STOP Stunting
Scaling-up Care for Children with Severe Wasting in South Asia
16-18 May 2017, KATHMANDU, Nepal

SAARC Regional Action Framework for Nutrition

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Background of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
Objectives of SAARC

• to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life

• to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential

• to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia

• to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems
Objectives of SAARC (continued)

• to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields
• to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries
• to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest
• to cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes
SAARC VISION for Children

• Ensure that children in South Asia grow well to contribute to the development of their countries
Regional Commitments

2004 SAARC Social Charter: Article VII of the - Promotion of the rights and well-being of the child

“States Parties agree to extend to the child all possible support from government, society and the community. The child shall be entitled to grow and develop in health with due protection”............

........“States Parties shall undertake specific steps to reduce low birth weight, malnutrition, anemia amongst women and children, infant, child and maternal morbidity and mortality rates, through the inter-generational life cycle approach, increase education, literacy, and skill development amongst adolescents and youth, especially of girls and elimination of child/early marriage.”
Regional Commitments (continued)

1996 SAARC Rawalpindi Resolution on Children in South Asia

“resolved to halve undernutrition rates between 1990 and 2000 and to then further halve them again by 2010”
Regional Commitments (continued)

Ninth SAARC Summit in 1997 - Malé declaration

“SAARC leaders agreed to launch an initiative on nutrition”
Regional Commitments (continued)

Second (year) and Third meeting of the SAARC Health Ministers (2006)

“the member countries urged the Technical Committee on Health and Population Activities (TCHPA) to prepare guidelines for basic healthcare services, nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene”
Reducing all forms of malnutrition is a global priority

By 2030:

• End hunger and ensure access by all people

• End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed nutrition targets
Rationale for the South Asia Regional Action Framework for Nutrition

Percentage of children under 5 who are stunted, 2010–2016

*Data are the most recent available estimate between 2010 and 2015; exceptions where older data (pre 2010) are shown are denoted with an asterisk (*).

Rationale for the South Asia Regional Action Framework for Nutrition

Percentage of children under 5 who are wasted, by region, 2015

*Data are the most recent available estimate between 2010 and 2015; exceptions where older data (pre 2010) are shown are denoted with an asterisk (*)

The South Asia Regional Action Framework for Nutrition
Rationale for the Regional Action Framework for Nutrition

“To encourage the eight member countries to prioritize reduction in child undernutrition and provide guidance on coherent approaches that can be applied across the region to address undernutrition, focusing on the most vulnerable i.e., women and children”
Key Principles Underpinning the Regional Action Framework for Nutrition

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations General Assembly, 1948)


The Rome Declaration on World Food Security (World Food Summit, 1996)
Goal

“The framework highlights that optimal nutritional outcomes in children can be achieved by building an enabling environment and supporting the scale-up of sustainable nutrition actions that will lead to reduction in undernutrition”
Strategic Pillars of the Regional Action Framework for Nutrition

**Pillar 1**
- Solicit high level political commitment to improve nutrition governance, strengthen programme planning, and implement multi-sectoral policies and plans addressing all determinants of undernutrition.

**Pillar 2**
- Scale up cost-effective evidence-based, sustainable nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions for all, with focus on women and children.

**Pillar 3**
- Increase human and institutional capacity to manage nutrition programs at national and sub national level.

**Pillar 4**
- Increase effectiveness and accountability of stakeholder’s implementing nutrition interventions through a coherent monitoring framework, reporting and knowledge management system.
Key Actions by SAARC Secretariat in Strengthening Nutrition Outcomes in the Region

• Provide a platform for countries to work collaboratively, advocate for, work in partnership to address common nutrition issues that transcend political/geographical borders, share experiences and learn from one each other.

• Joint advocacy so that countries prioritize and re-position nutrition as a central issue within their development agenda
  - Regional Action Framework
  - include nutrition as a subject of decision and action in the agenda of the Technical Committee of Health and Population meetings and can be expanded into all the other Technical Committees meetings.

• Support the member countries in strengthening their human and institutional capacity which will empower the countries to develop policies and programmes and implement them effectively.
Key Actions by SAARC Secretariat in Strengthening Nutrition Outcomes in the Region

- Serve as a knowledge management platform to share experiences, better practices, and lessons learnt.

