



Strategic Revision

**Food and Nutrition Security in Guatemala,
with emphasis on Child Chronic malnutrition
and its determinants**

FINAL REPORT

Consultancy supported and financed by



General Objective of the Strategic Revision:

To Provide recommendations that contribute to *improve the implementation* of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Chronic Malnutrition, 2016-2020

Specific Objectives

To make an *integral and joint analysis of the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS)* situation

To determine the *progress* of policies and programs set up to prevent CM and to improve FNS

To identify *the gaps* in the government's *responses* to attain FNS



Specific Objectives (continued)

Provide a general overview on the available resources

Identify opportunities to *accelerate the progress* towards the National Strategy for CM and SDG's

Identify *goals and objectives* established in national and regional plans

Identify opportunities for international cooperation **support**, specifically from WFP

Report Contents

1. Economic, Social and Demographic Context
2. Analysis of the FNS and its determinants
3. Analysis of FNS's legal framework
4. Analysis de national policies and programmatic responses
 - 4.1. Public Policies, strategies and plans
 - 4.2. Programs, activities and key tools
 - 4.3. Capabilities at the territorial level
 - 4.5. Financial Resources available for FNS
 - 4.6. Institutional Capabilities and coordination

Report Contents (cont.)

5. Response gaps to prevent CM and to better FNS
 - 5.1. Within the legal frameworks and Public Policies
 - 5.2. In the design and application of plans and programs
 - 5.2. In resource allocation
6. Conclusions
7. Recommendations

Social Context and FNS situation

Insufficient economic growth does not contribute to generate quality employment

Persistence of high levels of inequality

High levels of general poverty and extreme poverty

State's fiscal weakness and lack of quality in public spending

Dysfunctional public institutions, corruption, instability and inefficiency

Social Context and FNS Situation (cont.)

Insufficient access and deficient attention in education, health, water and sanitation

Predominance of precarious employment and loss of buying power of rural workers

Increasing concentration of cultivation lands and low irrigation

High number of rural families in extreme poverty (subsistence and infra-subsistence levels)

Very high dependency on family remittances (mostly from the USA)

Chronic Malnutrition goes way back

Indicators of malnutrition and overweight/obesity, in less than 5 years

Indicator	1965	1995	1998/9	2002	2008/9	2014/15
Low weight/Age	28.4	21.8	19.9	17.2	13.1	12.6
Low Size/Age	63.5	55.2	52.8	54.3	48.9	46.5
Low Weight/Size	3.6	3.8	2.9	1.8	1.4	0.7
Overweight and obesity	4.5	6.2	6.9	5.6	4.9	4.7

Source: Regional Survey INCAP 1965, ENSMI 1995, 1998/9, 2002, 2008/9, 2014/2015

Conclusions: Socio-economic Context and FNS situation

- Poverty increase is a result of high inequality and insufficient economic growth.
- *Very slow reduction of CM: 0.37 per year. If maintained, Guatemala will reach Honduras' actual level of CM in 62 years, and El Salvador's in 90.*
- Due to exclusion and poverty, CM hits more indigenous children, from mothers with lower educational level and in the lowest income quintile.

- Of the determinants, the most strongly associated to CM is ***access to food***, registering *access reduction* to the basic food basket that affects mostly rural and indigenous households.
- One of the major sources of food insecurity is low water quality and insufficient or non existent excreta disposal systems and filtering and recycling of waste water.

Recommendations

- *Strengthening of income and buying power components for food* in policy instruments linked with FNS policy, National CM Plan and Family Food Production Program.
- *Combine interventions of universal Access to social services and economic opportunities* to increase income, with specific nutrition programs in the context of public health programs.

- Interventions in FNS must *prioritize attention to most vulnerable populations* –in both territorial and socioeconomic perspectives- focusing on poverty and CM ridden regions, from rural, ethnic and gender perspectives.
- Political will *must be translated in concrete actions*: the strengthening of institutional capacities for drafting, implementing and evaluating of programs and projects by those institutions involved.

Financial Resources for FNS

- There has been a drop in Budget implementation of the operational FNS yearly plan between 2014 y 2016
- Tricky forced budgetary linkages to show that there has been an increase in Budget allocations for FNS (f.e.: road building funds arguing they help food transport to markets)
- Budget allocation for 2017 is still inferior to 2014
- Significant increase only in Public Health Ministry programs
- Priority of government policy *is not reflected in Budget allocations* for several related Ministries

Gap of Financial Resources

- The objective of CM reduction is not fully reflected in the Budget approved for 2017 (same case for 2018).
- According to UNICEF and ICEFI, the yearly Budget in 2017 for FNS should have almost doubled with respect to 2016 (from US\$689 million to US\$1,369 million).
- The budgetary increase in 2017 for the Health Ministry will contribute to reduce the financial gap in this sector.
- But reductions in Agriculture and Development Ministries will have an adverse effect.

Recommendations on financial Resources

- Strengthen FISCAL INCOME and target public investment to better basic social services and strengthen peasant economy.
- Give higher priority to actions in support of FNS and the National Strategy to counter CM in the process of BUDGET proposal for 2018. *[Congress failed to approve 2018 Budget]*
- This must be reflected in substantial increases of fund allocations for direct components of the yearly FNS operational plan.

Conclusions y Recommendations related to Public Policy Frameworks

- Abundance of public policies
- The problem is how to harmonize and implement them to provide a concerted and effective contribution on the structural causes of CM: poverty, inequality and other problems that affect the most neglected population sectors

(Cont.) Conclusions and recommendations related to public policy frameworks

- It is imperative to attain a change from the *sectorial approach* in the thematic analysis of FNS to a *transversal and intersectorial approach that transcends the responsibilities of just one sector*, and can combine the coordinated efforts of central government, local/municipal governments, civil society, private sectors and international cooperation

(Cont.) Conclusions and recommendations related to public policy frameworks

- To make the changes required by actual legislation –relatively few- for more precision and efficacy
- Produce the norms and regulations for the better use and protection of water resources (a constitutional mandate),
- Those norms and regulations related to territorial ordering – draft and approve the corresponding policy mandated by the Constitution and reform the Municipal Code-,
- And the protection of natural resources

Conclusions y recommendations on FNS management

- A fundamental challenge for all: *scale up the FNS within an adequate and sustained strategy for an integral and balanced urban and rural development*
- The above oriented to wealth generation and its fair distribution (a constitutional mandate for an economic and social regime founded on principles of social justice), and to secure natural resources for today and for the future

(Cont.) Conclusions y recommendations on FNS management

- Another fundamental element: a need for a political will so that all state components move in the correct direction, to achieve the expected results
- This requires that the highest levels of government authority – Presidency and Vice-presidency- maintain a permanent impulse of instructions, support, management delegation, as well as supervision and evaluation, to achieve the effective goals of improving FNS and the reduction of CM

(Cont.) **Conclusions y recommendations on FNS management**

- Overcome IMPLEMENTATION difficulties:
 - Institutional Coordination
 - Sufficient and timely budgetary appropriations
 - Personnel Management
 - Strengthening institutional capabilities at departmental and municipal levels

(Cont.) **Conclusions y recommendations on FNS management**

- Political will to face up to and reduce CM must translate in a strengthening of institutional capacities to formulate, implement and evaluate programs and projects
- This in turn requires to perfect inter-institutional coordination processes
- Authentic de-concentration in related Ministries and other central government entities and strengthen capacities in the territories

Thank You Very Much!
(¡Muchas Gracias!)