

Nutrition News – Issue 4, 2019

Nutrition News highlights recent nutrition-related developments supported and/or coordinated by the UN system at the global and country level.

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Approaching the midpoint of the Nutrition Decade – a time to review and strengthen

As 2020 rapidly approaches so too does the midpoint of the [United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition](#). The [second biennial progress report to the Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#) provided an important stock take of progress since October 2017 and paved the way forward for the midterm review which is now underway. This review will set the priorities over the next five years of work to tackle undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight/obesity in order to end malnutrition in all its forms.

The second progress report was presented by Anna Larrey (Director of Nutrition and Food Systems, FAO) and Francesco Branca (Director of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO) during the CFS46. As well as providing an update on progress, the report outlined the preparatory process for the mid-term review of the Nutrition Decade.

The objective of the [mid-term review](#) is to assess and evaluate achievements between 2016 to 2020 in individual policy areas of the [ICN2 Framework for Action](#), and the six action areas of the [Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade](#). The review aims to:



(i) highlight specific advances, initiatives and partnerships in nutrition during the first half of the Nutrition Decade, and; (ii) identify the constraints encountered and the actions needed to overcome them during the second half of the Nutrition Decade. Moreover, the mid-term review will revise the living part of the Work Programme as appropriate, including the identification of focus areas for priority action during the second phase of the Nutrition Decade.

This is a moment of looking back and looking forward. There is an urgency for strengthened action, without which we will not achieve the nutrition commitments, goals and targets. To foster an inclusive and comprehensive approach, the mid-term review will be informed by a series of consultations and dialogues that are currently taking place. These consultations and dialogues aim to capture the experiences, progress and challenges faced by Member States, civil society, private sector and UN partner agencies. There is also an opportunity for everyone to contribute through an online e-consultation, which will be convened by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Nutrition Decade in early 2020. This is a chance to express your thoughts on what actions need to be accelerated or implemented at a larger scale to achieve sustainable nutrition impact.

In the meantime, it's never too early (or too late) to set [SMART commitments](#) for strengthened action during the Nutrition Decade. Many countries pledged their commitments during the recent SUN Global Gathering. These included Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to support breastfeeding, Nepal to tackling malnutrition, Guatemala to reducing stunting, Kenya to addressing early pregnancies and Philippines to advancing the Nutrition Decade.

More information:

- [Nutrition Decade – Introduction](#)
- [Nutrition Decade – Country-specific commitments](#)
- [Nutrition Decade – Action Networks](#)
- [Strengthening nutrition action: a resource guide for countries based on the policy recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition \(ICN2\)](#)
- [Driving commitment for nutrition within the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition](#)

A Decade to Commit

The Nutrition Decade creates an unprecedented, timebound opportunity to implement the ICN2 commitments and recommendations, alongside the nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieve nutrition impact at scale by advancing progress in the six cross-cutting and connected action areas of the Nutrition Decade, which are based on the 60 recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action.

NEW COMMITMENTS TO THE NUTRITION DECADE

CARE has pledged its support to the Nutrition Decade, committing to seeking pathways for collaboration to support common goals and continued advocacy for just and sustainable food and water systems. [Learn more here.](#)

The **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)**, a member of CGIAR, has committed to supporting the Nutrition Decade through advancing research into the role of livestock production systems and animal-source foods in healthy and sustainable diets in low- and middle-income countries. [Learn more here.](#)

NEW ACTION NETWORKS

During the CFS46 plenary session on Food Systems and Nutrition, Germany announced their intention to establish a [world coalition](#) on the provision of school meals. The proposed coalition aims to foster a shared understanding of the policies and programmes that can tackle all forms of malnutrition in school children.

LATEST UPDATE: Nutrition manifesto for a new nutrition reality

A new global nutrition effort is emerging in the Nutrition Decade that requires our collective powers to pull together and achieve foods systems change locally, regionally, and globally.

That's the call of the [Nutrition Manifesto](#) for the [Lancet Series on the Double Burden of Malnutrition](#), released this week!

