



# Nutrition-Sensitive interventions: which ones should be prioritized?

Jose Luis Álvarez Morán  
Senior Technical Advisor ACF-UK

Oxford  
October 2014

# Background

- **Lancet series (2008-2013):** Evidence of nutrition specific intervention
- **World Bank & SUN:** costs
- But limited progress to understand the impact of **nutrition-sensitive**
- **Diagnostic framework** in 4 steps
- The effectiveness of nutrition specific interventions **will be increased and made more sustainable** by progress on the underlying causes of under nutrition
- **N4G**

## AID FOR NUTRITION

Maximising the impact of nutrition-sensitive interventions



# What is a nutrition sensitive intervention?

Nutrition-sensitive interventions consciously modify policy in key sectors so as to improve nutrition outcomes. Drawing on the best available evidence, interventions specify clearly the route from intervention to impact, and develop indicators to monitor progress along this pathway.

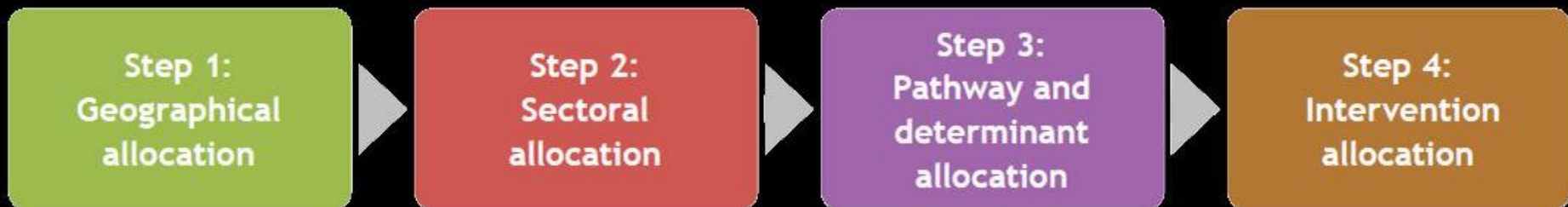
# Evidence in Nutrition sensitive sectors

- Agriculture
- Early Child Development and education
- Health and Family Planning
- Water and Sanitation
- Social Safety nets
- Poverty Eradication
- Health System Strengthening



