



CIVIL SOCIETY-SCALING  
UP NUTRITION IN NIGERIA  
(CS-SUNN)



## **PERFORMANCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL MULTISECTORAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION (NMSPFAN)**

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL MULTISECTORAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION (NMSPFAN)

**M**alnutrition has multifaceted causes and requires solutions that are multidisciplinary and multisectoral, cutting across various sectors. According to NDHS (2018) thirty-seven percent of children in Nigeria are stunted, and 19% are severely stunted and childhood mortality rates remain stagnated. The national food and nutrition policy provides the framework for addressing the problems of food and nutrition insecurity at all levels in Nigeria. The National/State Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition (NMSPAN) is expected to aid the implementation of nutrition-related interventions at both the national and state levels in Nigeria. The implementation of the strategy will lead to improved nutritional status of women and children and will inadvertently improve the health status of families, thereby reducing the risk of malnutrition among vulnerable groups in the country.

Therefore, it is paramount to know the level of implementation of the plan at the national and focal states to measure the successes of past interventions as well as know where to tailor advocacy for complete implementation of the policy.

The level of NMSPAN implementation overall indicates National recorded 38.4% performance. The overall performance and progress were tracked in the scorecard developed across national and focal states based on strategic objectives and interventions, categorized and colour-coded as follows: No Success as "Black", Minimal Success "Red", Little Success "Yellow", Moderate Success "Blue" and Considerable Success "Green".

LEGEND	
NO SUCCESS	
MINIMAL SUCCESS	
LITTLE SUCCESS	
MODERATE SUCCESS	
CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS	

## LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL MULTISECTORAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR NUTRITION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AT THE NATIONAL, COMMUNITY AND HOUSEHOLD LEVELS - 58.7%	
1.1: Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security at the State, LGAs Community and Household	National
Empower Farmers cooperatives/clusters for commercial production of food crops by Government and Private sector	
Facilitate the reactivation of prison farms in each geopolitical zone	
Scale-up the production and promote the consumption of Vitamin A, and micronutrient rich foods (orange flesh sweet potato, pro-vitamin A cassava, yellow maize, iron sorghum, and cowpea)	
Review and disseminate existing legislation on fortification to cover staples food and promote hammer mill and household level fortification of cereal, root crops and legumes not presently covered, e.g industrially processed rice, Noodles and Palm oil	
Support the production and diversification of fruits and vegetables around the homesteads, schools, orchards and farms.	
Provide starter packs for fruits and vegetable farming (in seven agro-ecological zones) for 1000 smallholder farmers by zone (including women for Household gardening)	
Provide small ruminant starter packs (5 sheep/goats, concentrates, minerals and vitamins, vaccines and drugs) to vulnerable women farmers	
Provide smoking kilns to clusters of small-scale fish processors /farmers including women fish farmers	
Provide improved planting materials (staple crops including Plantain, Banana and Pineapples) to farmers across the country to promote food security	
Advocate to relevant Banks to promote increased access to Micro-Credit facilities for farmers especially Women farmers to expand farm operations (interest rates and collaterals)	

Promote the formation of women farmers into sustainable cooperative groups for the provision of grants and revolving loans	
Scale-up the activities on enforcement of Food Fortification and salt iodization programs	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>63.3</b>
<b>1.2: Increasing Availability, Accessibility and Affordability to Food</b>	<b>National</b>
Advocate for increase in import levies and excise duties on commodities that can be locally produced	
Advocate for rehabilitation of the existing rural road network and construction of new ones for easy transportation of farm produce	
Advocate for the establishment of uniform Receipt system for warehouses in government food storage centres	
Promote regulation for the establishment of commodity trading centres	
Advocate for scale up of offtake mechanism for food crops to increase availability of food products	
Promote access to agricultural inputs (including improved seeds, information on agricultural practices, and irrigation) to scale up production of fruits and vegetable.	
Advocate for subsidized agricultural inputs at the point of manufacturing and import.	
Train farmers on appropriate use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>1.3: Improving Food Harvesting, Processing and Preservation</b>	<b>National</b>
Conduct regular Stakeholders meeting on reduction of postharvest losses	
Promote and provide hermetic storage bags to local farmers for food preservation	
Sensitization of Farmers on proper use of environmentally friendly agricultural technologies	
Promotion and dissemination of research findings on food processing and preservation technology for use in households	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>1.4: Improving Food Preparation and Quality</b>	<b>National</b>



