

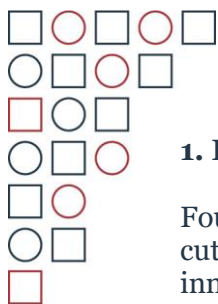
CONSULTANT TO SUPPORT THE POST-PILOT REVISION OF THE NUTRITION SYSTEMS INTEGRATION APPROACH AND TOOL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

August 2026

Deadline for applications:
September 25, 2026, 23:59 Ottawa time.





1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

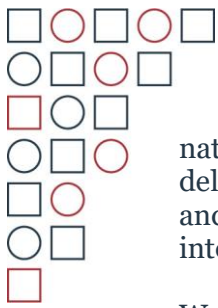
Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a global organization dedicated to conducting cutting-edge nutrition research, supporting critical policy and program formulation and innovation, and integrating nutrition into broader development programs. In more than 60 countries, primarily in Asia and Africa, Nutrition International nourishes people to nourish life. The multicausality of malnutrition has been well established and it has been suggested that multi-sectoral efforts could greatly benefit from an approach called “systems thinking”, to systematically address such interrelated causes, increase impact, and foster enhanced sustainability. The adoption of systems thinking in practice requires a number of behaviors and practices including: a shift away from fixed planning to more iterative and adaptive planning based on learning and experimentation; a focus on multistakeholder approaches and co-creation with local stakeholders; the search for context-specific solutions rather than generic ones based on good practice elsewhere; and a recognition that our paradigms, pre-conceived ideas, and biases often limit our ability to understand local contexts.

The Research and Development (R&D) unit leads Nutrition International’s *Nutrition Systems Integration’s Approach and Checklist* to address malnutrition in response to the unmet needs of cross-cutting, evidence-based, and adaptive strategies and recommendations to address malnutrition. The goal of the approach is to ensure NI’s support to national and sub-national governments (both on-going and new efforts) include strategies that are: 1) responsive to identified needs and their root causes, 2) carefully integrated with and complementary to on-going efforts, and 3) that all potentially effective delivery channels, points of integration, and / or partnerships are explored and utilized in order to ensure maximum reach and impact.

Several applications are possible for the *Systems Integration Approach* as it is designed to be flexible and modular. For instance, it can start by leading an in-depth review of the country’s nutritional needs and the primary determinants of poor nutritional outcomes to guide the identification of the best intervention or mix of interventions or move directly into the landscape analysis if the need has already been identified. It is also possible to use the *Approach* to conduct policy research and understand adoption pathways. Once the initial objective has been determined, it is critical to assess sector-specific and context-specific strengths and weaknesses to determine best leverage or delivery points that could facilitate greater programming reach and / or efficiency. This entails a comprehensive assessment using the NI-designed *Nutrition Systems Integration Checklist* (i.e. “*Checklist*”). Findings from the *Checklist* will result to a set of recommendations on needs-responsive interventions and delivery points to improve reach and efficiency.

NI’s *Nutrition Systems Integration Approach and Checklist* has been pilot tested in Kenya to assess how to improve adolescent nutrition to guide efforts conducted by the Government of Kenya, NI, and other stakeholders in multisectoral nutrition programming. One main objective of the pilot was to document the *Approach* and the use of the *Checklist* to be able to further improve and streamline the *Approach* and revising the existing *Checklist*, naming it *Tool*.

The aim of the revised and streamlined Nutrition Systems Integration *Approach and Checklist* is to guide the initial identification and design of new or assessment of existing interventions, programs, and strategies internally within NI and externally within national and local governments to ensure that priority needs are addressed for the target population, the right evidence-based interventions and policies are in place, and the right platforms and entry points are leveraged enabling strong integration into existing



national, sub-national, and community systems, avoiding any missed opportunities for delivery or further synergies, avoiding any duplication of efforts, and maximizing reach and impact. In addition, making sure that country-specific contextual factors are taken into consideration when identifying programs and their delivery system(s).

