

# Work Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, 2016-2025

## *Background*

1. Combatting malnutrition in all its forms is one of the greatest challenges all countries are facing. Today, nearly one in three persons globally suffers from at least one form of malnutrition: undernutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiency, overweight or obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). The developmental, economic, social and medical impacts of malnutrition are serious and lasting, for individuals and their families, for communities and for countries. Different forms of malnutrition co-exist – within the same country, community, household or individual.
2. In November 2014, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Member States and the global community committed to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms and articulated in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition a common vision for global action. They also agreed on a voluntary Framework for Action to achieve these commitments.
3. In September 2015, Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and placed high priority on addressing malnutrition by committing, under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. Member States further committed, under targets 2.1 and 2.2, “By 2030, [to] end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round” and “By 2030, [to] end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”
4. In April 2016, the UN General Assembly, through its Resolution 70/259<sup>1</sup>, endorsed the ICN2 outcomes and proclaimed 2016 to 2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (hereafter the “Nutrition Decade”). The General Assembly resolution also called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) “to lead the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition in collaboration with the World Food Programme [(WFP)], the International Fund for Agricultural Development [(IFAD)] and the United Nations Children's Fund [(UNICEF)], and to identify and develop a work programme based on the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action, along with its means of implementation for 2016–2025, using coordination mechanisms such as the Standing Committee on Nutrition [(UNSCN)]and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security [(CFS)], in line with its mandate, and in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms.”
5. In May 2016 the World Health Assembly (WHA) through Resolution 69/82 requested the Director-General of WHO to work with the Director-General of FAO “to support Member States,

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259)

<sup>2</sup> [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA69/A69\\_R8-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_R8-en.pdf)

upon request, in developing, strengthening and implementing their policies, programmes and plans to address the multiple challenges of malnutrition, and convene periodic meetings of inclusive nature to share best practices, including consideration of commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) within the framework of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025).”

6. This Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade has been developed according to the mandates of UN General Assembly Resolution 70/269 and taking into account WHA Resolution 69/8.
7. This Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade describes its aims, added value and guiding principles; key areas for priority action (action areas); modalities of engagement and roles of Member States and other stakeholders, as well as the tools for driving action (means of implementation); and accountability framework.
8. This Work Programme is a living document and is being developed through an inclusive, continuous and collaborative process, building upon and connecting the independent initiatives of governments and their many partners.

### *Aims and Added Value*

9. The aim of the Nutrition Decade is to provide a clearly-defined time-bound operational framework that works within existing structures and available resources to implement the commitments made at ICN2 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by:
  - Catalysing and facilitating alignment of on-going efforts of multiple actors from all sectors, including new and emerging actors, to foster a global movement to end all forms of malnutrition and leaving no one behind;
  - Supporting all countries’ efforts to address all forms and causes of malnutrition;
  - Stimulating the effective translation of the ICN2 commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete, nationally-determined policies and programmes;
  - Promoting coherence of national, regional and international policies across multiple sectors to combat all forms of malnutrition, including through improved monitoring and reporting of relevant policy impact at national, regional and global levels;
  - Mobilizing policy and financial commitments to achieve Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets endorsed by the ICN2<sup>3</sup> and the SDGs among all potential actors; and
  - Establishing, under Member States’ oversight, a global accountability framework and mechanism across sectors and constituencies building upon existing mechanisms, processes and tools.
10. The Nutrition Decade recognizes the emergence of local, national regional and global movements to end all forms of malnutrition and seeks to provide a framework in which

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<sup>3</sup> Namely: (1) 40 percent reduction of the global number of children under five who are stunted; (2) 50 percent reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age; (3) 30 percent reduction of low birth weight; (4) no increase in childhood overweight; (5) increase exclusive breastfeeding rates in the first six months up to at least 50 percent; and (6) reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5 percent and for nutrition-related NCDs: (a) to reduce salt intake by 30 percent; and (b) to halt the increase in obesity prevalence in adolescents and adults.

governments and their partners adopt and implement policies and programmes to create sustainable food systems and enabling environments that promote healthy dietary practices. The ultimate objective is to support fulfilment of the ICN2 commitments and achievement of the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025 as well as to contribute to the achievement of SDGs by 2030.

