

Report on National Nutrition Mission

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In News: NITI Aayog has released “Accelerating Progress On Nutrition In India: What Will It Take”.

About the Report:

- The third progress report (October 2019-April 2020) takes stock of the roll-out status on the ground and implementation challenges encountered at various levels through large scale datasets.
- These datasets are the NFHS-4 and Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS).
- The initial Reports I and II, focused majorly on the mission’s preparedness and implementation by States and UTs, respectively.
- The review report was drafted in March 2020 and does not factor worsening poverty and hunger levels since then, which are expected to have gone down further due to the Covid-19.

Key takeaways

- The third progress report (October 2019-April 2020) takes into account the status on the ground and implementation challenges encountered at various levels through large scale datasets.
- These datasets are the NFHS-4 and Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS).
- According to the report, India’s targets are conservative on stunting as compared to the global target defined by the World Health Assembly (WHA). It is a prevalence rate of 5% of stunting as opposed to India’s goal of reducing stunting levels to 13.3% by 2022.

- The targets of reducing prevalence levels of anaemia among pregnant women from 50.3% (2016) to 34.4% (2022) and among adolescent girls from 52.9% (2016) to 39.66% are also considered to be conservative as compared to the WHA's target of halving prevalence levels.
- In the wake of the pandemic, experts warn that deepening poverty and hunger may delay achieving the goals defined under the Mission.

Suggestions by the NITI Aayog:

▪ On Stunting:

- To improve complementary feeding using both behaviour change interventions and complimentary food supplements in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS);
- To work towards investments in girls and women;
- To improve water, sanitation, handwashing with soap and hygienic disposal of children's stools.

▪ On Wasting:

- To include interventions that go beyond the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and also address moderate wasting;
- To scale-up to reach facility-based treatment of SAM;
- To urgently release a full strategy for prevention and integrated management of wasting nationally.

On Anaemia: To scale-up scenario that focuses only on health sector interventions which will achieve modest improvements in anaemia among women of reproductive age

National Nutrition Mission

- Launched in: 2018
- It is Indian Government's flagship programme.
- Objective: To improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

- It is backed by a National Nutrition Strategy prepared by the NITI Aayog with the goal of attaining “Kuposhan Mukh Bharat” or malnutrition-free India, by 2022.
- Aims: (1) To reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia and low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively; (2) To address the problem of malnutrition in a mission-mode.
- 50% of the total budget comes from the World Bank or other multilateral development banks and the rest of the 50% is through Centre’s budgetary support.
- The Centre’s budgetary support is further divided into 60:40 between the Centre and the States, 90:10 for the north-eastern region and the Himalayan States and 100% for the Union Territories (UTs) without legislature.