

# **China**

## **Improvement Plan**

**Thematic window: Children, Food Security & Nutrition**

**Programme Title: Improving nutrition and food safety for China's most vulnerable women and children**

### c) File for the Joint Programme Improvement Plan

After the interim evaluation is complete, the phase of incorporating its recommendations shall begin. This file is to be used as the basis for establishing an improvement plan for the joint programme, which will bring together all the recommendations, actions to be carried out by programme management.

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| <p><b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 1 advice to all partners on future implementation</b></p> <p>All UN Agencies and Partner Agencies are requested to review their budgets, and work plans and formulate an Accelerated Action Plan that takes into account the allocated budget lines to ensure that Programme objectives are realized by Project completion. In the absence of this, the Joint Programme may consider requesting a one time no cost extension of the Programme by the MDGF Sect, to allow for completion of programme goals and objectives.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b></p> <p>Despite the late beginning of the joint programme in the first year, all the partners have tried their best to complete the individual programme activities as planned. However, due to the unexpected natural or administrative factors, some components can not be implemented in time. The joint programme management committee has been fully aware of the time requirement of the whole joint programme and has requested all the stakeholders to take the opportunity of the midterm evaluation to review the programme implementation and make necessary adjustment if needed. The following points would contribute to the successful completion of the joint programme in time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The implementing agencies cannot change the design of the joint programme; without changing the overall programme design including the budget and it is not easy to integrate the programme activities;</li><li>- Both UN and national partners carefully review the current progress of the individual programme implementation and identify the challenges and develop solutions.</li><li>- All partners working in the same outcome area will strengthen the interagency cooperation through information sharing and try best to take more joint coordinated action.</li><li>- As a team, the JP collectively reviews and consolidates the policy advice proposed by various agencies for each output and provides an integrated statement of policy recommendations to achieve the final objective of the joint programme.</li></ul> |  |

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Considering the availability of the funds and administrative support after the deadline of the joint programme, all the partners should work towards the completion of the three year programme in time.</li> <li>- In any case, if a one time no cost extension is needed, the application should be made as early as possible.</li> </ul> <p>During the process of developing accelerated action plan, the programme management office should provide necessary support and work under the guidance of JPMC Co-Chairs to monitor the progress.</p> |                |                    |  |         |             |        |
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| Key actions   | Time frame     | Person responsible | Follow-up  |         | Secretariat |        |
|   |                |                    | Comments   | Status  | Comments    | Status |
| 1.1 Review the current annual work plan and if necessary, develop the accelerated action plan by individual partners  | September,2011 | Full PMC           | Some agencies concerned have developed accelerated action plan | ongoing |             |        |
| 1.2 Taking into the recommendation by the consultant, carefully develop year 3 AWP to ensure objectives of the programme can be achieved.   | November, 2011 | Full PMC           |  | ongoing |             |        |
| <p><b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 2 Advice to all partners on prompt and comprehensive information sharing</b></p> <p>The Joint Programme must work towards providing reports in a more coherent manner to allow for a realistic measurement of results achieved in the Programme by outcome areas as defined in the Concept Note. Additionally, the Programme must work to enhance quality of all progress reports by outcome area in a systematic manner to allow for information to be used by national authorities to work towards scaling up measures before project completion.</p>   |                |                    |  |         |             |        |
| <p><b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b></p>  |                |                    |  |         |             |        |

The UN MDG-Fund joint programme has fully realized the importance of effective monitoring, supervision and good documentation and has developed unified implementation guidelines for all the partners to follow. CFSN joint programme management office has strictly abide by the reporting requirement and prepare and submit the biannual monitoring report and quarterly updated color coded AWP. Besides, all the partners have prepared and submitted progress report of the first year work for the purpose of information sharing among implementing agencies. However, there are still problems with the quality and accuracy of the reports, particularly, lack of coherent and integrated report for each outcome area. The following points would contribute to the improvement of reporting and documentation practice of the joint programme.

1. All the partners will attach enough importance to the reporting and documentation requirements of the joint programme and provide accurate and comprehensive updated information regarding the progress of the joint programme.
2. The lead agency of each outcome area should play more proactive roles in the integration of the key findings and develop coherent report in the specific area for use by Chinese government agencies.
3. The programme management office will communicate with the agencies closely ensuring the quality and accuracy of the reports.

| Key actions   | Time frame                                  | Person responsible         | Follow-up |         | Secretariat |        |
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| 2.1 Relevant partners working in the same outcome will work more closely to develop joint policy recommendations to the relevant government agencies. | The remaining period of the joint programme | All participating partners |           | ongoing |             |        |
| 2.2 All partners attach enough importance to the timely completion and submission of the required reporting instrument                                | The remaining period of the joint programme | All participating partners |           | ongoing |             |        |
| 2.3 Efforts to be taken to develop joint policy recommendations at the  | Quarter 3,4 of 2012                         | All participating partners |           |         |             |        |

