

Bringing policies to life: Translating global nutrition policies into country practice

Abstract of the Side Event

Once a nutrition policy is created, there are numerous factors that shape and determine how that policy is operationalised and ultimately, the impact it will have. Some of these factors include the will of governments, rulemaking, funding, and the capacity to implement and coordinate nutrition actions across institutions and sectors. In the light of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and the follow-up to the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition, countries will be better able to demonstrate equitable and sustained improvements in nutrition outcomes when they have national institutions with sufficient capacity to address the factors that underpin all forms of malnutrition, as well as policies that are well adapted to the local context. While examples of how policies have translated into enhanced action for impact are available, they are yet to be adequately synthesized, analysed and shared.

This event will showcase the strategies that decision makers use and the change agents that they draw upon to ensure long standing nutrition results. Experiences from Egypt, Mali and Pakistan will showcase context specific examples, which will be supplemented with global trends through insights from practitioners, researchers and academia. The event will also allow for reflections on the OEWS on Nutrition with the aim of providing some insight into how policies translate into action on the ground, thereby highlighting pivotal issues that should be taken into consideration when nutrition policies are being developed.

Proposed Format of the Side Event

The event will start with a panel of country representatives who will share their experiences in translating policies into practice with help from various stakeholders. This initial session will be a mix of formal presentations and interview style questions from the moderator to dig further into their strategies. In a second round, panellists from academia and CSM will present the latest evidence from senior researchers and the research community and on how best to increase uptake.

Event Outcomes

The expected outcomes are: i) to provide a platform for learning and practical knowledge sharing across the global-country continuum; ii) to showcase concrete examples that highlight the need for greater policy coherence within the nutrition sector, as well as between nutrition and non-nutrition related sectors; iii) to deepen the understanding of CFS members on the importance of evidence-based policy measures for improving dietary choices and securing better nutrition outcomes; iv) to provide a networking platform for interested countries and partners. The outcomes of this event will also form valuable inputs into the CFS policy convergence work on Nutrition and Food Systems, as well as its work on monitoring.

This CFS45 side event is being organized by the UN Systems Standing Committee on Nutrition and the UN Network for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement.