

The Yemen Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2025-2030

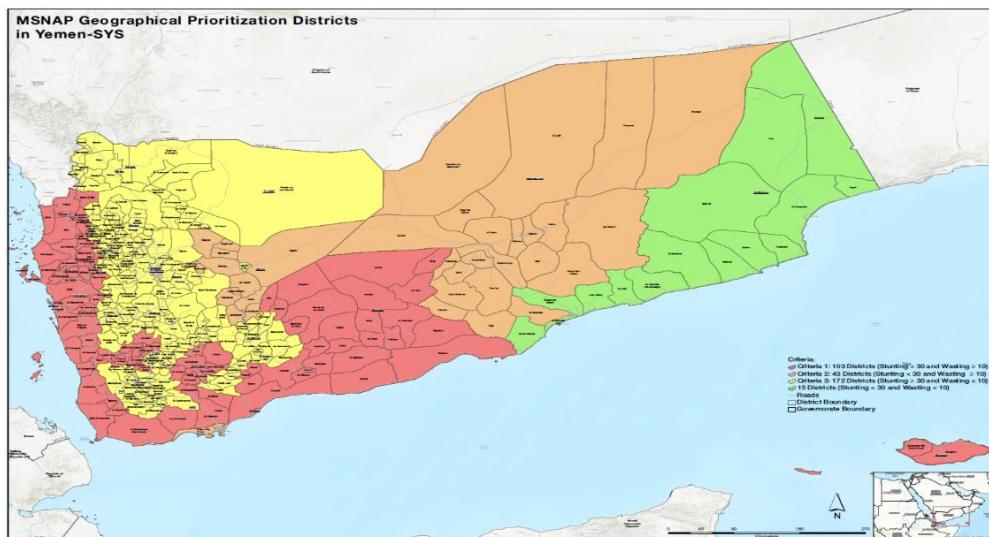
An Overview

Introduction

The MSNAP 2025-2030 provides a nationally endorsed roadmap to tackle malnutrition in Yemen through multisectoral efforts which are aligned and coordinated to deliver common results that will improve people's nutrition and contribute to peace and sustainable development in Yemen. Good nutrition plays a crucial role in preventing young childhood deaths, a key predictor of national stability. It also

builds immunity and reduces risk of nutrition-related illnesses. Moreover, optimal nutrition preserves human capital and boosts economic development, while building resilience and social cohesion to withstand shocks and prevent future crises. International evidence shows that every dollar spent on nutrition can yield a return up to \$23,¹ making it a smart investment even in the Yemeni context.

The Current Nutrition Situation in Yemen



Today, Yemen has one of the highest burdens of undernutrition in the world. Child stunting (low height for age) remains extremely high at 49 percent and wasting (low weight for height) at 17 percent.¹ Maternal health is still of grave concern with more than 27 percent of pregnant women and 24 percent of lactating women acutely malnourished (low body mass index).¹ Anaemia is a significant nutrition challenge for women and adolescents.

Geographic disparities in undernutrition are starkly evident across the country.¹ Child stunting ranges

from 20 percent in urban districts to over 66 percent in mountainous, conflicted affected districts of Raymeh. Out of the 333 districts in Yemen, 229 have very high stunting at 30 percent or above.¹ Wasting varies from 7 percent in urban areas to nearly 27 percent in rural districts in the Hodeidah Northern and Southern Lowlands. At least 116 districts have high wasting levels at 10 percent or more (the WHO threshold for nutrition emergencies).¹ The combination of very high stunting and persistent wasting are of serious public health significance for Yemen as the combination of wasting and stunting has a multiplicative impact on child mortality¹. There are 103 districts in Yemen that carry this dual burden of undernutrition and are high MSNAP priority target areas for intervention as indicated in red in the map below.

¹ Shekar, Meera, et al World Bank (2024) Investment Framework for Nutrition 2024

Goal, Objectives and Targets for 2025-2030

Goal: To sustainably reduce undernutrition among vulnerable groups
Outcomes: Sustainable improvements in nutrition intake, feeding practices and diets throughout the lifecycle and Sustainable reductions in nutrition related morbidity