11. The added value of the Nutrition Decade is to:

- Highlight the urgency to act, guided by a collective vision of a world where all people at all times and at all stages of life have access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets;
- Establish a focused period to set, track and achieve impact and outcomes to generate and implement country-specific commitments for action from a diverse range of actors within and beyond the nutrition community;
- Provide an unprecedented opportunity to propagate society-wide movements for national policy change to end of all forms of malnutrition, in all countries;
- Provide global connectivity among all constituencies working on food and nutrition-related programmes and initiatives to create mutual learning and foster synergies for action to achieve common goals; and
- Put in place an accessible and transparent mechanism for tracking progress and ensuring mutual accountability for the commitments made, with biennial reporting to the UN General Assembly, the governing bodies of FAO and WHO, the CFS and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and multistakeholder forums.

## *Guiding Principles*

12. The Nutrition Decade will build on existing efforts, promote alignment among actors and actions, accelerate implementation of commitments, and foster new commitments in line with the transformative ambitions of the SDGs, ICN2 and the WHA targets. The Nutrition Decade will:

- Provide an inclusive umbrella for all relevant stakeholders to consolidate, align and reinforce nutrition actions across different sectors; build on existing efforts to improve nutrition worldwide, such as the Zero Hunger Challenge, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030), and the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020;
- Serve as a supporting and catalytic mechanism to accelerate actions and expand the geographic and sectoral scope of actions.

13. The Nutrition Decade will be inclusive, addressing all forms of malnutrition, maximizing participation by all actors and ensuring that the needs of all people are addressed. To this end, the Nutrition Decade will:

- Involve all countries, regardless of their income, the nature of their malnutrition challenges and the characteristics of their food and health systems;
- Address all people everywhere, including women and youth, as key stakeholders for success;
- Facilitate action across rural and urban areas and populations alike; urban systems and urban food environments may be settings to show rapid changes and success while rural settlements, villages and districts provide important settings for production, distribution and consumption of foods;

- Address the increasing number of emergencies (including natural disasters, conflicts and chronic emergencies) affecting the nutritional status of vast populations;
  - Engage and support all sectors of government, at all relevant levels, to ensure adequate prioritisation, funding and action on ending all forms of malnutrition;
  - Engage with a wide range of stakeholders including governments, inter-governmental organizations, international organizations, regional and local organizations, financial institutions, development banks, parliamentarians, cities, civil society organizations, academia, media, philanthropic foundations and the business sector which are invited to contribute their unique and valuable assets (including implementation, advocacy, technical assistance, funds, convening power), in line with and in support of national policies and programmes. Social movements representing peasants, small-scale fishers and fishing communities, pastoralists, urban poor, consumers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and agricultural and food workers will be key actors to establish a global movement on nutrition. The wealth of competencies and resources of the private sector, including smallholder farmers, small and medium enterprises, social enterprises, to larger national and multinational companies, needs to be harnessed by the Nutrition Decade with management of conflicts of interest.
14. The Nutrition Decade will provide an enabling environment such that national, regional and international policies and programmes respect, protect and fulfil human rights obligations in accordance with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and nutrition and other related human rights.
15. The Nutrition Decade will provide an enabling environment such that action taken by governments and other stakeholders, relies on the latest scientific evidence and will engage with academic institutions to further look for effective solutions.

## *Action Areas*

16. Action during the Nutrition Decade will be centred on six cross-cutting, integrative areas for impact, derived from the recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action. The six areas are:
- (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; and
  - (6) Strengthened nutrition governance and accountability.