UN shines brightly at 2019 SUN Global Gathering in Nepal

A plethora of nutrition actors from all corners of the globe gathered in Nepal on 4–7th November to share stories, exchange tips and regroup about what is in store for the future. Nine years into the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, SUN stands at a crossroads in an era when nutrition issues are more complex and intertwined than ever. Countries and the nutrition community are sorting out how to tackle what is referred to as the 'triple burden' – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies plus overweight and obesity – cognizant that policies and paradigms need to be recalibrated and new stakeholders need to be involved. Most agree that collaboration and partnership are central to this tall task and embraced the 2019 SUN Global Gathering as a space to focus on the 'how'.

The UN [nutrition] Network (UNN) Secretariat took a graceful dive into the triple burden theme, organizing a workshop on day 2 where it gave the floor to government speakers from Africa, Asia and Latin America alongside international experts. Attracting over 100 participants, the session was a prime opportunity to present a newly released World Bank Report on obesity, which highlights the *Health and Economic Consequences of an Impending Global Challenge*.



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Mr. Victor Aguayo, Global Chief of UNICEF Nutrition Programme, spurred a rich session of 'real talk' about the path taken in three countries. Government speakers from Costa Rica, Kenya and the Philippines as well as international experts from the UN constituency shared their experiences, providing time for other participants to bring their perspectives in breakout sessions that were moderated by UNN-REACH facilitators. Participants walked away having heard about a broad range of

strategies from effective fiscal policy through the [taxation of sweetened beverages](#) and private sector-supported awareness campaigns in the Philippines to policy levers and community education centres in Costa Rica, where forms of undernutrition have declined dramatically. Kenya's SUN Government Focal Point and member of the SUN Executive Committee (ExCom), Ms. Gladys Mugambi, spoke to the role of regulatory and M&E frameworks and guidelines, using the fortification example and encouraging participants to explore establishing alliances to create bridges and pool know-how. Dr. Patrizia Fracassi, from FAO pointed out that rising overweight and obesity levels are a wake-up call – for countries and the nutrition community alike – to better understand what people eat in order to address malnutrition in all its forms, including where they co-exist. Others indicated that efforts to address overweight and obesity are nascent, and that in various countries, the emphasis remains on undernutrition. Greater efforts are needed to sensitize leaders, communities and parents on the consequences of overweight and overnutrition as well as to share good practices and generate evidence to inform action at all levels.

Participants further plunged into the topic during interactive group work, moderated by UNN-REACH facilitators, that elucidated recurring themes and bottlenecks. Taboos about double-duty actions, such as breastfeeding, particularly how it is perceived as having sexual undertones, were cited as barriers that need to be overcome. Promising experiences from Sierra Leone were shared about leveraging traditional and religious leaders to change nutrition behaviours and eating practices. Similarly, they spoke about how men are being engaged to address misconceptions that 'fat children are healthy and fat adults wealthy'. Others talked about emerging and perennial challenges, such as food labelling fraud, capacity constraints in food labs for quality assurance and nutrition education gaps.

While there are common threads, it was clear from the discussions that no two situations are the same. There is no magic bullet. Participants agreed on the need to root action in robust situation analysis and adopt context-specific solutions, including different approaches for rural and urban settings. So, the magic will likely come from multi-pronged approaches that are tailored to the context. Participants also recognized the potential of nutrition communications strategies, food legislation/regulations and M&E. As the direct link between children who are stunted and later becoming overweight gains clarity, countries are veering into this new nutrition territory, but it is anything but straight forward. Image regarding socioeconomic status, gender barriers, food culture and fiscal incentives all factor into the equation. Workshops of this sort are imperative to helping countries and the greater nutrition community learn from one another and to minimizing the likelihood that the mistakes are repeated.

UN expertise was also prominently featured in other aspects of the SUN Global Gathering programme, particularly at the UNN stand in the Global Village marketplace, where an array of seminal resources from multiple UN entities were distributed to passersby from SUN Government Focal Points to the members of the SUN Lead Group and the SUN Coordinator, Ms. Gerda Verburg. Every moment counts in the lead up to the final decade of the 2030 Agenda.

