the first multisectoral nutrition plan since Chad joined the SUN Movement in 2013. The plan encompasses nine priority areas for the reduction of various forms of malnutrition with a focus on adolescents, women of childbearing age, children under five and special needs groups. These priority areas include strengthening community participation and family practices, food and nutrition in the education system and food safety; improving availability and accessibility of quality food and access to water and sanitation; strengthening the integration of child disease management, including acute malnutrition in emergency situations; and strengthening the technical and operational capacities of institutional and community stakeholders, including nutrition monitoring, coordination and communication.

## Key strengths

Chad's plan presents clear and evidence-based actions centred on the key malnutrition challenges and causal factors highlighted in the situational analysis. Below are a few key strengths that emerged from the review:

- ✓ Clearly outlines the risk factors for malnutrition in the country in the situational analysis and ties them with a theory of change that provides justification for the proposed priority actions.
- ✓ Includes global recommendations (i.e. World Health Assembly targets) in the key expected results, while also acknowledging the particular need to focus on child undernutrition.
- ✓ Proposes actions that are wide-ranging and respond to most of the issues described in the situational analysis. Each activity lists the lead and supporting ministries/partners responsible for implementation, as well as expectations to finalise PAINA implementation tools and guidelines within the first year of implementation.
- ✓ Includes outcome and output indicators of success for each of the proposed activities, and where baseline data is available, includes annual targets.
- ✓ Targets several activities towards food insecure households and includes activities to respond to emergencies arising within the country.

## Key recommendations

### Area 1: Situational analysis and policy and programming review

- The plan identifies key risks to its implementation but does not provide details on mitigation strategies to address these risks. In addition, while the plan proposes some specific approaches to address food emergencies, it does not include actions to improve the overall emergency response.
  - **Recommendation:** Consider developing mitigation strategies to respond to identified risks to plan implementation. As well, assess existing disaster responses, include emergency plan development and early warning surveillance system strengthening and/or ensure emergency responses are in line with Sphere standards, as appropriate.

### Area 2: Stakeholders' engagement and high-level political commitment process

- The plan states that it has been validated at high level by the Government, and it is clear that multiple stakeholders are to be involved in its implementation. However, it does not elaborate on how stakeholders were involved in plan development and lacks a communications and advocacy strategy to ensure that high-level engagement is sustained and all stakeholders remain committed.
  - **Recommendation:** In a future plan, include a section on how the plan was put together and who was involved to enhance accountability and ownership. This ensures transparency on the commitment of different sectors and stakeholders to the targets and holds them accountable for implementing actions to achieve the plan's goals. If not already done, develop a communications and advocacy strategy to ensure that nutrition remains high on the political agenda and a priority for action at national and subnational level across stakeholder groups.

### Area 3: Costs and budgetary framework

- The plan is not costed and does not include details about the funding gap or how funds will be dispersed and managed for implementation of the plan.
  - **Recommendation:** Undertake a costing exercise for all activities within the plan (if not yet completed) and summarise the overall budget, currently available funding and remaining funding gap. If there is a large gap in financial resources available for implementation, a plan should be developed to prioritise activities based on available finances.
- The plan does not describe a mechanism for tracking financial expenditures over the course of implementation.
  - **Recommendation:** Consider developing a system of tracking financial expenditures (both public and donor sources) for all of the plan’s proposed actions based on existing tracking systems within sectors and among partners; and include an indicator for government spending on nutrition as an outcome measure for advocacy efforts.

### Area 4: Implementation and management arrangements

- The activities listed in the plan clearly state the responsible ministry and supporting partners. It also describes how a multi-stakeholder platform will be established and how regional committees will bring sectoral departments together. However, the plan lacks an operational framework and does not describe processes for annual operational planning.
  - **Recommendation:** Develop a process for incorporating the plan’s proposed actions into annual sectoral and regional plans, with clear timelines and sufficient time for the steering and coordination committees to provide input.

### Area 5: Monitoring, evaluation (M&E), operational research and review

- The plan includes a detailed M&E framework with results, outcome and output indicators for each activity. However, it lacks an M&E plan that describes the processes by which activities will be monitored and data will be collected, analysed and communicated to stakeholders.
  - **Recommendation:** Develop a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan that describes the processes for data management, incorporating existing sectoral information and surveillance systems, where possible. When there are gaps in existing data sources, develop a plan for adding new indicators to the systems or developing specialised data collection tools or surveys.
- The plan does not describe the processes or mechanisms for joint periodic performance reviews to assess the programmatic and financial progress and inform evidence-based decision making for future implementation.
  - **Recommendation:** Develop an approach for evaluating the plan’s progress which builds on existing sector reviews and allows for participation at the national, regional and community level. In addition, specify who will be responsible for developing the dashboard of indicators and ensure that results are shared with all stakeholders, including beneficiaries. Finally, consider building in opportunities to develop operational research topics emanating from the review process (and ensure that there is a clear mechanism for coordinating the research).

## Gender considerations

Beyond the SUN Checklist, all country plans were assessed with a gender lens for their consideration and inclusion of gender dimensions of nutrition. See supplemental [gender brief](#) for the specific factors that were considered.

Chad's plan briefly discusses how gender influences nutrition-related factors under certain planned actions, but does not include gender as part of its strategic vision, goals or principles. This could be strengthened through the following recommendations. It is acknowledged that some of this may have already been completed or documented in supplemental planning documents.

- **Situational analysis:** While gender dimensions are presented as justification for some planned actions, a gender assessment could be conducted as part of an updated situational analysis to fully assess gender-related dimensions of nutrition in the Chad context (e.g. exploring traditional gender roles and norms and how these may influence nutrition), if not already done. As well, data in the analysis should be sex- and age-disaggregated for nutrition-specific indicators and relevant nutrition-sensitive indicators to inform targeted and appropriate interventions.
- **Planned actions:** While several activities incorporate gender dimensions for nutrition, ensure that relevant planned actions consider the unique circumstances of different populations based on the situational/gender assessment, including actions that address underlying inequities and broader harmful gender norms, where possible. As well, include gender equality as a crosscutting strategic principle or goal, and establish mechanisms to assess and address the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls to mainstream gender across planned actions.
- **Capacity building:** Capacity-building actions should include measures to encourage active participation of both men and women (and address any unique needs or potential barriers to participation). Capacity-building efforts should also broadly integrate gender discussions, where relevant, to address gaps in knowledge and action around gender-related needs and differences.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Selection of appropriate gender-related indicators should be based on Chad's situational analysis. Relevant data should also be disaggregated by sex and age, and there should be a documented plan for how sex-disaggregated data will be used to inform decision making. It is recommended that all should be sex-disaggregated for nutrition-specific indicators, and disaggregation of nutrition-sensitive indicators should be determined based on the country context.

## Moving forward

These recommendations can be applied to either the ongoing implementation process for Chad's national nutrition plan or to the next iteration of the plan once the time frame of the current plan comes to a close in 2020. Country stakeholders should refer back the [SUN Checklist](#) to consider other areas of improvement. For additional information on how closely this plan aligns with the SUN Checklist, please contact SMS or [MQSUN+@path.org](mailto:MQSUN+@path.org) to request a full copy of the plan assessment.

MQSUN+ belongs to the Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) programme with partners Nutrition International and the Emergency Nutrition Network to strengthen the capacity of the 60 countries within the SUN Movement to deliver policies and programmes which reduce malnutrition.

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