While each of these thematic areas inform and frame action, they should not be seen as silos; policies and programmes will normally be linked to several areas at the same time.

17. The Nutrition Decade will foster national, regional and global policy dialogue to facilitate and enhance local action, which in turn aims to maximize impact at all levels. A localised approach will be important to ensure Member State ownership of initiatives and policies; to adjust to the different political structures and environments in which nutrition initiatives need to be taken; to

address the vast geographic and socio-economic differences within a given society; and to ensure that solutions are equitable and people-centred.

18. Priorities and the shaping of specific actions will depend on the interest and commitment expressed by governments, their partners and other potential actors. In support of this, a full and thorough mapping will be undertaken, building on what has already been done to identify and chart all existing nutrition-related initiatives and movements, financing mechanisms and policy actions, to ensure that the Nutrition Decade reflects the needs of Member States and the global nutrition community and can generate increased focus on identified gaps.

### **Action area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets<sup>4</sup>**

19. Current food systems are not delivering on the quality diet needed to sustain optimal health. Coherent action and innovative food system solutions are needed to ensure access to sustainable, balanced and healthy diets for all. The quality and sustainability of food systems are central in delivering healthy diets to populations and, through them, their social, economic and environmental sustainability. A food system approach – from production to processing, storage, transportation, marketing, retailing and consumption – is thus important to promote healthy, sustainable diets and improve nutrition as isolated interventions have a limited impact.
20. This area focuses on actions for sustainable food systems that promote healthy and safe diets, including national policies and investments and integrate nutrition and food safety objectives into food and agriculture policies; strengthen local food production and processing, especially by smallholder and family farmers; and develop, adopt and adapt, where appropriate, international guidelines on healthy diets as well as international standards, guidelines and codes of practice on food safety and quality.
21. Solutions should include: improved production, availability, accessibility and affordability of a variety of cereals, legumes, vegetables, fruits and animal-source foods, including fish, meat, eggs and dairy products, which should be produced and consumed sustainably; diets containing adequate macronutrients (carbohydrates, fats and protein), fibre and essential micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) in line with WHO recommendations on healthy diet..
22. In addition, food safety needs to be integrated into the global food security and nutrition agenda to make significant progress in improving nutrition. Food safety problems threaten the nutritional status of populations, particularly vulnerable groups such as the elderly, pregnant women and children. Food contaminated by chemical or biological hazards, including environmental pollutants, is the origin of many diseases, ranging from diarrhoea to cancer, undermining people’s lives, health and nutrition well-being, directly and indirectly. Morbidity due to diarrhoea, dysentery and other enteric diseases – arising from unsafe food, contaminated water and poor sanitation – has not declined much over recent decades. In some developing countries, children are chronically exposed, through their diets, to aflatoxins, which are not only carcinogenic, but also probably contribute to stunting.
23. One emerging food safety issue of global concern is antimicrobial resistance (AMR). While antimicrobial drugs are essential for both human and animal health and welfare, and critical to food producers’ livelihoods, their misuse has led to growing AMR threats to humans and agro-ecological environments. While addressing AMR requires a multisectoral “One Health Approach”,

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<sup>4</sup> Linked recommendations from ICN2 Framework for Action: 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 42, 50, 53, 55, 56, and 57.

significant challenges still remain in translating internationally-recognized standards and guidelines into appropriate national policies and actions.

## **Action area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions<sup>5</sup>**

24. Health systems are increasingly challenged to tackle the evolving needs presented by the multiple forms of malnutrition and their health consequences. Strong health systems are needed to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms through the delivery of evidence-informed nutrition interventions, as well as to prevent and treat recurrent infections which can aggravate undernutrition. Health systems also have to deal with the long-term health consequences associated with overweight and obesity and the prevention and control of diet-related NCDs.
25. Access to health services and financial risk protection for all – including the most marginalized and most vulnerable – is needed. This means universal health coverage (UHC), which implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally-determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative essential health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population<sup>6</sup>.
26. Incorporating the recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action on strong and resilient health systems, this area aims to focus on health care strengthening and UHC; on health systems strengthening to integrate nutrition actions effectively; and on fostering the promotion of universal access to all direct nutrition actions and relevant health actions impacting nutrition through health programmes.
27. This area supports related health and nutrition strategies and goals, including the WHO Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding, the WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition 2012-2025, and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020, through commensurate financing and adequate policies.