Results	Indicator	Baseline (2024)	National Target (2030)
Goal: Sustainable reductions in all forms of undernutrition.	Reduce the prevalence of stunting among children under 5	46.50%	<36.5%
	Reduce the prevalence of wasting among children under 5	16.40%	<10%
	Reduce the prevalence of Low Birth Weight from the current level	23%	<16%
	Prevalence of Anaemia (children U5)	86.30%	50%
	Prevalence of Anaemia (PLW)	70.60%	50%
	Reduced underweight (low BMI) for women (40% reduction)	23.40%	<9.36%
Outcome 1: Sustainable improvements in nutrition intake, feeding practices and diets throughout the lifecycle	Minimum Dietary Diversity - MDD (children)	30.30%	40-45%
	Household Dietary Diversity (HDDS) Proportion of Households with Low HDDS (<4 food groups)	60-70%	<30%
	Increase exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) rates of infants 0-6 months	20%	50%
	Increase MAD for U5	11.50%	50%
	Prevalence of wasting among PLW from the current level (30% reduction)	27.2%	19.04%
Outcome 2: Sustainable reductions in nutrition related morbidity	Reduce under-five mortality from diarrhoea (Reduce by 50%)	43.30%	21.65%
	Reduce under-five mortality from pneumonia and ARIs (Reduce by 50%)	54.70%	27.35%
	Reduced fever diseases among children (Reduce by 50%)	59.60%	29.80%

Figure X: Yemen's National Nutrition Targets 2025-2030

Yemen's MSNAP 2025–2030 marks a strategic shift in how nutrition is tackled through the following;

- ✓ Scale up longer-term, locally led programmes across a range of sectors that build resilience, strengthen public institutions and prevent malnutrition alongside life-saving interventions.
- ✓ Empower national, local and community-based actors to develop evidence-based policies, coordinate actions, provide services and promote mutual accountability.
- ✓ Increase multi-year, predictable and flexible investments in sustainable nutrition relevant programming across sectors.
- ✓ Alignment across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts to transform fragmented efforts into coordinated actions that address the main drivers of malnutrition.

To achieve the goal, outcomes and targets, actions are needed across different sectors, supported by an enabling policy, financial and institutional environment. Seven strategic objectives have been identified.

Strategic Objective 1: Improved Access to Nutrition-Related Health Services

SO1 aims to improve and sustain equitable access to essential nutrition services by integrating them into universal health care (UHC), national health plans, and all components of the health system. It includes a menu of nutrition interventions across the life cycle (from pregnancy through adulthood) with an emphasis on the first 1,000 days (from pregnancy until two years of age), including both preventative and treatment services that address the underlying barriers to undernutrition.

Examples of nutrition interventions delivered through the health sector

- Exclusive breastfeeding for infants (up to 6 months)
- Complementary feeding for young children (6-23 months)
- Vitamin A supplementation for children (6-59 months)
- Micronutrient supplementation (MMS) with deworming for children (6-59 months)
- WASH/hygiene counseling for children (6-59 months)
- Zinc supplementation during diarrhea for children (under five)
- Management of severe and moderate malnutrition for children (6-59 months)
- Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets for mothers during pregnancy

Strategic Objective 2: Improved Access to Food, Income and Livelihoods

Examples of MSNAP nutrition interventions delivered through the food security and livelihoods sector

SO2 aims to improve household food and livelihood security. It includes a menu of evidence-based food-based interventions across livestock and fisheries; crops and horticulture; irrigation and water resources; food processing, fortification, storage; and promoting healthy food consumption.

- **Homestead animal-rearing** (poultry, goats, small ruminants) targeting female-headed households and poor, rural families.
- **Aquaculture** support targeting fisherman, fish traders, and coastal communities.
- **Fruit and vegetable production** targeting female-headed households, farmers, cooperatives, and extension workers.
- **Irrigation and water protection** (e.g. water shed management, solar water pumps, rainwater harvesting, stabilizing sand dunes)
- **Food processing and storage** (e.g. drying, salting, preserving fish; producing powdered fish; food safety/hygiene for food storage)
- **Promotion of healthy foods** (e.g., in schools, community, and household in collaboration with education and health sectors)

Strategic Objective 3: Improved Access to Social Protection and Emergency Assistance

SO3 aims to improve, sustain, and increase equitable access to social protection and assistance. It includes a menu of evidence-based interventions across three areas: social assistance, social insurance, and labour market programmes. The social assistance interventions safeguard the nutrition of mothers and young children (particularly during the first 1,000 days) and it includes interventions to advocate for social insurance coverage for vulnerable families to increase uptake of nutrition-related health services.

