



United Nations
System

Standing Committee on
Nutrition

COUNTRY LEVEL PROGRAMMING IN NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE

Part I

UN Agencies' approaches and actions in countries

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Introduction

As the idea of bringing agriculture more dynamically into the nutrition picture has gained traction in recent years, many development partner agencies and organizations have embarked on programming initiatives that aim to make agriculture more nutrition sensitive.

In 2013, the UNSCN commissioned a review of country-level programming in nutrition and agriculture to provide a consolidated overview and to raise awareness regarding these initiatives. The report, [review of country level programming in nutrition-sensitive agriculture](#), presents the findings of that work. It also provides a 'primer' on the concept of nutrition-sensitive agriculture, as well as an overview of cross-cutting considerations in programming, namely gender equality, resilience building and nutrition education.

More specifically, that main report includes:

- A background on terminology and research to date;
- An overview of resilience building, women's empowerment and improving nutrition knowledge and practices;
- Basic information on common programming approaches to nutrition-sensitive agriculture;
- Specific examples of agencies' and organisations' programming experience in nutrition-sensitive agriculture;
- A description of challenges to coordination, or at least convergence, as cited or implied in programme documents and mentioned in communications over the course of the study.

This complementary document is PART I of the landscaping of examples on country level programming in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and contains the detailed briefs on UN Agencies' approaches and actions in countries.

The programme examples from United Nations agencies include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Program (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which have a major mandate in nutrition and are the main players of the UN System Network for SUN. In addition, examples from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAED) and Bioversity International were also mapped out and are included in this document.

SUMMARY

Key recommendations for improving nutrition through agriculture (FAO, 2013) exist and are widely endorsed. However the question remains of what constitutes nutrition-sensitive agriculture in terms of specific projects and actions. The issue is of particular importance when reviewing extant food security and other programmes which may include the word “nutrition” in their title, or claim to address malnutrition in their rhetoric, but which do not include an explicit nutrition component in their design. These types of programmes can be seen as “nutrition related” with potential to impact nutrition, but as long as specific nutrition objectives and actions are not present, they should not technically be considered “nutrition-sensitive”. Although formal selection criteria were not included in the UNSCN Mapping exercise, this consideration informed the choice of which programmes were profiled.

The nutrition-sensitive agriculture work currently underway by these organizations ranges from operational research and policy advising to large scale capacity strengthening of nutrition within agriculture systems programming. Many of the organizations in this review provide support to nutrition-sensitive agriculture through three of the four highlighted avenues: research, policy advising and technical assistance programmes.

The work chronicled below endeavors to address underlying causes of malnutrition through efforts to improve nutrition education, the social and financial capital of small-scale producers, and direct causes through infant and young child feeding practices. Other initiatives include increasing the amount of local procurement of food utilized for school feedings and other development programming, equity promotion for disadvantaged groups and the creation and promotion of food-based dietary guidelines.

Examples of other organizations including research institutions, donors and International Non-Governmental Organizations are presented in Part II as a separate document.

Table 1: Type of country support provided:

UN Agency	Financial Support / Investments	Policy Advice	Technical Assistance Programmes	Applied Research	Other
FAO		✓	✓	✓	
UNICEF	✓	✓	✓	✓	
WFP	✓	✓	✓	✓	
WHO	✓	✓	✓		✓
Bioversity International				✓	
IAEA				✓	
IFAD		✓	✓		
ILO	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Table 2: Agencies Programming Actions

UN Agencies	Area of Work / Programme Type [countries]	Programme Description
<i>Food and Agriculture Organization</i> (FAO)	<i>Delivery Platform / Research</i> Improving the dietary intakes and nutritional status of infants and young children through improved food security and complementary feeding counselling (IMCF) [Malawi, Cambodia]	Improve dietary intakes and nutritional status of infants and young children through complementary feeding using local foods. Evaluate impact of program that combines nutrition education for IYCF with promotion of production and consumption of local foods.
	<i>Capacity Strengthening</i> CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative [51 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa]	Sub-regional workshops in West Africa, East and Central Africa, and Southern Africa to integrate nutrition into agricultural investment plans
	<i>Guidelines and Standards</i> Codex Alimentarius Food-based dietary guidelines (FBDG) [global]	See under WHO.
<i>United Nations Children's Fund</i> (UNICEF)	<i>Capacity Strengthening / Research</i> Communication tools and content for improved nutrition education, [Benin, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania]	Promote nutrition education to improve dietary behavior change, promote breastfeeding and adequate complementary feeding, that can be delivered through agricultural delivery platforms.
	<i>Social Protection</i> Policy dialogue and advocacy to enhance social protection systems.	Promotes social protection measures that strengthen the capacity of families to care for their children and remove barriers to services that stand in the way of achieving progress for children.
<i>World Food Programme</i> (WFP)	<i>Production, Processing, Marketing</i> Purchase for Progress (P4P) [20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Afghanistan]	Increase participation of local small farmers in WFP procurement activities through increased access to local markets, improve availability of and access to nutritious food for participating producer households.
	<i>Production, Processing, Marketing/ Research</i> <i>Homegrown School Feeding Program (HGSF)</i> [20 countries with case studies of Ghana, Brazil, India, and Thailand]	Collaboration between WFP, the Gates Foundation, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other partners to develop a systematic approach to design and implementation of school feeding programmes that use locally procured food.
<i>World Health Organization</i> (WHO)	<i>Guidelines and Standards</i> Food-based dietary guidelines (FBDG) [global]	Develop procedural manual on FBDGs to explain the concept and give practical guide to countries on how to develop them.

<i>Biodiversity International</i>	<p><i>Applied Research</i> Advancing through Sustainable Diets [East Africa]</p> <p>Developing agrobiodiversity-based strategies for better nutrition security [East Africa, West African Sahelian countries, Zambesi and Volta basins, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ganges and Mekong basins, Brazil]</p>	<p>Development of the concepts and metrics to measure sustainable diets.</p> <p>Research on nutrition-sensitive landscapes and the contributions of agricultural and wild biodiversity to nutrition and health. Improve dietary diversity of mothers and young children through inclusion of local foods (wild, neglected and/or underutilized).</p>
<i>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</i>	<p><i>Research</i> Monitoring and Evaluation of the impact of introducing nutrition-sensitive components to agri-food systems programming. [forthcoming global]</p>	<p>Evaluate impact of programming designed to address changes in dietary diversity, diet quality or food intake. Additionally, evaluate bioavailability of micronutrients.</p>
<i>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</i>	<p><i>Capacity Strengthening/Production, Processing, Marketing</i> Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development initiative [forthcoming with focus on countries with commitment to scaling up nutrition]</p>	<p>Improve knowledge and skills of poor, rural populations regarding food production (in homestead context), low-cost processing of food products, sustainable land management, micro-irrigation, post-harvest storage and nutrition literacy.</p>
<i>International Labor Organization (ILO)</i>	<p><i>Investments</i> Decent Work for Food Security [Benin, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania]</p> <p><i>Capacity Strengthening, Policy advice</i> Strategies and Tools against Social Exclusion and Poverty Programme (STEP) [some Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa]</p>	<p>Sectoral Programme which aims to reduce food insecurity by promoting decent and productive work in critical economic sectors and implementing integrated policies across the food system.</p> <p>National basic social protection policies, combining social transfers with employment policies and access to social services</p>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

→ POLICIES / STRATEGIES / MANDATE

FAO's mandate is to improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, raise standards of living in rural populations and contribute to global economic growth. Reducing hunger and malnutrition is central to FAO's vision and constitutes the first objective under its current [Strategic Framework](#). As such, the concept of nutrition-sensitive agriculture is implicit to most of the Organization's operations, and in many cases, FAO's activities in agriculture can be seen as "nutrition related" with substantial potential for impact on nutrition outcomes. However, unless otherwise noted, the FAO activities showcased in this brief include an overt nutrition component, as nutrition impact cannot be assumed. This is true even for projects which are explicitly "nutrition sensitive"¹, and certainly the case for those which are not.

Explicitly nutrition-oriented activities are led by [FAO's Nutrition Division \(ESN\)](#). Many of ESN's activities are guided by the underlying principles of (1) promoting the integration of nutrition objectives into national food and agriculture policies and programmes, and (2) promoting the integration of food-based approaches into multi-sectoral nutrition strategies.

At country level, ESN activities include integrating nutrition indicators and analyses into food security assessment and monitoring; adding community-based nutrition education components to broader food security and emergency response projects; and ensuring gender sensitivity in the design, implementation and monitoring of agricultural development projects.

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR INVESTMENTS

Programmes which provide financial support to nutrition-sensitive agriculture at FAO include:

- 1. UN Joint Programmes (UNJPs)** fund the majority of FAO's nutrition-related activities.
- 2. FAO Emergency and rehabilitation programmes** are the second most common funding platform for nutrition activities. (See "Emergency and Humanitarian Assistance" section for more details.)
- 3. The EU/FAO Programme on Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction (EU² 2012-2015)** has two specific nutrition components : i) nutrition capacity development in agriculture at country level and ii) elaboration of guidance on integration of food-based nutrition indicators into information system. This programme has also mainstreamed nutrition through various programme outputs led by 12 different divisions within FAO (e.g. [Agricultural Development Economics, Emergency and Rehabilitation](#), [Statistics](#), [Animal Production and Health](#), Environment, and [Plant Production and](#)

¹ Demonstrating evidence of efficacy is a fundamental challenge to nutrition sensitive (as opposed to nutrition specific) interventions and programmes.

² European Union Contribution Agreement DCI-FOOD 2011/262-399

[Protection](#)) and provides financial support to the SUN Movement Secretariat.

4. The Government of Germany (German Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, BMELV) provides financial support through a bilateral trust fund to multiple FAO projects designed to mainstream nutrition in agricultural policies and programmes.

POLICY ADVICE

1. Through its country offices, FAO provides policy advice to governments on how to **mainstream nutrition objectives and activities into their country frameworks**, using agriculture policy and plans (e.g. National Food Security Policies, Agricultural Investment Plans) as the primary entry point. The [CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative](#)³ provides a current example. Led by the New Partnership for African Development⁴ (NEPAD) and the African Union Commission and supported by Regional Economic Communities (RECs), this initiative consists mainly of three regional workshops (including preparation and follow-up at country level), for West Africa (18 countries, Nov 2011), East and Central Africa (19 countries, Feb 2013) and Southern Africa (14 countries, Sept 2013). Each workshop assists countries in analysis of the situation (previous to the workshop, with the elaboration of Nutrition Country Papers) and in developing road maps for integrating nutrition into their National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans.

2. FAO also provides policy support to **intersectoral coordination mechanisms for nutrition**. Globally, this requires systematic collaboration with both the international nutrition (e.g. UNSCN, REACH and SUN) and food security (e.g. CFS) architectures⁵. At country and sub-country levels, supporting intersectoral coordination requires facilitating policy dialogue between the health and agriculture sectors (e.g. line ministries, extension, and community based groups). It also requires strengthening technical and managerial capacity of national and sub-national organizations.

3. With the WHO, FAO is host to the **Codex Alimentarius Commission**. Codex develops harmonized international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to ensure the health of consumers and ensure safe and fair practices within the food trade. As such, Codex provides policy guidance to countries seeking to develop internationally viable and/or nutritionally progressive agri-food value chains.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1. **National Programmes for Food Security and National Plans for Agricultural Development** may be supported or directly implemented through **FAO Country Programmes** in partnership with Ministries of Agriculture and other relevant government agencies. These programmes may or may not include nutrition-sensitive components. In the latter case, ESN may provide TA (as well as policy advice) for incorporating nutrition objectives and activities into broader food security projects.

2. [A Strategy and Vision for FAO's work in nutrition](#) was released in 2012 and currently serves to mainstream nutrition throughout all Divisions. The Strategy's fundamental premise is that food and agricultural systems can be better designed and managed so that they maximize their contributions

³ The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (see: <http://www.nepad-caadp.net/>)

⁴ NEPAD's Agriculture and Food Security Programme is guided by the CAADP framework (see <http://www.nepad.org/foodsecurity>)

⁵ UNSCN: United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition; REACH: Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition; SUN: Scaling Up Nutrition Movement; CFS: Committee on Food Security

to nutritional outcomes throughout the life cycle, primarily through better dietary choices, better food quality and safer foods.⁶ As such, much of FAO's current and planned TA aims to include an explicit nutrition component. A recent example is the interdivisional **EU/FAO programme for Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction**. Mentioned above, this programme has mainstreamed nutrition in all of its 21 outputs⁷. As such, it also provides TA to improve capacity for increased nutrition impact of agriculture and food security policy and interventions in **South Sudan, Niger, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda**. This programme operates in partnership with REACH when the latter is present at country level.

3. Many FAO programmes, while not explicitly nutrition sensitive, provide TA to countries in nutrition-related areas, including improved access to water, support to food production and distribution, and diversification of household and village farming systems. Examples include (but are not limited to) FAO's Decentralized Cooperation Programme (DCP⁸), FAO's Emergency Programme⁹, and FAO Telefood Projects¹⁰.