## **Action area 3: Social protection and nutrition education<sup>7</sup>**

28. In 2012, the UN General Assembly recommended comprehensive universal social protection, beginning with basic or minimum “social protection floors”. Given the limited and uneven progress in reducing poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and the currently dim prospects for economic and employment growth in much of the world, comprehensive social protection is needed to eliminate poverty and malnutrition in all its forms.
29. Social protection measures, such as food distribution, cash transfers, decent job creation and school feeding, can increase incomes and strengthen resilience. When combined with relevant health services, well-designed social protection programmes result in improved height, reduced

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<sup>5</sup> Linked recommendations from ICN2 Framework for Action: 25, 26, 27, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49.

<sup>6</sup> World Health Assembly Resolution A67.14. ([http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA67/A67\\_R14-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67/A67_R14-en.pdf)).

<sup>7</sup> Linked recommendations from ICN2 Framework for Action: 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

anaemia, increased dietary diversity and raised consumption of nutrient-dense foods, especially in low-income households with infants and children.

30. Knowledge and education empower people to make informed healthy dietary and lifestyle choices, to improve infant and young child feeding practices and care, and to improve hygiene and health-promoting behaviour. Lifestyle and behaviour change is an important objective of nutrition education. It can also help reduce food losses and waste and boost sustainable resource use.
31. Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and nutrition advocates should lead by example and can help promote desired healthy lifestyle changes, through active and accessible quality health and agricultural inputs and services, food and nutrition knowledge and skills included in primary and secondary school curricula (including teaching hygiene, food preparation and culinary practices in schools), public nutrition information, social marketing campaigns and regulations on nutrient and health claims.
32. This area combines recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action focusing on both actions for nutrition education and information and social protection. These include implementing nutrition education and information interventions based on national dietary guidelines and coherent policies related to food and diets; incorporating nutrition objectives into social protection programmes and humanitarian assistance safety net programmes; and the use of cash and food transfers, including school feeding programmes and other forms of social protection for vulnerable populations.

#### **Action area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition<sup>8</sup>**

33. Trade and investment have become increasingly important to food systems. Trade and investment agreements affect how the food system functions at global, regional, national and local levels, influencing food prices, availability, access and consumption as well as nutrition outcomes, food safety and dietary options.
34. Coherence between trade and nutrition policy is vital. Trade policy should support and provide adequate flexibility to implement effective nutrition policies and programmes. While trade has substantially increased the availability of and sometimes access to food for people, trade policies and agreements should not negatively impact the human right to adequate food. Implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should be supportive of food security and nutrition, and the obligation of Member States to promote, realize and protect the human right to adequate food. The recommendations of Codex Alimentarius are also the key for ensuring that international trade respects and promotes health and nutrition.
35. Acknowledging the importance of trade and investment for food systems, diets, food safety and food security, this area focuses on urging governments, UN agencies, programmes and funds, WTO and other international organizations to identify opportunities to achieve global food and nutrition targets through trade and investment policies; to develop and implement international standards; and to improve the availability and access of a safe and nutritious food supply through appropriate trade agreements and policies. These include fiscal tools such as taxation,

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<sup>8</sup> Linked recommendations from ICN2 Framework for Action: 4, 8, 17, 18, and 54.

subsidies for healthy foods (and removal of subsidies for unhealthy foods) as well as supply-side incentives.

