



Field Exchange Special Issue on Nutrition of Adolescents and School-aged Children, October 2021

Call for Content

Setting the scene

Adolescence, defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the period between 10 and 19 years of age, is a period of rapid growth and development, during which nutrition considerably impacts lifelong health and well-being. In addition, the nutritional status of adolescents, and of girls in particular, forms the foundation for healthy growth, development and susceptibility to disease in the next generation. This is particularly relevant in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where 95% of the 12 million global adolescent births occur each year.¹ While the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2, to 'end hunger' does include adolescents, little research, investment and attention in the global nutrition agenda has so far been targeted to this age group.²

Similarly, school-aged children (5-9 years) lack recognition in research, policy and programming, despite the detrimental effects of malnutrition on their health, cognitive development, educational attainment and future economic productivity.³ There is an urgent need to capture, collate and appraise available learning and evidence on the nutrition of adolescents and school-aged children to strengthen policy and programmatic responses and identify knowledge gaps to inform advocacy, priority actions and research agendas.

As a contribution to this effort, Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) is developing a Special Issue of its publication **Field Exchange** on **Nutrition of Adolescents and School-aged Children**. The objective of this Special Issue is to share important experiences and learning to build understanding of the burden of malnutrition in adolescents and school-aged children (5-19 years) in LMICs, along with the current status, gaps, innovative approaches and opportunities in policy and programme responses. The issue will include articles that share programming experiences and research findings across diverse LMICs, 'views' papers from key regional influencers, and summaries of important, relevant published papers and recent events. It is hoped that this Special Issue will help to; raise the profile of nutrition during later childhood and adolescence globally, support regional and national advocacy efforts to position adolescents and school-aged children higher on the political agenda, and guide context-specific policy and programme responses.

Both e-editions and print editions will be available from November 2021 and content will also be available online, including online articles and podcasts.

¹ World Health Organization. Adolescent pregnancy: evidence brief. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2019 [accessed 2021 Mar 2] Available from:

<https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/adolescent-pregnancy-evidence-brief/en/>

² Patton GC, Sawyer SM, Santelli JS, Ross DA, Afifi R, Allen NB, et al. Our future: a Lancet commission on adolescent health and wellbeing. *The Lancet* [Internet]. 2016 [accessed 2018 Mar 13];387:2423–78. Available from: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)00579-1/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)00579-1/abstract)

³ Das JK, Lassi ZS, Hoodbhoy Z, Salam RA. Nutrition for the next generation: older children and adolescents. *Ann Nutr Metab*. 2018;72 Suppl 3:56–64.

Call for content now open

We are issuing an open call for content on **nutrition of adolescents and school-aged children** for this Special Issue of *Field Exchange*. We have a particular interest in content around the following themes:

- Epidemiology and consequences of malnutrition (including wasting, stunting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity) during adolescence and later childhood, including sub-groups such as males, refugees, those out-of-school and those living in emergency contexts.
- Age inclusion and disaggregation of data for adolescents and school-aged children, including how malnutrition is assessed and defined in these age groups.
- Dietary knowledge and practices, as well as assessment of these, in adolescents and school-aged children.
- Intergenerational links between adolescent nutrition and the health of offspring.
- Interventions and programmes to improve the nutritional status of adolescents and school-aged children across different sectors, including education, health (including reproductive health and family planning) and agriculture.
- Interventions and programmes designed to build the nutrition resilience of adolescents and school-aged children in the context of climate change.
- Adaptations that have been made to programmes targeting adolescents and school-aged children to improve nutritional status in the light of COVID-19.
- Experiences of youth engagement and youth leadership around nutrition research and social behaviour change, including use of innovative communication approaches and social media.
- Examples of policies and programmes that address the structural drivers of malnutrition during later childhood and adolescence, such as: access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity, gender norms, early marriage and social exclusion.

We welcome the submission of content from national and sub-national-level authors and encourage articles from global and regional level to be written in collaboration with national and sub-national level authors where possible.

Submission process

Please send a short abstract of your proposed article (maximum 400 words) that explains how it will speak to a priority theme and key learning points. Please also send relevant reports or publications. We also invite the sharing of relevant research, news, and events to highlight in the edition.

Submissions will be reviewed by the FEX editorial team and advisory committee for this special issue and you will be notified on a decision within four weeks of submission. Once accepted, our skilled Field Exchange team will work with identified authors to develop and edit articles.

Deadline for submission ideas: 30th April 2021

For further information please see our 'how to write for FEX guide' www.enonline.net/fex/writeforus
Send submissions to fex@enonline.net

About *Field Exchange*

[Field Exchange](http://www.enonline.net) is an established technical publication produced three times per year by [Emergency Nutrition Network \(ENN\)](http://www.enonline.net). Annual special editions complement routine online and print editions. Topics of previous special issues include wasting in South Asia (Issue 63); the continuum of care for acute malnutrition (Issue 60); experiences of nutrition country cluster coordination (Issue 56); the nutrition response to the Syria crisis (Issue 48).

www.enonline.net/fex