Setting up a Multisectoral Advisory Committee (MAC)

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WELCOME
Before starting

• Turn OFF your mic & camera
• The webinar is recorded
• Ask questions through the chat/text box
• Speak one at a time
Outline of the webinar

PART I - Presenting the MAC guidance (30’ total)
- Guidance note presentation (20’)
- Questions on the guidance (10’)

PART II - Moving forward with the MAC set-up (40’ total)
- Presentation of some country experiences (10’)
- Questions on the way forward (30’)
→ country by country
Objectives of the webinar

• Providing an overview of the MAC guidance tool
• Getting feedback on its usefulness
• Learning from countries where the MAC is already set-up (three countries)
• Discussing how to move forward with its set-up (all countries)
Part I - Presentation of the MAC guidance note
Why the MAC?

- To ensure efficiency of the NIPN processes
- To ensure relevance & credibility of what NIPN does for the Multisectoral Plan of Action (MNPA)
- To link-up internal & external structures
The MAC in relation to the operational cycle

Multisectoral nutrition policy environment

- National decision makers
- Multisectoral advisory committee
- Data component
- Analysis
- Question
- Communication
- Identification of available data
- Data-informed policy and investments
MAC functions

- Guidance & advisory
- Validation
- Dissemination & communication
- Go between/facilitation

Ensure relevance & credibility of what NIPN does for the Multisectoral Plan of Action (MNPA)
Embedding MAC in existing multisectoral coordination structures for nutrition

- Different scenarios exist and call for more or less ‘integration’
- Those are highly influenced by the national structures
- Where appropriate, consider doing it at the sub-national level

⇒ Embedding the MAC works forward sustainability BUT is not without challenges
MAC’s core principles

- **Embedded** into existing multisectoral coordination structures
- **Formalised**: degree of formalization can vary
- **Ensure continuity in** members’ participation
- **Is flexible** to facilitate participation of external experts, as/when needed

➔ Often a trade-off between representativeness & functioning/efficiency
MAC’s role

- Relate to the activities and work stream of the operational cycle

- Ensure that each step of the cycle happens in a relevant, appropriate & timely manner in relation to the MNPA
MAC’s role

- Contribute to capture and orient broad policy demand
- Contribute to the drafting of the questions and later on their validation
- Ensure the timeframe to answer questions align to the needs of policy makers...etc

- Interpret findings
- Disseminate outputs
- Support key messages formulation & contribute to their uptake...etc

- Facilitate access to data & expertise across sectors
- Ensure linkages with other initiatives on nutrition data...etc
How to set-up the MAC?

a) Review coordination structures of multisectoral policies & plans in nutrition

b) Propose options and select the most appropriate one

c) Elaborate the ToR & define modus operandis

d) Appoint the Chair, the Secretary & the Members
a) Review the national coordination structures for multi-sectoral nutrition

Three scenarios are possible:

1. A functioning coordination structures in place & meet the MAC’s purposes and role
2. A functioning coordination structures in place which do not meet (or only partially) the MAC’s purposes and role
3. A coordination structure is not yet official in place or not fully functioning
b) Propose options and select the most appropriate through stakeholders’ consensus

- Depending on scenario, the options can be:
  1. An existing committee can take up the MAC role & functions
  2. Or a new committee is created or existing one is adapted
  3. Or a new committee and linkages to decision making level has to be proposed

- Consider pro & cons of each option
- Build consensus & decide on the most appropriate one
Criteria to support the choice of most appropriate option

- Functionality
- Efficiency
- Representativeness of sectors from the MNPA
- Authority & ability to influence

The choice is often a trade-off aiming at the best compromise to meet all the above criteria
c) Elaborate ToR and define modus operandis

- The ToR section could include:
  - The formal mandate,
  - The objectives & roles in relation to the NIPN operational cycle
  - The roles and responsibilities of the MAC Chair, the MAC Secretary and the other members

- Modus operandis should detail how the committee interact with the NIPN team and with the national structure:
  - Agreed way of working
  - Describe relationships with higher coordination structures
  - & mechanisms of accountability of individual members & MAC as a whole
d) Appoint chair, secretary & members

- Skills and competencies
  - Capacity to influence and strategic thinking
  - Collaborative and open-minded attitude
  - Deep knowledge of nutrition policy, planning and budgeting processes
  - Convening power / leverage

- Importance of the chair and the secretary

- Important to have dedicated members’ participation

⇒ MAC members & alternates could benefit from the NIPN capacity building
Questions? Clarification?
Part II - Country experience & exchanges
Guatemala experience

Multisectoral National system in charge of the Food Security and Nutrition (SINSAN) → Responsible for overseeing the National Strategy to prevent chronic malnutrition
Guatemala experience follows scenario 1

- **Advantages**
  - Fully integrated thus more likely to be sustained
  - Created by law thus highly institutionalized
  - Legitimacy and authority to influence decision makers

- **Challenges**
  - Large group (all Ministries) increasing the complexity to engage and maintain policy dialogue on NIPN
  - Lack the flexibility & reactivity to respond to NIPN needs
  - Partially overcome by the creation of a ‘core group’
Ethiopia experience follows a dual approach (hybrid scenario 2)

Multisectoral coordination structure of the National Nutrition Programme (NNP) Phase II (2016-2020)
Ethiopia experience follows a dual approach (hybrid scenario 2)

- **Advantages**
  - Strengthen what exist - NIPN capacity building approach
  - Work in part forward sustainability (a trade-off made)
  - Legitimacy and credibility to influence decision makers

- **Challenges**
  - Lack the flexibility & reactivity to respond to NIPN needs thus was combined with the newly created MAC
  - The MAC is yet to be done (selecting members)
  - Its functioning remains to be seen: relationship with national committee to be worked out
Questions for discussion

→ One person by country team to speak up

- Where does the process stand in the countries?
- Does the guidance help to get it moving?
- Are there pending bottlenecks?
- If so, how can they be unlocked? Propositions