

United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)

WORK PROGRAMME

Background

1. Eliminating malnutrition in all its forms is imperative to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, and reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Today, nearly one in three persons globally suffers from at least one form of malnutrition – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, overweight or obesity – and a large part of the world’s population is affected by diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The impacts of malnutrition on development, society, health and well-being are serious and lasting, for individuals and their families, for communities and for countries. Different forms of malnutrition co-exist – within the same country, community, household or individual.
2. The root causes of and factors contributing to malnutrition are complex and multidimensional, and include:
 - poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment and low socio-economic status in both rural and urban areas, often aggravated by the impact of conflict, post conflict and humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises, including natural disasters;
 - inequity and inequality, poor infant and young child feeding and care practices, poor sanitation and hygiene, lack of access to education, quality health systems and safe drinking water, foodborne infections and parasitic infestations, ingestion of harmful contaminants due to unsafe food production or preparation practices;
 - new and emerging challenges and trends such as climate change, pressures from population growth, urbanization, changing lifestyles and consumption patterns.¹
3. While there have been some progress made recently, nutrition challenges faced by countries continue to evolve and grow, and their solutions require strong and sustained political leadership.
4. In November 2014, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Member States and the global community committed to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms and articulated in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition a common vision for global action. They also agreed on a voluntary Framework for Action (ICN2 FfA)² to achieve these commitments.
5. In September 2015, Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development committing to achieve a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, indispensable requirements for sustainable development. They placed high priority on addressing malnutrition by committing to all the SDGs³, in particular under SDG 2 to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. Member States further committed, under targets 2.1 and 2.2, “By 2030, [to] end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round” and “By 2030, [to] end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”

¹ Rome Declaration on Nutrition: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf>

³ <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/NutritionPaper-EN-14apr.pdf>

6. In April 2016, the UN General Assembly, through its Resolution 70/259⁴, endorsed the ICN2 outcomes and proclaimed 2016 to 2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (“Nutrition Decade”). The Resolution also called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) “to lead the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and to identify and develop a work programme based on the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action, along with its means of implementation for 2016-2025, using coordination mechanisms such as the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in line with its mandate, and in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms.”
7. In May 2016 the World Health Assembly (WHA) through Resolution 69/8 requested the Director-General of WHO to work with the Director-General of FAO “to support Member States, upon request, in developing, strengthening and implementing their policies, programmes and plans to address the multiple challenges of malnutrition, and convene periodic meetings of inclusive nature to share best practices, including consideration of commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) within the framework of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)”.⁵
8. This Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade has been identified and developed according to the mandate given by the UN General Assembly in Resolution 70/259 and taking into account WHA Resolution 69/8. The Work Programme identifies mechanisms through which Member States and other committed stakeholders should collaborate to achieve the aims of the Nutrition Decade.
9. This Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade describes its aims, added value and guiding principles; key areas for priority action (action areas); modalities of engagement and roles of Member States and other stakeholders; mechanisms and tools for driving action (means of implementation); and accountability framework.
10. This Work Programme is a living document developed through an inclusive, continuous and collaborative process, building upon and connecting initiatives of governments and their many partners.

Aims

11. The aim of the Nutrition Decade is to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025 and contribute to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030.
12. The Nutrition Decade:
 - Provides a clearly-defined time-bound cohesive framework that works within existing structures and available resources;
 - Catalyses and facilitates alignment of on-going efforts of multiple actors from all sectors including new actors, to foster a global movement to end all forms of malnutrition and leaving no one behind;
 - Stimulates the effective translation of the ICN2 commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete, nationally-determined policies and programmes;

⁴ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259

⁵ http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_R8-en.pdf

- Promotes coherence of national, regional and international policies focusing on evidence and results across multiple sectors to combat all forms of malnutrition, including through improved monitoring and reporting of relevant policy impact at national, regional and global levels;
- Advocates for mobilization of additional policy and financial commitments; and
- Establishes, under Member States' oversight, a global accountability framework across sectors and constituencies building upon existing mechanisms, processes and tools.

Added Value

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

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

Guiding Principles

14. The Nutrition Decade:

- is country-owned and country driven;
- builds on existing efforts;
- promotes alignment among actors and actions;
- supports all countries to address all forms and causes of malnutrition;
- provides an inclusive umbrella for all relevant stakeholders to consolidate, align and reinforce nutrition actions across different sectors; and
- recognizes and encourages the emergence of local, national, regional and global movements to end all forms of malnutrition.