### **Action area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages<sup>9</sup>**

36. This area stresses the importance of environmental determinants in malnutrition outcomes, including the school, home, hospital and work environments, food production as well as urban environments. This area stresses the need to promote, protect and support breastfeeding in all environments such as hospitals and the workplace.
37. This area also integrates the recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action on water, sanitation and hygiene. Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is recognized as a human right that is essential for health, prevention of diarrhoeal disease, therefore improving nutrition. Children who are affected by undernutrition are more likely to die from diarrhoea. In turn, diarrhoea undermines nutrition by reducing appetite and nutrient absorption. Over one billion people still practice open defecation. In line with the global call for action on sanitation, efforts should focus on improving hygiene, changing social norms, better management of human waste and waste-water, and completely eliminating the practice of open defecation by 2025.

### **Action area 6: Review, strengthen and promote nutrition governance and accountability<sup>10</sup>**

38. The development and costing of national multisectoral action plans for nutrition that engage multiple stakeholders and are led by a national multisectoral coordinating body are essential requirements for progress. Member States should develop new plans or update their previous ones in line with the recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action. Establishment of multistakeholder governance mechanisms should avoid conflicts of interest.
39. This area includes the renewed and strengthened monitoring and achievement of Global Nutrition Targets and NCD targets, as well the monitoring of the establishment of policies and legislation and the implementation of programmes, including in emergency situations. Reference indicators frameworks include the SDGs indicator framework, the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework and the Global Monitoring Framework on NCDs.

## *Means of Implementation*

40. This section describes the modalities of implementation of the Nutrition Decade by all actors.

### **Commitments for action**

41. Under the Nutrition Decade, Member States, regional political and economic communities and the global community are encouraged to translate the commitments made through the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition into SMART<sup>11</sup> commitments for action, in the context of national nutrition and nutrition-related policies and in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders,

<sup>9</sup> Linked recommendations from ICN2 Framework for Action: 13, 15, 16, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 39, 40, 41, 51, and 52.

<sup>10</sup> Linked recommendations from ICN2 Framework for Action: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 28, 34, 35, and 36.

<sup>11</sup> SMART commitments are those that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

particularly people and communities most affected by nutrition challenges. The 60 recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action, reflected in the above six action areas, represent a broad range of effective policy actions for addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Commitments that are SMART help all stakeholders understand what action is intended and improve tracking.

42. Member States will identify and commit to: (1) achieve one or more nutrition targets and intermediate milestones, consistent with the time frame for the implementation of the agreed six WHA Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD Targets; (2) implement one or more of the recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action, within the six action areas of the Nutrition Decade; or (3) mobilize financial resources on domestic and international action related to the action priorities of the Nutrition Decade.
43. While many countries have already developed food and nutrition policies, they could raise the level of ambition, improve the design, focus on priorities for action, allocate additional resources and develop a road map with time-bound operational targets to ensure that they are going to achieve the nutrition targets of the ICN2 and the SDGs.
44. Relevant UN system agencies and partnerships will assist countries to shape their own commitments and to call for adequate commitments from other stakeholders. FAO and WHO have prepared a resource guide to help the formulation of commitments.
45. Commitments from Member States and regional political and economic communities will be formalized through a communication between the Head of State or Minister and the Director-Generals of either FAO or WHO, or both. Commitments can be submitted continuously throughout the course of the Nutrition Decade. Commitments made by Member States and regional political and economic communities will be included in a publicly-accessible repository managed by FAO and WHO. Commitments can be made by public authorities at different levels of government, particularly by municipalities, but should always be transmitted through central authorities. Commitments from non-State actors will be made to Member States, which will communicate them to FAO and WHO. High-level commitments on ICN2 recommendations made on other platforms such as the CFS, Nutrition for Growth, the SUN movement or Every Women Every Child movement will be integrated into the Nutrition Decade commitment repository.
46. To the extent feasible, the Nutrition Decade Secretariat will endeavour to record and analyse voluntary commitments made by governments and their partners. Governments submitting commitments are expected to provide information annually to allow tracking of progress on implementation and to document achievements and successes. Non-State actors should provide tracking information to the governments they committed to.

