



SECTORIAL INTEGRATION IN ADDRESSING MALNUTRITION

Introduction:

Malnutrition is directly responsible for 300,000 deaths per year in children younger than 5 years in developing countries and contributes indirectly to more than half of all deaths in children worldwide. In addition, it increases health care costs. Malnutrition spreads in fragile countries, including our country, where many factors contribute to the spread of malnutrition; the most important of which is the lack of food intake in quantity and quality, which negatively affects the health situation causing moderate and severe malnutrition. Crises and current conflict exacerbate the deteriorating economic situation and declining per capita income, which has led to the inability to provide adequate food for the family. Other factors, along with the lack of food intake, contribute to the spread of malnutrition, include the lack of access to clean drinking water, safe sanitation, environmental sanitation, lack of access to morning meals and lack of awareness of proper nutrition, lack of access to micronutrients and iodine deficiency. Hence, the role of the Coordinating Secretariat for the Scaling Up Nutrition in Yemen is to coordinate with all relevant sectors to unify efforts towards combating malnutrition by preparing the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan that promotes nutrition-driven programs and activities for different sectors.



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The Role of The Agricultural Sector In Reducing Malnutrition

The agricultural sector contributes about 17.6% of the GDP and is associated with 73.5% of the population, which provides 52% of the workforce in the country. The total agricultural area is about 1.609 million hectares or 2.9% of the total area. The decline in agricultural production, with a growth rate of only 2% with population growth of 3.5%, represents a threat to economic stability in Yemen, which indicates a gap between population and agricultural growth. The low growth in this sector is an indicator of economic risks and the spread of poverty and famine among population.

In order to solve the problem of high rates of malnutrition, the Ministry of Agriculture has sought to increase agricultural growth rates to achieve food and nutrition security to fight poverty through the production of food commodities for consumption and marketing; improving and diversifying sources of nutrition; increasing reliance on food resources; improving income and access to food; and improving the relationship between consumers and food sources.

The national strategy for the agricultural sector 2012-2016 identifies the main problems facing the agricultural sector in Yemen: low productivity; shrinking public investment; and weak empowerment of rural women, on whom the family relies regarding the health and nutrition issues. The strategy suggests that these three factors are causing poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition in rural areas at the local level, as well as the dependence on food imports, and consequently exposure to price shocks in foreign markets and general supply fluctuation.

Sustainable development of the agricultural sector is required through increased investment, legislative and legal support to achieve consistent rates of the population growth to meet growing needs, reduce food imports, and achieve better levels of food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural growth .

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) country institutional transformations (%), 2017

Bringing people into a shared space for action	57
Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework	16
Aligning actions around a common results framework	66
Financial tracking and resource mobilisation	25
Total weighted	41

Source: SUN 2017.

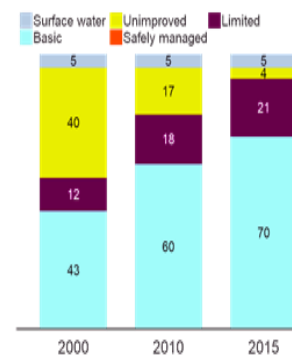
Providing Safe Water For Citizens

The Ministry of Water and Environment and its affiliated bodies and institutions support water and sanitation institutions to enhance their services in the capital's secretariat and other governorates. As part of the Ministry's policy of providing safe water to water and sewage service subscribers, it has coordinated with relevant government agencies, international and voluntary organizations working in this field to provide the necessary support to water and sanitation institutions to overcome the deficit due to poor revenues resulting from the inability of subscribers to pay their debts in light of the economic deterioration, resulting from the government inability to pay their salaries, the high prices of daily consumables, and the inability of the government to provide financial support for the operation and maintenance of the system of water and sanitation and water delivery to subscribers. Due to the failure of the government power stations to work during the last period, this hampered the process of pumping water to the homes, and caused the lack of access to water and sewage services as they depend entirely on pumping water by the system of the national electricity network.

The ministry has overcome the problem of the government electricity by providing generators for each water pump. Due to the lack of diesel, and the occasional increase in prices, this has caused a high cost of water supply to subscribers. In coordination with the Ministry of Electricity, and other organizations working in this field, the Ministry of Water and Environment supported the operation of the diesel stations in order to operate the water pumps by supplying the diesel. Through this procedure, the ministry overcame the problem of providing electricity to pump water. The Ministry has also worked in the emergency circumstances by strengthening its role through coordination with the relevant authorities in taking other preventive measures such as:

- ◆ Inspecting private drinking water wells and water stations to ensure their compliance with the national specifications.
- ◆ Protecting and disinfecting water sources and the means of transporting and distributing water to households to prevent pollution and diseases transmission.
- ◆ Forming field teams to raise awareness among individuals.
- ◆ Distributing posters and leaflets on water diseases and how to prevent them.
- ◆ Mobilizing the preachers of mosques and school principals to raise awareness about the mitigation of water related diseases.
- ◆ Distributing filters for drinking water purification for poor households.
- ◆ Providing chlorine and the chlorination of water and water transport vehicles.
- ◆ Providing water and water tanks for poor neighborhoods and areas that do not reach water networks.
- ◆ Providing safe water and reduce pollution that has led to the spread of water-borne diseases and epidemics such as diarrhea and cholera that have spread in the past. These actions have played an effective role in reducing the spread of water-related diseases and epidemics.