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

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

- addresses the increasing number of emergencies and priority situations (including natural disasters, conflicts and protracted crises) affecting the nutritional status of vast populations;
 - engages and supports all sectors of government, at all relevant levels, to ensure adequate prioritisation, funding and action on ending all forms of malnutrition;
 - engages with a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, inter-governmental organizations, international, regional and local organizations, financial institutions, development banks, parliamentarians, cities, civil society organizations, academia, media, philanthropic foundations and the business sector – all of whom are invited to contribute their unique and valuable assets (including implementation, advocacy, technical assistance, funds, convening power), in line with and in support of national policies and programmes;
 - engages with social movements representing peasants, small-scale fishers and fishing communities, pastoralists, refugees and migrants, urban poor, consumers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and agricultural and food workers as key actors to establish a global movement on nutrition; and
 - harnesses the wealth of competencies and resources of the private sector, including small and medium enterprises, social enterprises, to larger national and multinational companies, while managing conflicts of interest.
16. The Nutrition Decade provides an enabling environment such that national, regional and international policies and programmes respect, protect and fulfil “the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food, the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger consistent with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant United Nations instruments”.⁶
17. The Nutrition Decade provides an enabling environment such that action taken by governments and other stakeholders relies on the latest scientific evidence and engages with academic institutions to further look for effective solutions.

Action Areas

18. Action during the Nutrition Decade is centered on six cross-cutting, integrative areas for impact, derived from the ICN2 FfA recommendations and relevant to related SDGs. While each of these thematic areas inform and frame action, they should not be seen as silos; in practice, policies and programmes should normally be linked to several areas at the same time. The six areas are:
- (1) Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets;
 - (2) Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions;
 - (3) Social protection and nutrition education;
 - (4) Trade and investment for improved nutrition;
 - (5) Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages; and
 - (6) Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition.
19. The Nutrition Decade fosters national, regional and global policy dialogue to facilitate and enhance local action, which in turn aims to maximize impact at all levels. A localised approach that involves civil society is important to ensure Member State ownership of initiatives and policies; to adjust to the different political structures and environments in which nutrition initiatives need to be taken; to address the vast geographic and socio-economic differences within a given society; and to ensure that solutions are equitable, inclusive, people-centred and “leave no one behind”.
20. Priorities and the shaping of specific actions will depend on the interest and commitment expressed by governments, their partners and other potential actors. In support of this, a full and

⁶ Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

thorough mapping is to be undertaken, building on what has already been done to identify and chart all existing nutrition-related initiatives and movements, financing mechanisms and policy actions, to ensure that the Nutrition Decade reflects the needs of Member States and the global nutrition community and can generate increased focus on identified gaps.

Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets

21. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:

- for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets (# 9, 10, 11, 12, 14);
- on water, sanitation and hygiene (# 50); and
- on food safety and antimicrobial resistance (# 53, 54, 55, 56, 57).

22. Current food systems⁷ are not delivering the quality diets needed for optimal health and are putting pressure on planet's natural resources⁸. Coherent and innovative actions covering the entire food system – from inputs and production, through processing, storage, transport and retailing to consumption – are needed to ensure access to sustainable, healthy diets for all and reduce food and nutrient losses and waste.

23. This action area also covers national policies and investments to: strengthen local food production and processing, especially by smallholder and family farmers, giving special attention to women's empowerment; promote diversification of crops; and develop, adopt and adapt, where appropriate, international guidelines on healthy diets as well as international standards, guidelines and codes of practice on food safety and quality.

24. Solutions should include: improved production, availability, accessibility and affordability of a variety of cereals, legumes, vegetables, fruits and animal-source foods, including fish, meat, eggs and dairy products, produced and consumed sustainably; diets containing adequate macronutrients fibre and micronutrients in line with WHO recommendations on healthy diets.⁹

25. In addition, food safety needs to be integrated into the global food security and nutrition agenda to make significant progress in improving nutrition. Food safety problems threaten the nutritional status of populations, particularly vulnerable groups such as the elderly, pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, and children. Food contaminated by chemical or biological hazards, including environmental pollutants, is the origin of many diseases, ranging from diarrhoea to cancer, undermining people's lives, health and nutrition well-being, directly and indirectly. Morbidity due to diarrhoea, dysentery and other enteric diseases – arising from unsafe food, contaminated water and poor sanitation – has not declined much over recent decades. In some developing countries, children are chronically exposed, through their diets, to aflatoxins, which are not only carcinogenic, but also probably contribute to stunting.

