Mid-term Review of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)

Virtual Informal briefing to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York

23 July 2020
Introduction to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025

Dr Anna Lartey
Director, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO
UN General Assembly requested Governments and other relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia:

- To actively **support the implementation** of the Nutrition Decade, including through **voluntary contributions**, as appropriate

UN General Assembly requested **FAO and WHO:**

- to **lead the implementation** of the Nutrition Decade in collaboration with WFP, UNICEF and IFAD, using the Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
The aim of the Nutrition Decade is to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025 and contribute to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030.
Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade

The Work Programme **emphasizes action, not just advocacy**

The Work Programme embraces **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
Mid-term Review Process
Mid-term Review – Objectives

- To assess and evaluate the achievements in individual policy areas of the ICN2 Framework for Action, as reflected in the six action areas of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade, from 2016 to 2020.

- To revise the current Work Programme as appropriate, including the identification of focus areas for priority action for the period 2021-2025.
Mid-term Review – Process

2nd progress report for UN Secretary General - Progress 2018-2019

Foresight paper - Future priorities for revised Work Programme

2020 – Stakeholder Consultation Process
- WHO Missions – March
- FAO Members – April
- Civil Society – April
- Private Sector – May
- UN Agencies – June
- NY Missions – July

Develop revised Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade (Fall 2020)

* High level Meeting in New York (2021)
* UN Food Systems Summit (2021)
* Nutrition for Growth Summit (2021)

E-consultation by UNSCN
Summary of achievements over the period from 2016 to 2020
Country-specific commitments for action on nutrition

The Nutrition Decade, building on the ICN2 commitments, continues to raise awareness, fuel discussion and stimulate action, bringing countries and stakeholders together to collaborate in novel ways reflecting the new nutrition reality.

Nations, regions, cities and communities are acting for improved nutrition for all, everywhere at all times.

Three countries have formally submitted country-specific commitments under the Nutrition Decade: Brazil, Ecuador and Italy.
Action Networks

**Regional**

**Fiji:** Ending Childhood Obesity in the Pacific

**Chile:** Healthy Food Environments in the Americas

**Brazil:**
- Reducing Salt Consumption
- Promote Food Guidelines
- Food and Nutrition Security Governance
- Public Purchasing of Family-produced Food
- Sustainable School Feeding

**Global**

**Norway:** Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition

**France/Australia/Chile:** Nutrition Labelling

**Italy:** Traditional, Healthy and Sustainable Diets

**Germany:** Provision of Healthy School Meals
Action Area 1 – Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets

Highlights

- Preparation underway **CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition**
- World Food Safety day declaration (December 2018)
- First International Conference on Food Safety (Addis Ababa, February 2019)
- UNGA Resolutions adopted in December 2019:
  - 2021: **International Year of Fruits and Vegetables**
  - 29 September: **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste**
Action Area 2 – Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

Highlights

■ UN Resolutions 73/132 and 74/2, adopted in 2018 and 2019 respectively, on Universal Health Coverage
  – Mainstreaming a package of nutrition interventions in the health system will be essential

■ UN Global Action Plan on Wasting (FAO, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA)

■ Declaration of the G20 Meeting of Health Ministers (Okayama, October 2019) committed to accelerate efforts to enhance nutrition and address all forms of malnutrition
Action Area 3 – Social protection and nutrition education

Highlights

- Most countries in Asia and the Pacific have increased investments in social protection over the past two decades. Yet countries still only spend around 14 percent of total government expenditures on social protection, compared to an average of 42 percent of government expenditure in Europe.

- Most countries have some form of school health and nutrition programme, although some of them seem to have deteriorated in recent years, and schools are still underused as a platform to promote healthy diets.
Action Area 4 – Trade and investment for improved nutrition

Highlights

■ Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed in July 2018 to undertake new work to develop guidance on front-of-pack nutrition labelling, which is expected to impact national nutrition policy decisions and international trade.

■ International Forum on Food Safety and Trade (Geneva, April 2019) explored opportunities and challenges in strengthening food safety systems, particularly through trade, while consumers have access to a great quantity and diversity of food with the substantial expansion of global trade.
Action Area 5 – Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages

Highlights

■ Status report 2018 on national implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes: 136 out of 194 countries had some form of legal measure

■ 5th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Annual Gathering and Mayors Summit (Montpellier, October 2019) focused on food environments

■ 2019 Prince Mahidol Awards Conference (Bangkok, February 2019) focused on NCDs and a whole-of-society approach

■ International Symposium on Understanding the Double Burden of Malnutrition (DBM) for Effective Interventions (Vienna, December 2019): ensuring an enabled environment for good nutrition at each life stage
Action Area 6 – Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition

Highlights

■ UN Resolution 73/132, the General Assembly reiterated its call for the scaling up of national commitments and increasing investments for nutrition under the Nutrition Decade's Work Programme

■ CFS High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition released recommendations for managing multi-stakeholder partnerships for food security and nutrition in June 2018

■ Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition (Madrid, October 2018) committed to build a network of parliamentary alliances to support achievement of SDG2 and progress towards implementing the ICN2 commitments

■ Merger UNSCN & UN Network for SUN: UN Nutrition
Contribution by UN Agencies and Non-State Actors

The Nutrition Decade induced further engagement of stakeholders

Contributions by UN organizations
- FAO, WHO, IAEA, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, UNSCN, Special Rapporteur on the right to food, UN Inter-Agency Task Force NCDs

