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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSLATING NUTRITION POLICY INTO NUTRITION ACTION

A national nutrition action plan or strategy is a clear signal of a country's political commitment to nutrition. But SPRING has found that increased commitment does not always translate into better support for nutrition activities. Through our project's Pathways to Better Nutrition Case Studies in Uganda and Nepal, we developed 10 recommendations for how countries can translate their multi-sectoral nutrition policies into increased nutrition action.

1 POLICY

Take a long view of scale-up



Governments and their partners should set long-term goals to sustain commitment through at least two full policy cycles.

2

Reach the local level



Countries designing a nutrition policy or strategy should prioritize a bottom-up approach that engages local-level stakeholders early and often.

3 DRIVERS OF CHANGE

Work within sustainable structures



Government and partners should embed nutrition into existing mechanisms for planning, financing, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)—strengthening these systems as needed—to ensure durability.

4

Address constraints on human resources for nutrition



Governments must budget adequately for human resources and consider innovative solutions to retain staff: incentive programs, better transition procedures, targeted training, and improved support systems.

5

Launch M&E frameworks



M&E frameworks should be established and launched early to ensure immediate collection of data on nutrition activities and outcomes. Regular sharing of these data is also crucial to keep stakeholders motivated.

6 PRIORITIZATION

Align with priorities named in nutrition plan



All nutrition partners—not just government—should align their planned activities with national nutrition plan priorities.

7

Embed nutrition in sector and organizational plans



Naming nutrition as a top priority in key sector and district planning documents ensures nutrition's place in yearly work plans and sustains commitment.

8 FUNDING

Use budgets as planning tools



Budgeting should be integral to the nutrition activity planning process and nutrition professionals should be taught to use and understand budget data.

9


Invest in key drivers of change



To operationalize nutrition plans, countries should invest in key drivers of change such as coordination or human resources, which may attract further funding from partners.

10

Consider formal funding mechanisms for nutrition



Countries should clearly state how nutrition plans will be financed and what mechanisms will be used to monitor nutrition allocations and spending throughout the policy cycle.

For more information about SPRING's Pathways to Better Nutrition Case Studies, please visit: www.spring-nutrition.org/pbn.