
African Development Bank Nutrition Marker & Project Checklist



Human Capital, Youth
and Skills Development
Department (AHHD)

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Introduction

The Nutrition Marker System has been developed to assist AfDB project managers and decision-makers design and categorise nutrition smart projects in view of their potential contribution to accelerating stunting reduction in Africa.

Purpose

This tool has been designed for the following three purposes:

- 1) As a quick guide** for project task teams, highlighting key features that should be integrated into projects to make them nutrition smart.
- 2) As a reference tool** for peer reviewers of concept notes, project appraisal documents, and project proposals to be submitted for AfDB Board approval.
- 3) As a benchmark** for categorising and tracking nutrition smart projects in line with the performance targets outlined in the Bank's 2018-2025 Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MNAP).

How to use this tool

- 1) For project design:** Use the questions listed to guide the formulation of the project concept note and project appraisal document. You can also refer to other learning resources available from nutrition@afdb.org.
- 2) For project review:** When reviewing a project document (concept note or appraisal document), use the checklist (answering "Yes" or "No") to determine if the project is nutrition smart. Where the answer is "No", highlight the relevant section as an area for improvement.
- 3) For categorizing the project as being nutrition smart:** Refer only to questions 1 to 5. A project is deemed to be nutrition smart if the following three criteria are met:
 - Nutrition is incorporated as part of the project goal and/or outcomes (i.e. the answer to questions 1 and/or 2 is "Yes")
 - The logical framework includes a nutrition impact or outcome indicator (i.e. the answer to questions 3 and/or 4 is "Yes")
 - Evidence-based nutrition interventions/activities are included in the project strategy (i.e. the answer to question 5 is "Yes")

Function	Category	Question Number	Key Questions for AfDB Staff	Description	YES / NO	Marker for Nutrition Smart Assessment
Nutrition marker	Project impact	1	Does the project impact (principal goal/objective) directly and explicitly address nutrition outcomes?	The project impact includes the aim of improving nutrition outcomes and/or addressing the immediate causes of malnutrition. It explicitly includes the word "nutrition".	Yes	Project is nutrition smart if the answer to <u>at least one of these two questions</u> is yes.
	Project Outcomes	2	Does the project have at least one outcome focused on improving nutrition?	At least one of the project's outcomes is focused on improving nutrition (i.e. includes the word "nutrition") and addresses the immediate or underlying causes of malnutrition.	No	
	Project indicators	3	Is a nutrition indicator focused on reducing malnutrition (i.e. stunting, wasting, etc.) associated with the project impact?	Nutrition outcome is a high level objective of the project (c.f. question 1) and the project specifically aims to measure improvements in nutritional status in the population. This indicator is SMART and included in the logical framework.	No	Project is nutrition smart if the answer to <u>at least one of these two questions</u> is yes.
	Project indicators	4	Does the project have at least one nutrition or nutrition-related outcome indicator?	The project logical framework includes at least one nutrition outcome indicator. The indicator can be a measurement of underlying causes of malnutrition such as dietary diversity, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, or use of nutrition-related health services (e.g. antenatal care services)	Yes	
	Project interventions/ activities	5	Does the project have at least one evidence-based intervention/activity focused on improving nutrition outcomes?	One or more of the project interventions address the immediate, underlying or basic causes of malnutrition and explicitly mentions the word "nutrition". Refer to the sectoral briefs on agriculture, WASH, health, education and social protection for examples of evidence-based interventions.	Yes	
Based on your answers, the project is classified as:					nutrition smart	

Guidance for project design and review	Project budget	6	Does the project budget specifically include money for nutrition focused interventions?	The budget clearly specifies how many resources are dedicated to the implementation of nutrition-relevant activities.		
	Target population/ geography	7	a) Does at least one project intervention/activity intend to improve nutrition outcomes for the most nutritionally vulnerable populations (in particular pregnant and lactating women, children under five years of age, adolescent girls)? b) Does the project target regions with the highest stunting prevalence or burden ?	a) The project clearly describes the target population and how nutritionally vulnerable populations will benefit from the project. b) The project clearly identifies regions with the highest stunting prevalence or burden .		
	Gender	8	Does the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment (e.g. access to and control over productive resources and income, education, labour reduction, access to essential services, women and/or adolescent girls engagement in interventions, etc.)?	The project makes clear contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment, which is a fundamental factor for enhancing the likelihood the project contributes to improved nutrition outcomes.		
	Gender	9	Does the project include gender disaggregated data for at least one nutrition indicator?	At least one of the nutrition indicators used will be gender disaggregated (data for men and women/boys and girls will be presented separately).		
	Project impact pathways	10	Are the impact pathways between the proposed activities and nutrition outcomes clearly articulated?	The project clearly identifies the specific pathway(s) between the proposed activities, outputs and outcomes that are intended to achieve nutrition impact. This impact pathway is clearly described in the project logical framework.		
	Multi-sectorality	11	Does the project adopt a multisectoral approach to improving nutrition outcomes?	The project adopts a multisectoral approach , either by including activities involving different sectors or seeking synergies with other interventions in sectors that address other causes of malnutrition.		
	Capacity development	12	Does the project state how it will help develop local capacity to improve nutrition outcomes?	The project specifies whose and which capacities will be strengthened to improve nutrition outcomes in a sustainable manner (e.g. government institutions, civil society, private sector, universities, etc.)		
	Monitoring and evaluation	13	If relevant, does the project plan to conduct a nutrition assessment at the project inception (i.e. baseline) and completion (i.e. endline)?	If secondary data is not available to inform the nutrition indicators in the logical framework, the project activity plan and budget include provision for baseline and endline surveys to report on selected nutrition indicators.		
	Operational arrangements	14	If relevant, does the project describe the human resources required to implement the nutrition-related activities? Does it plan to recruit nutrition expert(s)?	If relevant to provide detailed information on the human resource plan, the human resources required to implement the nutrition components of the project are well defined.		
Operational arrangements	15	Does the project identify the nutrition partners to be involved in implementing nutrition-related actions?	The project describes the partnerships that will be established and which institutions (or types of institutions) will support the implementation of nutrition activities.			

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