Executive Summary

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Due to Myanmar's complex operating environment coupled with the coup d'etat in February 2021 and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening localisation and increasing the roles of local actors in the nutrition response is even more vital now in order to scale-up nutrition programming immediately. COVID-19 has highlighted the important role of national/ local organisations in coordinating a more optimal response, especially in a context of increasing limited access and movement restrictions requiring approvals. Localisation is ever important for sustainability and continuity of service provision. This report was commissioned by the Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Programme Facility (HARP-F) to review experiences of localisation to inform an immediate localisation strategy for the nutrition sector in Myanmar. This report was developed through a literature review as well as interviews with national/ local organisations, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), and UN agencies.The best practices and recommendations were developed by the authors and informed by the literature review and key informant interviews

Best Practices:

Current evidence on successful approaches to localisation are minimal and even more limited for the nutrition sector. While there is insufficient literature to draw definitive conclusions on best practices in localisation for the nutrition sector, there are case studies in other sectors, including from other countries, that are applicable to the Myanmar nutrition sector. Through the literature review, the authors have outlined the best practices for policy, partnerships, funding, coordination and capacity-building [Table A].

Recommendations:

Next steps and recommendations are identified for the nutrition cluster lead agency (UNICEF), INGOs, the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA), national/ local organisations and donors in the nutrition sector in Myanmar [Table B].

Our conclusions

In order to advance localisation immediately within the Myanmar nutrition sector, the priority next steps include:

1 The nutrition cluster to hold a series of **workshops to identify the main barriers** for national/ local organisations in implementing nutrition programming, engaging in coordination mechanisms, and increasing leadership roles within the nutrition sector, with the aim of finding solutions.

2 The nutrition cluster or the SUN secretariat to develop **a localisation strategy** at the national and subnational level within the Myanmar nutrition strategy based on the workshop and findings included in this report.

3 The nutrition cluster to **determine actionable next steps based on the barriers workshop to increase leadership and representation of national/ local organisations** (including smaller civil society organisations (CSOs)/ community-based organisations (CBOs)/ ethnic health organisations (EHOs)) within nutrition national and sub-national coordination mechanisms.

4 The nutrition cluster to determine the **most appropriate modality to track the amount of funds distributed to national/ local organisations (directly and indirectly)** and frequency it should be updated.

5 Nutrition sector **intermediaries/ INGOs to develop and implement a long-term localisation strategy with incremental milestones**, with the goal to build capacity of and to transition grant ownership to national/ local organisations and affected communities (such as women-led organisations).

6 **Donors to simplify grant applications, translate funding guidelines in the Myanmar language, allow applications to be submitted in the local language, provide flexible longer-term funding, and adapt monitoring/ reporting expectations.**
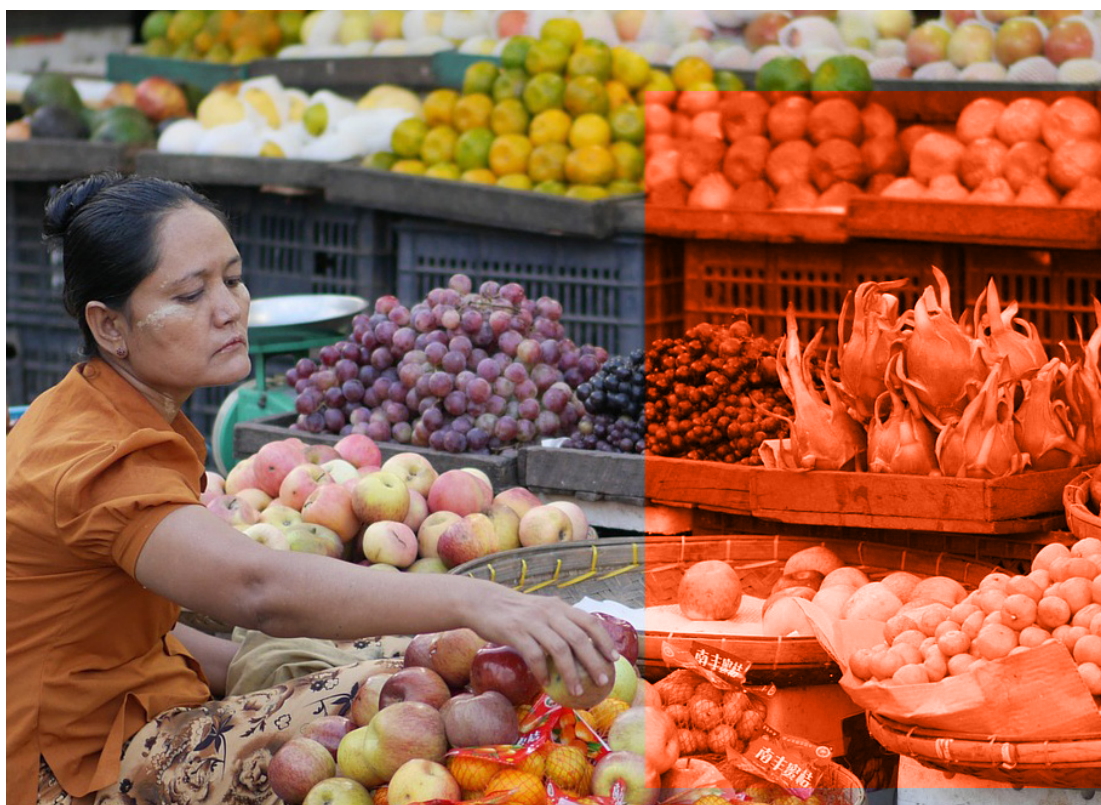
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