

**EDITORIAL**

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Nearly one-third of the world's population is suffering from some form of malnutrition, resulting in millions of lost lives, lost productivity and increased health burdens that last lifetimes. The World Bank estimates that all forms of malnutrition cost the global economy \$3.5 trillion per year. Almost all countries face a serious burden of either two or three forms of malnutrition, and in many cases, women and girls are disproportionately affected by the "double burden" of malnutrition. Thus, it is crucial to implement "double or triple duty" actions to address the short- and long-term negative effects while tackling all forms of malnutrition.

Since 2000, Nutrition International (NI) formerly known as Micronutrient Initiative has been working in Pakistan to improve the health of vulnerable people, especially women and children, through better nutrition. Our priorities focus on improving access to needed micronutrients for the most disadvantaged, from supplementation and fortification to policy changes and advocacy efforts. In addition, NI works closely with the federal and provincial government to strengthen nutrition policy and improve multi-sectoral coordination through the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

Nutrition International aims to be a global leader in finding and scaling solutions to malnutrition through coverage, leverage and influence, while mainstreaming gender equality throughout

In Pakistan, NI serves as a force multiplier across the development ecosystem, using our unique combination of capabilities to help overcome barriers to scaling up nutrition, domestic resource mobilization as well as building local government capacity and ownership. We are working to deliver impact through coverage by delivering low-cost, high-impact interventions; leverage by utilizing new delivery platforms, innovative technology and financing; and influence through research, advocacy and knowledge dissemination. A major contribution of NI's efforts is up to a 50% decline in Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) in Pakistan over the past two decades. NI is the key partner of Government of Pakistan for nationwide Vitamin A supplementation of under-5 children. Iron Folic Acid supplementation of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women is another major intervention that NI is undertaking through government infrastructure.

NI has been the key player and partner for political and policy mainstreaming of nutrition agenda through persistent engagement and follow-up with the policy and decision makers at national and provincial levels.

NI supports the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in Pakistan by hosting and convening the Secretariats for the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance Pakistan (SUNCSA, Pak) and the SUN Academia and Research Network (SUNAR, Pak), Pakistan since 2016. In addition to spearheading advocacy efforts from SUNCSA Platform, NI is generating evidence for nutrition policy formulation and planning through SUNAR, Pak. To ensure improved nutrition response, NI supported Government of Pakistan through Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) at Federal and Provincial levels.

Pakistan has made significant progress for implementing nutrition agenda since joining the SUN Movement in 2013, nutrition has become a focal point of Pakistan's Vision 2025 with high-level political support for the issue. Serious steps have been taken to address malnutrition in Pakistan by creating enabling environment for nutrition at the highest policy levels like development of National and Provincial Multisectoral Nutrition Strategies, enactment of Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding and Child Nutrition laws, establishment of Food Authorities, launching of Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition and implementation of different nutrition sensitive and specific programs at the federal and provincial levels. In addition, establishment of Pakistan National Nutrition Coordination Council (PNNCC) under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and formation of National Nutrition Forum (NNF) in Planning Commission are great steps to provide leadership in harmonizing nutrition interventions in the country.

The latest National Nutrition Survey-2018 (NNS-2018) depicts a bleak picture of nutrition landscape in the country. The situation demands a collaborative effort to urgently implement nutrition actions on ground. Nutrition International is committed to contribute in this higher cause for Pakistan's sustainable development by helping Government of Pakistan to achieve its national and international goals and commitments.