Contributions by Non State Actors
- Private Sector Mechanism for the relations with the CFS, Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, Civil Society ICN2 Group, Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism for CFS, International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition
Summary of suggested focus areas for priorities for the period 2021-2025

Dr Francesco Branca
Director, Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO
Nutrition Decade contributing to the Decade of Action for Achieving the Global Goals

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.
The world is not on track to defeat malnutrition

While there is progress on child stunting and exclusive breastfeeding, child overweight is not improving, and adult obesity is on the rise.
More than 3 billion people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet

Average percentage of population who could not afford a healthy diet in 2017
## COVID-19 and Nutrition Consequences

| Supply side (agriculture, fisheries) | • Border closures  
• Labour shortages  
• Increased FLW (vegetables)  
• Closure of fresh food markets |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Food Environment                    | • Panic buying, especially of shelf stable foods  
• Shifts to more processed shelf stable foods  
• Suspension of school feeding programmes  
• Shortages of Fruits and Vegetables  
• Loss of jobs, less income  
• Increased opportunities for online food purchases |
| Diet                                | • More home cooking  
• Reduced access to fresh food markets  
• Increased use of processed foods  
• Home delivery to elderly |
| Nutrition                           | • Projected increase in child stunting  
• Increased child wasting  
• Potential risks for obesity & diet-related NCDs |
Responses to the COVID-19 crisis

- UN Secretary General Policy Brief
- Call to Action by the 4 Principals of FAO/UNICEF/WFP/WHO
- Guidance and tools to support policy and programmatic adaptation to respond to the impact of COVID-19

| Supply side (agriculture, fisheries) | • Promoting mitigating actions to avoid turning this serious health crisis into a food crisis (FAO)  
• Sharing info on best practices to mitigate disruption in food supplies (FAO)  
• Food Safety Control Guidance (WHO/FAO)  
• Food Business Guidance to protect food supply and health of food workers (WHO)  
• Guidance on Reducing public health risks in the sale of live wild animals for food in traditional food markets (WHO/FAO/OIE)  
• World Food Safety day (June 7th) |
| Food Environment | • Food baskets being provided to student’s families-including perishable and fresh food  
• Supporting LMIC to mitigate Covid-19 impact on food security, nutrition and livelihoods (e.g. smallholder farmers, schoolchildren) (FAO) |
| Diet and Health | • Operational Guidance for maintaining Essential Health Services and for Community-based health care (WHO/UNICEF)  
• Messaging on Breastfeeding continuation and Healthy Diet (WHO)  
• Policy brief on maintaining healthy diets, social protection, global food trade, food value chains, food waste, etc. (FAO) |
Mid-term Review – Foresight paper

- Developed by the joint FAO/WHO Nutrition Decade Secretariat as a background paper for the Mid-term Review process
- **Objective:** to serve as input for a series of consultations and dialogues with stakeholders at different levels
- **Outlines future opportunities for action**
  - Action Areas
  - New SMART commitments
  - Partnerships

Action Area 1 – Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets

Food systems need to enhance food security and nutrition for all, be inclusive and have a positive impact on the health of people and planet and be economically viable.

- Increased recognition of the role of agriculture and sustainable food systems
- Promote crop diversification
- Create healthy food environments
- Implement measures to ensure Food Safety standards
Action Area 2 – Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

Many effective essential nutrition actions are delivered through the health systems.

- Scale up the integration of Essential Nutrition-Actions into Universal Health Coverage plans
- Accelerate progress on wasting reduction programmes in children under 5 years of age
- Include Nutrition in health sector budgets and invest in integrated data systems
Action Area 3 – Social protection and nutrition education

The potential of social protection and education to address all forms of malnutrition needs to be more fully realized.

- Consider specific nutrition measures in social protection systems
- Better leverage schools for food and nutrition education
- Increase the number and quality of nutrition professionals
- Implement policies to ensure nutrition labelling on food products
Action Area 4 – Trade and investment for improved nutrition

Trade and investment policy are influencing malnutrition in all its forms, rather than driving healthy diets.

- Consider the impact of trade policies on food systems and maximize action to improve food security and nutrition
- Invest responsibly into agriculture and food systems
Action Area 5 – Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages

There remains much scope to scale-up and further strengthen country level action in this area.

- Improve food offer in public institutions
- Consider regulatory approaches to shape food price and availability
- Support the use of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition
Action Area 6 – Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition

Nutrition demands a whole of society approach with contributions from, and coordination among stakeholders and sectors.

- Ensure good mechanisms **to engage all sectors and stakeholders at all levels**
- Link with **UN Food Systems Summit** to maximize co-benefits across SDGs
- Use the **Nutrition for Growth Summit** to set new SMART Commitments for action on nutrition
- Establish mechanisms to **monitor implementation of commitments**
Cross Cutting Elements

Several cross-cutting issues can be identified across the six action areas

- Pursue effective partnerships and alliances
- Work across sectors
- Build national capacity for nutrition
- Improve national data on nutrition indicators
- Address the global nutrition finance and implementation gap
- Scale up implementation
Guiding Questions:

1. What lessons can we draw from the first five years of the Nutrition Decade, e.g. in terms of implementing policy or programme actions on nutrition, engaging partners or encountering obstacles in making progress?

2. What should be the priority actions for the second half of the Nutrition Decade to advance the global nutrition agenda, contribute to the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?

Participants have the opportunity to ask the floor through the Raise Hand function in the Participants menu.