Drinking water coverage (% populat



Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme 2017.
Note: Due to rounding, numbers might not add up to 100.

The Fisheries Sector And Its Role In Promoting Nutrition

The fisheries sector is a promising sector in achieving the food and nutrition security strategy for covering the local market needs of the fish production, which is an important mean of diversifying income sources and providing employment opportunities for a large sector of the population working in fishing and other pertinent fisheries occupations such as storage, preparation, transporting and marketing. In order to achieve sustainable growth in various fields, the fisheries sector provides over one million jobs in fish production and fish export development. The Republic of Yemen has a coastline with a length of 2500 km and more than 160 islands. The coastal strip extends over 10 coastal governorates, which have a population of 9.4 million, or 44% of Yemen's population. Yemen has a vast reservoir of fish resources, which allow for fishing of about 380-420,000 tons per year without damaging the fish stocks.



The fisheries sector also contributes to the provision of animal protein to the population. The average annual consumption per capita is 12 kg per year. In view of the increasing incidence of malnutrition and the significant role played by the fish producer in promoting nutrition, and for containing a large proportion of iodine. the Ministry focuses its plans and programs on projects related to food and nutrition security. It strives to expand the production and marketing base in all regions through the establishment of several strategic projects that enhance the production process and quality improvement. It also urges the private sector to invest in establishing retail and wholesale fish markets and expanding the establishment of fish farms that contribute to increased fish production. In 2017, a new fish farm was established in the Kaden region of Bagel District in which the fish production process started with great success. Besides that, fish markets have been opened in the land-locked governorates with the aim of expanding the supply of fish to their communities. This product is very important in the promotion of healthy food and is subject to direct supervision by the Ministry in order to comply with health quality standards and technical specifications.

The Importance Of The Education Sector In Spreading Awareness

The Ministry of Education responds to urgent and emerging needs in the economic and social arena through a set of policies and procedures to ensure appropriate solutions and interventions. With regard to malnutrition issues, the Ministry is currently working on the integration of a range of nutrition-sensitive programs, including: promotion of awareness and education; curriculum development for nutrition messages; and providing nutrition incentives.

In light of its five-year and annual policies, strategies and plans, the Ministry of Education worked to provide incentives through the implementation of many activities to enhance access to education in general, and to support the education of girls in particular, by encouraging them to attend and continue education. These include the nutrition project to support girls' education in rural and poor areas funded by the World Food Program in the form of dry food (wheat, oil, etc.) for female students in rural schools in the poor areas in all governorates.

The nutrition project is one of the projects to support the education of girls in rural and poor areas in all governorates that aims at bridging the gap in education between the sexes (males and females) and reducing the dropout through the distribution of food for girl students, to encourage families to support them to learn. This project contributes to mitigating poverty in general and food and nutrition security in particular.

The role of the Ministry of Education, represented by the General Administration of the Project and the General Directorate of Statistics and Planning, is to provide data, information and preparation of each project; providing main and sub-stores in the governorates with the administrative cadres of these warehouses; facilitating the receipt and transfer of goods of the program from the port of arrival to the beneficiary schools; the preparation and implementation of the activities: starting with preparing the regulations and mechanisms that meet the needs of the project, to ensuring the good implementation, and facilitating the government measurements such as the procedures of exemptions, the clearance of materials and the government financial contribution to the operating expenses of the project.

The Ministry relies on a set of criteria to identify the target areas (Governorates, Directorates, and Districts): the poverty criterion: (Food Security Surveys Indicators - Poverty Reports - Food Security Survey of the United Nations World Food Program); Education (illiteracy and non-enrollment ratio) Ministry of Education (General Directorate of Statistics and Planning); Gender gap criterion (male, female) Basic education: Poor rural communities, villages, remote and border areas, and nomadic children (percentage of poverty indicators (social welfare)).

Female secondary education



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics 2017. Note: Enrolment can be larger than 100% when women/girls enrolled exceeds the secondary school age group

Macronutrients	Proteins, carbohydrates and fats, measured in grams.
Micronutrients	Vitamins, minerals, and other substances needed by the body in small amounts; measured in milligrams or micrograms.