- Provide a forum for regional consultations between member states on nutrition issues.
  - e.g Regional Conference: Stop Stunting | No Time to Waste - Scaling up Care for Children with Severe Wasting in South Asia

- SAARC Development Fund (SDF), through its Social Window, could provide grants for operational and formative research on nutrition related issues such as experience in multi-sectoral nutrition programming.
SAARC Health Ministers Meeting

• The next meeting of the Ministers of Health will be hosted by Sri Lanka and dates have been announced for July.

• The Meeting of the Ministers is preceded by a 2-day meeting of Senior Officials/Secretaries of Health.

• This is the mechanism that endorses/approves all recommendations made at a technical level (such as the Technical Committee on Health and Population)

• Our hope is that, by the end of this Meeting, we will have some important points to be carried forward to future SAARC Forums, in terms of nutrition management.
Thank You!
Key Policy and Programmatic Areas of Work

**Pillar 1:** Solicit high level political commitment to improve nutrition governance, strengthen programme planning, and implement multi-sectoral policies and plans addressing all determinants of undernutrition.

- **Leadership for nutrition has to be placed at the highest political level to ensure that nutrition gets positioned in the development agenda and is prioritized across multiple sectors and ministries.**

- **Sound situation analysis that identifies the groups more vulnerable to undernutrition and the basic and underlying causes of their vulnerability needs to be conducted and updated periodically.**

- **At the planning stage, adequate and predictable allocation of budgets at the country level and effective mobilization of funds from various sources (ministries and development partners) is essential in order to make fruitful investments in programming for improved nutrition.**
Key Policy and Programmatic Areas of Work

**Pillar 2:** Scale up cost-effective evidence-based, sustainable nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions for all, with focus on women and children.

- *Country-driven scaling up of nutrition interventions should be tailored to meet local needs and address all vulnerable populations keeping in mind equity principles.*

- *A package of proven nutrition-specific interventions that effectively prevent and treat undernutrition during the 1,000 day window of opportunity from pregnancy to age 2 years needs to be implemented.*

- *To address the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition and avoid undernourished mothers to deliver low birth weight children, a package of interventions for improving adolescent nutrition needs to be put in place before adolescent girls enter motherhood.*

- *Nutrition-sensitive interventions that draw upon complementary sectors such as Agriculture, Social Protection, Education, and Gender Empowerment need to be implemented in addition to nutrition-specific ones.*
Key Policy and Programmatic Areas of Work

**Pillar 3:** Increase human and institutional capacity to manage nutrition programs at national and sub-national level.

- **Conduct periodically a capacity needs assessment to inform the development of nutrition capacity strengthening plans for government and other stakeholders in the area of public health nutrition.**

- **Develop the capacity of decision-makers, service delivery personnel at all levels to design policies and programs that have a multi-sectoral approach in order to address undernutrition; and implement these programmes in an effective and sustainable manner.**

- **Support institutions in carrying out operational research on multi-sectoral approaches to improve nutrition.**

- **Develop capacities of communities, community-based organizations and civil society groups to analyze and address undernutrition within their communities through decentralized planning and finding innovative local solutions.**
Key Policy and Programmatic Areas of Work

**Pillar 4:** Increase effectiveness and accountability of stakeholder’s implementing nutrition interventions through a coherent monitoring framework, reporting and knowledge management system.

- *Strengthen and/or establish results-based management systems and strong monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management framework(s) for tracking progress against a set of pre-defined indicators.*

- *Nutrition information systems need to be established/strengthened to provide disaggregated data by gender, rural/urban habitat, and socio-economic groups in order to monitor progress in the most disadvantaged segments of the population and ensure an equitable approach in improving nutrition outcomes.*

- *As part of the nutrition-sensitive interventions, data on social, political, economic determinants as well as on consequences of different hazards, including climate change etc. should be collected and made available for analysis.*

- *The nutrition information system will inform policy and programming efforts to make necessary adjustments reflecting environmental changes (social, political, economic, climate, etc.)*
Strategic Pillars of the Regional Action Framework for Nutrition

• Pillar 1: Solicit high level political commitment to improve nutrition governance, strengthen programme planning, and implement multi-sectoral policies and plans addressing all determinants of undernutrition.

• Pillar 2: Scale up cost-effective evidence-based, sustainable nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions for all, with focus on women and children.

• Pillar 3: Increase human and institutional capacity to manage nutrition programs at national and sub national level.

• Pillar 4: Increase effectiveness and accountability of stakeholder’s implementing nutrition interventions through a coherent monitoring framework, reporting and knowledge management system.