### **Nutrition champions**

47. Governments and regional political and economic communities that have made formal registered commitments and that actively support their implementation by leading international initiatives will be Nutrition Decade champions. The Nutrition Decade champions are frontrunners and lead by example the global movement to improve nutrition.

### **Action networks**

48. Through the convening and catalytic roles of the Nutrition Decade, action networks will be established. These action networks are informal coalitions of countries aimed at advocating for the establishment of policies and legislation, allowing the exchange of practices, highlighting successes and providing mutual support to accelerate implementation.
49. An action network may be established at the request of one or more countries who would define the objectives, scope and initial programme of work, identify other partner countries, convene meetings and manage joint initiatives. Action networks may be regional or global, operate under the leadership of a government institution and may involve civil society, academia and the private sector, as appropriate. The UN system may be supporting the action network, particularly through the provision of operational tools.
50. Action networks have already been established in some areas (e.g. salt reduction, control of marketing foods to children) in some world regions. **Table 1** illustrates potential topics for the establishment of action networks, identified after a first round of conversations with Member States and potential partners.
51. The establishment of an action network should be communicated to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in writing by the convening country. The joint Secretariat will also disseminate the action network information, news and tools.

### **Fora and conferences**

52. FAO and WHO will identify fora for planning, sharing of knowledge, recognition of successes, voicing of challenges and obstacles and for promoting collaboration and support in any of the six action areas. Such fora can be convened by FAO and WHO or by other partners engaged in the Nutrition Decade.
53. FAO, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and others are working with the widest possible range of social actors and institutions, taking the opportunity to build upon and connect already planned events, and to organize new bridge-building events to promote the Nutrition Decade and its aims.
54. CFS will provide a platform for greater policy convergence as well as space for dialogue and experience sharing among governments and other stakeholders. CFS could assemble nutrition champions from different sectors to identify gaps, coordinate actions, strengthen collaborations, monitor impacts and build cross-sectoral coherence. Multistakeholder platforms, such as the SUN movement and Nutrition for Growth, will provide opportunities to discuss and mobilize financial and political commitments from governments, donors, civil society, UN and business. **Table 2** includes a list of potential convening opportunities for the first biennium of the Nutrition Decade.

### **Funding modalities**

55. The establishment of the Nutrition Decade has not come with a pledge for funding to support coordination activity. However, the Nutrition Decade will advocate for the mobilization of new financial resources to support implementation of national policies and programmes. Funding will be sought from a variety of sources, including development banks and foundations, and via innovative financing mechanisms as well as development assistance.

56. Costing of policies and programmes has been developed in several countries, and global costs of the scaling up of effective programmes to achieve global nutrition targets have been estimated by the World Bank<sup>12</sup>. The partners of the Nutrition Decade will collectively advocate for greater resources in a harmonized way and consider options for resource pooling.
57. The Nutrition Decade will foster the exchange of experiences on how domestic resources may be mobilized, for example through taxation of unhealthy products, or on how available country resources may be oriented towards nutrition objectives and can better leverage private investments.

### **Technical support for implementation**

58. The Nutrition Decade will seek to strengthen the quality and efficiency of policy and programme implementation and monitoring. Technical assistance will need to be responsive and opportunistic in leveraging technological advances. An emphasis will be placed on amplifying country capacities and on ensuring that knowledge and experiences are shared and successes are scaled up where possible.
59. The Nutrition Decade will focus on strengthening capacities at all levels, including the community level as appropriate. The Nutrition Decade will seek to expand the opportunities to provide technical assistance, for example by encouraging and facilitating bilateral policy collaboration, peer learning and technology transfer, and to generate new evidence.
60. All Nutrition Decade partners will provide technical support to the implementation of policies and programmes by sharing good practices, knowledge and technologies, innovation and research outcomes. The Nutrition Decade will strive to improve synergies in the provision of technical assistance by governments and international organizations in the context of development aid, as well as by NGOs, philanthropic foundations and the UN system.