UNRC for Nepal sets the tone of breakthrough UN Network meeting in the lead up to the 2019 SUN Global Gathering

Nearly 100 colleagues from 44 countries and 10 United Nations-affiliated entities gathered on 4 November 2019 to share good practices and put their minds together in what is a historic moment for both the SUN Movement and the UN system. An opportunity to consolidate thinking about strategic directions for SUN 3.0 and UN coordination on nutrition, the workshop was an extension of ongoing discussions to make sure the UN speaks with one voice and all agencies are aware of what the others are doing. The meeting was organized by the UNN Secretariat, which spearheads the UN's contributions to the SUN Movement at the global level, working closely with colleagues from sixteen UN agencies at the country and regional levels, to catalyse change and advance the nutrition agenda within the greater context of the SDGs.

Ms. Valerie Julliard, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Nepal, welcomed participants, including special guest, Gerda Verburg, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations, who leads the SUN Movement. In a motivational speech, Ms. Verburg expressed her gratitude to participating colleagues for the UN's unparalleled support to government. Affirming her appreciation, she stood alongside Dr. Purnima Kashyap, Director/Global Coordinator of the UN Network, to launch the new UNN storybook series, entitled [Tales Be Told](#), which brings nutrition successes to the limelight to promote South-South learning and help replicate results in other countries. Among the stories, is an interview with Ms. Metsi Makhetha, the UNRC in Burkina Faso, where substantial decreases in stunting have been observed.



The meeting further unpacked the role of the UNRC, taking Nepal as an example. Ms. Julliard clearly proclaimed that joint programming is the response! She also went on to speak about how the UNRC's coordination mandate is essential to engaging non-traditional UN agencies, such as UNFPA, in the path to good nutrition and how the UNRC is uniquely positioned to promote the multi-sectoral approach within the UN Country Team (and government) in order to breakdown silos. The UNRC's role in advocacy was also highlighted, underscoring that "the RC brings the human rights approach that is critical to nutrition," in what she described as being the 'Jiminy Cricket'.

Tactics for integrating nutrition into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (former UNDAF) were also shared, building on experiences in Niger where it was embedded into all five UNDAF outcomes. Mrs. Felicite Tchibindat, UNICEF Country Representative, encouraged participants to look to the data, to use it in related advocacy, to align with national nutrition plans and to reach out to other partners. Still, other topics of discussion were the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 and emerging opportunities through next year's Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan, including how the UN can help mobilize new commitments for nutrition from government.

The workshop was also an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of joint UN efforts on nutrition, with compelling statistics presented by Dr. Kashyap from the 2019 UNN reporting exercise. Participants learned about recent trends, such as UNN's increased engagement with UNRCs (75 percent in SUN countries), improved nutrition mainstreaming in national nutrition plans, policies, strategies and UN development frameworks (92 percent of SUN countries) as well as increased collaboration with other SUN networks. In addition, the UNSCN Coordinator provided an update, touching upon how its global functions are increasingly converging with UNN activities.

Members of the joint UNN/UNSCN steering committee shared their perspectives, including during a vibrant Q+A session that concluded the meeting. Mr. Victor Aguayo, Global Chief of UNICEF Nutrition Programme, had sobering words about the triple burden of malnutrition, reminding participants that "the number of overweight children has increased in every continent, including Africa" and stressing the importance of setting into motion a systems approach and investing in prevention. Ms. Lauren Landis, Director of WFP Nutrition and member of the SUN ExCom, complemented by adding that "we need dual actions, but we also want to make sure we want the 'best buys' to respond to multiple burdens of malnutrition." It was clear from the discussions that the UN is a pivotal actor in the nutrition scene from facilitating and strengthening multi-sectoral nutrition action to holding actors accountable. From IFAD, Ms. Joyce Njoro, urged the group to leverage the comparative advantages of all the agencies," acknowledging the wealth of expertise and how UN nutrition coordination platforms "help us complete the full circle." Ms. Anna Lartey, Director of FAO's Nutrition and Food Systems Division and member of the SUN ExCom, summed up the mood of the meeting when she boldly stated that, "as long as the UN exists and we haven't addressed the problem of malnutrition, the UNN should continue existing." The energy was high and UN colleagues stand committed to accelerating action towards tackling the 2030 targets, building on the good practices and successes they heard about in Nepal.

A Recipe for Healthy, Sustainable Food Systems

With just under one year to go before the Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition are presented for endorsement at the CFS47, progress is charging forward. These guidelines are a revolutionary step to strengthen nutrition action and create healthy, sustainable food environments.