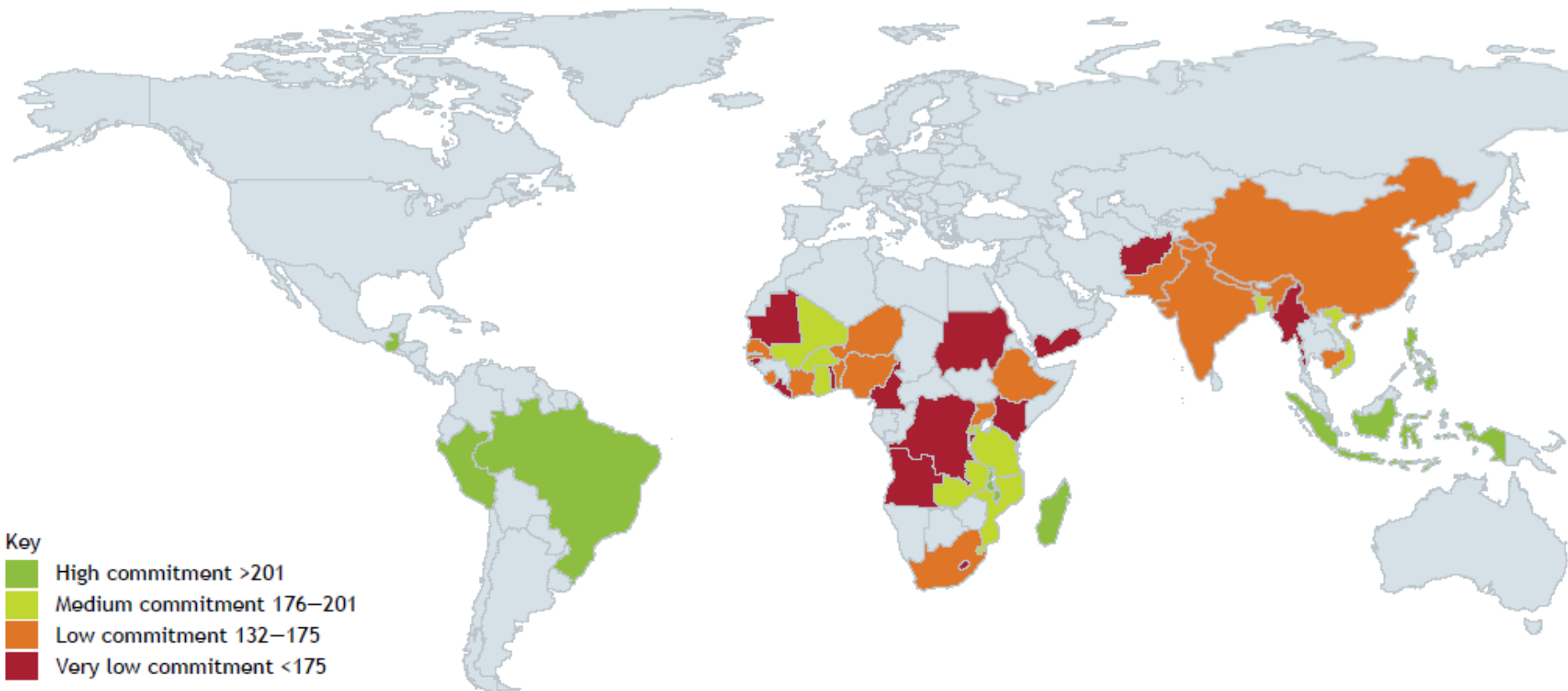
# A diagnostic framework for prioritizing nutrition-sensitive interventions

- Focus on the 1,000 day window
- Target the populations most affected
- Seek to empower women



# Step 1: Geographical allocations

- For actors seeking to maximise total impact
  - Countries with highest burden (stunting/wasting)
  - Countries with high political commitment
  - Relatively strong economic growth and low levels of inequality



# Step 2: Sectorial allocation

- Actors targeting the most disadvantaged

- Estimate gap between current and desired levels in each sector for the chosen location
- Weight these estimates by the strength of the potential impact
- Look for complementary interventions in other priority sectors

Regions	Priorities
South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food availability</li><li>• Women's education</li><li>• Women's relative status</li></ul>
Sub-Saharan Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food availability</li><li>• Women's relative status</li></ul>
East Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women's education</li><li>• Food availability</li><li>• Women's relative status</li></ul>
Near East and North Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women's education</li><li>• Women's relative status</li></ul>
Latin America and Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women's education</li><li>• Women's relative status</li><li>• Health environment</li></ul>

- Actors seeking to maximise total impact (the above plus)

- Examine disaggregated HANCI indicators to assess strength of commitment at the sector level
- Estimate relative capacity (perhaps using a capacity audit across sectors) and identify sectors with greatest capacity.