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

Specific examples of FAO operational research (either in nutrition or nutrition-related areas) are described below:

1. Trials of Improved Practices (TIPs) have been used by FAO/ESN as part of food security projects which include a food based nutrition component to improve infant and young child feeding practices. TIPs are a formative research technique designed to identify constraints to behavior change. The methodology has been well tested and validated, particularly with regard to health and hygiene behaviour, and has been used in a range of countries to develop nutrition behaviour change communication strategies. FAO used TIPs to identify constraints to improved complementary feeding practices in Cambodia and Malawi. The methodology was also used to help identify local solutions that were tested by caregivers and local extension staff, thus contributing to the design and implementation of culturally appropriate, economically feasible, effective interventions.¹¹

2. Improving the dietary intakes and nutritional status of infants and young children through improved food security and complementary feeding counseling (IMCF) builds on TIPs research in Cambodia and Malawi to evaluate the impact of combining behaviour change communication with interventions promoting production and consumption of diverse, locally available, nutrient-rich and affordable foods (such as dark green leafy vegetables, orange-fleshed vegetables and fruit, nuts and legumes, fruits and small fish and livestock). Baseline data were collected in both countries in 2011, endline data collection is scheduled for 2014.

3. The International Network of Food data Systems (INFOODS) assists countries in compiling and publishing food composition databases and tables based on international standards. [The West African Food Composition Table \(2012\)](#) is the most recent example. This manual includes details on the composition of 472 local foods. It provides a resource for developing local food based approaches to addressing malnutrition in West Africa and in so doing, an evidence base for the potential nutrition impact of local crops.

⁶ FAO Nutrition Strategy (2012)

⁷ EU/FAO programme for Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction, Inception Report (2012)

⁸ http://www.fao.org/tc/DCP/docs/dcpbrochure_en.pdf

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/en/>

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/telefood/telefood-projects/en/>

¹¹ <http://www.fao.org/ag/humannutrition/nutritioneducation/70106/en/>

4. Dietary Diversity Scores are used and promoted by FAO in its M&E work (see “Monitoring and Evaluation” section). As part of this process, FAO participated in research in [Malawi](#), [Mozambique](#) and [Kenya](#) to adapt household dietary diversity scores to local contexts. The ultimate goal of this research was to increase government capacity to administer and respond to food security surveys that include dietary diversity as an indicator.

5. Nutrition impact indicators in agricultural interventions study is funded by the EU/FAO Programme on Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction. It builds on the mapping study conducted by LCIRAH on current agricultural projects incorporating nutrition (see LCIRAH Brief). This follow-up study investigates how agricultural projects are including nutrition objectives, and what indicators are being chosen to evaluate impact on nutrition.

→PRIORITY COUNTRIES & PROGRAMS

Afghanistan	Strengthening the Role of Women in Agriculture and Household Food Security in Afghanistan (GCP/AFG/069/GER) 2011 – 2014 Strengthening Policy Development and Coordination for Food and Nutrition Security in Afghanistan- Implementation Support for the “Food for Life” (GCP /AFG/075/GER) 2013 – 2015
Bangladesh	National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP) EC/USA Objective: Increase capacity of Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) to support the implementation of the national Food Policy and address issues of access to food, its utilization and nutrition. (GCP /BGD/037/MUL) 2009 – 2013
Benin	Supporting Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa (GCP /RAF/454/GER) 2010-2013
Burkina Faso	Supporting Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa (GCP /RAF/454/GER) 2010-2013 Support to the livelihoods of the households affected by the 2012 food and nutrition crisis in Burkina Faso through enhanced vegetable crop production (OSRO/BKF/205/BEL) 2012-2013 Assistance to vulnerable households affected by malnutrition and climatic and economic shocks through the development of non-timber forest products in Burkina Faso (OSRO/BKF/203/SWI) 2012-2016
Cambodia	Improving the dietary intakes and nutritional status of infants and young children through improved food security and complementary feeding counselling (GCP/INT/108/GER) 2010-2013
Cape Verde	UNJP on Food and Nutrition Security in Schools (FAO led)
Cameroon	Appui à la promotion des jardins scolaires dans les écoles du Grand Nord du Cameroun (TCP/CMR/3401) 2012 – 2014
Chad	Assistance aux ménages maraîchers vulnérables dans les ouadis du Kanem pour lutter contre la malnutrition (OSRO/CHD/206/FRA) 2012 – 2013 Assistance d’urgence aux ménages maraîchers affectés par la sécheresse de 2011 dans la région du Bahr El Gazal au Tchad (crise Sahel 2012) (OSRO/CHD/207/BEL) 2012 – 2013 Projet d’appui à la production agricole pour les réfugiés et populations hôtes dans la zone de

	<p>Tissi au Tchad (OSRO/CHD/304/HCR) 2013 – 2014</p> <p>Improving the resilience of chronically food and nutrition insecure households in Nokou, Kanem Region (OSRO/CHD/302/USA) 2013</p>
Congo DRC	<p>Programme intégré de réponse à la malnutrition et à l'insécurité alimentaire en République Démocratique du Congo (OSRO/DRC/201/CRE) 2011 – 2015</p> <p>Appui a 62 espaces communautaires d'éveil pour l'amélioration de la nutrition et l'autonomisation de leurs comités de soutiens dans les provinces du Bandundu et de l'Equateur (OSRO/DRC/205/CEF) 2012 – 2013</p> <p>Programme intégré de réponse à la malnutrition et à l'insécurité alimentaire en République Démocratique du Congo (OSRO/DRC/206/EC) 2012 – 2015</p> <p>Projet d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire de 3 000 ménages agricoles affectés par une crise alimentaire aigue dans les territoires de Yumbi, Bolobo et Kutu, province de Bandundu (OSRO/DRC/213/UNJ) 2012 – 2013</p> <p>Appui à la production alimentaire d'urgence en faveur de 7 000 ménages malnutris et en insécurité alimentaire en territoire de Niangara, district de Haut Uélé (Province Orientale) (OSRO/DRC/215/UNJ) 2012 – 2013</p> <p>Appui à la production alimentaire d'urgence en faveur de 4 000 ménages d'enfants malnutris et en insécurité alimentaire (IDP, retournés et hôtes) de Pangi, Kabambare au Maniema (OSRO/DRC/216/UNJ) 2012 – 2013</p> <p>Renforcement de la production alimentaire d'urgence de 3 600 ménages d'enfants malnutris (OSRO/DRC/217/UNJ) 2012 – 2013</p> <p>Amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et lutte contre le Konzo dans la province de Bandundu (TCP/DRC/3303) 2011 – 2013</p>
Ethiopia	<p>Improved tools and processes for integrating nutrition into agriculture sector interventions. (GCP/130/EU) 2013-2015</p>
Gambia	<p>Support to the livelihoods of the households affected by the 2012 food and nutrition crisis in the Gambia through enhanced vegetable crop production capacities and support to livestock (OSRO/GAM/203/BEL) 2012-2013</p> <p>Gambia's current National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP, 2011-2015) was formulated with technical leadership from FAO through the CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative (GCP/RAF/454/GER [see sections on "Policy Advice" and "Success Stories"]).</p>
Guatemala	<p>Food Policy and Nutrition Security for Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador, Guatemala and Paraguay (TCP/RLA/3403 (10/X/RLA/251) 2012-2013</p>
Haiti	<p>Improve the food and nutrition security situation of vulnerable households in the Department[region] of Artibonite (OSRO/HAI/203/EC) 2012-2014</p>
Indonesia	<p>Improving access to better nutrition for students living in remote areas of Sidoko village (TFD-11/INS/005) 2012-2013</p>
	<p>Improving Impact of Emergency Response (IIER) (OSRO/KEN/103/SWE) 2011 – 2013</p>
Kenya	<p>Improved food security, livelihoods and resilience of vulnerable pastoral communities in the Greater Horn of Africa through the Pastoral Field School approach</p>

	(OSRO/RAF/103/SWI) 2011 - 2013 Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Improved Human Nutrition and Well-being (GCP/GLO/805/GFF) 2012-2016
Lao PDR	Sustainable insect farming and harvesting for better nutrition, improved food security, and household income generation (TCP/LAO/3301 (10/IV/LAO/211) 2010-2013 FAO Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism- Support to FAO Strategic Objective H "Improved food security and better nutrition" (FMM /GLO/008/MUL) 2011-2013
Malawi	Improving the dietary intakes and nutritional status of infants and young children through improved food security and complementary feeding counselling (GCP/INT/108/GER) 2010-2013 Improving Food Security and Nutrition Policies and Programme Outreach (GDCP/MLW/001/FLA) 2007-2015
Mali	Improving Child Nutrition and Food Security in the most vulnerable municipalities of Mali (MDGF)
Mauritania	Scaling up the fight against child hunger and malnutrition in south-east Mauritania (MDGF)
Peru	Improving Nutrition and Food Security for the Peruvian Child: a Capacity Building Approach (UNJP/PER/049/SPA) 2010-2013
Senegal	Supporting Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa (GCP /RAF/454/GER) 2010-2013 Preventing and managing child malnutrition in highly vulnerable regions (MDGF) Support to the livelihoods of the households affected by the 2012 food and nutrition crisis in Senegal through enhanced vegetable crop production. (OSRO/SEN/203/BEL) 2012-2013
Sierra Leone	Supporting Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa (GCP /RAF/454/GER) 2010 - 2013 Objective: Mainstreaming Nutrition and the Right to Food in the Smallholder Commercialization Programme
Sri Lanka	Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Improved Human Nutrition and Well-being (GCP/GLO/805/GFF)
South Sudan	Improved Food Security Information Management for planning, programming, coordination and decision making in South Sudan (Agriculture and Food Information System for Decision Support Programme]
Uganda	Support to the development of capacities in nutrition of the rural development sector in the context of the UNAP (Uganda Nutrition Action Plan) and the REACH partnership (GPC/INT/130/EU)
Yemen	Improving vulnerable households food and nutrition insecurity status in Hajjah Governorate through women-led backyard food production (OSRO/YEM/301/BEL) 2013-2013

→KEY TECHNICAL INTERVENTIONS

FAO provides technical assistance to support nutrition-sensitive agriculture in many ways. Some of the most important are:

- Basic nutrition education training, including food based dietary guidelines, cooking demonstrations, best practices for complementary feeding, and nutrient-preserving storage techniques
- Training to evaluate the impact of food and agriculture system interventions on nutrition (e.g. use of dietary diversity indicators)
- Provision of inputs and training for home, school and community gardens
- Provision of inputs and training for small-scale fisheries and livestock production
- Training for government staff in use of participatory approaches for targeting and design of nutrition sensitive agricultural development projects
- Assistance to government personnel and academia in the research and development of nutrient composition tables and other tools for food based approaches to reducing malnutrition

→TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS

FAO's nutrition sensitive projects and programmes target a wide variety of populations.

On the supply side, this includes working through extension services and government agencies to target **farmers** and **farmer associations** as well as **processors (formal and informal sectors), wholesalers (formal and informal sectors) and other members of the agricultural value chain**.

On the demand side, food security and emergency response programmes target those **households most vulnerable to food insecurity**. Demographic groups that are commonly identified are usually households with extremely low income and may include female-headed households, households caring for orphans, households at risk from economic and environmental shocks, and households where one or more members is suffering from HIV/AIDS. These populations may also be at high risk of malnutrition but depending on the project objectives, explicit targeting for nutrition may not occur. Projects with an explicit nutrition component may also aim to target households with **children under two or five**, but in some cases, for example when a nutrition project is under the aegis of a broader food security programme (e.g. TIPs, see "Operational and Applied Research"), separate targeting again may not occur. **FAO's 2012 Strategic Approach to Nutrition (see "Technical Assistance" above) calls for increased targeting of infants, children, and women of reproductive age.**

Food security projects (with or without an explicit nutrition component) may also target **community leaders, women's leaders, and local associations and organizations**. Projects that involve school feeding target students, teachers, and school management. Nutrition projects which aim to build national capacity for nutrition may target academia.

Many of FAO's nutrition oriented assessment tools aim to increase the nutrition sensitivity of **agronomists, agricultural economists and other sector-based practitioners**.

Last but not least, FAO nutrition projects aim to influence decision-making by **policy makers, including donors, member countries' governments, and civil society**.

→MONITORING & EVALUATION

FAO has designed a variety of e-learning courses, manuals and monitoring and evaluating tools relevant to nutrition sensitive agriculture. All are available as public goods and some can be found on the Programme for Improved Global Governance website's [Master List of Tools](#).

Examples include:

- [The FAO Dietary Diversity questionnaire](#) and [Guidelines](#)
- [INFOODS e-Learning Course on Food Composition Data](#)
- [The Latin America and Caribbean Household Food Security Scale \(ELCSA\)](#)
- [Voices of the Hungry](#)
- [Assessing Food Security Impact of Development Programmes \(e-learning course\)](#)
- Guidance check list for integrating nutrition into agriculture investment (draft tool)
- Assessing the capacities in nutrition of the Agriculture / Rural Development sector (draft tool)
- [Guidelines for Joint Planning for Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods](#) (draft tool)
- Gender and Food Security (draft e-learning course)
- [West African Food Composition Table](#)
- [Gender in Agriculture \(e-learning course\)](#)
- [Mapping Actions for Food Security and Nutrition \(MAFSAN\)](#)
- [FAOSTAT](#)
- [Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis \(FAPDA\)](#)
- [Integrated Food Security Classification Scale \(IPC\)](#)
- [Global information and Early Warning System \(GIEWS\)](#)
- [Forests for Food Security and Nutrition](#)

Key indicators used by the Nutrition Division include **dietary diversity**, **anthropometry (usually stunting)**, and **Infant and Young Child Feeding practices**.

→GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

[FAO's Policy on Gender Equality](#) provides a framework to guide the Organization's efforts to achieve gender equality in all its technical and normative work. It delineates an accountability structure to ensure oversight of the policy and achievement of results, including specific objectives and minimum standards for gender mainstreaming in country-level work. The latter includes collection, dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated data, execution of a country gender assessment as part

of all Country Program Framework preparations, and incorporation of gender analysis in the formulation of all field programs and projects.

FAO's current Strategic Framework and its Nutrition Strategy both employ gender mainstreaming as a guiding principle.

More information on FAO's country level activities in gender mainstreaming is available at the [Gender](#) and [Gender in Agriculture](#) websites.

→EMERGENCY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE¹²

FAO advocates for and strengthens country level capacity to implement food and agriculture based approaches in emergencies. As such, FAO is working to complement conventional supply-driven emergency interventions such as therapeutic feeding and general food distribution with resilience building through a "nutrition lens". This upstream approach aims to minimize the impact of disasters (or avoid them entirely) by addressing the root causes of malnutrition and food insecurity. Resilience building through a nutrition lens requires both short and longer-term initiatives which mainstream nutrition considerations into both standard agricultural emergency responses and recovery and rehabilitation interventions. Operations designed to strengthen the resilience of local food systems and improve local feeding practices are key (e.g. diversifying food production, improving storage, promoting locally adapted improved seed varieties, diversifying livelihood strategies). Providing nutrition education as a complement to each of these interventions is equally important, as nutrition knowledge is essential for empowering households and communities to make informed choices on disaster risk management. [Junior Farmer and Field Life Schools \(JFFLS\)](#), which provide training in nutrition, farming and life skills, provide a good example of this integrated approach. JFFLS have been adapted to emergency situations in [Burundi](#), [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), [Somalia](#), [Uganda](#), [South Sudan](#), [Kenya](#) and the [Central African Republic](#), [West Bank and Gaza Strip](#).

In addition to influencing intervention design, using a nutrition sensitive, resilience building approach is also influencing how FAO collects data for and helps coordinate emergency response. For example:

In [Somalia](#), FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit ([FSNAU](#)) has developed a nutrition situation map to complement its **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)** scale¹³. Based on an integrated analysis of nutrition information, the map clearly indicates the distribution, severity and magnitude of malnutrition in the country. This product, updated twice a year in tandem with the IPC, helps to target food and agriculture interventions based on levels of nutritional vulnerability.

In [Somalia](#) and [Indonesia](#), FAO has developed an **Emergency Response Analysis Framework** which requires practitioners from food, agriculture and nutrition sectors to come together and agree on the causes of nutritional problems using a shared conceptual framework. This joint problem identification lays a strong platform for coordinated responses across sectors such as country-led

¹² This section is based entirely on FAO Nutrition in Emergencies (2010) and "Nutrition and Resilience in FAO: Building on Our Experiences" (Powerpoint presentation, undated)

¹³ The IPC integrates food security, nutrition and livelihood data in a single scale to provide information about the nature and severity of a crisis as well as information regarding strategic response.

cluster groups. It provides agencies based in the agricultural sector with an understanding of how their actions and interventions are or could contribute to nutritional outcomes, and how such contributions can be strengthened through intersectoral and inter-institutional collaboration.

→ LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES

Lessons learned and subsequent good practices from FAO's experiences in agriculture programming for nutrition include the following:¹⁴

- Countries' TA needs for implementing nutrition sensitive programmes within agriculture and related sectors are large. While FAO has strong expertise at headquarter level, these are still insufficient to respond to field demands. FAO is currently prioritizing mobilization of human resources in decentralized offices.
- Staff turnover and conflicting political priorities pose major challenges to implementation and sustainability. As such, successful implementation requires a politically coordinated and financially empowered nutrition system at country and decentralized levels. FAO aims to help organize and support these systems through facilitating both horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms that add value to ongoing, country owned processes. The former requires building bridges across sectors, while the latter creates feedback loops whereby information from the field is fed back to provincial and central level to inform policy and planning, and whereby central and provincial levels provide policy frameworks and support for project implementation at community and household levels.
- Active participation at grassroots level is key to success. As such, FAO country programmes prioritize collaboration with civil society organizations whenever possible. Community workers and volunteers are also vital, as they often provide a fundamental link between households, village networks and service providers.
- The need for multisectoral coordination means that project components which involve a range of sectors will increase the likelihood of success. FAO endorses a multisectoral approach to programming which includes building capacity for policy formulation and implementation, nutrition education, community-based food security projects and gender mainstreaming. In some cases, nutrition has been used as an entry point to integrate a variety of sectors.

→ KEY PUBLICATIONS & CONTACTS

[State of Food and Agriculture 2013: Food Systems for Better Nutrition](#)

[Review Guidance On Agriculture Programming For Nutrition \(2013\)](#): FAO conducted a review of all recently published guidance on agriculture programming for nutrition to identify key messages, the level of consensus and gaps. The review revealed a high degree of consensus on 20 key messages. The [Synthesis](#) of these messages is presently used to inform several agriculture programming initiatives, including CAADP and Feed the Future.

[Protecting and Promoting Good Nutrition in Crisis and Recovery \(2005\)](#)

[FAO Nutrition Education Website](#): Includes guidance for community based nutrition education and programme planning

¹⁴ Content for this section adapted from Dufour 2009? (SCN News) and Dufour (2013, BBL Powerpoint Presentation)

[CAADP Nutrition Capacity Development Initiative Website](#)

Second International Conference on Nutrition Website (ICN2), Forum on Nutrition Enhancing Agriculture and Food Systems, [Background papers](#) & [Expert papers](#)

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→ COUNTRY STORIES (1-2 concrete examples of good practices)

In **Afghanistan**, FAO's nutrition team has collaborated with civil society, the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Health, UNICEF and other development partners to improve nutrition outcomes across sectors. With the Agha Khan Foundation and other NGOs, FAO has worked with local communities to integrate nutrition considerations across a range of activities, including developing locally adapted nutrition education materials for village literacy circles, community health workers and schools; providing vocational training through food processing techniques; and supporting greenhouses, school gardens, livestock groups and well digging. Many of these activities were ongoing prior to the FAO Nutrition team's involvement, as part of integrated rural development projects bringing together education, agriculture, health and community development activities. However as nutrition has been introduced as a cross-cutting issue, it has provided a unifying objective across multiple sectors and has increased project cohesion and success overall. As part of the process, nutrition has been "demystified" for households, NGO staff and government officials. In addition, inter-ministerial coordination has increased, incentives for nutrition advocacy have been created within agriculture and other sectors, and existing synergies have been strengthened.

In **Laos**, FAO's nutrition team worked with the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education, and Planning and Investment to strengthen capacity for implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy, National Plan of Action for Nutrition, and incorporation of food security and nutrition objectives into Lao's National Economic and Social Development Plan (2011-2015). Programme components - implemented via three NGOs¹⁵ - included training in programme management, training in basic nutrition counseling, TIPs for improved complementary feeding practices (see "Operational and Applied Research"), and training in sustainable home food production and home-based processing and preservation techniques. Major achievements of this project include the completion of a National Multi-Sectoral Capacity Building Framework Plan (2010-2020), completion of a Food and Nutrition Security Programme Management Manual, a counseling guide for mothers on complementary feeding including a seasonal food calendar and recipes and illustrated manuals for households on home-based food production and processing. As in Afghanistan, this project increased awareness of and support for nutrition objectives in agriculture and related sectors.

¹⁵ PORDEA: Poverty Reduction and Development Association of Lao PDR; SAEDA: Lao Sustainable Development and Environment Association; LWU: Lao Women's Union.

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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

→ POLICIES / STRATEGIES / MANDATE

As the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF is mandated to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential in life. UNICEF helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized. To achieve that, UNICEF works with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path and to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries. UNICEF advocates for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future. Nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress.

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

- UNICEF works mainly in 5 sectors: Nutrition, Health, WASH, Education and Child Protection. In Nutrition, UNICEF focuses mainly on nutrition-specific interventions. UNICEF is looking to work multisectorally to support evidence-based nutrition-sensitive interventions to address the underlying determinants of malnutrition such as promoting strengthened linkages with agriculture.
- Nutrition-sensitive interventions or programmes address the underlying determinants of fetal and child nutrition and development— food security; adequate caregiving resources at the maternal, household and community levels; and access to health services and a safe and hygienic environment—and incorporate specific nutrition goals and actions.
- Nutrition-sensitive programmes can serve as delivery platforms for nutrition-specific interventions, potentially increasing their scale, coverage, and effectiveness
- Examples: agriculture and food security; social safety nets; early child development; maternal mental health; women's empowerment; child protection; schooling; water, sanitation, and hygiene; health and family planning services.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR INVESTMENTS

Over the past 5 years UNICEF spent about US\$ 1 billion, including US\$ 300 million in 2012, on nutrition-specific interventions addressing the nutritional needs of children and women. UNICEF is supportive of nutrition sensitive-agriculture, particularly for the promotion of dietary diversity and food fortification; however, there is no specific amount available for this as projects are supported and approved at the country level based on local needs.

POLICY ADVICE

UNICEF supports national governments and is in alignment with national policies. UNICEF is part of global initiatives/partnerships like the global Committing to Child Survival: A Promised Renewed global movement (APR), the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the UN Renewed Efforts to End Child Hunger (REACH), and the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

UNICEF provides technical assistance to countries in support of nutrition-specific interventions. UNICEF can work with partners to promote strengthened linkages with agriculture and other nutrition-sensitive approaches to make nutritious food more accessible to everyone, and support smallholder farming as a source of food and income for women and families.

Technical areas include:

Nutrition

Social protection (in some regions such as LACRO and CEE/CIS)

APPLIED RESEARCH

Particularly focus on food fortification and home fortification (micronutrient powders, LNS), CMAM operations, use and efficacy of IYCF counselling materials, costing tools for national nutrition plans.

→ GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

UNICEF does normative work as well as supports and implements development and humanitarian activities in more than 190 countries and territories through country programmes and National Committees (www.unicef.org). UNICEF's capacity in nutrition includes over 350 nutritionists working in approximately 65 countries.

Priority countries for nutrition are generally those with the highest prevalence of stunting, and other nutrition deficiencies, as well as countries that are part of the same initiatives/partnerships UNICEF is supporting.

→ PRIORITY COUNTRIES / PROGRAMS

Benin	UNICEF is a SUN donor convener and as such supports the government in its scaling up nutrition efforts.
Ethiopia	UNICEF is a SUN donor convener. Country Programme has a component for Reducing undernutrition by support to national planning and implementation.
Haiti	UNICEF is expanding its emergency nutrition services via the nutrition cluster with focus on nutrition-specific actions and intercluster collaboration.
India	UNICEF is supporting the government in improving nutrition governance to reduce child stunting in Maharashtra.
Kyrgyzstan	Country Programme has a component on Reducing iron deficiency with home fortification of food.
Mozambique	UNICEF is a SUN donor convener.
Namibia	UNICEF is a SUN donor convener.
Nepal	UNICEF supports Nepal and their multi-sectoral nutrition plan under the Prime Minister's leadership. The plan aims to address both the immediate and the underlying and basic causes of undernutrition with a package of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, both based on evidence, focusing on the critical 1,000-day window including the mother's pregnancy and the child's first two years. The plan engages the National Planning Commission and five line ministries covering health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, and local development and social protection.
Peru	Peru Country Programme on Reaching the most disadvantaged by concentrating on equity.
Rwanda	UNICEF is supporting government in its effort to reduce stunting through consolidated nationwide action.

Tanzania	UNICEF supports nutrition-sensitive agriculture and livestock policies and programs.
→ KEY TECHNICAL INTERVENTIONS	
<p>Nutrition is one of UNICEF's focus areas within its child survival and development stream. UNICEF is committed to support government in scaling up and sustaining coverage, specifically in UNICEF program areas, of the high-impact nutrition interventions: (1) Infant and young child feeding (nutrition-specific); (2) Micronutrients intake (nutrition-specific); (3) Nutrition security in emergencies; and (4) Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (nutrition-specific).</p> <p>UNICEF supports nutrition-sensitive programming and interventions with relevant sectors like in agriculture through promotion of nutrient-rich foods and support to nutrition education.</p>	
→ TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS	
<p>For UNICEF the main targeted population group for nutrition interventions, including both specific and sensitive ones, are children under five years of age, with a special focus on the first 1,000 days from conception until the second birthday of a child. Depending on the context, UNICEF also targets most vulnerable groups in crisis or humanitarian situations including infants, children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers who are more vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies.</p>	
→ MONITORING & EVALUATION	
<p>UNICEF strengthens 'real time' monitoring in over 20 countries. Within the real time <i>Monitoring for Results for Equity Systems (MoRES)</i>, there is a comprehensive list of nutrition indicators and targets available. Specific indicators are selected at country and sub-national level based on the local context specifications and needs.</p>	
→ GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	
<p>UNICEF emphasizes gender equality and women's empowerment in accordance with its gender policy: Working for an equal future: UNICEF Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (May 2010).</p> <p>UNICEF focuses on equity since stunting and other forms of undernutrition are concentrated among the most disadvantaged in society.</p>	
→ EMERGENCY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE	
<p>UNICEF is the lead agency for the IASC Global Nutrition Cluster, leading the coordination of emergency nutrition response actions in countries.</p> <p>UNICEF supports implementation of nutrition-specific interventions in emergencies (including Community based management of acute malnutrition, treatment of severe acute malnutrition and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children, support and enforcement of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes, micronutrient supplementation, nutrition counseling and nutrition behavior change communication).</p>	

UNICEF supports programmes that provide pregnant women, lactating women and children from 6 to 59 months of age with adequate micronutrients through food fortification.

