

**Towards healthier populations by investing in nutrition and UHC**

A Side-event co-hosted by Uruguay, Ecuador, the European Union and other Member States (TBC)

DRAFT 19 September 2019

- 1) **On 23 September 2019, the Governments of Uruguay, Ecuador, and the European Union co-sponsor a special event on investing in nutrition and UHC for healthier populations. The event will be supported by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, and will take place in Conference Room 5 from 1:15 to 2:30 hrs.**

**Key Messages**

- UHC cannot be realized without guaranteeing that everyone, including those who cannot pay, have access to the services that they need, when they need them.
- Good health is not possible without good nutrition. However, unhealthy diet and malnutrition is the leading risk factor for the Global Burden of Disease and death.
- The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, proclaimed in 2016 marks a new direction in global nutrition action, and aims to contribute to our shared goal of ending malnutrition in all its forms, under the normative framework of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Primary health care (PHC) is centred on meeting the health needs of all individuals, families and communities by way of comprehensive care and strategically-provided integrated health services throughout the life-course.
- The 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata set out PHC as the way to achieve health for all and centred “the promotion of food supply and proper nutrition” as one of the minimum requirements of PHC.
- The 2018 Declaration of Astana has renewed political commitment to PHC and UHC from governments, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, academia and global health and development organizations.
- It is time to reclaim the importance of nutrition in PHC as a key component of UHC.

- 2) **Organized at the side-lines of the UN High-level Meeting on UHC, the aim of this event is to draw attention to the fact that good health is not possible without good nutrition. That without investing in nutrition, the objectives of UHC cannot be met.** Nearly one in three people around the world has at least one form of malnutrition, and based on current trends this number is set to rise to one in every two by 2025. Unhealthy diet and malnutrition is the leading risk factor for the Global Burden of Disease and death, claiming 11 million lives in 2017, yet these losses are almost entirely preventable. Addressing the challenge of malnutrition in all its forms requires multisectoral actions, including in health, agriculture, trade, social protection and education. But **a major global impact can be achieved if good quality nutrition services are provided to the entire world population as part of UHC.**
- 3) **This event is designed to foster dialogue among, generate interest and encourage commitments from existing as well as new health and nutrition actors.** A convincing way to do this is by providing case studies of countries that are implementing actions to end malnutrition in all its forms in different contexts through the health sector. The event will also discuss gaps and bottlenecks for ensuring high coverage of high quality essential nutrition actions through primary health care. Malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) need to be prevented and controlled: the health sector has a key role to play. Governments need to embed

nutrition in their national health strategies and plans, in coherence with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and social security, agriculture, and education plans and strategies.

- 4) Participants will include representatives from global, regional and national levels; high, low and middle-income Member States; UN agencies and coordination mechanisms, World Bank and other Financial Institutions, multistakeholder platforms; and delegates from civil society, academia, and the business community working in different sectors and in different settings, including emergencies. Participation of stakeholders from the north and the south highlights the universal nature of both the need for UHC and the fight against malnutrition and the need for action by all governments to leave no one behind.

### **Organizing Partners**

- 5) The side event will be **co-hosted by Uruguay, Ecuador, and the European Union (confirmed) and other Member States (TBC)**
- 6) **The event is co-organized** by the World Health Organization, the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, and UNICEF (confirmed).
- 7) **The event will be open** to Member States missions in New York, and representatives from the UN system, business, civil society, financial institutions, regional bodies, parliamentarians and donors. Registration for participants other than Member States is mandatory.

### **Logistics**

The event will be live streamed on UN WebTV. Working language would be English only.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- 8) Participants are expected to come away with a deeper understanding of and engagement about three issues:
  - Investing in nutrition will accelerate, consolidate and support investments made in UHC for healthier populations.
  - Not investing in nutrition will compromise achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including targets 3.4, 3.8, 2.2 among many others.
  - Investing in UHC and investing in nutrition are mutually reinforcing and SMART investments for healthier populations.

### **Agenda and speakers**

Master of ceremony and moderator for the event: Gerda Verburg, SUN Global Coordinator and UN Assistant Secretary-General

The proposed agenda consist of:

- Welcome
- Introduction: Member State perspectives on investing in nutrition for UHC
- Panel discussion
- Interaction with participants
- Concluding remarks