# Step 3: Pathway and determinant allocations

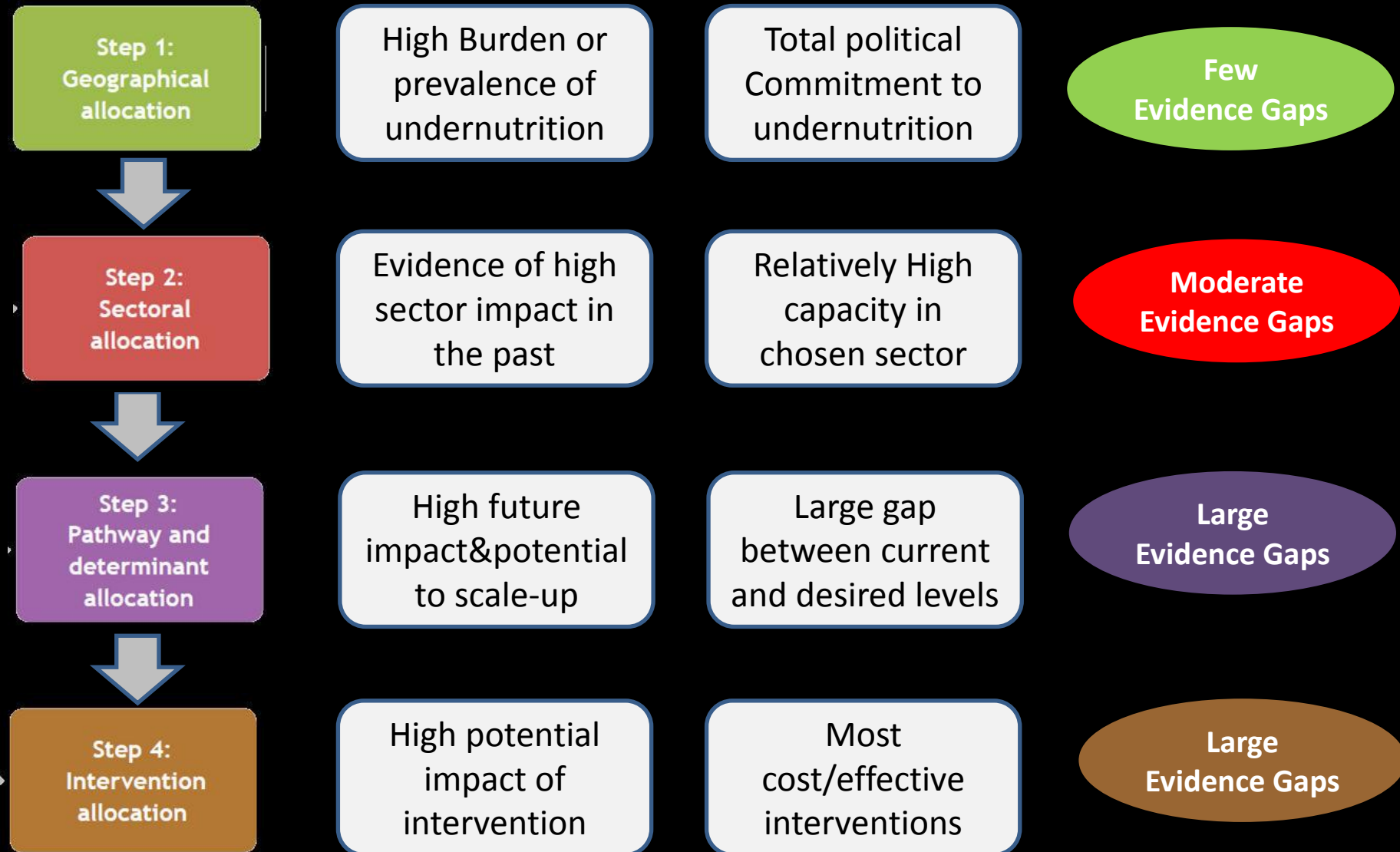
- Assess structure of economy and society
- Analyze distribution of undernutrition
- Assess historical importance of pathways for nutrition at country level
- Within prioritized pathways, estimate the gap between the determinant levels and desirable levels
- Identify priority determinants.



# Step 4: Intervention allocation

- Impact of intervention (total)
- Distributional assessment of impact (i.e. impact on different groups, particularly the poorest, most disadvantaged, and 'hardest to reach')
- Cost effectiveness of intervention
- Capacity.

# Decision criteria/Evidence gaps



# Implications for the future and a few questions

- How does your organization/agency prioritize the implementation of nutrition sensitive interventions?
- Do you think this kind of framework are needed?
- Would you put this framework to test?
- Are you planning to investigate any of the evidence gaps mentioned?

# Thank you



More information at  
[s.hauensteinswan@actionagainsthunger.org.uk](mailto:s.hauensteinswan@actionagainsthunger.org.uk)