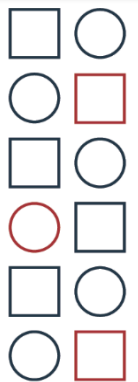


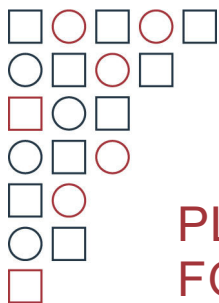
Expression of Interest No: 19-06-2024

## Planning and Execution Consultant

June 19, 2024

**Deadline for receipt of submissions:  
July 8, 2024 at 11.59pm Ottawa (EST) time**





# PLANNING AND EXECUTION CONSULTANT FOR OPERATIONALIZING THE MULTI- SECTORAL URBAN NUTRITION STRATEGY IN BANGLADESH

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Nutrition International is recruiting an individual Consultant to perform the duties specified in this ToR. Nutrition International is committed to the fundamental principles of equal employment opportunity. Women are encouraged to apply.

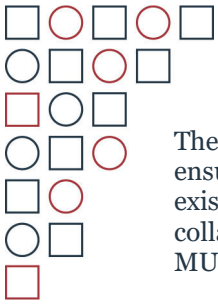
## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Bangladesh is experiencing rapid urbanization resulting from a shift in economic activities from agriculture towards more of manufacturing and services. Currently 31.66 % of the total population (around 53 million) are urban dwellers, with around 3.5% of the urban dwellers residing in Low Income Communities, popularly known as the slums (BBS, 2022). High levels of undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, co-exist with overweight & obesity among this vulnerable urban population with twice as many women being overweight or obese in urban than in rural areas. In addition, urban areas have been at the epicenter for COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, with 75 percent of the urban slum population having lost their source of income, leading food expenditure to drop by up to 28 percent. Nearly a quarter of these households reported persistent food insecurity.

National data reflects that the nutritional status of urban slum dwellers is worse than the urban average. For instance, in slums 33.7% under-five children are stunted compared to 27.1% in non-slum and 28.5% in rest of urban areas. Similarly, 15.9% of slum children are wasted compared to 14% and 16.2% in non-slums and rest of urban areas respectively (Urban Health Survey 2021). For some nutrition indicators, like iron deficiency was worse among urban children (22.1%) than those in rural (11.5%) (Nation Nutrition Survey 2019-20).

The current delivery mechanisms for urban health and nutrition services are fragmented and insufficient. Though urban health and nutrition services are part of the primary health care system, the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives (MOLGRD&C) is responsible for its functioning and management, while the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) provides the technical oversight. Moreover, besides the government, NGOs, and the private sector also contribute significantly. As the LGD is not well-equipped to provide such services, they primarily outsource these to NGOs with limited coverage. Hence the urban nutrition related services are divided between multiple providers without proper coordination. All these has been attributed to the lack of a comprehensive urban nutrition strategy to address both the proximate and underlying causes of malnutrition in these urban settings. Overall, while the utilization rates for nutrition services is better in urban than other areas, the rates vary significantly between wealth groups, with poorer segments barely accessing these services.

Nutrition International provided Technical Assistance to the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) from June 2022 to October 2023 to develop the first Multi-sectoral Urban Nutrition Strategy (MUNS). The strategy captures the nutrition specific and sensitive interventions across five relevant sectors that affect the nutritional status of urban population, especially those in the low-income category. These five systems are health, food, water and sanitation (WASH), education, and social protection.



The overall objective of this Consultancy is to support BNNC in operationalizing the MUNS by ensuring buy-in from line ministries and relevant government sectors to integrate the MUNS into existing sector plans and priorities, as well as develop a national operational guideline in collaboration with MoLGRD and local government units to execute strategies proposed in the MUNS.

Nutrition International is seeking to hire a Planning and Execution Consultant for this technical assistance support. This Planning and Execution Consultancy forms part of a wider engagement of Nutrition International in support of BNNC in operationalizing MUNS and collaborating with MoLGRD and local government units to execute proposed strategies in MUNS. The consultant, working alongside a Senior Advisor (SA), will be mandated to achieve the objectives mentioned in this ToR.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THIS CONSULTANCY**

Building on previous technical assistance, Nutrition International is supporting BNNC in operationalizing the MUNS adopting a two-pronged approach. One approach will ensure buy-in from the five ministries, relevant to the five sectors - health, food, WASH, education, and social protection- and relevant government departments to integrate the MUNS into existing sector plans and priorities. The other approach will be to develop national operational guidelines, in collaboration with the MoLGRD and the local government units, which can be used to execute the strategies proposed in the MUNS. The two-pronged approach constitutes phase one of the project.