Following a comprehensive and inclusive consultation process, the [Zero Draft](#) of the Voluntary Guidelines is now undergoing revision to produce the First Draft. 2020 will be a busy and productive year as this First Draft is negotiated during the first semester of the year for endorsement by October.

The voluntary guidelines are negotiated based on the 2018 High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) report on [Nutrition and food systems](#) and will be the CFS's most important contribution to the Decade of Action on Nutrition. The HLPE report identified three constituent elements of food systems which serve as policy entry points for improving nutrition- food supply chains, food environments and consumer behavior. These three areas now set the architecture of the guidelines.

The consultation process has included an [e-consultation](#) which received over 100 contributions as well as [six regional consultations](#) to ensure the guidelines consider the complex and contextually specific determinants of food systems. UNSCN members were present at all regional consultation and the coordinator attended the final one in Washington. Stineke Oenema reports 'It was encouraging to hear that consultations mentioned a few key areas that need to be addressed. Participants called for guidelines that protect consumers, small scale producers and indigenous communities at home, but also to change trade and subsidy schemes to become more beneficial for food systems elsewhere in the world'.

As described by Dr Liliane Ortega, Chair of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), ['the harvest is fabulous'](#) from these consultations. Feedback from the process is crucial to ensure the final guidelines are aligned with national priorities and stakeholder needs to overcome the policy fragmentation that currently hinders progress towards healthy food systems. The [OEWG met on the 29th of November](#) to

discuss the collective feedback, inform stakeholders and plan for the next steps in the process towards a first draft. Areas already identified for amends in the zero draft include strengthening the alignment of the voluntary guidelines with achieving the SDGs, enhancing focus on the consequences of inaction on malnutrition, expanding on the impact of poverty and inequality, better articulating the specific constraints faced in humanitarian crisis situations and enhancing emphasis on the need for bold decisions.

As the first draft is developed there is widespread acknowledgment that climate change is our constant backdrop. With food production and consumption responsible for up to 37% of human caused greenhouse gas emissions, work on food systems must consider climate change and environmental sustainability. The recent release of the [guiding principles on Healthy Sustainable Diets](#) by FAO and WHO, upon request of the OEWG, provide support for this work on healthy, sustainable food systems.

UNSCN has been helping to promote this message with the recent presentation on food system transformation at the 4th Eurasian Food Security Conference in Yerevan, Armenia as well as during a seminar with the World Bank in Washington, United States. Sharing examples of how all UNSCN members are advancing work on food systems the presentations emphasized that now is the time to act by harnessing global momentum during the Nutrition Decade and placing a focus on fostering diversity, both in the type of actors engaged and in promoting dietary diversity.

Next steps Stay tuned for the first draft of the voluntary guidelines which will become available by the end of 2019. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has also announced that the FAO and CFS will partner to convene a UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 as part of the Nutrition Decade.



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Nutritious Urban-Rural Linkages

The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages *“Rural Revitalization through Innovations and Valorization”* co-hosted by UN-Habitat, the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Municipal and county authorities, was held in SongYang County, China from 10 to 14 November.

Urban-rural linkages and nutrition are closely associated. Harmonious, functioning urban-rural linkages ensure local economic development, sustainable environment management and social services- all of which contribute to healthier and more sustainable diets and therefore better nutrition outcomes. Conversely, healthy and sustainable diets which are based on cultural contexts and dietary customs provide an entry point to protecting, shaping and/or reorienting rural urban linkages for more sustainable territorial development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the New Urban Agenda state that we must “leave no one and no place behind”. To realize this, sustainable development will require rural revitalization, allowing rural and urban areas alike to simultaneously share the fruits of modern civilization, alleviating urban problems and providing a more ecological and healthy way of life.

Coming soon: Stay tuned for a new discussion paper by UNSCN which examines the intrinsic links between the urban-rural agenda and nutrition, as well as positive ways to strengthen nutrition action within the urban-rural development context.

UNN–REACH Facilitator as Knowledge Broker

When a UNN-REACH facilitator begins an assignment, things move fast. Meetings are scheduled with representatives from government ministries, United Nations agencies, civil society, the donor community, the private sector and others, as needed. Questions are posed. Discussions take place on the various interventions. Water and sanitation. Access to clinics. Gardening. Women’s education. Maternity protection. Poverty reduction. Family Planning. Equity. The facilitator describes how these interventions can contribute to improved nutrition; that is, how to mainstream nutrition into other sectors.