### **Evidence-informed advocacy and communication**

61. The Nutrition Decade was launched on 19 July 2016 in New York on the sidelines of the meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), and a further advocacy event was arranged on 20 September 2016 during the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. Other similar advocacy events, such as regional and national launch events, will also be arranged.
62. Advocacy will be a key element of the Nutrition Decade. A network of advocates will be established at global and local levels, building on existing coalitions.
63. Aligning and strengthening capacities for evidence-informed advocacy across countries and nutrition actors in order to achieve the ambitions of the Nutrition Decade and the SDGs will be a key element of the Nutrition Decade implementation.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition/publication/an-investment-framework-for-nutrition-reaching-the-global-targets-for-stunting-anemia-breastfeeding-wasting>

64. Visual identity has been developed for use across the Nutrition Decade by all actors and partners involved. It is provided in all UN languages. Governments and other actors willing to use the Nutrition Decade visual identity may do so after authorization by FAO and WHO.<sup>13</sup>
65. Information on the Nutrition Decade is available on the respective websites of FAO<sup>14</sup> and WHO<sup>15</sup>, and will shortly be complemented by combined Nutrition Decade products and activities, including the following: dedicated website, printed and electronic documentation, webcast events, etc.
66. Specific and specialized campaigns on the Nutrition Decade will be co-developed by partners to prioritize and promote nutrition impact. These campaigns are being identified and are expected to include civil society platforms, existing nutrition-related campaigns and novel forms of media, including social media.

## Governance

67. The Nutrition Decade will not seek to establish new structures but will facilitate broad consultation among stakeholders to seek alignment of priorities, policy instruments, and monitoring mechanisms.
68. The Nutrition Decade has a joint FAO/WHO Secretariat supported by the UNSCN Secretariat as well as by WFP, IFAD, UNICEF and other relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes.
69. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will convene country representatives to discuss the Work Programme and progress reports. The Secretariat will also periodically convene and consult with other relevant stakeholders including international and regional organizations, financial institutions, parliamentarians, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Secretariat will use coordination mechanisms such as UNSCN, HLPF, CFS, SUN and the Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of NCDs<sup>16</sup>, and engage with other international and regional organizations and platforms, such as Nutrition for Growth, the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition and others. **Table 2** illustrates priority activities of the Secretariat for the first biennium of the Nutrition Decade.

## Accountability and Shared Learning

70. Biennial reports on the Nutrition Decade implementation will be submitted to the WHA, the FAO Conference and the UN General Assembly. The reports will contain a mapping of the commitments made by governments, their progress and achievements. The reports will also include a summary of global achievements, including the progress of CFS work on nutrition. The reports will also contribute to the SDG reporting needs.



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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/408970/icode/> [this is a link to a press release, not a webpage; there is no Decade-specific webpage on the FAO website, but some information on the Decade is available on the ESN webpage at <http://www.fao.org/nutrition/en/>]

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/en/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/history/en/>

71. All commitments submitted by Member States will be tracked on a regular basis through an open access database co-facilitated by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Nutrition Decade. Tracking implementation of country-specific commitments will be based on country self-assessments and facilitated through UN-led policy surveys. Commitments made by other stakeholders will be reported to Member States and included in their reports.
72. The biennial reports will provide opportunities for discussion among governments and other stakeholders of the progress under the Nutrition Decade. Comments made by the FAO and WHO governing bodies and by CFS will feed into the reports to the UN General Assembly. The Work Programme will be updated with each biennial report.
73. An open and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders to evaluate the progress of the Nutrition Decade will be convened at mid-term (2020-21) and at the end of the Nutrition Decade (2025). Member States will be consulted as to the format of the review.
74. A dialogue on accountability will be established with all relevant initiatives and platforms aimed at soliciting commitments in nutrition and related fields, such as Nutrition for Growth, CFS, Every Woman, Every Child, with the purpose of harmonizing the format and process of commitment submission, agreeing on criteria for commitment, ensuring quality and streamlining the tracking systems. The Countdown 2030, the Global Nutrition Report and the Independent Accountability Panel would also be important mechanisms for the Nutrition Decade accountability.
75. Progress in achieving the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets will be measured throughout the Nutrition Decade at national and global levels. Targeted programme and policy evaluations are encouraged and will be facilitated by the UN system to identify good practices.