Current supported emergency countries include: Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, India, Liberia, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, and Yemen.

→ LESSON LEARNED & KEY FUTURE INVESTMENTS

In several settings nutrition education for behavioral change has shown to improve dietary patterns and intake of specific micronutrients. More effort is needed to align the pursuit of food security with nutrition security and improved nutritional outcomes.

UNICEF recognizes that more collaboration and partnerships are needed amongst agriculture and nutrition stakeholders.

→ KEY PUBLICATIONS & CONTACTS

- Child Well-being in Rich Countries: A Comparative Overview, Innocenti Report Card 11, UNICEF Office of Research, 2013. Available at: http://www.unicef.org.uk/Images/Campaigns/FINAL_RC11-ENG-LORES-fnl2.pdf
- Improving Child Nutrition: The Achievable Imperative for Global Progress. UNICEF. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Nutrition_Report_final_lo_res_8_April.pdf, April 2013.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding Programming Status: Results of 2010 - 2011 Assessment of Key Actions for Comprehensive Infant and Young Child Feeding Programmes in 65 countries. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). April 2012. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/files/IYCF_65_country_assessment_report_UNICEF.pdf
- The UNICEF Global Nutrition Strategy 2014-2017

→ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

→ POLICIES / STRATEGIES / MANDATE

WFP's mission is to end global hunger. As part of this mission, it works with partners to fight undernutrition by ensuring physical and economic access to a nutritious and age-appropriate diet for those who lack it, and to support households and communities in utilizing food adequately. WFP ensures access to the right food, at the right place, at the right time

WFP's **Strategic Plan 2008–2013** marks a shift from food aid to food assistance, and places strong emphasis on building resilience and promoting nutrition for WFP's beneficiaries as well as delivering food. As a result, WFP's scope of work has widened, creating greater opportunity to involve agriculture and other sectors in its programming. WFP's **2012 Nutrition Policy**¹⁶ includes programming for nutrition-sensitive interventions, some of which directly involve the agricultural sector (see "Technical Assistance Programmes").

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR INVESTMENTS

WFP investment programmes which support development (as opposed to emergency) based activities include the following.

1. The Innovations Fund (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, established 2008) was established to enable WFP's pursuit of longer term, resilience building solutions to addressing hunger and malnutrition. This fund has provided substantial support to nutrition sensitive agriculture initiatives through WFP's **Purchase for Progress (P4P)** and related programmes (see "Technical Assistance Programmes").

2. The Gender Innovations Fund (Government of Germany, Government of Australia and private sector partners, established 2010) promotes and encourages innovation and partnerships in WFP operations that address hunger using a gender perspective. Many of the activities under this fund use agriculture as an entry point.

POLICY ADVICE

WFP currently works with WHO, UNICEF, FAO, IFAD, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), REACH and the SUN Movement to help governments 1) develop a multi-sectoral response to undernutrition; 2) integrate nutrition interventions with food security, health and social-protection programmes; and 3) develop and implement monitoring and evaluation

¹⁶ WFP's Nutrition Policy is focused primarily on prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, prevention of stunting during the first 1,000 days "window of opportunity", and addressing micronutrient deficiencies.

(M&E) systems. Policy dialogue and capacity building to achieve these goals is well under way in several Latin American countries and in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Haiti, Indonesia, Mozambique and Uganda¹⁷.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

As mentioned above, WFP's current Nutrition Policy includes technical assistance for nutrition-sensitive programming within WFP activities in which nutrition is not the primary goal. Examples where agriculture is explicitly involved include:

1. Local food procurement through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) Pilot Initiative (Gates Foundation, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, European Commission, Governments of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2008-2013): P4P is piloting models for increased participation of local, small-scale farmers in WFP's food procurement system, which provides a patient procurement platform. P4P has been piloted in 20 countries over a five-year period (see "Priority Countries") and is currently undergoing a final independent strategic evaluation. This programme generates benefits for local economies, transport times and costs, pipeline management, the CO2 footprint, and provides fresh and culturally adapted products to WFP food assistance beneficiaries. In addition to increasing smallholder farmers' access to local markets, P4P aims to improve the availability of and access to nutritious food for participating producer households. P4P activities include facilitating smallholder's access to credit, extensive capacity development with over 200 partners, and where feasible, linking farmers to local food processing industries¹⁸.

P4P also has a gender mission, which to increase women smallholder farmers, (unpaid) family workers and/or wage-labourers' well-being, through promoting and facilitating opportunities for their access to agricultural markets, in an economically and socially sustainable way.

Under P4P, WFP is also exploring the possibility of linking development partners that promote the uptake of biofortified crops to local WFP vendors in selected countries. Biofortification differs from large-scale food fortification in that it focuses on growing more nutritious food rather than on adding vitamins and minerals during food processing (see Harvest Plus brief for more details on biofortification). Finally, under P4P, WFP is linking local small scale farmers to "homegrown" WFP-funded **school feeding programmes** (see "Operational Research").

2. WFP also supports food safety in local food production in countries where it operates to ensure that quality standards are met. This is done by providing training and inputs such as control kits for farmers' organizations. WFP food specifications for all commodities aim to align the *Codex Alimentarius* standards, the national legislations (i.e. Standards) and any restrictions of the destined country (e.g. GMO, fortification, microbiology levels, etc.)¹⁹. Two per cent of purchases since the launch of P4P were of processed foods, supporting smallholder processing options, including high-energy protein supplements (Zambia), high-energy biscuits (Afghanistan), and fortified blended foods (Mozambique and Guatemala)²⁰.

3. Food/Cash-for-Assets Programmes: These programmes comprise an important area of work for WFP. The beneficiaries receive either cash or food in exchange for working on infrastructure projects or for time spent learning new skills. Many of these programmes are agriculture-based, for

¹⁷ WFP Nutrition Policy

¹⁸ P4P Global Gender Strategy (2011)

¹⁹ <http://foodqualityandsafety.wfp.org/specifications>

²⁰ P4P Global Gender Strategy (2011)

example for improving crops and agricultural practices, biofortification, erosion reduction and enhanced resilience to climate shocks. These, however, can be targeted at chronically food insecure households and may support them in creating assets that will improve their nutrition and increase food security in the long term. WFP is currently working to increase the nutrition sensitivity of its agriculture-based components.

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

1. The Homegrown School Feeding Programme (HGSF) (Gates Foundation, 2003) is a collaboration between WFP, the Gates Foundation, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other partners to develop a systematic approach to design and implementation of school feeding programmes that use locally procured food. Utilizing lessons from P4P, the initiative focuses on linking school feeding programmes with local small-scale producers by creating ongoing, sustainable market opportunities. HGSF programmes are now in more than 20 countries. More in-depths case studies (Ghana, Brazil, India and Thailand) and a final report [are](#) available.

2. WFP conducts and supports operational research into the impact of specific food products in different circumstances. This includes working with manufacturers in developing countries to ensure adequate implementation of quality control and safety measures, and to optimize production processes for maximum nutritional benefit, shelf-life, acceptability and timely production.

3. WFP also researches the efficiency and effectiveness in: i) the performance of specialized nutritious foods in various aspects of nutrition programming; ii) influencing households' use of food to improve intake and reduce sharing; and iii) programme changes to maximize the achievement of nutritional objectives. Work with different partners is ongoing in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malawi, Nepal, the Niger and Sierra Leone²¹

→ GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

WFP acts worldwide where people are in need of support due to emergency or post emergency situation.

→ PRIORITY COUNTRIES & PROGRAMMES

This list is not exhaustive but rather provides examples of WFP programmes which either provide direct support to nutrition through agriculture, or which are related to improving nutrition through agriculture, but which do not include an explicit nutrition objective or action in their design.

Afghanistan	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Benin	Promotion of Sustainable School Feeding (project cycle dates?), includes linking school feeding with local production and subsequent creation of marketing opportunities for small farmers.
Burkina Faso	P4P Pilot (2008-2013) Country Programme (2011-2015), includes local procurement under P4P as well as capacity development initiatives targeting smallholders and social marketing to promote

²¹ WFP Nutrition Policy Update (2013)

	consumption of locally procured foods
DRC	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
El Salvador	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Ethiopia	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Ghana	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Guatemala	Country Programme, (2010-2014), includes programming under FFA to improve livelihoods of subsistence farmers and local procurement under P4P
Haiti	Support for the National School Meals Programme (2012-2014), includes support for local procurement
Honduras	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Kenya	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Kyrgyz Republic	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation: Support to Food Insecure Households (2011-2013), includes support for local procurement
Lao PDR	Country Programme (2012-2015), includes local procurement and provision of nutrition education, also includes production and social marketing of biofortified rice
Liberia	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Malawi	Country Programme (2012-2016), includes a “Home Grown School Feeding” pilot in two districts, support to school gardens, agriculture based FFA (training in small-scale irrigation, fish farming, reforestation and land management)
Mali	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Mozambique	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Nicaragua	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Rwanda	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Senegal	Country Programme (2012-2016)
Sierra Leone	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
South Sudan	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation: Supporting relief and Recovery in former Conflict-Affected Areas (2013-2014), includes local procurement
Sri Lanka	Support to Improve Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (2008-2012), includes support to local production of soybean for increased <i>Thripsha</i> ²² supply
Tanzania	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Uganda	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)
Zambia	P4P Pilot (2008-2013)

→ KEY TECHNICAL INTERVENTIONS

WFP interventions that promote nutrition sensitive agriculture include:

- Local procurement of food for food assistance programs, including support to and inputs for meeting WFP safety and quality standards
- As a complement to local procurement, social marketing for locally produced food aid
- Support to and implementation of home grown school feeding programmes
- Training in crop diversification, soil management and other improved agricultural practices, under *Food or Cash for Assets* programming
- Nutrition education training as program component.

²² Sri Lankan supplementary food product

→ TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS

WFP programming focuses on live saving and hunger and malnutrition reduction in vulnerable populations and specific groups including young children aged 6-23 months (or 6-59 months in some sudden-onset emergencies), pregnant and lactating women, and malnourished people in treatment for HIV and tuberculosis.

Under the current Nutrition Policy, WFP focuses on stunting prevention within the 1000-day “window of opportunity” as well as targeting adolescent girls. WFP advocates for a food-based approach to preventing micronutrient deficiencies in the general population. School-aged children are targeted through school feeding programmes and the general population is targeted through staple food fortification programmes.

Activities that involve the agriculture sector directly target smallholder farmer households, farmer groups and, whenever possible, vulnerable groups²³ in food insecure areas.

→ MONITORING & EVALUATION

WFP has several assessment tools which it applies during programme cycles to provide appropriate and timely information on food security and vulnerability of populations. Collectively referred to as **Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM)**, these tools aim at developing a better understanding of what causes food and nutrition insecurity within specific populations. Crop and Food Security Missions are conducted jointly with FAO. Market analysis of food availability and access are conducted, and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Scale (see FAO brief) is applied. <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp252355.pdf>

As a proxy for caloric intake and diet quality the **Food Consumption Score indicator (FCS)**, a frequency weighted diet diversity score, is used in VAM monitoring and baseline surveys, and emergency assessments. <http://www.wfp.org/content/technical-guidance-sheet-food-consumption-analysis-calculation-and-use-food-consumption-score-food-s>

As a proxy for economic access to required nutrients, the **minimum cost of a nutritious diet (CoD) is used**, which is a linear programming methodology that quantifies the minimum amount of income required to obtain all the micro- and macronutrients necessary for a household, based on actual nutrient needs, food composition and market prices. <http://www.wfp.org/node/411738>

²³ Adapted from WFP’s Nutrition Policy, 2012.

→ GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

WFP integrates gender into all of its programmes, in line with its [Gender Policy and Strategy](#). Towards this end, in 2010 WFP established a **Gender Innovations Fund** to promote and encourage innovation and partnerships in WFP operations that address hunger from a gender perspective. One example of particular relevance to nutrition sensitive agriculture is [P4P's Gender Strategy](#). Developed in 2011 in collaboration with the [Agricultural Learning and Impacts Network](#), this Strategy lays out options for increasing the gender sensitivity of P4P programming. In October 2012, FAO, IFAD, UN Women, and WFP launched a joint programme called ["Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women"](#). This programme aims to economically empower rural women by enhancing leadership opportunities, improving food security and incomes and influencing policy environments for more gender awareness. P4P is WFP's entry point in this partnership in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia and Rwanda.