Ideas start to percolate about how the work that is already in play can be tweaked with a nutrition lens, coordinated and streamlined, based on the particularities of the country, UNN diagnostics, analogous studies and experiences in other countries. The facilitator helps track actions to establish a baseline for national nutrition plans.

Many of the actors are gathered around the table, with the UNN-REACH facilitator playing a neutral role: mediating conflicts, untangling competing interests and setting up the conditions for consensus. These efforts, along with the continuous coaching of the SUN Government Focal Point, lead a diverse group to forge a multi-sectoral nutrition plan with measurable outcomes. Throughout this process, the facilitator remains in the background, with the government always as the lead.

Full article available [here](#)

Nutrition at the 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security

The 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) took place at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy on 14-18th October with the theme “**Accelerating progress on SDG2 to achieve all the SDGs**”. The CFS has continually strengthened its focus on nutrition and this year included a host of crucial nutrition plenary and side events.

As the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for collaborative action on food security and nutrition, the session achieved record levels of attendance. This included the presentation of the worrying findings of the 2019 [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) report and the launch of the Decade on Family Farming. You can find full transcripts of plenary sessions [here](#).

During the conference, CFS members also endorsed the first ever Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020–2023. The MYPoW provides a comprehensive framework for accelerating progress towards meeting SDG2 targets by 2030 by prioritizing the following six thematic workstreams:

- Food systems and nutrition;
- Agroecological and other innovative approaches;
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition;
- Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems;
- Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition; and
- Data collection and analysis tools.

Wishing farewell to the Chair Mario Arvelo (Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP), the closing session of the CFS welcomed in the new chair, Thanawat Tiensin—a trained veterinarian and livestock expert, who has been serving as the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Rome-based United Nations agencies.

Beyond the plenary walls a variety of [noteworthy side events](#) with a focus on nutrition took place. UNSCN co-organized two such side events: (1) [Treasures of the oceans and inland waters - ensuring food security and nourishing nations](#); and (2) [Maximising the impact of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan in 2020: What more can be done to transform our failing food system?](#)



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UNN and UNSCN put the spotlight on school feeding

The UNSCN and UNN secretariats were pleased to co-organise the [Investing in schools for sustainable nutrition impact](#) side event at the CFS46 . Improving the nutrition of school aged children is critical to achieving the SDGs, the Rights of the Child and the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms. The side

event shared insights and inspiration to demonstrate the potential of home-grown school feeding programmes towards improving nutrition, education, gender equality, social protection and sustainable agriculture.

While school feeding programmes have historically been viewed as a form of social transfer programmes with limited sustained impact, a growing body of research shows that in actuality they are a unique avenue for achieving a host of development objectives. Effective school feeding programmes create an effective platform to tackle all forms of malnutrition in school aged children.

The event brought together a diverse range of experts with the discussion opened by UNSCN Chair Cornelia Richter who echoed the key messages of UNSCN's [Schools as a System to Improve Nutrition](#) discussion paper, emphasizing the need to engage a multiplicity of actors to scale up school feeding through multi-sector action. Ms. Bibi Giyose of NEPAD supported this with a passionate keynote speech, highlighting the progress of school feeding in over 30 African countries. She also underscored the need for governments to continue to evolve in order to overcome barriers and transform from donor-supported programmes to self-funded, home grown country wide initiatives.

Skillfully moderated by WFP's Nutrition Director, Ms. Lauren Landis, the panel discussion included insights from Senegal which emphasized the need for decentralized governance to bring school feeding closer to communities. The SUN Government Focal Point, Mr. Abdoulaye Ka, also explained how Senegal's nutrition coordination platform (*Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition* commonly known as the CLM) built alliances with the education system (with UNN-REACH support) and noted that strengthening the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) enabled a horizontal approach so that every sector that does engage can contribute to positive impacts in human capital. Highlighting the ongoing budgetary challenges faced in funding school feeding programmes, there was widespread agreement amongst the session attendees that 'school feeding needs to be seen as an investment not an expense'.

Representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Education (Ms. Maria Fernanda Nogueira Bittencourt and Ms. Karine Santos) and Bioversity International (Ms. Teresa Borelli) spoke about inspiring and innovative features of the groundbreaking programme in Brazil. Thanks to its legal foundations which mandate nationwide implementation, the programme has achieved monumental success and coverage— now reaching over [forty-five million students](#). The programme has also formed a strong partnership with Bioversity International to facilitate research on nutritious local crops. This research has enhanced the biodiversity and use of local products within Brazil's school feeding programme. The recent launch of [E-Pnae app](#) was presented as an innovative and effective way to continually monitor and improve the programme, engaging local universities. The app has created a platform for direct feedback and interaction between parents, students, teachers, nutritionists and the whole community. The Brazilian success story has also inspired other countries in the region, as evidenced by the dynamic presentation by Eli Aníbal Morales on the expanding school feeding programme in Honduras.

The session demonstrated the great potential of schools as a platform to transform food systems as well as the need for a strategic, systematic approach to implementation rooted in the law to realize this potential and ensure sustainable nutrition impact. With the growing acknowledgment that investing in school nutrition is crucial to ensure the return on investment in relation to health and development gains in the first 1000 days, school nutrition is a focus area across UN agencies' work in nutrition.



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Ripples in the Water

While the Nutrition Decade advances so too does the 2018-2028 Decade of Action on Water for Sustainable Development. Water is vitally important for nutrition. As both decades strive to achieve their contributions to the 2030 SDGs, strategies to harmonize actions through the promotion of healthy sustainable diets and addressing inequalities are underway. UNSCN has been busy promoting the Decade linkages and opportunities by hosting a seminar with North American colleagues. Stay tuned for more updates, including the release of the upcoming UNSCN discussion paper on nutrition and water.



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Madagascar embarks on multi-sectoral nutrition mapping; Japan comes forward to fund the exercise for the first time

Nearly one in two children under five years old suffer from chronic malnutrition in Madagascar, according to the 2018 Global Nutrition Report. Malnutrition is more prevalent in some parts of the country due to economic disparities, lack of resources and increased poverty. For example, children in the highlands are most affected by stunting, where levels exceed 60 percent (UNICEF Country Profile, Madagascar, 2016). To put that into perspective, consider that such levels more than double the highest public health threshold set at 30 percent. The costs associated with stunting represent 14.5 percent of the country's GDP according to estimates of the Cost of Hunger study (2016). This nutritional situation remains a concern for the most vulnerable populations and contributes to the persistence of poverty.



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To combat this issue, the Government of Madagascar has long been committed to a multi-sectoral approach at the highest level since its early adherence to the SUN Movement in February 2012. For the first time, nutrition has been included in the *'Plan Emergence'*, a strategic document of the General Policy of the State that will soon be released. The National Office of Nutrition (ONN) is responsible for monitoring the inclusive implementation of the National Nutrition Policy (PNN) and its Nutrition Action Plan (PNAN). Its attachment to the Prime Minister makes it an institution particularly well-placed to coordinate and monitor the contribution of different sectors to nutrition, provided that ONN has the tools and means to do so.

Within this framework, the ONN made a request for technical assistance on the UNNAM III (Nutrition Action Plan III - 2017-2021) to help ensure that its implementation is on track, looking to the UN Network Secretariat. Madagascar joined a list of 25 other countries which have undertaken the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise to gauge the coverage levels of nutrition actions on the path to scale up. Additionally, this was the first time that Japan financed a UNN-supported mapping exercise.

The mapping will bring an accountability framework putting beneficiaries at the center of programs and actions. It is also catalyzing capacity building at the sub-national level with the participation and training of more than 50 M&E regional assistants. "Mapping addresses the need to involve and build the capacity of decentralized institutions for strong multi-sector coordination from the community to the central level," said Dr. Lucie Solofonirina, National Coordinator of the ONN and SUN Government Focal Point after the launching workshop in Antananarivo.

The multi-sectoral approach of the mapping included 27 actions that engage sectors including health, agriculture, WASH and social protection. The national mapping team included technical focal points from the ONN, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, National Institute for Geography and

Hydrography, National Statistics Institute as well as UN colleagues from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). This not only ensures ownership of the exercise but also helps to institutionalize the mapping within government institutions.