## *Table 1: Potential topics for the development of commitments and the establishment of action networks*

Fruit and vegetable action network: sustainable intensification of agricultural production and agro-ecology, post-harvest and processing, markets, public and private investments, incentives for local markets and small farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
Animal source foods: sustainable livestock and poultry production, sustainable fisheries, markets and value addition, circular economy and waste reduction, equitable access, moving away from intensive farming systems and supporting small-scale farming and SMEs
Sustainable, healthy fisheries, oceans, seas and marine resources
Reduction of food waste and losses: provide good practices, examples of actions across the value chain, create alliances and inform consumers
Food reformulation: provide reference ranges for reformulation of products (removal of trans fatty acids, reduction of sodium, sugar and saturated fat and portion size) , reformulation technologies, establish country and regional platforms, product monitoring mechanisms; benchmarks/standards for complementary food; fortification ; support for food processing SMEs in developing countries
Anaemia: delivery in health systems of weekly iron/folic acid supplements
Acute malnutrition: improving availability and access to ready-to-use therapeutic foods
Adolescent health and nutrition: counselling, adolescent marriage, school health and nutrition
School food and nutrition: improved school curricula and nutrition standards for school meals
Health promotion: social marketing campaigns and lifestyle change communication programmes to promote healthy eating and physical activity
Breastfeeding and early nutrition: appropriate care practices and adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding, baby friendly hospital initiative, Code and Net-code, maternity protection laws
Nutrition sensitive investments: analysing the nutrition impact of public and private investment policies in the food sector; making the investment case for an investment shift
Urban sustainable food systems
Provision of healthy food in public institutions
Taxation of food and beverages, pricing policies for sugary drinks and unhealthy foods
Marketing foods and beverages to children
Action plan development and costing: national nutrition targets should be developed for countries not having these in place yet, as well as food-based dietary guidelines considering the national context and harmonizing relevant frameworks (such as WHA targets, SDGs and ICN2 commitments), while adopting a “leave no-one behind approach” to ensure progress for all
Monitoring and surveillance
Research and evidence generation: review of research priorities of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (sustainable production of fruit and vegetable); research community (collaborations for evidence generation and analyses)
Capacity and workforce
Conflict of interest
Combat against antimicrobial resistance

**Table 2 - Proposed priorities for the activities of the 1<sup>st</sup> biennium (April 2016-April 2018)**

<b>Secretariat Activities</b>	<b>Fora</b>	<b>Reports</b>
<b>Convening of Member States</b>	CFS 44 Annual Session (October 2017)	WHA (May 2017)
<b>Convening of non-State actors</b>	WHO Regional Committees (2017)	FAO Conference (July 2017)
<b>Mapping of initiatives and actors</b>	FAO Regional Conferences (2018)	CFS 44 Annual Session (October 2017)
<b>Approaching potential partners across sectors</b>	Nutrition for Growth (October 2017)	UNGA (Autumn 2017)
<b>Resource guide for commitment development</b>	SUN Global gathering (November 2017)	State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition (June 2017)
<b>Commitment database establishment</b>		Global Nutrition Report (November 2017)
<b>Advocacy and technical support to the submission of commitments and the establishment of action networks</b>		
<b>Dialogue on accountability with Every Woman Every Child</b>		