Promote the use of Aflasafe and activities to minimize aflatoxin contamination along the value chain, including GAP and modern drying and storage	
Promote safe, quality and hygienic food along the food supply chain	
Register and license food handlers / food operators engaged in quality and safe food processing and storage	
Promote awareness on improved food quality and safety through electronic and print media	
Review minimum standards, print and distribute SOPs (Nutrition and Health) for early- child care centers (ECCC)	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>1.5: Improving Management of Food Security Crisis and Nutrition in Emergency</b>	<b>National</b>
Support water supply interventions in emergency settings and rural areas	
Construction of sanitation and hygiene facilities in IDPs camps, public places and institutions	
Strengthen coordination platform for early warning mechanisms to cope with food emergencies at community level	
Support effective implementation of Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes (CCT), food rations or food supplements in emergency situation	
Strengthen Nutrition surveillance for early warning mechanisms to cope with emergency	
Training Emergency Managers on mainstreaming Nutrition in Feeding Programmes targeted at the vulnerable groups in Emergency Situations	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>71.7</b>
<b>1.6: School-based Strategies</b>	<b>National</b>
Conduct Capacity building for food and nutrition teachers and food vendors on the need to provide nutritionally adequate meals using locally available foods through linkages of food vendors and school system	
Build the capacity of Agricultural Science teachers to strengthen the establishment of school farms and garden	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>64</b>

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ENHANCING CAREGIVING CAPACITY - 68.2%</b>	
<b>2.1 Ensure Optimal Nutrition in the First 1,000 Days of life</b>	<b>National</b>
Advocate for legislation of the prolongation of maternity leave and enactment of paternity leave	
Provide Orientation for health staff to improve ANC attendance	
Procure and distribute Iron-folic acid supplementation to pregnant women during MNCH Weeks	
Procure and distribute Vitamin A Supplements during MNCHW and other supplementary activities for under 5 children	
Implementation of baby friendly initiative in all health facilities and delivery maternities	
Establishment of crèches in workplaces to promote Exclusive Breastfeeding.	
Promote the establishment of Nutrition/food demonstration corner (optimal MIYCF practices) in the health facilities	
Scale up implementation of C-IYCF for optimal infant and young child feeding	
Conduct Social and Behaviour Change Communication activities on IYCF, and intra-household food distribution targeted at adolescents, pregnant women, and caregivers at all levels.	
Promote awareness on Girl Child Education, end Child Marriage and adolescent nutrition and health related practices	
Scale – up activities in enforcing the provisions of International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS)	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>66.4</b>
<b>2.2: Caring for the Socioeconomically Disadvantaged and Nutritionally Vulnerable</b>	<b>National</b>
Engage traditional, religious and opinion leaders to support community level action on nutritional care of vulnerable groups and encourage utilization of PHC services	
Support local production of RUTF through advocacy to potential industries in Nigeria	
Support local production of Premixes through advocacy to potential industries in Nigeria	
Support local production of Micronutrient powder through advocacy to potential industries in Nigeria	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>70</b>

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: REDUCE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY ASSOCIATED WITH MALNUTRITION - 46.4%</b>	
<b>3.1: Reduce Morbidity and Mortality Associated with Malnutrition</b>	<b>National</b>
Promote regular monitoring of growth and development of Children under 5 at health facilities and communities.	
Disseminate information on nutrition and key household practices through mass media	
Conduct annual assessment of Household consumption of iodized salt using Primary School children	
Support distribution of Iron folate supplements to adolescent (boys and girls) in Schools and Communities (25% coverage)	
Sustain and scale up distribution of micronutrient powder (MNP) for children 6 - 23 months (50% coverage)	
Scale up and strengthen CMAM sites	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>43.7</b>
<b>3.2. Preventing and Managing Nutrition Related Diseases</b>	<b>National</b>
Health Promotion activities to provide education and increasing services for prevention and management of DRNCD	
Training on hygiene promotion, Community Water Safety Plan and triggering on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>3.3: Preventing Micronutrient Deficiency</b>	<b>National</b>
Monitor and evaluate micronutrient supplementation programme performance at all level	
Procure and distribute Zinc, L -ORS, de-worming tablet and RUTF for CMAM and routine services (50% Coverage)	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>3.4: Protecting the Consumer through Improved Food Quality and Safety</b>	<b>National</b>
Conduct awareness campaign on healthy living, good dietary habits and food quality and safety	
Promotion of safe practices on Pesticide utilization for food stuff preservation	

<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>45</b>
---	-----------

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVING CAPACITY TO ADDRESS FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY – 26.7%</b>	
<b>4.1: Assessing, Analysing and Monitoring Nutrition Situations</b>	<b>National</b>
Building the capacity of farmers on cultivation of underutilized crop varieties	
Promote linkages of members to existing capacity building opportunities	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4.2: Providing a Conducive Macro Economic Environment</b>	<b>National</b>
Advocate for the creation of nutrition department and incorporate nutrition objectives into MDAs' development policies, plans and programmes.	
Mid and Endline Review of implementation of the National Multisectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>4.3: Social Protection Programmes for the Vulnerable Groups</b>	<b>National</b>
Conduct stakeholders (consultation) meetings for nutrition related investment and sectoral policies including social protection policies	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>20</b>

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: TO INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE OF NUTRITION AMONG THE POPULACE AND NUTRITION EDUCATION INTO FORMAL AND INFORMAL TRAINING – 59.5%</b>	
<b>5.1: Promote Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization</b>	<b>National</b>
2day Annual review meeting of SCFN with NCFN	
Develop advocacy strategy	
Conduct sustained advocacy to policy makers, traditional and religious leaders in Abuja, for improved nutrition funding	
Collaboration with network providers like MTN, Airtel, GLO, 9mobile etc. to disseminate nutrition information to the general public	

