

UNICEF Evaluation Management Response

Evaluation Title: Impact Evaluation of Nepal’s Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP)

Region: SAR

Office: Nepal Country Office

Evaluation Year: 2022

Person-In-Charge for Follow-up to Management Response: Sanjay Rijal

Overall Response to the Evaluation: The UNICEF Nepal Country Office commissioned this evaluation of the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) in Nepal. It covers MSNP-I (2013-2017) and MSNP-II (2018-2022). It also covers the period when Nepal underwent the transition to the federal system from Unitary System in 2015. This report includes findings related to the MSNP’s relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. It also includes recommendations as the MSNP moves into its third phase and undergoes a review of its design. This report is intended to contribute to the evidence on the MSNP in Nepal, as well as provide lessons for MSNPs more broadly. NCO Management Team agreed to be part of this evaluation with the expectation that will focus on the improvement of MSNP implementation at scale.

Planned Use of Evaluation: The evaluation’s relevant findings and recommendations will be used in our work supporting the Government to formulate MSNP- III

Allowed Editor:

RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTIONS:

Recommendation 1: **Redesign** Theory of Change (ToC) using the SUN movement template; **Review** the ToC periodically at all levels to adapt to internal/external shocks

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
1. As part of the formulation of MSNP-III (2023-2030), a new Theory of Change (ToC) will be developed based on the	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	NPC/Karan Courtney Haag	31/12/2022	Completed	The ToC was reviewed as part of the Mid-Term Review of MSNP –	Mid-Term Review Report

consultations with government and external partner stakeholders		NPC/Sanjay Rijal			II conducted in 2022 and the limitations identified are being addressed during the formulation of MSNP-III process.	

Recommendation 2: Adopt targeted approach; provide a basic package of interventions to *all* municipalities and supplement with interventions tailored to community needs

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
1. Support training/orientation to build capacity of representatives of local governments to understand the MNSP package of interventions and to prioritize the target groups based on level of vulnerability	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	MoFAGA/Gyan Bhujel	31/10/2022	completed	Representatives of local governments were trained/oriented on MSNP interventions and learned specifically about the contextual needs for the most vulnerable groups/castes	MSNP-II Progress Report

Recommendation 3: Strengthen Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Web Based Reporting System (WBRS)

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started	Actions taken	Supporting documents

				Underway Completed Cancelled		
<p>1. Support MoHP to review and revise the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Web-Based Reporting System (WBRS)</p> <p>The link for the WBRS: http://msnp.gov.np/dashboard/index</p> <p>Health Management Information System (HMIS) Booklet (attached)</p> <p>The link for the HMIS: http://202.70.86.2/hmis/dhis-web-commons/</p>	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	MoHP/MoF AGA/Sanjay Rijal	31/12/2022	Completed	<p>1. UNICEF monitoring and information management officer was a key member of the Technical Working Group with the HMIS Unit of Department of Health Services, MoHP and supported the review, revision and creation of nutrition indicators</p> <p>2. UNICEF supported the review and revision of the WBRS</p>	DHIS 2 Portal WBRS Portal

Recommendation 4: Re-instate capacity development at all levels

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
1. Capacity assessment for implementation and	UNICEF Nepal	Gyan Bhujel	30/12/2022	Underway	Recruitment of consultant is underway and the	Approved ToR CFT Local Government Needs assessment

monitoring of MSNP at local level	Nutrition Section				capacity assessment shall commence before end of December 2022.	

Recommendation 5: Utilize a common beneficiary list and central unitary information system to improve coverage and convergence among nutrition sensitive sectors

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
1. Support revision of the Web-based Reporting System, which is used by local governments to capture coverage of implementation of MSNP. The WBRS is being used to monitor coverage gaps and to identify excluded target groups.	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	Sanjay Rijal	NA	completed	1. UNICEF supported software update and revision of the Web-based Reporting System to improve data quality to monitor coverage and convergence among nutrition sensitive sectors 2. UNICEF provided 392 digital tablets to MSNP Volunteers for collecting and reporting data to Ministry of Federal Affairs	Web-based Reporting Portal http://msnp.gov.np/dashboard/index

					and General Administration (MoFAGA)	
					3. Capacity development of local governments to use data generated by WBRS for monitoring coverage of MSNP implementation	

Recommendation 6: Prioritize nutrition-sensitive interventions that centre around livelihood development and social protection measures

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
<p>1. Findings of the MSNP mid-term review reinforced the need for stronger linkages between social protection initiatives and nutrition objectives. The MSNP-III formulation process is addressing this, led by the Social Policy Reference Group, Chaired by Ministry of Women and Children and Senior Citizens.</p> <p>2. Conduct a Theory of Change as part of MSNP-III formulation process to</p>	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	<p>Karan Courtney Haag</p> <p>Gyan Bhujel</p>	31/12/2022	Completed	<p>Formation of MSNP-III reference groups</p> <p>UNICEF supported the ToC workshop that identified sectoral pathways for improving nutrition outcomes</p>	<p>ToR of reference Groups</p> <p>Agenda and ToC workshop report</p>

identify the change pathways in the social protection system for improved nutrition outcomes.						

Recommendation 7: Forge partnership with the private sector, NGOs and academia for sustainability of MSNP

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): **Agree**

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
1. Support Government of Nepal to establish academia alliances	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	Anirudra Sharma Gyan Bhujel	31/12/2022	Underway	Regular dialogue with private sector and Academia	Meeting minutes
2. Engage private sector to strengthen family friendly policies	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	Karan Courtney Haag	31/12/2022	Underway	Ensure their meaningful engagement during MSNP-III formulation	Private Sector/B4R Engagement strategy/plan

Recommendation 8: Intensify programmes for adolescent girls 'health & nutrition who are future mother

Management Response: (Agree, Partially, Disagree): **Agree**

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
1. Support Ministry of Health and Population to scale up the adolescent health and nutrition programme in all 77 districts	UNICEF Nepal Nutrition Section	Naveen Paudyal	31/12/2022	completed	Support has been provided to MoHP to revise the School Health Strategy and to incorporate adolescent nutrition	Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Intervention Package (CNSI) School Health Strategy

					<p>module into the Comprehensive Nutrition Specific Intervention Package (CNSI)</p> <p>UNICEF advocacy with MoHP has led to scale up of the adolescent health and nutrition programme in all 77 districts.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--	--