



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

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# Nutrition Policy Alignment Manual

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this manual is to provide a comprehensive guide for stakeholders to effectively align national nutrition goals with sector-specific policies, ensuring a coordinated and collaborative approach to improving nutrition outcomes across Nigeria. This manual offers a clear step-by-step approach, practical tools, and templates to facilitate policy alignment, advocacy, and monitoring efforts.

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## **1. Introduction**

Nutrition is critical to national development and human capital growth. Effective nutrition interventions require strong, coordinated policies across multiple sectors. However, policies in sectors are often fragmented and misaligned with national nutrition goals, impeding effective interventions. This manual addresses these challenges by offering tools to:

- Map and align sector-specific policies with national nutrition goals.
  - Identify gaps in policy alignment.
  - Advocate for policy revisions where necessary.
  - Monitor and evaluate the progress of policy alignment.
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## **2. Policy Landscape in Nigeria**

Nigeria has a rich landscape of nutrition-related policies, plans, and frameworks, developed across various sectors. The key national nutrition policies include:

- 1. National Policy on Food and Nutrition (NPFN)**  
This policy provides the overarching framework for nutrition in Nigeria, aiming to improve food security and nutrition for all citizens.
- 2. National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP)**  
The NHSSP focuses on reducing malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and women, by enhancing health service delivery.
- 3. National Food Security Policy**  
Aimed at ensuring access to adequate food for all Nigerians, this policy focuses on increasing food production and addressing food insecurity.

Despite these policies, gaps remain in terms of coherence and alignment across sectors. Many sectoral policies do not adequately incorporate nutrition goals, or they may not directly address nutrition at all.

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### **3. Steps for Policy Mapping**

#### **Step 1: Identify National Nutrition Goals**

- **Reduce stunting** among children under five years of age.
- **Improve maternal nutrition**, especially among pregnant and lactating women.
- **Increase the consumption of nutritious foods.**
- **Reduce micronutrient deficiencies**, including anemia.

#### **Step 2: List Sector-Specific Policies**

List out all relevant sectoral policies in health, agriculture, education, and other sectors impacting nutrition, such as:

- National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP)
- National Policy on Food and Nutrition (NPFN)
- National Agricultural Policy
- National Social Protection Policy

#### **Step 3: Map Sectoral Policies to National Nutrition Goals**

Map each policy to the specific national nutrition goals it addresses.

#### **Step 4: Analyze Alignment and Identify Gaps**

Review the mapping to assess how well sectoral policies support the national nutrition goals. Identify areas where policies may be lacking or where new policies are needed.

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### **4. Tools for Policy Alignment**

The following tools will assist in mapping, analyzing, and advocating for policy alignment:

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#### 4.1. Policy Mapping Tool

This tool helps systematically map sectoral policies to national nutrition goals.

**Template:**

| National Nutrition Goal             | Sectoral Policy                       | Policy Objective  | Supports Nutrition Goal? (Yes/No) | Gaps Identified  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Reduce stunting                     | National Health Sector Plan           | Improve maternal and child health services                  | Yes                               | None   |
| Increase access to nutritious foods | National Food Security Policy         | Increase food production and accessibility in rural areas   | Yes                               | Lack of focus on urban areas                             |
| Improve maternal nutrition          | National Policy on Food and Nutrition | Promote breastfeeding and proper nutrition during pregnancy | No                                | Need explicit integration of maternal nutrition policies |

#### 4.2. Gap Analysis Template

**Purpose:** To identify and analyze gaps between national nutrition goals and sector-specific policies.

**Template:**

| National Nutrition Goal    | Sectoral Policy                       | Policy Objective                         | Does Policy Address Goal? (Yes/No) | Gap Identified                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Reduce stunting            | Health Sector Strategic Plan          | Improve maternal and child nutrition     | Yes                                | No policy targeting rural areas    |
| Improve maternal nutrition | National Policy on Food and Nutrition | Promote proper maternal health practices | No                                 | Need better enforcement strategies |

|                      |                                  |                                       |     |                              |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| <b>Reduce anemia</b> | National Health Development Plan | Provide iron supplementation programs | Yes | Lack of focus on urban areas |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|

### 4.3. Advocacy Planning Template

**Purpose:** To assist stakeholders in planning advocacy efforts to influence sectoral policy revisions for alignment with national nutrition goals.

**Template:**

| Advocacy Objective                                     | Key Stakeholders  | Advocacy Activities  | Timeline | Budget Estimate | Responsible Party                |
|--|---|--|----------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Align agriculture policies with nutrition goals</b> | Ministry of Agriculture, National Food Security Council | - Policy brief presentation<br>- Stakeholder consultations | 3 months | \$5,000         | Advocacy Team, Policy Experts    |
| <b>Advocate for school nutrition integration</b>       | Ministry of Education, Schools, Nutrition NGOs          | - Awareness campaign<br>- Roundtable discussions           | 6 months | \$3,000         | Advocacy Team, Education Experts |

### 4.4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Template

**Purpose:** To track the progress of policy alignment and measure the effectiveness of advocacy efforts.

**Template:**

| KPI  | Baseline           | Target             | Current Status     | Progress Status | Comments   |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Number of policies aligned with nutrition goals</b> | 5 policies         | 10 policies        | 7 policies         | On track        | Collaboration with the Ministry of Health successful |
| <b>Increased budget allocation for nutrition</b>       | 3% of total budget | 5% of total budget | 4% of total budget | On track        | Ongoing advocacy efforts in the agriculture sector   |

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#### 4.5. Policy Alignment Checklist

**Purpose:** To ensure all necessary steps in policy alignment are completed effectively.

**Template:**

| Step | Action   | Completed (Yes/No) | Notes   |
|------|--|--------------------|---|
| 1    | Review national nutrition goals                          | Yes                | Goals identified include stunting reduction, anemia, etc.       |
| 2    | List relevant sectoral policies                          | Yes                | Policies from agriculture, education, and health sectors listed |
| 3    | Map each sectoral policy to a national nutrition goal    | Yes                | Mapped policies against national goals                          |
| 4    | Identify gaps in policy alignment                        | Yes                | Gaps in agriculture and education policies identified           |
| 5    | Engage stakeholders for input and validation             | No                 | Stakeholder consultations to be scheduled in 2 weeks            |
| 6    | Finalize the policy alignment matrix and report findings | No                 | To be done after stakeholder engagement                         |

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#### 4.6. Stakeholder Mapping Tool

**Purpose:** To identify and analyze key stakeholders who influence or are affected by nutrition policies.

**Template:**

| Stakeholder        | Role/Influence                  | Interest in Policy Alignment | Engagement Strategy                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Ministry of Health | Key policymaker and implementer | High                         | Regular meetings, provide data and evidence |

|                                       |   |          |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------|---|
| <b>NGOs (e.g., Save the Children)</b> | Advocacy and community-based implementation | Moderate | Collaboration on advocacy campaigns           |
| <b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>        | Policy maker in food security               | High     | Policy brief submissions, engage in workshops |

## 5. Conclusion

Aligning sectoral policies with national nutrition goals is crucial for achieving sustainable nutrition improvements across Nigeria. This manual provides the strategies and tools needed to effectively map, analyze, and advocate for policy changes that will enhance nutrition outcomes. By following the steps and using the tools outlined in this manual, stakeholders at all levels—government, civil society, and international organizations—can work together to improve Nigeria's nutrition policies, ensuring better health and development outcomes for all citizens.