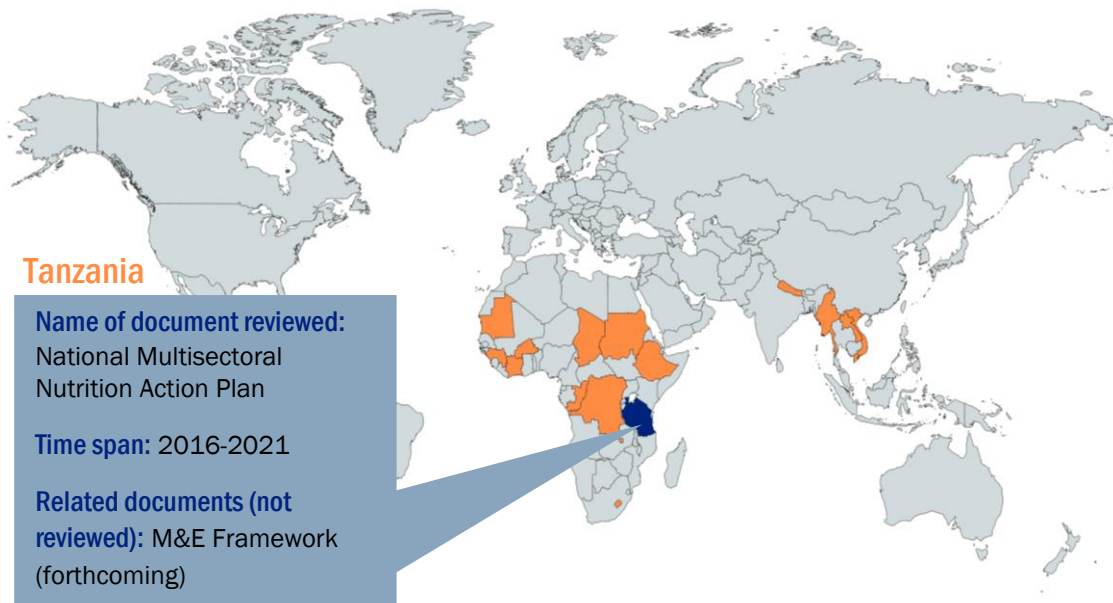


National Nutrition Plan Assessment: Tanzania

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 Tanzania, 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

Tanzania’s *National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan* is the country’s second national nutrition implementation plan. The plan proposes a community-centred nutrition system and includes commitments from seven Ministries and the Prime Minister’s Office. It proposes the scale up of five intervention areas (maternal, infant, young child and adolescent nutrition; micronutrient deficiency prevention and management; integrated management of acute malnutrition; diet-related non-communicable disease prevention and management; and nutrition-sensitive interventions), strengthening nutrition governance and establishing a multisectoral nutrition information system.

Key strengths

Tanzania's plan is one of the most comprehensive and well-documented plans that were reviewed as part of this exercise. Below are a few key strengths that emerged:

- ✓ Proposes actions that are wide-ranging—outlining all nutrition-specific actions recommended in the Lancet 2013 Nutrition series, clearly documenting relevant nutrition-sensitive actions from sectoral plans and responding to the underlying causes and system-wide governance and financing deficiencies described in the situational analysis. Clearly specifies responsible actors for leading the actions and collaborating organisations.
- ✓ Systematically presents risks to plan implementation and strategies to mitigate them. Furthermore, dedicates an entire output area to mitigating nutrition issues among populations vulnerable to climate change's effects.
- ✓ Has clear endorsement at the national level and describes concrete actions to integrate the national nutrition plan at the subnational levels (top-level outcome indicators include district budgeting for nutrition and incorporation of nutrition information in council plans).
- ✓ Presents cost estimates, existing levels of financing and financial gaps for each year of the plan. In light of the large calculated budget gap, proposes prioritising activities that address early childhood nutrition and development of a resource mobilisation strategy.
- ✓ Explicitly references that financial tracking will be part of the midterm review of the plan and, along with a SMART survey, will inform adjustments in strategy.
- ✓ Describes governance structures at national and subnational level in detail, including their roles, responsibilities and relationship to each other. The log frame clearly assigns lead and supporting organisations and includes clear timelines to each activity. In addition, the common results, resources and accountability framework includes clear indicators for each expected result, baseline values, targets, data sources and responsible institutions.
- ✓ Clearly summarises plan review timelines and notes that they will be used to make adjustments over the course of the plan's implementation.
- ✓ Development of the national nutrition plan was systematic and included a wide range of stakeholders, both in terms of expertise areas and levels (from national to local government authority).

Key recommendations

Area 1: Situational analysis and policy and programming review

- Although the plan briefly references interventions that have been included in the country's development plan and notes that a bottleneck analysis of key nutrition-specific interventions was completed, it has limited details on past sectoral actions.
 - **Recommendation:** Ensure that the next national nutrition plan documents key actions that were implemented and tracked at the subnational level (if possible by key result area) and lessons learned to inform future planning and implementation.

- The plan’s risk assessment acknowledges the need for emergency plans to be developed, but it is not included as a discrete activity of the action plan.
 - **Recommendation:** Assess existing disaster responses and 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 does not include how existing codes of conduct and legal obligations applicable to each stakeholder were used or will be used to prevent and manage conflicts of interest.
 - **Recommendation:** Ensure a plan is in place to address conflicts of interests that may arise during plan implementation.

Area 3: Costs and budgetary framework

- The financial gap calculations do not include nutrition-sensitive interventions.
 - **Recommendation:** Ensure that financial tracking includes all sectors and activities implicated in the plan. In addition, the next iteration of the plan should include estimates of existing funding for nutrition-sensitive interventions, particularly because they constitute over 97 percent of the current plan’s budget.
- The plan does not explicitly describe the auditing processes of financial tracking results.
 - **Recommendation:** Ensure that financial results for expenditure on the plan’s actions are audited, and that findings are publicly available and followed up appropriately.

Area 4: Implementation and management arrangements

- The plan does define governance structures at the subnational level but has limited detail on how the plan’s strategic priorities are related and linked to individual sectoral plans, subnational plans and plans of non-state actors.
 - **Recommendation:** To further strengthen the implementation of the plan, further assess and document how sectors included in the plan are decentralised. This can facilitate effective nutrition coordination in terms of harmonised resource allocation, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Area 5: Monitoring, evaluation, operational research and review

- The Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning chapter currently does not elaborate on all the required key components. However, it is noted that a separate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework would be developed.
 - **Recommendation:** If Tanzania now has a full M&E plan in place, this could be reviewed in accordance with Area 5 of the SUN Checklist, and the key aspects should be further elaborated in the next iteration of the plan.

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.

Tanzania's plan notes that the *Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children* is specifically responsible for mainstreaming gender equality in all policies, strategies and programmes. The plan presents general consideration of gender in relation to nutrition. However, there is an absence of details on how this would be done. 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:** If not already done, a gender assessment could be conducted as part of an updated situational analysis to fully assess gender-related dimensions of nutrition in the Tanzania context (e.g. exploring traditional gender roles and norms and how these may influence nutrition).
- **Planned actions:** Ensure the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls are reflected in the planned actions based on the unique circumstances understood from the situational/gender assessment. Where possible, the plan should also include actions that address underlying inequities and broader harmful gender norms.
- **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.
- **M&E:** Selection of appropriate gender-related indicators should be based on Tanzania's individual situational/gender 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. For nutrition-specific indicators, it is recommended that all should be sex-disaggregated, 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 Tanzania'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 2021. 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 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.

For more information about MQSUN+

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