→ EMERGENCY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

WFP's post emergency programming includes follow up activities and links to development projects focusing on resilience building. These include nutrition sensitive agriculture activities such as training in crop diversification, soil management and other improved agricultural practices. Local procurement of food under P4P and related programmes also contributes to WFP's support of nutrition sensitive agriculture.

→ LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES

Programmatic bottlenecks have challenged some P4P pilots and related activities. For example:

Although WFP has promoted futures contracting²⁴ and other risk reduction measures for smallholders, weak management, poor access to credit, bad growing conditions and other challenges have meant that farmers' associations have been unable to fulfill their contracts in some cases. WFP, together with partners, is looking at ways in which it can better sensitise farmers' organizations about market information and pricing issues as well as how it can better target its training programmes to enhance the knowledge of farmers' organizations in commodity management and quality issues. Key will be how this knowledge is passed down to other members²⁵.

Recognizing the important role of women, WFP is also striving to increase their participation in P4P. This has to date been difficult, due to women's lack of land ownership and control of the production process, trading and/or income from cash crops. Through its gender framework, P4P programmes are in some cases working towards diversification of the crops and food products procured, with the explicit objective of increasing participation of female members of the agricultural value chain²⁶.

→ KEY PUBLICATIONS & CONTACTS

²⁴ Forward or futures contracts give smallholder farmers' organizations assurance at planting time of a guaranteed market, therefore encouraging increased production and facilitating access to credit. The availability of credit, often crucial for buying inputs like fertilizer or seeds or aggregating farmers' crops at their organization, is often a big challenge for smallholders

²⁵ <http://www.wfp.org/purchase-progress/blog/what-we-are-learning-forward-contracting-west-africa>

²⁶ P4P Gender Strategy 2011

[WFP Update on the Nutrition Policy \(2013\)](#)

[WFP Nutrition Policy \(2012\)](#)

[P4P Gender Strategy \(2011\)](#)

[WFP Gender Policy \(2009\)](#)

[Home Grown School Feeding](#) (undated)

For more information on nutrition sensitive agriculture at WFP, please contact:

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

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WFP Headquarter, Rome, Italy

→ COUNTRY STORIES (1-2 concrete examples of good practices)

As part of the Purchase for Progress (P4P) pilot in Mali, farmers' organizations are increasingly linking to the food processing sector. Such connections are made through exchange visits, like the one by the Union of Maize Producers from Diedougou (USCPMD) to Moulin du Sahel, (MDS) one of the biggest food processing factories in Mali. USCPMD has over 1,900 members and, in 2013, has already supplied WFP with 450 metric tons of millet and sorghum, most of it through forward contracting. And they hope to do more this year - as the higher price received for a quality product is an incentive for farmers to strive for the highest standards in post harvest handling.

As for MDS, the factory is keen to purchase locally produced maize. In 2012, MDS had to import maize (from a distance of more than 5,000 km) after failing to find locally reliable farmers organizations/structures than could deliver large quantities.

For its part, WFP can now purchase enriched maize flour locally at competitive prices. This is a huge time advantage in a landlocked country like Mali where delivery lead times can be up to three months.

<http://www.wfp.org/node/3516/3900/461876>

Under Cash for Assets project in Burkina Faso, community members receive cash to purchase locally available food in exchange for work on vital new infrastructure for sustainable rice cultivation.

Participants receive 1,200 CFA (around US\$ 2.40) for each working day, distributed at the end of the month. This amount aims to support the participant (around 60 percent of whom are women) as well as five additional family members.

"We used to farm this land, but we were not organized as we are today. We work in groups and produce much more rice now," said Nombé Azara, a participant in the activity. She has seven children and her husband recently passed away.

"We keep some of the rice to eat and then sell the rest to earn some money, which we can use to buy other food such as vegetables and oil from the market. Some women have even used this money to set up a small business," said Azara.

<http://www.wfp.org/node/3617/3564/427392>

→ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Amit Wadhwa

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

→ POLICIES/STRATEGIES/MANDATE

Today the world faces a double burden of malnutrition that includes both undernutrition and overweight. Malnutrition is also characterized by a lack of several essential nutrients in the diet, particularly iron, folic acid, vitamin A and iodine. Malnutrition, in any form, presents significant threats to human health. Undernutrition contributes to about one third of all child deaths. Growing rates of overweight and obesity worldwide are associated with a rise in chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. These conditions are affecting the poor and most vulnerable in escalating numbers.

Effective nutrition actions to improve health have been identified and WHO is working with Member States and partners to scale-up interventions, particularly for the most vulnerable, and starting from the earliest stages of development. Strategies include

- helping to develop sound food and nutrition policies in countries with the greatest burden of malnutrition;
- monitoring global trends in nutrition to inform decision-making;
- providing scientific advice for actions to intervene; and,
- leading global collaboration to improve nutritional health.

In 2012, the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly approved a Comprehensive Implementation Plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition. The Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition includes six global targets to be achieved by 2025:

1. 40% reduction in childhood stunting;
2. 50% reduction in anaemia in women of reproductive age;
3. 30% decrease in low birth weight;
4. 0% increase in childhood overweight;
5. an increase in the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months to at least 50%;
6. a reduction in childhood wasting to less than 5%.

The Plan also includes five high priority actions which, when implemented collectively by the health, agriculture, education, social support and trade sectors, will address the growing public health burden of malnutrition:

1. To create a supportive environment for the implementation of comprehensive food and nutrition policies
2. To include all required effective health interventions with an impact on nutrition in plans for scaling up
3. To stimulate the implementation of non health interventions with an impact on nutrition
4. To provide adequate human and financial resources for the implementation of health interventions with an impact on nutrition
5. To monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies and programmes

Regarding nutrition sensitive actions outside the health sector, Action 3 includes proposed activities for Member States, the WHO Secretariat and international partners and the measures needed to promote the demand for and supply of healthier food and to eliminate constraints to its access and to use of healthier food in order to reduce the double burden of undernutrition and overweight.

Please access the CIP at http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/WHA65.6_annex2_en.pdf

Moreover, most regions now have regional nutrition plans of action reflecting strategies to address region-specific challenges through providing a framework or blueprint for countries to identifying, developing, prioritizing and adopting nutrition interventions. All the regional strategies emphasize the need for multisectoral nutrition policies and coordination.

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR INVESTMENTS

Accelerated Nutrition Improvements (Canadian DFATD, project start 2012)

WHO invests in strengthening nutrition surveillance systems in 11 countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and furthermore supporting scaling-up of nutrition actions in 3 of them (Ethiopia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania). Some of the countries are doing activities that could support nutrition-sensitive agriculture, e.g. food consumption survey in Zambia.

POLICY ADVICE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Support to multisectoral scaling-up nutrition action

WHO supports multisectoral scaling up nutrition actions in multiple sectors in countries through providing methodologies and tools for the processes from initial context mapping, evidence-informed policy planning, costing of holistic plans, and monitoring of programmes and nutrition trends. Multisectoral collaboration is considered key to these methodologies, in order to influence non-health sectors making their programmes more nutrition sensitive.

Landscape Analysis country assessments

The Landscape Analysis Country Assessments constitute in-depth reviews of challenges countries are facing, opportunities that exist and seek to identify possible actions that need to be prioritised in each country in order to accelerate scaling-up of effective interventions programmes. The assessment is done in a participatory fashion by a multisectoral and interagency team with national and international team members. It includes an analysis of a country's commitment, capacities and resources, and identifies promising actions that could be scaled up to improve nutrition.

The main aims of the country assessment are to: map the country context and readiness as part of developing national strategic action, plans and scale-up plans for implementing priority nutrition interventions; make recommendations about where and how to best make investments in order to accelerate actions in nutrition; establish the current status of nutrition action in a country, thus allowing future progress to be tracked against that baseline.

The Landscape Analysis in-depth Country Assessment was initially undertaken in the five countries of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guatemala, Madagascar and Peru in 2008. Following these country assessments, were Comoros, South Africa and Timor-Leste in 2009, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Mozambique in 2010, Mali, Namibia, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania and Egypt in 2011 and Guinea in 2012.

Evidence-informed policy planning - EVIPnet

WHO (NHD and the EVIPnet group) supports capacity building for evidence-informed policy planning in countries that are developing scaling-up plans; currently undertaken in Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar and Namibia.

UN OneHealth Tool for costing national nutrition plans

WHO promotes health sector wide planning through costing nutrition specific and sensitive interventions delivered through the health sector using the UN OneHealth Tool, in order to avoid vertical programmes. The OneHealth Tool includes nutrition sensitive interventions in the health sector, e.g. WASH interventions. Moreover, it is flexible and allows countries to add nutrition-sensitive interventions delivered by other sectors, e.g. agriculture, should they wish to do so. The OneHealth Tool has been/is being used in Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Evidence-informed guidelines and e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA)

WHO produces evidence-based guidelines in nutrition. WHO also maintains eLENA, which is an online library of evidence-informed guidelines for an expanding list of nutrition interventions. It is a single point of reference for the latest nutrition guidelines, recommendations and related information. eLENA aims to help countries successfully implement and scale-up nutrition interventions by informing as well as guiding policy development and programme design. eLENA currently contains information on evidence for various nutrition sensitive interventions outside the health sector, e.g. biofortification, food fortification, etc.

WHO has produced various guidance document for food fortification, including wheat and maize flour fortifications as well as salt iodization. WHO also produces guidance on dietary levels of micro- and macronutrients (e.g. sodium, potassium, sugar, fat), which together with nutrient profiling system of foods lays the foundation for nutrition sensitive agriculture and food production.

Nutrient profiling

Nutrient profiling is the science of classifying or ranking foods according to their nutritional composition for reasons related to preventing disease and promoting health. Nutrient profiling can be used for various applications, including marketing of foods to children, health and nutrition claims, product labelling logos or symbols, information and education, provision of food to public institutions, and the use of economic tools to orient food consumption.

Though nutrient profiling does not address all aspects of nutrition, diet and health it is a helpful tool to use in conjunction with interventions aimed at improving diets in a region or country. One example of a common use of nutrient profiling is in food labelling schemes aimed at helping consumers better understand the nutrient composition of foods and, on the basis of this understanding, identify foods that are healthier options.

These schemes and other uses of nutrient profiling have been employed by governments, food producers and retailers, researchers and nongovernmental organizations such as health charities for more than 20 years.

WHO is working with international experts and partners to provide guidance in developing or adapting nutrient profile models. The aim of the work is to harmonize nutrient profile model development to produce consistent and coherent public health nutrition messages for the consumer and ultimately improve nutrition and public health. WHO is developing the Guiding Principles and Methodological Framework on Developing and Adapting Nutrient Profiling Models, and Catalogue of

Nutrient Profile Models.

Monitoring of nutrition policies and action

WHO maintains the WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA). GINA is an interactive platform for sharing standardized information on nutrition-related policies and action, i.e. what are the commitments made and who is doing what, where, when, why and how (including lessons learnt). GINA includes policies and actions related to multiple sectors, including agriculture, trade and labour.

In 2013, WHO published the Global Nutrition Policy Review is based on a questionnaire survey conducted during 2009–2010, in which 119 WHO Member States and 4 territories participated. The Review analysed the information on whether the countries have nutrition policies and programmes and if so, what topics the policies cover, how they are being implemented, what the implementation coverage is, who the stakeholders are, what coordination mechanism exists, and how the monitoring and evaluation are being implemented. The report presents the result according to the WHO regions.

The Healthy Growth Project

The promoting healthy growth and preventing childhood stunting project aims to create global awareness of the link between healthy growth and complementary feeding, and develop tools and a framework to promote healthy growth in countries with a high burden of stunting. Data analyses will be carried out to strengthen the evidence base and contribute to building a shared understanding among decision-makers, implementers and the wider public about the health, economic and developmental consequences of stunting. Inadequate complementary feeding practices are associated with impaired linear growth and high rates of stunting from 6-24 months. Therefore, special emphasis will be given to identifying strategies to sustainably improve this component of infant and young child feeding, bearing in mind that contributions from other sectors (poverty reduction, food security, education, water and sanitation, social protection and agriculture) are critical for long-term improvement.

Food-based dietary guidelines

WHO is developing a procedural manual on development and implementation of food-based dietary guidelines. FBDGs are science-based recommendations for healthy eating. Development and implementation of FBDGs were prompted by the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition adopted by the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition in order to disseminate nutrition information through sustainable food-based approaches that encourage dietary diversification through the production and consumption of micronutrient-rich foods, including appropriate traditional foods. Because people understand and eat foods and not nutrients, dietary advice based on foods rather than nutrients will be more likely to be followed, and therefore more likely to lead to beneficial changes in food consumption patterns, nutrient intakes and ultimately health and nutritional status of individuals and populations.