The first phase took place over 6 days, in late August 2019, including all stakeholders involved in the field of nutrition in Madagascar. More than 100 participants attended the launching workshop, where technical and financial partners undertook a prioritization exercise to identify which nutrition actions would be mapped. The process was initiated by the National Coordinator of the ONN, the Deputy Secretary of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Country Representative of WFP and the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of UNICEF. A mapping specialist from the UNN Secretariat travelled to Antananarivo to join these actors and introduce workshop participants to the mapping tool’s objectives, process and methodology, expected results and other features.

The mapping team spent three days building capacity for the supervision of data collection and capture. One of the days focused on the mapping module, using the District Health Information (DHIS2) software for customization, data collection, data entry and basic analysis. During this period, the team proposed a preliminary long list of nutrition actions, target groups, implementation mechanisms and geographical levels that was validated during the workshop.

The mapping exercise itself will take roughly four months to be completed, including the dissemination of results. This will make it possible to reframe and deliver the package of priority interventions with a proven impact by targeting the geographical areas not previously covered. The goal is to identify existing gaps among the different demographics to boost coverage for hard-to-reach populations. Funding was made possible by WFP, UNICEF and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

World Food Day 2019 ‘Healthy Diets for a #zerohunger world’



Image: ©FAO

October 16th marked [World Food Day](#) with the nutrition friendly theme celebrated at FAO headquarters and across 150 countries- making World Food Day one of the most celebrated days in the UN calendar.

The day was also marked by the release of the FAO/WHO joint guiding principles on [Sustainable Healthy Diets](#) which outline the how, what and why of tackling two of the major challenges of our times – malnutrition in all its forms and the degradation of environmental and natural resources.

SPECIAL FEATURE: Data on malnutrition at your fingertips

The Global Nutrition Report has launched new [Country Nutrition Profiles](#) and a [Nutrition for Growth commitment tracking tool](#) to bring you new and improved data and evidence on malnutrition and efforts to address it across the world.

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) – the world’s leading independent assessment on the state of global nutrition – was established in 2014, following the first Nutrition for Growth summit in London. As an independent body, comprised of all sectors of the nutrition community, the GNR mandate is to track progress against global nutrition targets along with the financing, commitments and actions designed to achieve them.

In November 2019 at the [SUN Global Gathering](#), the GNR launched these new [resources](#) and their insights were used in discussions and presentations at the gathering. For example, in her plenary [presentation](#) on the state of global nutrition, [Dr Mariachiara Di Cesare](#)

used evidence from the Country Nutrition Profiles to highlight the progress of many SUN Countries towards global nutrition targets. Such examples included Paraguay, where rates of stunting among children under-five were reduced by almost half within just four years.



How you can use and benefit from these resources

The GNR’s interactive [Nutrition Profiles](#) bring together the latest data on child, adolescent and adult nutrition-related outcomes to identify the burden of malnutrition. These profiles allow you to explore the data at a global, regional, subregional and country level. You can use the data to suit your needs by downloading pdf versions of the profiles or interacting with the raw data.

The GNR’s improved [N4G commitment tracking tool](#) provides the latest data on commitments to end malnutrition made by key stakeholders at N4G summits. You can find out how governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, UN agencies, donors and other stakeholders compare through the new search function or by filtering through a wide range of categories including type of commitment, type of stakeholder and assessment of progress.

Case studies, briefings and other general information on malnutrition and nutrition advocacy are all also available in the GNR website’s new [resources section](#). If you use any of these resources in your work, please do share with the GNR on social media via [@GNReport](#) on Twitter, or [@globalnutritionreport](#) on Facebook.

Watch this space!

The next Global Nutrition Report will be launched in spring 2020 and will unpack what addressing iniquities means for our actions to end malnutrition in all its forms. Sign up to receive GNR updates [here](#) and a copy of the next report [here](#).

For questions, or if you would like to contribute to the GNR [blog](#), please get in touch via contact@globalnutritionreport.org.