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| end of the joint programme to the Chinese government  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 3 Special attention is needed to the girl child group</b>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>The Joint Programme must consider working to formulate tools and measures that contribute to targeting health and nutrition education measures to the girl child and school going children aged 12 and above especially with reference to micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition</p>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Women and child health has been treated as the priority area for UN agencies as marked by UN Secretary General’s Women and Children Initiative of September 2010. The UN MDG-Fund secretary has also emphasized the gender issues and equity in the development and design of all the joint programme proposals with no exception of this joint programme. To enhance the role of girl child and girl student in the nutrition and food safety education, all the partners are expected to review the planned activities and those who have already include the specific interventions in the original plan will accomplish the expected results and scaling up the achievements nation wide while those who have not planned specific activities targeting on the girl child and students should explore the possibilities of giving priority to this special population.</p> <p>In 2010, the net enrolment ratio in primary education (NER) is 99.70%,among which NER for girls is 99.73% and for boys 99.68%. The gross enrolment ratio in junior secondary education is 100.1%. According to the 2008 China MDG Progress Report prepared by the UN and the Chinese Government, China has achieved MDG 3A 'Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005' and is on track to achieve gender parity 'at all levels by 2015'. Therefore, girls and boys enjoy equal access to and treatment in primary and secondary education in China.</p> <p>The activities related to health and nutrition education under CFSN include integration of nutrition and food safety education in the curriculum of primary and junior secondary education by UNESCO and delivery of YYB by UNICEF. Girls and boys at pilot sites have been equally treated throughout the implementation. The promotion of material protection by ILO is particularly designed for young females.</p> <p>Targeted interventions are particularly relevant to those contexts where some groups are discriminated or disadvantaged than other groups. This however is not the case in school education in</p> |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| China.  |                |                            |           |         |             |        |
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| Sex-disaggregated data can be collected and special attention is given to gender issue in reporting.  |                |                            |           |         |             |        |
| Key actions   | Time frame     | Person responsible         | Follow-up |         | Secretariat |        |
|   |                |                            | Comments  | Status  | Comments    | Status |
| 3.1 Review programme activities and enhance the programme activities with girl children and girl students as target group or part of the target group   | Quarter 4,2011 | All participating partners |           | ongoing |             |        |
| <p><b>Evaluation Recommendation No.4</b> Establishing a Multilateral Financing Facility to scale up the joint programme</p> <p>The Mid Term Review recommends that the Ministry of Health and the Joint Programme consider establishing a Multilateral Financing Facility to continue the work that the Joint Programme has started for scaling up at country level with the collaboration of the Multilateral Development Banks in the area of Children, Food Security, Food Safety, and Nutrition.</p> <p><b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b></p> <p>It has been agreed by all the partners that to make the achievements of this joint programme sustainable, the programme activities should be directly connected with the priority work of Chinese government s that the results will support the policy making at both local and central level. Meanwhile, the joint programme will finally provide policy recommendations including possible integrated financing mechanism of strengthening the work of child nutrition and food safety.</p> |                |                            |           |         |             |        |
| Key actions   | Time frame     | Person responsible         | Follow-up |         | Secretariat |        |
|   |                |                            | Comments  | Status  | Comments    | Status |
| 4.1 all the partners review the current measures of the   | Q 4, 2011      | All participating partners |           | ongoing |             |        |

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| joint programme sustainability   |   |                            |  |         |  |  |
| 4.2 The joint programme will provide policy recommendations including possible integrated financing mechanism of strengthening the nutrition and food safety work.   | The remaining time of the joint programme | All participating partners |  | ongoing |  |  |
| <p><b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 5 enhancing international cooperation with south Asian countries</b></p> <p>The Joint Programme needs to consider establishing linkages within a South-South Cooperation modus operandi with UN and MDBs in the South Asia Region to enhance understanding of handling Wasting trends in Malnutrition, and on food safety and Milk Production entities like that of Amul in India.</p>   |   |                            |  |         |  |  |
| <p><b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b></p> <p>Chinese government has clearly expressed that as a member of the developing countries, China is ready to develop extensive and in-depth cooperation in economic, scientific and technological, educational and cultural fields on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual benefit, emphasis on results, varied forms and common development. China stands ready to offer assistance within its capacity to developing countries having difficulties. Although China's aid is limited, it is provided sincerely and without any conditions attached.</p> <p>UNDP is supporting Chinese government to actively participate in the south-south cooperation, and some partners of this joint programme like UNIDO (establishment of the south-south cooperation center in Beijing) and FAO (\$30M donation by China) and ILO (\$1M donation by China) has also worked with their national counterparts to conduct activities in the context of south-south cooperation.</p> |   |                            |  |         |  |  |