## Agenda

### Towards healthier populations by investing in nutrition and UHC

Time	
	<u>Master of ceremony and moderator</u> : <b>Ms. Gerda Verburg</b> , Global Coordinator SUN Movement, UN Assistant Secretary-General
<b>13:15</b> <b>13:20</b>	Participants enter the room
<b>13:20</b> <b>13:22</b>	<u>Opening</u>  <b>Ms. Gerda Verburg</b> welcomes all to the event
<b>13:23</b> <b>13:40</b>	<u>Member State perspective on the topic:</u>  <b>H. E. Daniel Kablan Duncan</b> , Vice-President Côte d'Ivoire: a Member State perspective on the topic  <b>Dr Catalina Andramuño</b> , Minister of Public Health Ecuador: a Member State perspective on the topic  <b>Dr Jorge Basso</b> , Minister of Public Health Uruguay: a Member State perspective on the topic
<b>13:41</b> <b>14:05</b>	<u>Panel discussion: Why reclaim the importance of nutrition in PHC as a key component of UHC?</u>  <b>Dr Naoko Yamamoto</b> , Assistant Director-General Healthier Populations Division, WHO: the importance of mainstreaming nutrition through the health system to achieve UHC  <b>Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis</b> , EU Commissioner of Health and Food Safety: actions of the EU: good nutrition for good health  <b>Dr Bridget Aidam</b> International Nutrition & Implementation Research Advisor, World Vision: Eye witness from the field: do people have access to nutrition interventions through the health system?  <b>Mr. Tarek Ezzine</b> , Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA): investing in the health workforce and the need for training medical doctors on nutrition  <b>Dr Andrew Murrison</b> , Minister of State, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland : Looking ahead to 2020
<b>14:06</b> <b>14:25</b>	<u>Dialogue with participants of the event</u> - Questions and comments from the floor and interactive discussion on the topic (time permitting)  Comments from the floor by the representative from Japan, World Obesity, CFS Chair
<b>14:26</b> <b>14:30</b>	<u>Closing Remarks</u>  <b>Ms. Gerda Verburg</b> , Global Coordinator SUN Movement, UN ASG: summary of the key messages

## **Background**

- 1) UHC is founded on three objectives: equity, quality, and financial risk protection. In terms of equity, UHC cannot be realized without guaranteeing that everyone, including those who cannot pay, have access to the services that they need, when they need them. UHC is the principle underlying primary health care. Primary health care (PHC) is centred on meeting the health needs of all individuals, families and communities by way of comprehensive care and strategically-provided integrated health services throughout the life-course. The strength of a PHC system depends on the accessibility of services, strategically located within communities; on trained health care providers who are motivated and empowered to provide quality primary care; and on systems and policies that ensure essential interventions are of high quality. The entire system's success depends on adequate funding to provide a basic package of affordable primary care services for all.
- 2) The 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata set out PHC as the way to achieve health for all and centred "the promotion of food supply and proper nutrition" as one of the minimum requirements of PHC. The 2018 Declaration of Astana has renewed political commitment to PHC and UHC from governments, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, academia and global health and development organizations.
- 3) Preventing malnutrition in all its forms is essential for achieving the ambitions of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Malnutrition, in all its forms, represents a significant barrier to equitable and sustainable social and economic development. Variations in nutritional status and access to healthy diets are both a driver and an outcome of inequity. Undernutrition inhibits cognitive development and educational achievement, both important determinants of labour productivity and economic growth. Malnourished children in the poorest income groups are most likely to face multiple deficits and require effective intervention coverage for prevention, treatment and care. Overweight and obesity are important risk factors for noncommunicable diseases like Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.
- 4) By investing in improved nutrition, Member States and their partners in sustainable development can ensure that all people, societies and nations can reach their full potential, and contribute to the attainment of commitments of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the Sustainable Development Goals, and can ensure that all people, societies and nations can reach their full potential and people's right to health, to safe water and to adequate nutrition is fulfilled. Estimates suggest that up to 11% of gross domestic product is lost to maternal and child undernutrition; and the total economic impact of obesity is estimated at 2.8% of GDP worldwide. Well-nourished children are 33% more likely to escape poverty as adults and investments in nutrition are able to generate benefit-cost returns of 16-to-1.

## **Description of The Decade of Action on Nutrition, 2016-2025**

- 5) On 1 April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2; Rome 19–21 November 2014); decided to proclaim 2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, while relying on existing resources and institutions; and invited Governments and other relevant stakeholders to actively support the implementation of the Decade, including through voluntary contributions, as appropriate. In doing so, the General Assembly also reaffirmed its commitment under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end malnutrition in all its forms.
- 6) The Decade of Action on Nutrition is an unprecedented opportunity for nutrition action and sets a concrete timeline to increase activities conducted at national, regional and global levels

in order to implement the actions recommended in the Framework for Action from the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), so as to achieve existing global targets for nutrition by 2025 and to attain by 2030 the corresponding targets in the Agenda for Sustainable Development. As an umbrella for consolidating and aligning nutrition actions, the Decade will facilitate policy processes across the areas identified in the ICN2 outcome documents. Co-convened by FAO and WHO, an open and inclusive process will be established for Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and platforms, and non-State actors to set, track and achieve SMART policy commitments to end all forms of malnutrition worldwide. These commitments should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, and their implementation and impact be tracked and monitored, by means of existing indicators. Where possible, SMART commitments which target overweight and obesity and nutrition-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and at the same time reduce undernutrition (so-called double-duty policy actions) could be considered.