Examples of MSNAP nutrition interventions delivered through the social protection sector

- **Specialized food transfers (in kind)** targeting vulnerable women and children combined with nutrition promotion.
- **General food distribution** targeting vulnerable women and children with nutrition SBCC and health services.
- **Cash vouchers for nutritious foods** targeting vulnerable women and children with SBCC and health services.
- **Advocacy for social insurance** (health insurance and social security) targeting vulnerable women and children
- **Labor market programmes** integrating nutrition SBCC into skills training and public works programmes.

Strategic Objective 4: Improved Access to WASH services Assistance

SO4 aims to ensure universal and sustainable access to safe, affordable, and equitable WASH services. It includes a menu of evidence-based interventions across hygiene promotion; environmental safety; improved sanitation; and safe water provision with a focus on reducing incidence of childhood diarrhoea, one of the key underlying causes of child undernutrition in Yemen.

Examples of interventions delivered through the water & environment sector

- **Hygiene Promotion** – handwashing with soap and water at appropriate times; safe food handling and preparation, especially for young children to prevent diarrhea.
- **Environmental Safety** – domestic and environmental hygiene actions in partnership with food security sector.
- **Improved Sanitation** – community-led total sanitation, latrine construction and rehabilitation, waste disposal management, mobile toilets for emergency assistance.
- **Safe Water Provision** - Rehabilitation and maintenance of protected wells, rainwater harvesting tanks, solar energy water pumps, bore holes, water tanks for emergencies.

Strategic Objective 5: Improved Access to Nutrition-related Education Services

SO5 aims to strengthen the role of education in promoting good nutrition. It includes a menu of evidence-based interventions to establish nutrition friendly schools across four areas: school feeding programmes; health integration and referral; WASH improvements; and promotion of girls' education. School feeding programmes target both kindergarten and school age children and may include take home rations for vulnerable families. School feeding programmes target primary school children in food-insecure areas.

Examples of MSNAP nutrition interventions delivered through the Education sector

- **School feeding programmes** – targeting children under five (kindergarten) and primary school age children with fortified biscuits, meals, and/or take-home rations.
- **Integrated Health services** – platform for delivering public health interventions (like deworming, nutrition screening) and referral for treatment at the health facility.
- **Integrated WASH services** - providing clean, safe water to schools, rehabilitate sanitation systems, distributing hygiene kits to students in emergency settings.
- **Promoting girls' education** - providing conditional cash transfers for female students, recruiting more female teachers
- **Cross-cutting services** – school education and promotion programmes in health nutrition, hygiene and environment, and food safety.

Strategic Objective 6: Increased Multisectoral Action for Food Systems, Climate Mitigation, and Peace

SO6 aims to increase the contribution of multisectoral nutrition actions to food systems transformation, climate mitigation and adaptation, and peacebuilding for improved nutrition. It includes a menu of interventions across these three areas. Decision-makers are encouraged to incorporate nutrition and food safety measures into all relevant development policies, creating a cohesive approach for improving public health and nutrition. Some of the climate mitigation interventions include strengthening digital early warning information systems to protect livelihoods; scaling up online solar platforms for renewable energy programming with engagement from regional and global institutions. Peacebuilding efforts include establishing neighbourhood committees and providing nutrition support for women and children in the most vulnerable communities to ensure inclusive access to nutritious food, sustainable and resilient livelihoods, and environmental stability.

Examples of MSNAP nutrition interventions that increase multisector action for food systems, climate, and peace building

- **Food Systems Transformation** – surveillance system for food and water borne illnesses; food safety interventions; improved capacity of food system monitoring; innovations (game changers) to improve food systems.
- **Climate Mitigation** – early warning systems to protect livelihoods; provision of solar energy for basic services; climate-resilient water systems; enhanced value chains; rehabilitation of fishery harbors.
- **Peacebuilding** – neighborhood conflict committees; nutrition and resilience support for marginalized communities, especially women and children.

Strategic Objective 7: Strengthened Multisectoral Enabling Environment for Nutrition

SO7 aims to strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable and impactful multisectoral nutrition actions through a nexus approach. This involves securing political commitment and leadership, implementing supportive policies and legislation, and strengthening governance systems at national and sub-national levels. It also includes establishing joint nutrition information systems, planning and financing efforts.

Geographic Accelerator Programmes

Geographic Accelerator Programmes will converge a package of evidence-based sectoral interventions in the priority districts shown in the map above. The intention is to promote more sustainable nutrition, health and food security outcomes by tackling the full range of locally specific causes of malnutrition through strengthened political leadership and local service delivery systems in different sectors.