Conduct Annual Nutrition Week on topical issues in nutrition	
Development and approval of advocacy plan with activities	
Implementation of advocacy activities	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>62.9</b>
<b>5.2: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Dietary habits</b>	<b>National</b>
Promote dietary diversification through the consumption of locally produced staples	
Review, publish and disseminate the Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) for healthy living	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>5.3: Research in Nutrition</b>	<b>National</b>
Review, update, publish and disseminate existing food composition table for Nigeria	
Conduct the National Food Consumption and Nutrition Survey	
Provide small grants to conduct food and nutrition research on standardization of food recipes and portion sizes of locally available diets	
Conduct assessment at all levels on determinants of low financial investments in Food & Nutrition programs compared to other life-saving interventions in partnership with private sector	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>62.5</b>

<b>Strategic Objective 6: RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AT ALL LEVELS - 36%</b>	
<b>6.1 Promote Adequate Budgetary Allocation and Tracking</b>	<b>National</b>
Advocate for the implementation of policy and costed national multisectoral plan of action for food and nutrition	
Conduct regular budget tracking to evaluate budget performance of F & N in all sectors.	
Advocacy for the Creation of budget lines on food and nutrition activities in MDAs/LGAs and ensure timely release of funds	



Development and Approval of annual multisectoral nutrition implementation work plan and budget	
Ensure adequate implementation of the policy through sufficient budgetary allocation and timely release of funds.	
Sustained advocacy to policy makers, traditional and religious leaders for improved nutrition funding	
Conduct of quarterly budget tracking and apply lesson learnt all levels of F &N budgeting processes	
Availability of Memos for Nutrition fund release	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>41.3</b>
<b>6.2 Strengthening the coordination capacity</b>	<b>National</b>
Conduct bi-annual meeting of the National Council on Nutrition	
Organize quarterly Nutrition Partners meetings at all levels	
Conduct quarterly meetings of National/States Committee on Food and Nutrition at all levels	
Organize annual National Nutrition Networking NNN meeting of all nutrition stakeholders	
Conduct regular and periodic monitoring on food and nutrition activities in collaboration with partners and the private sector at all levels	
Establish a nutrition Portal and develop tools for the collection of core Nutrition data in partnership with key stakeholders	
Creation of nutrition desk and incorporate nutrition objectives into MDAs' development policies plans and programmes.	
Ensuring adequate staffing of relevant MDAs at State and LGAs levels implementing sectoral nutrition programmes with skilled and qualified nutritionists	
Explore for increase in private sector investment in nutrition programs and activities	
Using evidence for nutrition policy and programming	
Building synergy and collaboration between the line Ministries and development partners for improved funding for nutrition activities	
Availability of a consolidated quarterly coordination report at end of the year	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>31.7</b>
<b>6.3 Strengthening capacity to mobilize resources</b>	<b>National</b>

Build the capacity of Nutrition desk officers in MDAs/LGAs and leaders of Professional Associations in Nutrition through training & retraining on Nutrition Programming, resource mobilization and allocation	
Strengthening the SUN Networks at states	
Build the capacity of Nutrition implementers (OICs, NFPs, M & E, Agric extension officers and other nutrition officers/ workers at all levels on the use and management of level appropriate nutrition dashboard	
Strengthen the coordination capacity of the Ministry of Planning and Budget and its Local Government counterparts with the required resources (human, financial, and material) for effective management and coordination of the policy	
<b>Percentage Score = ((Total score)/(Total Number of interventions*5)*100)</b>	<b>35</b>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strong political will at all levels of government
- There is need to strengthen and sustain efforts on the level of implementation of the N/SMPFAN
- Sustained advocacy to policy makers, partners, private sector, community, traditional and religious leaders for improved nutrition funding
- Explore for increase in private sector investment in nutrition programs and activities
- Regular and periodic monitoring on food and nutrition activities in collaboration with partners and the private sector at all levels
- Ensuring adequate staffing of relevant MDAs at national and sub-national levels implementing sectoral nutrition programmes with skilled and qualified nutritionists
- Enhance the use of evidence for nutrition policy and programming
- Build the capacity of Nutrition desk officers in MDAs and nutrition professions through training & retraining on Nutrition Programming, resource mobilization and allocation
- Fast track establishment of Nutrition Department and budget lines for increase budgetary allocation for improved programme implementation.
- Support accountability and transparency in utilization of funds through regular budget tracking and application of lesson learnt
- Support effective and efficient coordination and collaboration at all levels (Federal, State and Local Government)

## CONCLUSION

In order to achieve the goal of the national policy on food and nutrition requires the effective implementation of the multisectoral plan on nutrition through significant investment by governments and partners including the private sector. Therefore, the urgent need for the establishment of the approved nutrition department in relevant ministries and agencies and creation of budget line in order to prioritize nutrition funding for increase sustainable commitment, resources and effective coordination of nutrition programmes to achieve nutrition impact.