The aim of procedural manual on development and implementation of food-based dietary guidelines is firstly to explain the concept of FBDGs and then to give practical guidance on the different stages and steps to develop FBDGs, how to develop the supporting food guide, education and promotional material, how to plan for implementation of the guidelines, how to plan and do the field testing of the guidelines and supporting material, and how to evaluate the implementation plan as well as the outputs, outcomes and impact of implementation on eating patterns, nutritional status and health. The approach in developing the Manual was evidence-based, using elements from documented theory and principles proven to be successful in nutrition interventions.

Food labelling and the Codex Alimentarius

Since 2005, Codex, in particular the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL), initiated the work to contribute to the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2004. One of this effort is the development of nutrient reference values for nutrients associated with risk of noncommunicable diseases (NRVs-NCD) and their incorporation in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling in order to address the increasing public health problem of obesity and diet-related NCDs.

Promotion of nutrition labelling for all pre-packaged foods is a proposed policy measure highlighted in the NCD Action Plan 2013 – 2020 which was adopted by the 66th WHA in May 2013 for promoting healthy diet and preventing NCDs. Therefore, the strengthening of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling through incorporating measures related to NRVs-NCD will also contribute to the implementation of the NCD Action Plan 2013 – 2020 and ultimately to the achievement of the global targets.

Other Codex work?

Scientific and technical advisory group on Inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children

In May 2012, the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly requested the Director General to provide clarification and guidance on the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children. WHO convened a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) including experts in the field of infant and young child feeding and the regulatory framework around foods for infants and young children. The first meeting of STAG was organized in Geneva on 24–25 June 2013. The STAG developed a Technical Paper on Definition of Inappropriate Promotion of foods for infants and young children that was submitted to WHO in August 2013.

Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – mainly cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes – are the biggest cause of death worldwide. More than 36 million die annually from NCDs (63% of global deaths), including 14 million people who die too young before the age of 70. More than 90% of these premature deaths from NCDs occur in low- and middle-income countries, and could have largely been prevented. Most premature deaths are linked to common risk factors, namely tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol.

To strengthen national efforts to address the burden of NCDs, the 66th World Health Assembly endorsed the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020 (resolution WHA66.10). The global action plan offers a paradigm shift by providing a road map and a menu of policy options for Member States, WHO, other UN organizations and intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the private sector which, when implemented collectively between 2013 and 2020, will attain 9 voluntary global targets, including that of a 25% relative reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025.

The Action Plan outlines promotion of healthy diets as a viable policy option and recommends Member States to consider developing or strengthening national food and nutrition policies and action plans and implementation of related global strategies including the global strategy on diet, physical activity and health, the global strategy for infant and young child feeding, the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition and WHO's set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children. Member States should also consider implementing other relevant evidence-guided strategies, to promote

healthy diets in the entire population (see Appendix 1 and Appendix 3), while protecting dietary guidance and food policy from undue influence of commercial and other vested interests.

Set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children

This report contains the set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, as presented to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in May 2010, and the resolution which endorsed them (WHA63.14). The document calls for national and international action to reduce the impact on children of marketing of foods high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars, or salt

Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health

Unhealthy diets and physical inactivity are key risk factors for the major noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and diabetes.

Recognizing the opportunity for reducing deaths and diseases worldwide by improving diets and increasing levels of physical activity, the World Health Assembly adopted the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, in May 2004.

Unhealthy diets and physical inactivity are major risk factors for chronic diseases. Reports of international and national experts and reviews of the current scientific evidence recommend goals for nutrient intake in order to prevent chronic diseases.

For diet, recommendations for populations and individuals should include the following:

- achieve energy balance and a healthy weight
- limit energy intake from total fats and shift fat consumption away from saturated fats to unsaturated fats and towards the elimination of trans-fatty acids
- increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, and legumes, whole grains and nuts
- limit the intake of free sugars
- limit salt (sodium) consumption from all sources and ensure that salt is iodized

These recommendations need to be considered when preparing national policies and dietary guidelines, taking into account the local situation.

Improving dietary habits is a societal, not just an individual problem. Therefore it demands a population-based, multisectoral, multi-disciplinary, and culturally relevant approach.

Global Strategy for Food Safety

Foodborne diseases takes a major toll on health. Millions of people fall ill and many die as a result of eating unsafe food. Deeply concerned by this, a resolution was adopted by WHO and its Member States to recognize food safety as an essential public health function, and to develop a Global Strategy for reducing the burden of foodborne diseases.

→ GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

WHO has 194 Member States.

WHO has a Regional Office in each of its six regions (Africa, the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South East Asia and Western Pacific).

→ PRIORITY COUNTRIES & PROGRAMMES

Please refer to above sections

→ TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS

All population with main focus on 1,000 days window of opportunity from pregnancy to 2 years of age.

→ MONITORING & EVALUATION

WHO Global Nutrition Databases

- [Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action \(GINA\)](#)
- [Nutrition Landscape Information System \(NLIS\)](#)
- [Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition Information System \(VMNIS\)](#)
- [WHO Global Database on Body Mass Index](#)
- [WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition](#)
- [WHO Global Data Bank on Infant and Young Child Feeding](#)

Global Monitoring Framework for Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition

The purpose of the monitoring framework is:

- to monitor progress towards the achievement of the six global targets – for use at global and national levels
- to track implementation of selected programmes required to achieve the global targets (for use at global and national level)
- to track implementation of all programmes required to achieve national targets (for use at national and at sub-national levels)

The Monitoring Framework will help to take decisions on programme continuation, modification and replication. Indicators in the monitoring framework can also be used to evaluate effectiveness of interventions in improving outcomes at programme level.

The goal of Global Targets is to highlight key priority areas that must be addressed to alleviate the double burden of malnutrition in young children, starting with the earliest stages of development, so that optimal nutrition and health can be achieved. Global Targets are also meant to provide a benchmark for the international community to measure achievements, identify gaps and trigger corrective actions, and estimate global resource requirements.

NCD Global Monitoring Framework

Following the Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2011, WHO developed a global monitoring framework to enable global tracking of progress in preventing and controlling major noncommunicable diseases - cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic lung diseases and diabetes - and their key risk factors.

The framework comprises nine global targets and 25 indicators and will be up for adoption by

Member States during the World Health Assembly in May 2013. Once adopted, Member States are encouraged to consider the development of national NCD targets and indicators building on the global framework.

The 9 voluntary global targets are aimed at combatting global mortality from the four main NCDs, accelerating action against the leading risk factors for NCDs and strengthening national health system responses. The mortality target - a 25% reduction in premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by 2025 - has already been adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2012.

→ GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

WHO is currently developing a Gender, Equity and Human Rights (GER) Mainstreaming Roadmap A Roadmap for Action 2014-2019. In 2012, the WHO Director-General Margaret Chan established the Gender, Equity and Human Rights (GER) Team, responding to a call from Member States to more effectively mainstream WHO's core values and cross-cutting priorities across the Organization as part of the WHO reform process. In the words of Dr. Chan, the goal of institutional mainstreaming – facilitated by the GER Team – is to “achieve a WHO in which each staff member has the core values of gender, equity and human rights in their DNA.” Bringing together previous teams and expertise on gender, equity and human rights, the GER Team is at once building on progress that has already been at all three levels of the Organization, and forging ahead with a bold new approach.

→ EMERGENCY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The main thrust of WHO's nutrition work in the context of emergencies is to:

- Provide effective technical support through the production and dissemination of scientifically validated and up-to-date:
 - guidelines, norms, criteria and methodologies relating to nutritional standards
 - information on food/ration composition
 - assessment of malnutrition including specific nutrient deficiencies
 - improved management of severe and moderate malnutrition
 - monitoring nutritional status
 - nutritional surveillance for both prevention/early warning and response when emergencies arise
- Strengthen, through information dissemination and training, national, subnational and international capacities to meet the nutritional needs of populations in emergencies.

Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD), in collaboration with the Department of Health Action in Crises (HAC) and the six WHO regional nutrition advisors, works closely with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), NGOs, academic institutions and other concerned groups and organizations, and is an active member of the Nutrition Cluster.

→ LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES

GINA, an online database of nutrition relevant policies and actions across the world (see above), contains a section on challenges met, solutions to overcome these and lessons learnt from specific actions implemented in countries. The aim is to create a repository of best practices and lessons that countries can share amongst themselves.

→ KEY PUBLICATIONS & CONTACTS

In addition to those mentioned above, please see <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/en/>

Biodiversity International

→ POLICIES / STRATEGIES / MANDATE

Biodiversity International is a leading research-for-development organization dedicated to the use and conservation of forest and agricultural diversity to combat poverty and malnutrition and to enhance the sustainability. The Nutrition and Marketing Diversity Program promotes the use of agricultural biodiversity in food production systems and value chains and is investigating how diversified diets, using accessible, affordable, culturally acceptable and safe local and traditional foods, can be a sustainable tool to address undernutrition and overnutrition and its related health effects including non-communicable diseases. Strong partnerships and collaborations with donors, research, NGOs, the private sector, especially smallholder food producers, ensure the relevance, sustainability and outreach of the work.

Biodiversity International is part of the CGIAR system and its marketing and nutrition work contributes to the CGIAR research program (CRP) on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) as well as other research programmes including the different system research programmes (CRP 1.1 dryland systems; CRP 1.2 humid tropics and CRP1.3 aquatic agricultural systems).

More information on Biodiversity's nutrition and marketing diversity work can be found in our nutrition strategy :

[http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/uploads/tx_news/Biodiversity International nutrition strategy 2011-2021 1524.pdf](http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/uploads/tx_news/Biodiversity_International_nutrition_strategy_2011-2021_1524.pdf)

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

APPLIED RESEARCH

Agricultural and forest diversity has a critical role to play in sustainable development and food systems, resilience and improved nutrition and health. Biodiversity International's Nutrition and Health team is developing evidence and solutions to reduce hunger, malnutrition and obesity through dietary diversity and improved food security. With partners, our research team is looking at nutrition and health through the unique lens of agricultural diversity. A primary focus of our work in nutrition is mothers, infants and young children in West, East and Southern Africa as well as Asia and Latin America, with projects that can be adapted to other regions. Some examples of current projects:

- 1) Improving nutritional health of women and children through increased utilization of local agrobiodiversity in Kenya (INULA); 04/2012 – 03/2014
- 2) Advancing through Sustainable Diets; 07/2012 – 12/2014
- 3) Developing agrobiodiversity-based strategies for better nutrition security among smallholder households in banana growing regions of East Africa; 07/2012 – 06/2015
- 4) Investigating the current and potential role of local biodiversity in meeting nutritional requirements for complementary foods of infants and young children in Southern Benin; 01/2012 – 12/2015

- 5) The effects of market integration on the nutritional contributions of traditional foods to the wellbeing of the rural poor in Africa; 11/2009 – 02/2013
- 6) Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use for improved human nutrition and well-being – Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project; 04/2012 – 10/2016
- 7) Role of wild, neglected and underutilized foods in reducing the cost of a nutritionally adequate diet in the Eastern region of Baringo district, Kenya; 01/2012 – 12/2012

This research area contributes to the CGIAR Research Program on [Agriculture for Nutrition and Health](#) through understanding the contribution of a diverse diet to improve nutrition and health.

For more information about our research, we refer to our nutrition strategy:

http://www.bioversityinternational.org/uploads/tx_news/Bioversity_International_nutrition_strategy_2011-2021_Summary_1525.pdf

Also we undertake value chain research on neglected and underutilized species.

Not all Actors are doing all of these, may be only 2-3 types of support.

→ GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Africa: West African Sahelian countries, Zambesi and Volta basins

Asia-Pacific: Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ganges and Mekong basins

Meso America: Brazil

→ PRIORITY COUNTRIES & PROGRAMS

Uganda/Tanzania	Developing agrobiodiversity-based strategies for better nutrition security among smallholder households in banana growing regions of East Africa; 07/2012 – 06/2015
Kenya	Improving nutritional health of women and children through increased utilization of local agrobiodiversity in Kenya (INULA); 04/2012 – 03/20104 Role of wild, neglected and underutilized foods in reducing the cost of a nutritionally adequate diet in the Eastern region of Baringo district, Kenya; 01/2012 – 12/2012
Benin	Investigating the current and potential role of local biodiversity in meeting nutritional requirements for complementary foods of infants and young children in Southern Benin; 01/2012 – 12/2015
Kenya/Benin	The effects of market integration on the nutritional contributions of traditional foods to the wellbeing of the rural poor in Africa; 11/2009 – 02/2013
Brazil/Sri Lanka/ Turkey/Kenya	Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use for improved human nutrition and well-being – Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project; 04/2012 – 10/2016
Global and France/Spain	Advancing through Sustainable Diets; 07/2012 – 12/2014

→KEY TECHNICAL INTERVENTIONS

- Development of the concepts and metrics to measure sustainable diets
- Indicator development with regard to dietary diversity, dietary quality and biodiversity
- Research on nutrition-sensitive landscapes and the contributions of agricultural and wild biodiversity to nutrition and health
- Modeling, using linear programming, of accessible, affordable, culturally acceptable and safe diets using food composition data, nutrient requirement of the respective population groups and food prices over different seasons
- We are the executing agency with FAO and UNEP of a UNEP/GEF activity with significant funding from the target countries Brazil/Sri Lanka/ Turkey/Kenya on the identification, promotion and use of diversity quality diets.

→TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS

A primary focus of our work in nutrition is to improve diets and nutrition of mothers and young children, concentrating on the critical first 1000 days of life. In addition, we use indirect methods to improve nutrition through better livelihoods utilizing diversity and do so sustainably.

More generally, Bioversity's work will focus on agro-ecosystems that have a significant agricultural biodiversity potential in areas burdened with a high proportion of malnourished individuals and in developing, transitioning and middle income countries. The 36 countries that are home to 90% of the world's stunted children will receive priority attention. Of these countries, further priority will be given to those with functioning agricultural systems and with the potential to improve their agriculture, or which demonstrate a readiness to accelerate action in nutrition. Smallholder farmers and their communities in low-income countries are the key beneficiaries of our nutrition strategy. Attention will be also dedicated to creating demand and providing access to nutritious foods among people living in urban and peri-urban settings. Communities at risk of losing traditional food systems will be a further focus.

→MONITORING & EVALUATION

Bioversity's Nutrition Department is a young programme and is mainly doing basic research into the contributions of agricultural and wild diversity to diversified and quality diets and nutrition as well as working towards the development of key indicators of sustainable diets and biodiversity in diets. Household and/or individual dietary diversity, anthropometry and infant and young child feeding practices are some of the key indicators used in our studies. In addition we work in capacity strengthening and policy.

Key indicators
HH and individual dietary diversity

Impact evaluations not available yet, but Bioversity has an impact assessment unit that is working closely together with the nutrition department.

→ GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Bioversity is working towards mainstreaming gender in all its strategies and makes work of collecting sex-disaggregated data where relevant.

Key project activities of the nutrition programme unit almost always depend on significant involvement and inputs from women ('s groups). Women are the main caretakers and in charge of food preparation and feeding. The different projects seek to empower women with better knowledge on foods, nutrition and feeding practices. The nutrition programme also considers men's involvement at strategic points in life of the different project, so that female participants get the necessary support from their husbands and other boys and men to participate in the projects.

→ LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES

Complexity of the pathways that lead from increased biodiversity in agricultural production over increased dietary diversity towards better nutrition and health; evidence building still asks a lot of efforts while evidence is necessary to obtain political (and donor) support. Though increasing dietary diversity and adequacy through better use of locally available foods and biodiversity (food based strategies, whole of diet approach) is often mentioned as one of the more sustainable options towards nutrition security, the proposed 'whole of diet' approach and food based strategies are often asked to compete and fulfill the same expectations as with easier pathways towards nutrition sensitive agriculture such as biofortification.

Much more work is needed to develop indicators that suit Bioversity's nutrition work

Bioversity's nutrition program is a new and growing unit, the recruitment of new experienced staff members over the last year will allow the expansion of the research portfolio and outputs

A comprehensive nutrition strategy has been developed and is guiding the nutrition work at Bioversity International

More and more other programs within Bioversity and the CGIAR CRPs start to understand and value the importance of quality nutrition research in their work

Developing and deploying a linear programming tool to identify gaps in the diet and the contribution of low cost, acceptable and accessible foods to close the gap (in Kenya).

→ KEY PUBLICATIONS & CONTACTS

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Getachew Addis, Asfaw, Z.; Singh, V.; Woldu, Z.; Baidu-Forson, J.J.; Bhattacharya, S.(2013). Dietary values of wild and semi-wild edible plants in Southern Ethiopia. African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development, Vol. 13(2).

<http://www.bioversityinternational.org/research-portfolio/diet-diversity/>

For more information about Bioversity's work around nutrition and biodiversity, please contact:

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IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

IAEA

→ POLICIES / STRATEGIES / MANDATE

The IAEA aims to contribute, through the application of nuclear techniques, to the global efforts to improve nutrition, health and development. Its mission includes the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear techniques for improved nutrition, particularly early life nutrition. Improving health and nutrition of vulnerable populations will require not only direct 'nutrition-specific' interventions, but also indirect 'nutrition-sensitive' action addressing the underlying determinants of nutrition and inputs from multiple sectors. Therefore, the IAEA has assigned resources for research activities in the area of agriculture for nutrition. The application of stable isotope techniques can provide important information in understanding the link between agriculture and nutrition and in strengthening the evidence in support of nutrition-sensitive agricultural policies and practices. The first activity in this area is a new coordinated research project.

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

APPLIED RESEARCH

The IAEA starts in 2013 a new coordinated research project on using nuclear techniques to assess the role of nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems in improving diet, health and nutritional status of vulnerable populations. The project is for 5 years and will fund 5-7 research projects in different countries. The call for proposals has just been advertised.

→ KEY TECHNICAL INTERVENTIONS

Nutrition-sensitive, biodiverse, and sustainable agri-food systems improve nutritional status through increased access to and consumption of high quality diets; however there is a need for further research in this area that includes rigorous design and appropriate measurement techniques for assessing health and nutritional impacts. Body composition divides weight into fat mass and fat-free mass and, compared to total body weight, will provide a more sensitive means of assessing changes in nutritional status in response to nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions and changes in consumption. It can thus help to improve or optimize intervention strategies and understand the impact of dietary transitions. The deuterium dilution stable isotope technique, which will be used in the new coordinated research project, is among the most accurate techniques for assessing body composition. It involves the estimation of fat-free mass by measuring total body water and provides reliable information on changes in body composition in individuals. The new coordinated research project will provide important information on the role of structural outcome measures such as body composition in advancing the knowledge and understanding of the effect of nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems on diet, health and nutritional status among vulnerable populations and the understanding of nutritional consequences on dietary transition. Studies to be included in the new research project may be stand-alone projects, or build on existing research agendas.

→TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS

Vulnerable populations, including urban poor, indigenous populations/societies, young children, adolescents, or women of reproductive age.

→MONITORING & EVALUATION

The primary focus of the new coordinated research project is the application of stable isotope methods to assess the effect of nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems (including interventions) and of dietary transition on body composition. The emphasis is on proof-of-concept in the context of whole diets, and elucidating specific impact pathways to improving nutritional status through nutrition-sensitive agriculture systems/interventions. Applying a more sensitive measure of nutritional status using stable isotope techniques will address a persistent gap in the literature regarding the amount and/or quality of evidence underlining the health effects of changes in food intake, dietary diversity, or diet quality in nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems. It will give insights on whether indicators of dietary intake and quality can predict changes in body composition. All research projects are required to use the deuterium dilution stable isotope technique to measure total body water for the assessment of body composition. Other stable isotope methods may be included for the assessment of human milk intake, iron/zinc bioavailability and/or vitamin A status if they are complementary and add value to the research project. The knowledge gained will contribute to a better understanding of sustainable food systems with improved agricultural biodiversity and dietary patterns and their potential to combat both sides of the dual burden of malnutrition.

More information is available at the IAEA website: <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nahu/nahres/crp.html>

Key indicators

Body composition, dietary quality, anthropometry

→KEY PUBLICATIONS & CONTACTS

Assessment of Body Composition and Total Energy Expenditure in Humans Using Stable Isotope Techniques IAEA Human Health Series No. 3;19 October 2009, 133 pp. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria. Provides information on the theoretical background, including safety considerations, as well as the practical application of state of the art methodologies to monitor changes in body composition and total energy expenditure, and reflects recent advances in analytical techniques.

Stable Isotope Technique to Assess Intake of Human Milk in Breastfed Infants IAEA Human Health Series No. 7;15 March 2010, 67 pp. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria. The stable (non-radioactive) isotope technique has been developed to assess intake of human milk in breastfed infants. The practical application of the stable isotope technique, based on analysis of deuterium by Fourier transform infrared spectrometry (FTIR), is presented in this book.

Analysis of Stable Isotope Data to Estimate Vitamin A Body Stores. The Vitamin A Tracer Task Force, Jointly organized by Harvest Plus, the IAEA and USAID. June 2008, 27 pp. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria. This publication describes model-based compartmental analysis of

stable isotope data to estimate vitamin A body stores in humans.

Assessment of Iron Bioavailability in Humans Using Stable Iron Isotope Techniques IAEA Human Health Series No. 21; 2012, 78 pp. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria. This publication on the assessment of iron bioavailability was developed as part of the IAEA's continuing efforts to transfer knowledge and technology in the use of stable isotope techniques in nutrition. It provides information on the theoretical background and practical application of state of the art methodology to measure human iron absorption and dietary iron bioavailability using stable (non-radioactive) isotopes. These techniques can be used to guide fortification and food based strategies to combat iron deficiency, which remains unacceptably high among infants, children and women of childbearing age in developing countries.

Link to Websites

<http://nucleus.iaea.org/HHW/Nutrition/index.html>

Contact (person or Unit)

Cornelia Loechl, Nutritional and Health-related Environmental Studies Section, Human Health Division

International Fund for Agricultural Development

(IFAD)

→ POLICIES / STRATEGIES / MANDATE

IFAD's unique mandate is to improve rural food security and nutrition, and enable rural women and men overcome poverty. Improvement of food security with attention to nutrition originates in the agreement establishing IFAD operations.

IFAD's Strategic Framework 2011-2015 focused on five objectives:

- A natural resource and economic asset base for poor rural women and men that is more resilient to climate change, environmental degradation and market transformation
- Access for poor rural women and men to services that reduce poverty, improve nutrition, raise incomes and build resilience in a changing environment
- Poor rural women and men, and their organizations, being able to manage profitable, sustainable and resilient farm and non-farm enterprises or take advantage of decent work opportunities
- Poor rural women and men, and their organizations, being able to influence policies and institutions that affect their livelihoods
- Enabling institutional and policy environments to support agricultural production and the full range of related non-farm activities.

Currently, IFAD has a new initiative to “make at least 20% of all new IFAD-supported projects nutrition- sensitive from the earliest point of project design²⁷” (see Financial Support, immediately below).

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR INVESTMENTS

- IFAD has \$5 million support from Canada for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development initiative.
- The German Government donated 670,000 EUR as support to the development of nutrition-sensitive value chains in middle income countries.

The goal of this initiative is to increase agriculture's contribution to the improved nutrition of smallholders and poor rural people. The primary activities are intended to encode nutrition-sensitivity in the DNA of the design of IFAD investments and strengthen partnerships to maximize impact.

POLICY ADVICE

²⁷ IFAD (undated). International Fund For Agricultural Development: Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Rural Development. Concept Note for Consideration by the Canadian Development Agency.

IFAD is strengthening the technical support in nutrition and also developing a Nutrition Framework for integrating nutrition into its operations.

IFAD prioritizes the following topics in its policy dialogue with national governments and in global fora: Combating desertification, agricultural research, rural financial services, decentralization policies and practices, and market-assisted agrarian reform²⁸.

Under the nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development initiative, IFAD aims to promote nutrition sensitive agriculture within global and regional policy processes such as the G8, G20 and New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, as well as with selected Member States²⁹.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

IFAD supports training and capacity-building and cooperates with local communities to help them organize themselves and strengthen their institutions³⁰. As mentioned above, a key activity for the nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development initiative is tailoring IFAD-supported projects to be more nutrition sensitive. As such, provision of technical assistance to homestead food production, sustainable land management, micro-irrigation, post-harvest storage, low-cost processing of food products, and nutrition literacy training are expected to be part of the programme. Harvest Plus and GAIN are cited as two potential collaborators for improving the nutrition impact of project operations³¹.

→ GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Countries that have already demonstrated a commitment to scaling up nutrition will be the focus of projects supported by nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development initiative.

→ EXAMPLE COUNTRIES & PROGRAMS

Lao People's Democratic Republic	Southern Laos Food and Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Programme 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensify and diversify farming systems • Enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops • Promote awareness of good nutritional practices • Support access to clean water
India	Odisha PTG Empowerment and livelihoods improvement programme (OPELIP) 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote kitchen garden • Support nutrition education • Support technology for smokeless stoves Improve access to health clinics, child care centers, clean drinking water

²⁸ IFAD (undated). Operations: Policy Dialogue
<http://www.ifad.org/operations/policy/index.htm>

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ IFAD (undated). Frequently Asked Questions
<http://www.ifad.org/governance/faq/faq.pdf>

³¹ IFAD (undated). International Fund For Agricultural Development: Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Rural Development. Concept Note for Consideration by the Canadian Development Agency.

→ TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS

IFAD as an only IFI specialized on the rural sector, targets **poor smallholder farmers, agricultural laborers, pastoralists, foresters, fishers** and **small entrepreneurs** in rural areas. Projects supported by IFAD are often in remote and environmentally fragile locations, and IFAD often works with marginalized and disenfranchised populations, giving particular attention to women, the young and indigenous peoples³². The ultimate target populations for IFAD projects supported through the nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development initiative are vulnerable households, women and children.

Assessment of child malnutrition is one of the mandatory indicators for overall results measurements and impact of IFAD- funded projects.

→ MONITORING & EVALUATION

Phase I of the nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development initiative aims to include a landscape analysis of IFAD's project portfolio to assess what agriculture program and value chains might be most successful in improving nutrition outcomes. More rigorous evaluations of selected projects' nutrition impact are also included in the initiative's implementation plan³³. IFAD support collection of data disaggregated by gender.

→ GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality and women's empowerment remain central to IFAD's poverty reduction mandate and strategy for reasons of both equity and development effectiveness. Rural women make up about half of all IFAD project participants³⁴. More information on gender mainstreaming in IFAD-supported projects is available in its **Framework for Gender Mainstreaming**.

→ EMERGENCY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Through the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Program (ASAP) and GEF funded projects, IFAD mainstreams climate-smart issues into its operations to address environmental pressures that threaten the livelihoods and food security of millions of poor rural people, fragile and conflict-affected countries. Many of IFAD climate smart programs are on diversified food system which are nutrition sensitive.

³² IFAD (undated). Frequently Asked Questions
<http://www.ifad.org/governance/faq/faq.pdf>

³³ IFAD (undated). International Fund For Agricultural Development: Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Rural Development. Concept Note for Consideration by the Canadian Development Agency.

³⁴ IFAD (undated, 2012?). IFAD at a Glance
<http://www.ifad.org/pub/brochure/ifadglance.pdf>

→ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following IFAD staff is gratefully acknowledged for the help in the preparation of this brief:

Marian Amaka Odenigbo

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

→ POLICIES / STRATEGIES / MANDATE

As the international organization responsible for labour issues, the main aims of the ILO are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

Although the ILO does not currently include “nutrition sensitive agriculture” in its programme roster, rural populations and the agricultural sector are considered important areas of work, and many ILO activities can be seen as related to nutrition sensitive agriculture. Under the [Decent Work Agenda](#), these include promotion of rural employment and productivity, including support to agricultural value chain development and smallholders; extension of social protection to rural areas; promotion of gender equality; protecting the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples; promotion of employment-based maternity protection; and support to green jobs, primarily in the context of climate change. Activities showcased in this brief are best viewed as “related” to (as opposed to overtly supportive of) nutrition sensitive agriculture, as unless otherwise stated they do not include an explicit nutrition objective.

→ COUNTRY SUPPORT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR INVESTMENTS

1. [The ILO's Social Finance Programme](#) supports efforts to extend financial services to excluded persons through job creation and improving access to credit, insurance, social funds and other products that help low income people organize and have a voice.
2. [Decent Work for Food Security \(DWFS\)](#) is an ILO Sectoral Programme which aims to reduce food insecurity by promoting decent and productive work in critical economic sectors and implementing integrated policies across the food system. Six countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania – have been identified for implementation of the DWFS Programme. Initial activities have been carried out in a number of these countries³⁵.

POLICY ADVICE

1. ILO policy development work is grounded in a two-dimensional approach to the **extension of social security coverage**. This approach aims first at rapid implementation of national [social protection floors](#) that ensure universal access to at least basic social security guarantees (horizontal dimension), and second at progressive achievement of higher levels of protection (vertical dimension) within comprehensive social security systems³⁶.

³⁵ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_161946.pdf

³⁶ <http://www.ilo.org/secsoc/areas-of-work/policy-development-and-applied-research/lang--en/index.htm>

2. **Decent Work Country Programmes** (DWCPs) are the main delivery vehicle for ILO support to countries. Through them, the ILO provides policy advice to member governments on social protection (e.g. STEP, see “Technical Assistance”), rural employment for poverty reduction and other employment oriented activities of relevance to nutrition sensitive agriculture. Activities include stocktaking and mapping of existing policies to identify coverage gaps and other challenges; development of cost estimates and projections for different policy scenarios to fill these gaps; and elaboration and discussion of these assessments, cost projections and fiscal space options through national social dialogue. Results feed into the national decision making process and may also inform countries’ UN Development Assistance Frameworks.^{37,38}

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The ILO works with over 30 countries supporting constituents with the planning, design, implementation and management of social protection policies, programmes and schemes including social protection floors aimed at guaranteeing basic income security and subsequent improved food security to all. For example:

1. The ILO’s **Strategies and Tools against Social Exclusion and Poverty Programme** (STEP) works on innovative strategies and mechanisms aimed at providing social security coverage to those excluded from existing schemes. Since 1998, STEP has been operative either at field or policy level in Africa, Asia and Latin America supporting schemes ranging from thousands to over 2 million beneficiaries. STEP is also working on national basic social protection policies in some Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, combining social transfers with employment policies and access to social services.

2. In addition to country programmes, the ILO’s **International Training Centre** (ITC) runs a variety of learning and capacity development services for workers’ groups through the **Workers’ Activities Programme**. Training services that may hold relevance to nutrition sensitive agriculture include:

- training of trainers and training methodology
- collective bargaining and organizing
- gender and women workers’ rights
- use of information technology

In addition to Workers Activities, other ITC programmes which may hold relevance for nutrition sensitive agriculture include:

- Enterprise, Microfinance and Local Development
- International Labor Standards, Rights at Work and Gender Equality
- Social Protection
- Social Dialogue, Labor Law, and Labor Administration
- Sustainable Development and Governance

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

1. The ILO’s **Green Jobs Programme** promotes a practical and coherent strategy that recognizes the strong interdependence between the need for social development and the urgency to act on climate change. Analysis provided by the Programme contributes to the promotion of a fair globalization and

³⁷ ILO personal correspondence (Christine Bockstal)

³⁸ DWCP Guidebook (2011)

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/program/dwcp/download/dwcpguidebookv3.pdf>

the development of sustainable enterprises and economies which are efficient, socially just and environmentally sound. The Programme contributes to regional and local initiatives by constituents for greening economies and provides a comprehensive knowledge base as well as tools for applying practical approaches³⁹.

2. STEP includes knowledge development activities in areas relevant to nutrition sensitive agriculture (e.g. country case studies on maternity benefits).

➔PRIORITY COUNTRIES & PROGRAMS

This list is not exhaustive but rather provides examples of ILO programmes which hold some relevance to nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Argentina	STEP maternity benefits study
Benin	Decent Work for Food Security Programme
Burkina Faso	Decent Work for Food Security Programme
Chile	STEP maternity benefits study
Colombia	STEP maternity benefits study
India	STEP maternity benefits study
Indonesia	Decent Work for Food Security Programme
Kenya	Decent Work for Food Security Programme
Nepal	STEP maternity benefits study
Niger	Country assessment for food security (with FAO)
Philippines	STEP maternity benefits study
Senegal	STEP maternity benefits study
Tanzania	STEP maternity benefits study
	Decent Work for Food Security Programme
Uganda	STEP maternity benefits study
Zambia	Business Development Services Project

➔KEY TECHNICAL INTERVENTIONS

The ILO provides technical assistance that is related to nutrition sensitive agriculture in many ways. For example:

- Support to extension of social protection in rural areas
- Support to producer organizations, and where possible, with emphasis on ones where women predominate
- Support to gender equity initiatives
- Promotion of maternal labor rights
- Reduction of barriers to entry for small-holder value-chain participation (e.g. legislation to improve governance and codes of conduct)
- Legislative support for property rights, where possible with emphasis on those targeting women
- Investment in rural infrastructure to increase market access

³⁹ <http://www.ilo.org/empent/units/green-jobs-programme/lang--en/index.htm>

- Investment in ICT to increase market access and empower smallholders (e.g. in regards to input and commodity prices)
- Support to technical vocational education and training⁴⁰

→TARGETED POPULATION GROUPS

As the international organization responsible for labour issues, the ILO broadly targets workers, employers and governments. In regards to nutrition sensitive agriculture, relevant ILO target populations include smallholders, landless laborers, members of agricultural and food based value chains, rural communities, the rural poor, rural women, and farmers collectives and unions.

→MONITORING & EVALUATION

ILO manuals and tools relevant to nutrition sensitive agriculture include:

Gender Mainstreaming in Local Economic Development Strategies : A guide

http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_141223/lang--en/index.htm

ILO Gender Network Handbook

http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/WCMS_114181/lang--en/index.htm

Global Extension of Social Security or GESS (through STEP) is a global knowledge sharing platform on the extension of social security. Run by the ILO's Social Security Department, GESS aims to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, capture and document experiences, identify knowledge gaps, create new knowledge and promote innovation.

<http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowMainPage.do>

Examples of public goods available on GESS includes a [basic social protection tool](#) and [indicators guide](#)

Assessing Green Jobs Potential in Developing Countries: A Practitioner's Guide

http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/ilo-bookstore/order-online/books/WCMS_153458/lang--en/index.htm

UNICEF-ILO Social Protection Floor Rapid Assessment Costing Tool

http://www.socialprotectionfloor-gateway.org/files/Costing_Tool_Explanatory_Note.pdf

The livelihood assessment toolkit (LAT): Analyzing and responding to the impact of disasters on the livelihoods of people (with FAO)

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/tc/tce/pdf/LAT_Brochure_LoRes.pdf

The ILO's Role in Conflict and Disaster Settings: Guides and Toolkit

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_141275.pdf

→GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality is a cross cutting objective on the ILO's Decent Work Agenda, which is comprised of

⁴⁰ Promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction (2008)

the Organization's Strategic Objectives and Institutional Strategy.

While all staff in the ILO are responsible for promoting gender equality in their work, the [Bureau for Gender Equality](#) supports and advises constituents and staff at headquarters and in the field on matters concerned with promoting and advocating for gender equality in the world of work. It also manages an extensive knowledge base on gender issues, conducts [ILO Participatory Gender Audits](#), and has a [Gender Helpdesk](#) which responds to queries to help to strengthen the capacity of staff and constituents to address questions of equality in their work⁴¹. The ILO's second **Gender Equality Action Plan (2012-2013)** is available [here](#).

The Bureau for Gender Equality also coordinates the global **ILO Gender Network**, which brings together gender specialists and gender focal points at headquarters and in the field offices. A [Gender Handbook](#) for mainstreaming gender in work was produced by the Network in 2009.

Also of relevance to nutrition sensitive agricultures is:

Gender Mainstreaming in Local Economic Development Strategies : A guide

http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_141223/lang--en/index.htm

→ EMERGENCY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The ILO's Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction is focused on livelihood recovery. Its support to countries includes initial livelihood assessments, policy advice to constituents and interventions in the immediate aftermath of a crisis; and technical cooperation on employment creation and decent work post-conflict or post-disaster. In rural contexts, all these activities may hold some relevance to nutrition sensitive agriculture, namely in regards to resilience building, subsequent reduction of risk aversion, and promotion of sustainable production practices.

The [ILO's Role in Conflict and Disaster Settings: Guides and Toolkit](#) provides step-by-step practical instructions on how to create Decent Work opportunities in a crisis context. These can be used in conjunction to [The Livelihoods Assessment Toolkit](#).

→ KEY PUBLICATIONS & CONTACTS

All ILO Publications are available [here](#), the following (many already mentioned above) are of particular relevance to nutrition sensitive agriculture:

[Assessing Green Jobs Potential in Developing Countries: A Practitioner's Guide \(2011\)](#)

[Gender Mainstreaming in Local Economic Development Strategies : A guide \(2010\)](#)

[The ILO's Role in Conflict and Disaster Settings: Guides and Toolkit \(2010\)](#)

[Value Chain Development for Decent Work: A Guide for Development Practitioners, Government and Private Sector Initiatives \(2009\)](#)

⁴¹ <http://www.ilo.org/gender/lang--en/index.htm>

[ILO Gender Network Handbook \(2009\)](#)

[The livelihood assessment toolkit \(LAT\): Analyzing and responding to the impact of disasters on the livelihoods of people \(with FAO, 2009\)](#)

[Promotion of Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction \(2008\)](#)

[UNICEF-ILO Social Protection Floor Rapid Assessment Costing Tool \(not dated\)](#)

For more information on nutrition sensitive agriculture at the ILO, please contact:

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➔COUNTRY STORIES (1-2 concrete examples of good practices)

The ILO's Business Development Services (BDS) project in Zambia seeks to improve access to information and markets for smallholder farmers and rural enterprises. In the period 2003–06, this project provided business advice and training to local community media and communications companies to make information and communication technology (ICT) services more relevant and practical for SMEs, especially those in rural areas. With the assistance of two sector-specific project advisory groups consisting of social partners from the government (Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce and Energy), labour (Congress of Trade Unions) and business (Federation of Employers), in the period 2006–07, the project focused on the socio-economic upgrading of value chains in the dairy and jatropha agriculture sub-sectors.

The social partner project advisory groups, which met three times a year, played a key role in assisting the project to influence the creation of an enabling small business environment through member involvement and participation in the formulation and review of relevant policies and regulations. The information services are playing a critical role in improving communication with and participation of SMEs on matters of small business policy and regulations, as well as improving the functioning of commodity and service markets. This links small producers and consumers to markets, promotes efficiencies in the delivery of goods and services and accelerates business competitiveness and good governance in Zambia⁴².

➔COUNTRY STORIES (1-2 concrete examples of good practices)

The ILO's Business Development Services (BDS) project in Zambia seeks to improve access to information and markets for smallholder farmers and rural enterprises. In the

⁴² Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction (2008)

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→ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Christine Bockstal, David Cheong, Richard Longhurst (now IDS)

⁴³ Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction (2008)

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON NUTRITION

The United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) is the food and nutrition policy harmonization forum of the United Nations. Its vision is a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where there are no longer impediments to human development.

UNSCN

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