The oil sector is considered the main source of the state budget, accounting for 76% of the total revenues of the state. There are 13 oil producing sectors in the Republic of Yemen spread over the governorates of Marib, Shabwa and Hadramout. There are also many promising exploration sectors in oil and gas. Hence the role of the oil environment in protecting food sources by preserving the environment from pollution in the oil areas in the regions of Excellence. The oil environment aims at reducing pollution and mitigating the potential risks to the limits allowed globally to maintain the sources of food hand in hand with specialists in oil companies. It, also, aims at continuously monitoring of air, water and soil to avoid pollution and coming up with quick solutions in the cases of danger. Oil pollution is defined as the release of elements, compounds or mixtures of gas, liquid or solid from oil to the elements of the environment, which are air, water and soil, causing a change in the nature of these elements. The pollution of oil can lead to a series of

The Oil Environment and its Impact on Nutrition

real disasters that are very dangerous, some of which can be observed, restricted and controlled, and others can not be restricted and controlled for the delay of the appearance of its dangerous effects for several years. The oil pollution affects all forms of life: human, marine, wild animals, birds and plants that ultimately lead to the death and extinction of millions of organisms of different species and sizes. It causes disruption of the navigation services and the ruin of tourism due to the pollution of water and beaches. Moreover, it damages the water desalination Plants by the leakage of certain chemicals from oil to drinking water that causes a significant reduction in the productivity of fishing, as well as destroying plant ions and damaging thousands of species of birds. In addition to the menacing effects of access to human food, the most dangerous oil compounds transmit to humans through the food chain stored in the liver and animal fats; these compounds have long-term adverse effects that appear on the human body only after several years.

SUN-Yemen Participated in the SUN Movement Global Gathering

The SUN Global Gathering is an important annual event which is hosted by one of the SUN countries. It aims at bringing together all SUN Government Focal Points and representatives of their partners from civil society, donors, United Nations agencies, private sector partners, academia, media, parliamentarians and others. It is the flagship event of the SUN Movement and an important moment where members take stock of progress and challenges, share their innovations and learn what is helping to reduce malnutrition across all SUN Countries. This year gathering was held in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire during the period from 7 to 9 November 2017. During the Global Gathering the Yemeni delegation:

1- Meeting with Mr. David Nabarro, Ms. Gerda, Ms. Burnia:

- ◆ A detailed explanation of Yemen’s nutrition status and indicators was presented; the extent to which Yemen needs humanitarian and relief assistance in the midst of the ongoing conflict and the incendiary war;
- ◆ The causes of increasing malnutrition rates and requesting for help in confronting the malnutrition; the most important achievements during previous period, including the emergency assessment of food security and nutrition through which Yemen was able to enter the 2017 humanitarian response plan;
- ◆ The current actions for updating the Multi-sector Nutrition Plan to scaling up nutrition in Yemen according to the current variables.

2- Recommendations of Mr. Nabarro:

- ◆ The Secretariat of **SUN-Yemen** should be involved in the humanitarian response plan by providing indicators of malnutrition to be included to ensure the necessary interventions by the international community as well as access to humanitarian assistance in this regard;
- ◆ In the context of updating the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan, the Secretariat has to focus on the development actions as well as on humanitarian assistance (ie development projects that improve nutrition, as well as humanitarian relief projects);
- ◆ Mr. Nabarro promised to be of good help to Yemen and Yemenis in dealing with malnutrition;

3- Meeting with the international expert to update the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan:

The Yemeni delegation met Mr. Christopher Koffi, the international expert who was contracted by MQSUN+ to support **SUN-Yemen** Secretariat in analyzing the nutrition status according to available data and indicators in light of the current changes in Yemen and to update the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan. The current actions of MSNP have been discussed, and the future steps to complete the analysis.

Workshop for reviewing the contextual analysis of nutrition status in Yemen

The overall objective is to provide technical assistance to stakeholders in Yemen to improve nutrition status through analyzing and updating of the MSNP, using the results of surveys and new data sources, as well as identifying priority interventions and required resources. The workshop, which was held on 24/12/2017, aimed at collecting the sectors’ observations on the contextual analysis document; listing the current and future sectors’ priorities and recommendations to improve the MSNP.



Intervention coverage (%)	18	2012	Source :UNICEF/Coverage Monitoring Network/ACF International 2012;1 UNICEF 2016;2 Who 2016:3 Note: Geographical coverage is defined as the % of physical facilities that provide intervention. Full coverage is defined as the % of children that receive the full intervention (two doses). DTP3: 3 doses of combined diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine; ORS: oral rehydration salts.
Vitamin A supplementation, full coverage ²	7	2014	
Children under 5 with diarrhoea receiving ORS ²	25	2013	
Immunisation coverage, DTP ³	71	2016	
Iodised salt consumption ²	30	2003	
Infant and young child (6€23 months) feeding practices (%)			Source: UNICEF 2016

References:

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- ◆ GLOBAL NUTRITION REPORT 2017— NUTRITION COUNTRY PROFILE YEMEN .
- ◆ Participated Report in the SUN Movement Global Gathering Cote d'Ivoire during , November 2017