The specific objectives and activities of this Consultancy are the following:

1. Ensure integration of MUNS in the identified five sector plans and priorities, in collaboration with BNNC and Local Govt. Division, MoLGRD.
2. Strengthen capacity of BNNC and MoLGRD, at national level and different tiers of local government units, including city corporations and municipalities, to lead the development of operational guideline for MUNS.
3. Establish Nutrition International as one of the key development organizations to support the strengthening of nutrition services in urban areas.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

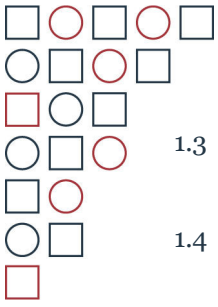
The scope of work and deliverables for the consultancy based on the objectives to be accomplished are as follows:

**Objective 1:** Ensure integration of MUNS in the identified five sector plans and priorities, in collaboration with BNNC and Local Government Division, MoLGRD.

**Scope of Work:** Support BNNC in coordinating with ministries associated with the five priority sectors to ensure integration of MUNS in the existing sector plans and priorities, in collaboration with the Local Govt Division (LGD), MoLGRD.

#### **Activities:**

- 1.1 Assist the SA and BNNC in preparing, organizing validation workshop and initiating the MUNS approval process
- 1.2 Draft the list of focal points of BNNC, LGD and other ministries with the roles and responsibilities as guided by SA.



- 1.3 Maintain regular communications with designated Focal points for ensuring effective coordination.
- 1.4 Support BNNC and Senior Advisor to organize formal and informal meetings with senior level officials, key focal points across relevant sectors/departments, develop meeting agenda and action points.
- 1.5 Collect and review existing operational plans/annual plan and list down the priority areas of MUNS that align with the respective departments.
- 1.6 Assist BNNC & Senior Advisor to draft an action plan to continue follow up with local Govt. and different departments in execution of urban nutrition strategies as per the operational guidelines.

**Objective 2:** Strengthen capacity of BNNC and MoLGRD, at national level and different tiers of local government units, including city corporations and municipalities, to lead the development of operational guideline for MUNS.

**Scope of Work:** Assist the LGD, MoLGRD, through BNNC, to facilitate local government units, including city corporations and municipalities, in developing a national operational guideline for MUNS.

**Activities:**

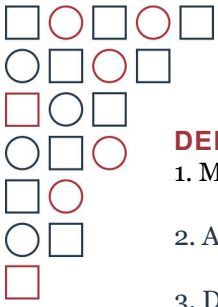
- 2.1 Support Senior Advisor to organize formal/informal meetings at the national level and conduct visit to the municipality/ city corporations to gather inputs on developing operational guideline for MUNS.
- 2.2 Regular follow-up with the working group members at the national and sub-national level, to support developing operational guideline of MUNS.
- 2.3 Support SA, Policy Support Wing, LGD and BNNC in organizing workshops/consultations at national & subnational level with other GoB stakeholders/DPs to validate and disseminate the operational guidelines.

**Objective 3:** Establish Nutrition International as one of the key development organizations to strengthen nutrition services in urban areas.

**Scope of Work:** Support Nutrition International leadership to build rapport with important stakeholders from the government, development partners and other stakeholders in order to highlight the work done by Nutrition International in urban nutrition and continue it further.

**Activities:**

- 1.1 Support SA in preparing presentation on urban nutrition in different meetings organized by government and other development partners.
- 1.2 Regular scanning of upcoming urban nutrition meetings, seminars, workshops and alert the Senior advisor and NI Bangladesh Country Office in advance and prepare report, documents to update NI colleagues.
- 1.3 Prepare a landscape map of all development partners working in urban areas



