

# National Nutrition Plan Review: Honduras

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 and 2020, at the request of the SMS, the Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition Plus (MQSUN+) project undertook a systematic review of 26 countries’ multisectoral national nutrition plans, according to the criteria in the SUN Checklist. This brief summarises select strengths and suggested areas for improvement with recommendations for Honduras, 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. Where relevant, specific suggestions for increasing gender sensitivity for the plan are also included (see MQSUN+’s [gender brief](#) for more information).

## Honduras

**Name of document reviewed:** *Política Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de Largo Plazo (PSAN) y Estrategía Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (ENSAN): PyENSAN 2030*

**Time span:** 2018-2030



## Overview

Honduras’s *Política Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de Largo Plazo (PSAN) y Estrategía Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (ENSAN): PyENSAN 2030* supports the Food and Nutrition Security (SAN) Act (2011) to guarantee the food and nutrition security of the people of Honduras through a multisectoral framework. PyENSAN binds and builds on two previously established frameworks: PSAN (2006), a policy which aimed to provide a framework for addressing food security; and ENSAN (2010), a strategy which sought to provide a multisectoral model for addressing food security through targeting prioritised populations. The plan aims to provide a cohesive framework to support the country in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), through the achievement of 11 strategic objectives.

## Key strengths

Overall, the plan demonstrates that it builds on existing plans, policies, strategies and legislation in nutrition, food security and national development. Below are some key strengths that emerged from the review:

- Provides a clear description of the nutrition context at national and subnational levels, including both under- and overnutrition, as well as a discussion of gender dynamics and an indicated plan to further assess nutritional needs and status by sex.
- Includes costing information for all proposed activities.
- Clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities for government actors across sectors for implementation of the plan, as well as coordination mechanisms.

## Key recommendations

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

- Whilst the plan does include a limited number of targets, they do not encompass all forms of malnutrition outlined in the situational analysis for nutrition.
  - **Recommendation:** Develop impact and outcome targets for indicators described in the situational analysis using relevant World Health Assembly nutrition targets as a guideline and modified according to the country context.
- Whilst the plan does include a sub-objective on promoting resilience, risk management and biodiversity management of the SAN, it does not identify key risks to general plan implementation.
  - **Recommendation:** Identify risks that would impact plan implementation and develop mitigation strategies to address identified risks.
- Although the plan proposes some actions to address gender-related determinants of nutrition, it does not explicitly describe how the gender dimensions of nutrition would be addressed across plan activities.
  - **Recommendation:** Consider a mechanism or responsible entity to support addressing equitable participation of women, men, boys and girls across activities (as relevant) as well as the consideration and mitigation of unintended consequences or potential inequities that may arise from existing gender norms. Drawing from other countries' plans, this could potentially be addressed through including a gender focal point in the plan's multisectoral coordination groups or assigning the Ministry of Women/Gender to support the incorporation of gender consideration across all nutrition-sensitive activities.

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

- The plan does not describe specific advocacy and communication plans to mobilise influential stakeholders to champion nutrition or promote implementation of the plan.
  - **Recommendation:** Consider developing an advocacy and communications strategy, if not already in place, to facilitate stakeholder engagement and commitment to plan implementation at all levels. Based on the specific identified advocacy needs, this could broadly include actions to advocate for the plan amongst public figures at multiple levels (e.g. national-level politicians,

community leaders) to build nutrition champions and to advocate/orient national stakeholders on plan implementation.

### Area 3: Costs and budgetary framework

- Whilst the plan includes estimates of the cost of the plan, it does not provide estimates of current levels of funding for the specific proposed actions.
  - **Recommendation:** Estimate financial gaps, and in the event of financial shortfalls, develop a plan for mobilising additional funding and develop criteria for prioritising target groups, geographic areas and/or interventions, using available data and transparent criteria, based on the available financial resources.
- Whilst the plan mentions an accompanying financial framework, it does not indicate if a planned or existing mechanism is in place for tracking financial expenditures over the course of implementation.
  - **Recommendation:** Review existing sectoral financial tracking mechanisms, and if a sufficient tracking system is not already in place, assess the feasibility of adapting or developing a financial tracking system that includes both on-budget and off-budget funding for planned activities, as well as allocations and expenditures to make disbursement decisions more transparent.

### Area 4: Implementation and management arrangements

- The plan does not elaborate on existing nutrition capacity and/or additional capacity needs to implement the plan.
  - **Recommendation:** Consider conducting a capacity assessment and developing capacity-strengthening activities for nutrition action where needed, identifying roles and responsibilities of government and non-government stakeholders. Ensure that capacity-strengthening activities are designed with consideration to gender dynamics and address potential barriers to equal participation of men and women.

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

- The plan includes a brief section on M&E, providing an overview of how the plan will be monitored, but it is not clear whether a more detailed M&E plan is anticipated to be developed to support it.
  - **Recommendation:** Develop an M&E framework that describes in more detail how implementation of the plan will be monitored and how its achievements will be systematically evaluated. The framework should provide outcome and output indicators for each proposed activity, details on data sources, responsibilities of different parties in data collection, as well as defining how results will be reviewed and disseminated to stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- The plan does not describe how operational research priorities will be identified, pursued or coordinated or how research findings will be disseminated.
  - **Recommendation:** Consider whether operational research activities can be integrated into the plan (or M&E framework) to generate evidence of the effectiveness of approaches to address nutrition challenges or support the evidence base behind nutrition action in Honduras, and identify means to prioritise and coordinate operational research. A national research body could be identified to support this.

## Moving forward

These recommendations can be considered and applied, as feasible and relevant, to the ongoing implementation process for Honduras's national nutrition plan. Immediate priorities to consider include developing an M&E framework including defining SMART indicators at all levels (e.g. process, output, outcome, impact) to track the plan progress and performance, and assessing capacity needs and initiating corresponding actions to address gaps in capacity as feasible. For additional information on how closely this plan aligns with the SUN Checklist, please contact SMS to request a full copy of the plan review.

For more practical guidance on multisectoral nutrition planning, see the resources included in the [SUN Checklist](#) and refer to the [forthcoming multisectoral nutrition planning toolkit from MQSUN+](#)

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+

Website:

[mqsunplus.path.org](http://mqsunplus.path.org)

Email:

[mqsun+@path.org](mailto:mqsun+@path.org)

Social media:



Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition Plus



@MQSUNplus

### Acknowledgements

This brief was compiled by PATH under MQSUN+. Contributors included Amanda Coile, Carrie Hemminger, Carrie Hubbell Melgarejo, Tamsin Walters, Patti Welch and Jolene Wun.

MQSUN+ cannot be held responsible for errors or any consequences arising from the use of information contained in this brief. This document was produced by MQSUN+ through support provided by UK aid and the UK Government; however, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK Government's official policies.