New Resources

- [Lancet Series on the Double Burden of Malnutrition. Read the joint comment ‘A new nutrition manifesto for a new nutrition reality’](#)
- [Symposium proceedings from the Double Burden of Malnutrition, IAEA-UNICEF-WHO](#)
- [Essential Nutrition Actions: mainstreaming nutrition throughout the life-course, WHO.](#)
- [Maternity leave legislation in support of breastfeeding - case studies around the world, WHO, UNICEF & Global Breastfeeding Collective.](#)
- [Nutritional rickets: a review of disease burden, causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment, WHO.](#)
- [Nutrition in Universal Health Coverage, WHO](#)
- [Sustainable Healthy Diets – Guiding Principles, FAO & WHO.](#)
- [Geographical Indications for sustainable food systems: Preserving and promoting agricultural and food heritage, FAO.](#)
- The State of Food and Agriculture 2019: [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)
- [Right to Food Newsletter- issue 3, FAO.](#)
- [Food is a human right video, FAO.](#)
- [Academics advancing the right to food; How a group of pioneering scholars in Spain is contributing to the fight against hunger, FAO.](#)
- [Global Hunger Index 2019: the challenge of hunger and climate change, Scaling Up Nutrition.](#)
- State of the World’s Children 2019; Children, food and nutrition: Growing well in a changing world, UNICEF: [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)
- [The Food Loss Reduction Advantage Building sustainable food systems, IFAD](#)
- [Tales Be Told, Series 1; A compilation of country stories, promoting collective action on nutrition, 2019, UNN Secretariat.](#)
- UNN generic brief: [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)
- Restructured [UNN website](#)
- 2019 SUN Movement Progress Report: [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)
- Women’s Power in Food Struggles, Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition: [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#) | [PT](#)
- [Field Exchange, Issue 61](#), Emergency Nutrition Network.

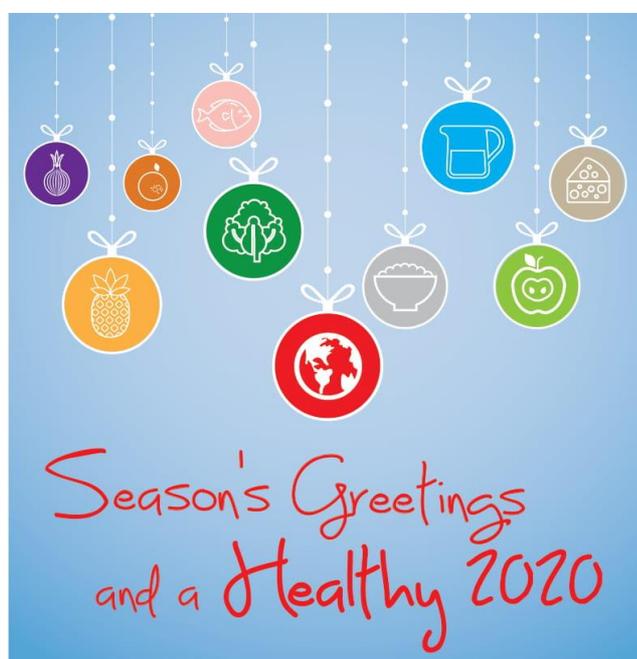
Looking for more nutrition resources? In preparation for the recent SUN Global Gathering, the UNN Secretariat gathered a comprehensive list of key UN resources on nutrition, including videos. [See the full list here.](#)

UNSCN Nutrition: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The UNSCN Nutrition is currently seeking contributions to its 45th edition with the theme [‘Nutrition in a Digital World’](#) open until 30th January 2020.

Upcoming Events

- **Dec 18:** Briefing of Member States and partners on the double burden of malnutrition. Geneva, Switzerland. [Webcast at this link, 12:30-2pm.](#)
- **Dec 17–19:** Technical consultation: Prevention and treatment of wasting – Gaps in guidance and way forward to a holistic approach in bringing children back to healthy growth. Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Feb 7–8:** [International Symposium: Sustainable food systems - Going beyond food security.](#) Giessen, Germany.
- **Mar 23–27:** [Micronutrient Forum Global Conference 2020: Building new evidence and alliances for improving nutrition.](#) Bangkok, Thailand.
- **Mar 31–Apr 2:** [World Public Health Nutrition Congress 2020.](#) Brisbane, Australia.
- **Apr 20–22:** [National Nutrient Databank Conference.](#) College Park, Maryland, USA.



With warm wishes from the two teams
Stineke Purnima