We are seeking to engage a part-time consultant to support the revision and streamlining of the *Nutrition Systems Integration Approach and Tool*. This role is critical to ensure the revised Approach and Tool is streamlined and remains highly effective in delivering context-specific recommendations.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

Overall, the main outcome is to deliver a streamlined and robust revised version of the Nutrition Systems Integration *Approach* and its *Checklist* that will allow governments to ensure that well-designed and evidence-based nutrition interventions and programming are aligned with national priorities and already-existing programs; leverage the strengths of and integrate with existing systems for more efficient delivery or achievement of scale; facilitate greater scale in coverage and broader reach among the target population; facilitate greater improvements in nutritional outcomes; and avoid any negative or unintended consequences.

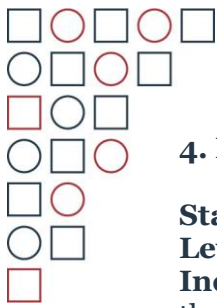
3. KEY ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

- A. Learnings of end-users and stakeholders:** Review and analyze the feedback and learnings that emerged from field experiences of end-users and perceptions of stakeholders who participated in the pilot study.
- B. Evidence-based recommendations and adaptations:** Formulate evidence-based recommendations and adaptations to improve and streamline the current version of the Nutrition Systems Integration Approach and Tool and its application process.
- C. Revised version of the Nutrition Systems Integration Approach and Checklist:** Produce the revised version of the Approach and Tool based on the proposed evidence-based recommendations and action plan to create a 2.0 version of NI's Nutrition Systems Integration Approach and Checklist.

Main deliverables summary:

- Consolidation of the feedback from end-users and stakeholders,
- Evidence-based recommendations and an action plan for the revision of the Approach and Tool,
- The revised 2.0 version of the Nutrition Systems Integration Approach and Checklist, and
- A primer document and deck presentation.

Specific deliverables will be agreed upon in a monthly workplan in coordination with the Research Specialist, R&D at Nutrition International.



4. DURATION AND LEVEL OF EFFORT

Start date: November 16, 2026.

Level of effort: Maximum 28 working days. Expected to function on a part-time basis.

Indicative duration: Total of 3-4 months; work is expected to be completed no later than March 15, 2028. Subject to performance and the continued availability of funding, the contract may be extended to include additional deliverables as needed.

5. LOCATION

This consultancy will be fully remote.

6. PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

Education

- Advanced university degree (Master's or PhD) in public health, nutrition, global health, or a related field.

Experience

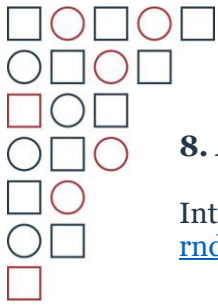
- Strong experience in qualitative research including key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and qualitative data management and qualitative analysis skills. Knowledge in a qualitative analysis software is an asset (e.g., NVIVO, MAXQDA, or others).
- Experience working to support multi-sectoral programs, multi-stakeholder working groups and / or projects in LMICs.
- Proven organizational, communication, and writing skills with ability to stick to tight deadlines and produce high-quality deliverables.
- Ability to work proactively and independently under a fast-paced and dynamic environment.
- Experience working across and within sectors as a means of optimizing program performance is an asset.

Skills

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Collaborative, team-oriented mindset
- Openness to innovation and new approaches
- Excellent written and verbal communication, presentation, and writing skills in English

7. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Travel is not anticipated for this assignment. In case travel is deemed essential to NI, all travel required under this consultancy will be provided by NI. Travel allowances maximums are based on standard rates of the organization.



8. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested consultants are invited to submit the following by email to nirnd@nutritionintl.org by September 25, 2026, 23:59 Ottawa time.

1. Up-to-date curriculum vitae or resume.
2. Cover letter.
3. References list including listing employer phone number, contact person, contact's email and a description of the service provided.
4. Daily fees in Canadian dollars.