Progress in implementing the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)

Virtual Briefing for Mission Focal Points in Geneva

03 November 2022
Introduction to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025
What resolution 70/259 asks Governments to do?

- The UN General Assembly requests Governments and other relevant stakeholders, to actively support the implementation of the Decade, including through voluntary contributions, as appropriate.

Aims to:

- **Accelerate** the implementation of the ICN2 commitments
- **Achieve** the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025
- **Contribute** to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030
The Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade

Emphasizes action across six action areas, based on the **60 recommendations** of the ICN2 Framework for Action

1. Sustainable, resilient **food systems** for healthy diets
2. Aligned **health systems** providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions
3. **Social protection** and nutrition education
4. **Trade** and **investment** for improved nutrition
5. Safe and **supportive environments** for nutrition at all ages
6. Strengthened governance and **accountability** for nutrition
In 2020, 43.8 percent of infants under 6 months were exclusively breastfed – up from 37.1 percent in 2012.

Among children under 5 years of age, an estimated 22 percent were affected by stunting, 6.7 percent by wasting and 5.7 percent by overweight in 2020.

Nearly 30 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years were affected by anaemia in 2019.
WE ARE NOT ON TRACK TO ENDING HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION – MAJOR DRIVERS AND UNDERLYING FACTORS ARE CHALLENGING US

UNDERLYING CAUSES OF POVERTY & INEQUALITY

COVID-19 pandemic

Economic slowdowns and downturns

Climate variability and extremes

Conflict

Cost and affordability of healthy diets
Highlights of advancements over the period from November 2020 to October 2022
Action Area 1 – Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets

Highlights

- CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (Feb 2021)
- UN Food Systems Summit (Sept 2021)
- Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit convened by the Government of Japan (Dec 2021)
- WHO new narrative ‘Food Systems for Health’ and menu of priority actions
  - Increased number of countries with grain fortification policies

- Launch of One Health High-level Expert Panel (WHO, FAO, WOAH and UNEP)
- WHA75 approved new WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030
- Advancement in the nutrition and health argument for climate action for the forthcoming Conference of the Party (COP27)
Action Area 2 – Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

Highlights

- **UN Global Action Plan on Wasting** (FAO, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA) – roadmaps of 23 frontrunner countries
- Preparation underway for **Call for multisystem priority actions** in humanitarian contexts (FAO, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP)
- WHA75 approved the **Obesity Action Acceleration plan** – 24 countries already committed to it
Action Area 3 – Social protection and nutrition education

UNited Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition
2016-2025

Highlights

- **COVID-19 crisis resulted in an unprecedented global social protection response** and many countries have made significant progress in the extension of social protection coverage. Yet uneven coverage across regions persist in 2020.

- The Secretary General’s Global Crisis Response Group **called for strengthening social protection systems** with special attention to the nutritional needs of women and children.

- **44 governments and 66 other stakeholders made new commitments** to nutrition policy action including social protection policies, at N4G Summit.
Action Area 4 – Trade and investment for improved nutrition

Highlights

- The 2021 WTO Global Dialogue on Trade and Trade Dialogues on Food addressed how the multilateral trading system can contribute to achieving good nutrition in the face of climate change and further explored the nutrition and international trade nexus.

- Donor governments and donor organizations committed to new nutrition financing of around US$27 billion at N4G.

- At the N4G Summit, 4 governments committed to increase national budget allocations to nutrition.
Action Area 5 – Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages

Highlights

- A clean, healthy and sustainable environment for the **enjoyment of all human rights** was affirmed by resolution A/RES/76/300

- **National food systems transformation pathways** that resulted from the UNFSS, integrate healthy public food procurement (68), and action for addressing the supply of foods high in unhealthy fats, sugars and salt through
  - nutrition labelling (23), product reformulation (15), marketing restrictions (20), fiscal policies (21) or managing conflicts of interest (3) (source: WHO preliminary analysis of 104 pathways)
Action Area 6 – Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition

Highlights

- **UN Nutrition** was established (ICN2 Recommendation 7)
- Launch of regional roadmap for the Americas to preventing and managing conflicts of interest in country-level nutrition programs to advance transparent and accountable governance processes
- **New platform for assessing and tracking nutrition financing** and N4G commitments by Global Nutrition Report
- New commitments by 14 countries to **strengthening national nutrition information systems** for better decision-making, at N4G Summit
Global Initiatives that advance the ICN2 recommendations

UN Food Systems Summit, September 2021
- 117 national food systems transformation pathways

Nutrition for Growth Summit, December 2021
- 396 new nutrition commitments by 181 stakeholders from 78 countries
- Across the thematic areas of health (67%), food (63%), resilience (41%), accountability (27%), financing (27%)

African Year of Nutrition 2022
- Declared by the African Union under the theme
  “Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent”

Commitments to nutrition action made through these platforms contribute towards achieving the aims of the Decade and the SDGs
Action Networks and new Coalitions

The concept of the Decade’s country-led action networks is mirrored in the new Coalitions that emerged from the UNFSS process.

WHO is member of:

- The Coalition of Action on **Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems** for Children and All, launched in May 2022

- The **School Meals** Coalition, launched in November 2021
Suggested focus for priorities for the period 2023-2025
The remainder of the Nutrition Decade presents a critical window of opportunity to accelerate progress towards the eradication of hunger and all forms of malnutrition, helping countries to achieve the SDGs, leaving no one behind.
Suggested focus of priorities by Member States

- **Accelerate efforts across the six action areas** of the Decade’s Work Programme, to address all forms of malnutrition using a *whole-of-government* approach.

- **Deliver on their food and nutrition commitments** (programmatic and financial), with focus on concrete action and effective use of existing policy guidance for long-term sustainable impact.

- **Strengthen ‘food systems for health’ policy action** at the country level.

- **Integrate nutrition and food systems actions** within *Nationally Determined Contributions* for people and planetary health e.g., COP28 in 2023.
Suggested focus of priorities for the Secretariat

- **Continue assisting Member States** in national plans to achieve global nutrition targets

- **Address the trade-nutrition nexus**: Strengthen needed evidence and guidance, including on conducting analysis of impact of trade on nutrition in countries

- **Address the climate-nutrition nexus**: Advance support to countries within the context of climate change for example through advocacy, normative guidance and technical support

- **Strengthen UN interagency coordination mechanisms**, at the request of Member States
Towards the End of the Decade

- The WHO Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, could prepare and convene open and inclusive dialogues towards the end of the Decade, 2025

- The purpose of these Dialogues would be to reflect on global progress and challenges encountered during the Decade and identify a potential way forward, towards 2030 or beyond