## DELIVERABLES

1. Monthly Report covering key highlights of activities conducted under each objective.
2. Advocacy brief on integrating the MUNS with workplans of different departments
3. Draft list of focal points, priority areas for respective ministries
4. Visit report to municipality/ city corporations to consult about MUNS operational guidelines.
5. Concept note on meetings/workshop objectives prior to the events and post-event notes/report draft on the achievement of objectives.
6. Draft recommendations for priority areas to be incorporated in workplan of relevant sectors, draft work plan for BNNC and MoLGRD with activities to advocate for operationalizing the MUNS.
7. Draft operational guidelines in consultation with working group members and other key stakeholders from the MOLGRD and BNNC. Etc
8. Draft presentation of Nutrition International's work related to development and operationalization of MUNS

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The results of the Consultancy will be:

- Nutrition specific activities and results are incorporated into all sector plans relevant to the urban context
- Capacity of BNNC and MoLGRD is strengthened /improved to plan, implement and monitor interventions to improve the nutritional status of low-income households in urban settlements
- Increased visibility of Nutrition International's work in urban nutrition.

## GENDER

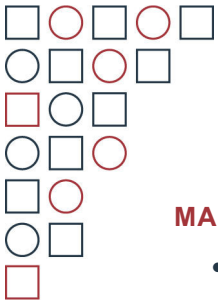
Nutrition International is committed to gender equality. Consultants are required to indicate how they will ensure that gender equality considerations are included in the provision of TA, including how they are incorporated into deliverables. Examples of gender equality integration could include but are not limited to; ensuring government departments responsible for women are included wherever possible, gender sensitive indicators are included, emerging data is sex disaggregated, and relevant documentation related to gender is reviewed. Nutrition International's gender equality strategy as well as tools to support gender mainstreaming can be accessed here: [Program Gender Equality Strategy](#).

## TIMELINE

The consultancy will be for a total of 120 working days between July 2024 and February 2025. The timeline and the deliverables may be subject to revisions in consultation with BNNC and NI.

## STATION / LOCATION

- The consultant will be located in the BNNC office in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- There will be some travel to municipalities within Bangladesh as and when required. Local travel under this consultancy will be supported by Nutrition International based on



prior approval by NI team, Sr. Advisor and Director General of BNNC. Travel allowance is as per the standard rates of the organization.

### **MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING/COORDINATION MECHANISM**

- The Consultant will report to Nutrition International Bangladesh Country Director and/or Deputy Country Director and work under close supervision of the Technical Lead from Nutrition International HQ and Asia Regional Manager of NTEAM.
- The Consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Sr. Advisor for this Project as well as the Director General of BNNC but maintain close working relationship with Wing Chief of Policy Division, MoLGRD.
- NI will provide the funding for the assignment, and payment will be made in installments subject to performance and reaching deliverables as agreed upon at the time of contract signing.

### **PROFILE/ QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT**

The Consultant should have the following profile:

#### **Education:**

1. Post graduate degree in public health, nutrition, sociology, development studies or other relevant discipline from a reputable university.
2. Any degree related to Urban development will be an added advantage.

#### **Experience:**

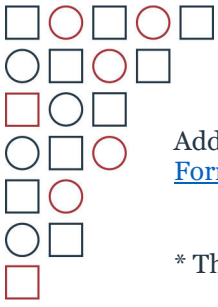
- More than 5 years' experience of working with government or other development partners in urban areas, preferably in the sectors relevant for nutrition programming. E.g. fields of health, nutrition, education and WASH
- At least 2 years of experience of working with MOLGRD/City Corporation/Municipality will be considered an asset.
- Demonstrated application of gender equality principles to practical development situations; and knowledge of approaches for gender mainstreaming
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate and communicate at different tiers of relevant ministries and line ministries.
- Demonstrated ability to develop policy documents and conduct stakeholder mapping with engagement.
- Ability to understand and execute gender mainstreaming activities.

#### **Language Skills:**

- Fluency in written and spoken English is mandatory.
- Knowledge of Bengali is an advantage.

Interested Consultants are invited to submit the following by email to [TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org](mailto:TechnicalAssistance@NutritionIntl.org) , copying [cjalal@nutritionintl.org](mailto:cjalal@nutritionintl.org) by July 8, 2024, 11:59pm, Eastern Standard Time (Ottawa time)

1. Up-to-date curriculum vitae or resume.
2. Cover Letter/ Suitability statement for the consultancy.



Additionally, applicants are expected to complete the [Technical Assistance Provider Recruitment Form - Nutrition International \(nutritionintl.org\)](https://www.nutritionintl.org).

\* The award of this Consultancy contract will be contingent on project funding availability.