

### 3 National Nutrition Policy and Plan of Action : Instruments for Philippine Development<sup>1)</sup>

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#### Abstract

In the Philippines, nutrition is a matter of national policy. It draws concrete support from the executive and legislative branches of government at the national and local levels, and the communities themselves. The national plan of action for nutrition is an integral component of the overall national development plan and is recognized as an important element to achieve the national development goals of international competitiveness, people empowerment and human development. Consistent with the decentralization and devolution policy, nutrition has remained one of the objectives, and indicator of performance, and likewise, an integral component of local development plans and programs.

The experience of the Philippines in improving nutrition has highlighted the need to address current as well as emerging nutritional problems not only through well-designed and efficiently implemented direct nutrition interventions, but also through actions in the development and social services sectors. This has also illustrated the importance of having a strong nutrition infrastructure for policy-making, guiding and coordinating multi-sectoral efforts at both the national and local levels ; and the need for reliable, timely and accurate nutrition information within the country.

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