

NUTRITION PARTNERS FORUM

MOZAMBIQUE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

About us

The **Nutrition Partners Forum (NPF)** is a multi-partner and multisector working group established in May 2011 to address the need for coordinated and collaborative efforts to support the Government of Mozambique (GoM) in prioritizing nutrition in the development agenda of the country. The NPF was established soon after Mozambique's commitment to the SUN Movement agenda in 2011. The Forum's objective is to foster coordination and harmonization among partners contributing to food and nutrition security in Mozambique, whilst also enhancing alignment with the Government of Mozambique's (GoM) priority plans, policies and strategies in these areas.

The NPF is comprised of different stakeholders representing UN agencies, donors, civil society, and is part of the global Scaling-up-Nutrition (SUN) Movement aimed at uniting national leaders, civil society, UN agencies, donors, businesses and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition, as well as the individual platforms these constituencies represent.

2. Objectives of the Forum

The Nutrition Partners Forum has the following main objectives:

- Align support and action to GoM priorities, policies and needs, and promote harmonization and scaling-up of evidence-based approaches in contribution to improved nutrition outcomes in Mozambique.
- Facilitate coordination and collaboration among donors, UN agencies, SETSAN and other relevant governments institutions, NGOs, and other stakeholders to ensure a harmonized approach to addressing nutrition challenges.
- Joint efforts for resource mobilization, including funding and technical expertise to support food and nutrition security programs and initiatives in-country.
- Promote synergies and opportunities among Nutrition Partners in designing and implementing food and nutrition security programs/ initiatives.
- Foster and develop advocacy strategies to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition.
- Regular engagement with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (at global and regional levels).

- Facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned among nutrition partners and NPF members to inform decision-making and improve the effectiveness of nutrition interventions.

3. Membership

The NPF is comprised of development partners (UN agencies, Donors and NGOs/ civil society) involved in supporting/ contributing to food and nutrition security efforts in the country, from all relevant sectors. Regular and active participation is encouraged, however, a mailing list is maintained to keep all active and/ or interested members informed.

Should the number of partners in the become unmanageable, the NPF may agree to revise the membership of the group.

4. Working Modalities

The NPF meets on a bi-monthly basis. Ad-hoc meetings as well as taskforces and/ or sub-groups can be arranged to focus on arising issues as required.

A workplan for the Forum is developed and assessed annually with annual priorities identified and agreed jointly through consultative processes. Furthermore, the Forum takes a proactive and results oriented approach to the annual tasks set by the group. At the end of each year a joint review on achievements and progress of the working is encouraged and is used to inform improvements where necessary and priority actions in the following year. The ToRs are a live document, which can be updated as deemed necessary by the members.

5. Chairmanship

The Nutrition Partners Forum is co-chaired by at least two organizations for a two-year mandates. The change of co-chairs will be staggered every other year to ensure continuity. The United Nations (UN) agencies will hold a permanent co-chair which will be the chair of the UN Nutrition Group. The other position will be held by a donor agency. The representative of Civil society organizations can be appointed as advisor to the co-chairs. The chairs are appointed/ interested members endorsed by the members of the Forum.

Roles and responsibilities of Co-Chairs

- Propose/ draft meeting agendas; send out invitations and circulate meeting minutes to all Forum members;
- Maintain list of members and areas of support related to FSN updated;
- Keep NPF members informed of key dates/ events related to FSN as provided by GoM and partners;

- Lead/ facilitate the NPF meetings; learning exchanges across initiatives supporting/ contributing to FSN; joint monitoring visits;
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- Facilitating interactions with other stakeholders as well as influence/ activate partner dialogues in other platforms (DCP; humanitarian/ clusters; other sector working groups; other SUN platforms; and academia etc.), and report back outcomes to NPF members;
- Establish and maintain good working relations, regular communication and dialogue with key GoM counterparts including but not limited to SETSAN, MISAU, MEF, MIC, MINED, MGCAS and CONSAN¹;
- Facilitate information/ experiences exchange across different government levels (national, provincial, district);
- Ensure the development and monitoring of the progress of specific priorities included in the NPF annual workplan.

6. Key reference documents for NPF

Until 2020 the main government reference document for the NPF was Mozambique's Multisectoral Action Plan for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition 2010-2020 (PAMRDC). Since then, the country has been without a guiding instrument or policy for stunting prevention, and therefore, the implementation of high impact interventions for stunting prevention in the country has been voluntary. Nonetheless, a draft Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, Policy and Action Plan (PESAN), has been developed and finalised through a consultative process. The PESAN has been endorsed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development as well as by the CONSAN in 2022, and approval by the Council of Ministers is currently pending.

The objective of the PESAN is to provide a guiding instrument for sectors and stakeholders to implement actions aimed at improving food security and nutrition, specifically to ensure that by 2030 all people, in particular children in the first 1000 days and pregnant and lactating women, have adequate food and within the recommended standards of acceptable food and nutrition at all stages of life. The government five-year National Plan (PQG), the draft National Development Strategy (ENDE), and sector specific policies, such as the Health Sector Strategic Plan (PESS); National strategy for Social and Behaviour Change Communication for Stunting Prevention; National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security (ESAN I & II); National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE); and the National Water Supply and Rural Sanitation programme (PRONASAR), to mention a few, are also key policies informing and guiding areas for support and action for the NPF.

7. Other nutrition related coordination structures in Mozambique

¹ Ministries of Health; Finance; Industry and Commerce; Education; Gender, Children and Social Action; and the CONSAN.

Besides the NPF, other platforms of the SUN Network in Mozambique include:

- The Civil Society Platform which is currently coordinated by the Association for Food and Nutrition Security (ANSA) with networks established in all 10 provinces of the country.
- The SUN Business Network coordinated by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and the World Food Programme.
- The SUN UN and Donor network
- The UN Nutrition Network (currently under discussions for revamping)

Mozambique's Government SUN network is coordinated by SETSAN and the Nutrition Department of the Ministry of Health, through the GT-PAMRDC, (National Technical Working Group), involving line ministries contemplated in the plan as well as civil society, donors and technical implementing partners. This national working group has been inactive at national level since 2021, however advocacy with SETSAN for its reactivation and revision of the name and terms of reference of the working group are underway. At decentralized levels the functionality vary from province to province, based on prioritization of nutrition in the provincial government agenda, proactivity of the SETSAN focal points, and/ or support for improved nutrition governance provided to the provincial government for coordination.

Mozambique has also established a National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSAN), an inter-ministerial body chaired by the Prime Minister and including all ministers, the Executive Secretary of SETSAN, and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), academic institutions, and the private sector. Launched in December 2017, CONSAN serves as a high-level political body responsible for consultation, coordination, promotion, and implementation of legislation, policies, strategies, and programs pertaining to Food and Nutrition Security.

About SETSAN

SETSAN is a government body, within the Ministry Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER), **established in 2010 to coordinate, promote and oversee efforts related to food security and nutrition** within the country.

SETSAN's mandate also includes **conducting food and nutrition security related assessments, policy development** for the related areas and oversight for their implementation.

Additionally, it **provides technical expertise and guidance to government entities implementing interventions that contribute to directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition.**

SETSAN does not have physical structures in place nor staff at provincial at district levels, as it lacks administrative and financial autonomy, however **provincial and district SETSAN focal points attached to the Provincial/ District Services of Economic Activities** act as their representatives and provide technical backstopping at decentralized levels.

At provincial and districts level a Provincial Councils (COPSANs) and District Councils (CODSANS) replicate the structure of the CONSAN. COPSANs are co-led by the Provincial Secretary of State and Governor, whilst the CODSANS are chaired by the Administrator.