| <p>Chinese children are now facing less threat of wasting due to lack of food compared with lack of comprehensive and balanced nutrition and food safety. If possible the joint programme would like to enhance communication and cooperation with other developmental partners and establish effective cooperation channels with other developing countries in the region in the area of management of child malnutrition and food safety incidents.</p>   |            |                            |           |         |             |        |
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| Key actions   | Time frame | Person responsible         | Follow-up |         | Secretariat |        |
|   |            |                            | Comments  | Status  | Comments    | Status |
| 5.1 all UN partners will work closely with their national counterparts to identify opportunities to link this joint programme with national south-south cooperation work plan.  | Q4, 2011   | All participating partners |           | ongoing |             |        |
| 5.2 The participating agencies can share experience and achievements of this joint programme with other developing countries through their branch offices in those countries.   | Q4, 2012   | All participating partners |           |         |             |        |
| <p><b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 6 The data and results achieved from baseline survey must be properly understood and used</b></p> <p>The Concept note very clearly talks about using evidence based interventions to reach vulnerable populations to better address food security and under-nutrition in mothers and children. However, care must be taken to ensure that the results of baselines and data are carefully peer reviewed and interpreted in the right manner. Discussions with UN agencies and partners reflected the need for the Joint Programme to de-mystify and further explain some of the findings especially in the nutrition sector</p> |            |                            |           |         |             |        |



| to produce a report with validity especially with the Joint Programme recommending scaling up measures.  |   |                            |           |         |             |        |
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| <b>Response from the Joint Programme Management</b>  |   |                            |           |         |             |        |
| <p>Most of the partners have attached great importance to the design and validity of the baseline survey methods to make sure the results achieved will be scientific and accurate.</p> <p>Partners working in the outcome area 1 (FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO) have met regularly all through the process of the baseline survey and have tried to integrate findings from different agencies into a one comprehensive report.</p> <p>All other partners who have collected background information in the first year will strengthen information sharing and interagency communications so that the finding can be more accurate.</p> |   |                            |           |         |             |        |
| Key actions  | Time frame                                | Person responsible         | Follow-up |         | Secretariat |        |
|  |   |                            | Comments  | Status  | Comments    | Status |
| 6.1 all the partners review carefully the results and finding of the baseline survey and validate the results;   | Quarter 4, 2011                           | All participating agencies |           | ongoing |             |        |
| 6.2 Partners working in the same outcome areas work more closely on information sharing and communication.   | The remaining time of the joint programme | All participating agencies |           | ongoing |             |        |
| <b>Evaluation Recommendation No. 7 Forward looking strategy adopted for planning programme activities</b>  |   |                            |           |         |             |        |
| <p>The Mid term Review recommends that the Joint Programme reconsider adopting forward looking strategies in the Programme that would contribute to enhanced efficiency gains in the Programme like that taken by the Trade and Labor Unions in Wuding County, in identifying extended maternal leave facilities for mothers with newborns who worked in hazardous industrial zones and working to build legislature with smaller firms as well to assist them prolong breastfeeding practices</p>   |   |                            |           |         |             |        |

### Response from the Joint Programme Management

The joint programme has taken into consideration the long term impact of the joint programme which will ensure the achievements of this joint programme will be scaled up and continues to support the Chinese government and benefit the target population nation wide.

Many outputs have programme activities to support the development of national or local policies, code, guidelines, etc which are certainly forward looking strategies. The examples include reviving the baby friendly hospital initiative to promote exclusive breast feeding, the national code for marketing of breast milk substitutes, the integration of nutrition and food safety knowledge into the school curriculum, the national action plan for food fortification, etc.

All the partners will continue to work with relevant government agencies and promptly share experiences and best practice and policy recommendations to assist the Chinese government in policy making.

| Key actions  | Time frame                                  | Person responsible         | Follow-up |         | Secretariat |        |
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|  |   |                            | Comments  | Status  | Comments    | Status |
| 7.1 Review the current programme activities and maximize the joint impact of individual outputs.                         | Quarter 4, 2011                             | All participating partners |           | ongoing |             |        |
| 7.2 Strengthen cooperation with government agencies and NGOs and CSOs to support the policy making and capacity building | The remaining period of the joint programme | All participating partners |           | ongoing |             |        |
|  |   |                            |           |         |             |        |