Thematic programmes will focus on specific areas such as micronutrient deficiencies; education and other interventions targeting young and adolescent girls; strengthening the national nutrition information system (NIS) and advancing the national nutrition communication and advocacy (CAS) programmes. By addressing specific thematic challenges and gaps, these programmes will drive systemic changes that support overall nutritional improvements across the country.

Thematic Accelerator Programmes

Financing the MSNAP

The entire MSNAP has not been costed as it would not be feasible to mobilise the resources required. However, each responsible Line Ministry is expected to integrate the costs of nutrition interventions into its sectoral plans and budgets and mobilise resources accordingly.

It is expected that the Accelerator Programmes will be financed directly by donors or through a SUN Yemen Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

Box 1: Potential sources of MSNAP financing

Domestic

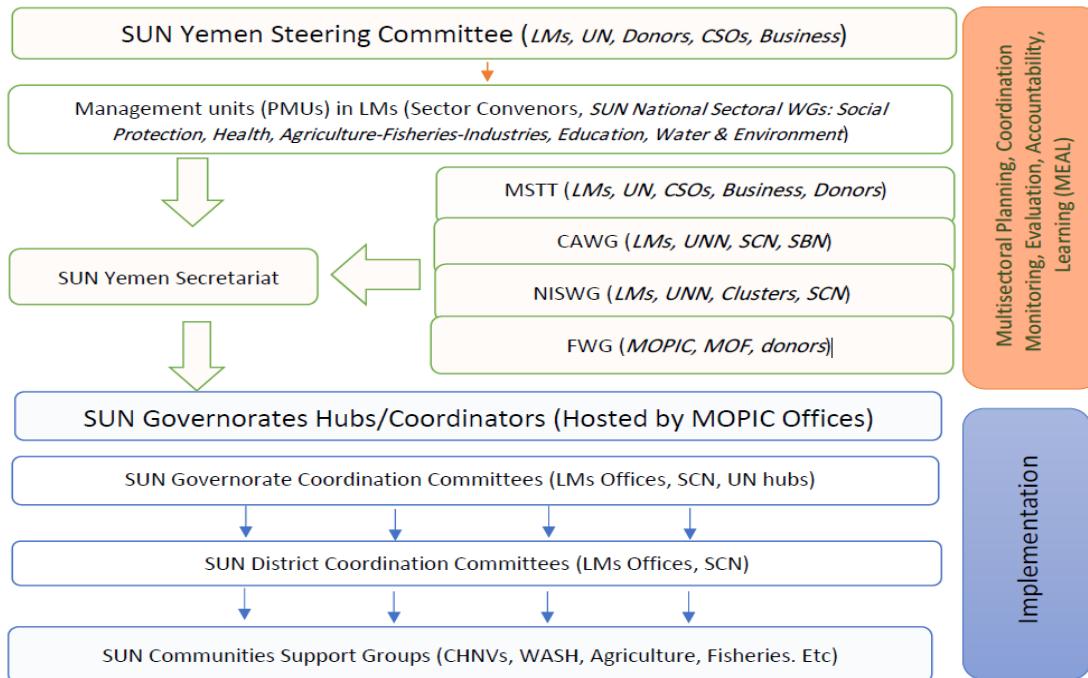
- ✓ District and governorate budgets
- ✓ National budgets
- ✓ Donations from the private sector, philanthropists and other wealthy individuals
- ✓ Charitable organizations and associations
- ✓ Fundraising campaigns organized by civil society groups
- ✓ Crowdfunding platforms utilized by local communities
- ✓ Zakat funds allocated at national and sub-national levels
- ✓ Awqaf (endowment) funds established through religious institutions
- ✓ Community self-help and in-kind support for priority projects

International

- ✓ Humanitarian and development partner budgets (Yemeni NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, donors, Yemen Humanitarian Fund etc)

Nutrition Governance

The governance and institutional arrangements to deliver the MSNAP are shown in Figure X. The development, implementation and monitoring of the MSNAP is guided by government-led, multisectoral, multistakeholder mechanisms at national and sub-national levels to ensure an inclusive, transparent, needs based and accountable approach.



Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL)

The MEAL framework (see below) will track progress against MSNAP's health, social protection, WASH, education, food security and livelihoods, and socioeconomic indicators, with regular assessments evaluating the impact of multi-sectoral programming on nutritional status. Regular assessments will evaluate key outcomes, such as reductions in stunting and wasting, and the overall impact of multi-sectoral programming on nutritional status. Information will be held in a SUN Yemen Nutrition Information System within MOPIC