26. One emerging food safety issue of global concern is antimicrobial resistance (AMR). While antimicrobial drugs are essential for both human and animal health and welfare, and critical to food producers' livelihoods, their imprudent use has led to growing AMR threats to humans and agro-ecological environments. While addressing AMR requires a multi-sectoral "One Health

⁷ FAO, State of the Food and Agriculture (SOFA), 2013, Food systems for better nutrition: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3300e/i3300e.pdf>

⁸ Sustainable Development Goal 15 : Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>

⁹ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs394/en/>

Approach”¹⁰, significant challenges still remain in translating internationally recognized standards and guidelines into appropriate national policies and actions.

Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

27. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:

- for strong and resilient health systems (# 25, 26, 27, 28);
- to address wasting (# 34, 35) and stunting (# 36, 37); and
- on health services to improve nutrition (# 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49).

28. Strong health systems are needed to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms through the delivery of evidence-informed nutrition interventions and services for all ages, as well as to prevent and treat diseases which can aggravate undernutrition. Health systems also have to deal with the long-term health consequences associated with overweight and obesity and the prevention and control of diet-related NCDs.

29. Access to health services and financial risk protection for all – including the most marginalized and most vulnerable – is needed. This means universal health coverage (UHC), which implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally-determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative essential health services, including oral health and mental health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population.¹¹

30. Work in this area aims to integrate all relevant nutrition actions in health system design¹²; support health workers at all levels to deliver nutrition actions; and ensure the availability of the necessary equipment and supplies.

31. This area supports related health and nutrition strategies and goals, including the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding, the WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition 2012-2025, and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020, through commensurate financing and adequate policies. Special mention should be made to the detection, referral and treatment of acute malnutrition; the provision of nutrition and health care to women, beginning with adolescent girls and continuing through pregnancy and lactation; the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and continued breastfeeding up to two years and beyond, with adequate complementary feeding; the provision of required micronutrient supplements to pre-school children and women.

Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education

32. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:

- for nutrition education and information (# 19, 20, 21); and

¹⁰ See WHO and FAO Action Plans

http://www.wpro.who.int/entity/drug_resistance/resources/global_action_plan_eng.pdf and <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5996e.pdf> and the joint FAO/WHO/OIE national Action Plan guidance <http://www.who.int/drugresistance/action-plans/manual/en/>

¹¹ UN General Assembly resolution 67/81 http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/81

¹² WHO. Essential Nutrition Actions. 2013

http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/essential_nutrition_actions/en/

- on social protection (# 22, 23, 24).
33. In 2012, the UN General Assembly recommended comprehensive universal social protection, beginning with basic or minimum “social protection floors”. Considering the limited and uneven progress in reducing poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and the currently dim prospects for economic and employment growth in much of the world, comprehensive social protection is needed to eliminate poverty and malnutrition in all its forms.
 34. Social protection measures, such as food distribution, cash transfers, decent job creation and school feeding, can increase incomes and strengthen resilience. When combined with relevant health services, well-designed social protection programmes result in improved height, reduced anaemia, increased dietary diversity and raised consumption of nutrient-dense foods, especially in low-income households with infants and children.
 35. Knowledge and education empower people to make informed healthy dietary and lifestyle choices in harmony with nature¹³, to improve infant and young child feeding practices and care, to improve hygiene and health-promoting behaviour, and contribute to sustainable development. Lifestyle and behaviour change is an important objective of nutrition education. It can also help reduce food losses and waste and boost sustainable resource use.
 36. Governments, supported as appropriate by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and nutrition advocates can help promote desired healthy lifestyle changes, through food and nutrition knowledge and skills included in primary and secondary school curricula (including teaching hygiene, food preparation and culinary practices in schools), public nutrition information, social marketing campaigns and regulations on food labelling and nutrient and health claims.
 37. Implementation of nutrition education and information interventions should be based on national dietary guidelines and coherent policies. Nutrition objectives should be incorporated into social protection programmes, humanitarian assistance safety net programmes as well as cash and food transfers, including school feeding programmes and other forms of social protection measures for vulnerable populations.

Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition

38. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:
 - to create an enabling environment for effective action (# 4, 8); and
 - on international trade and investment (# 17, 18).
39. Rules governing trade and investment have become increasingly important to food systems. Trade and investment agreements affect how the food system functions at global, regional, national and local levels, influencing food prices, availability, access and consumption as well as nutrition outcomes, food safety and dietary options.
40. Coherence between trade and nutrition policies is vital. Trade policies and agreements should support implementation of nutrition policies and programmes and should not negatively impact the right to adequate food in other countries.¹⁴
41. This action area focuses on identification of opportunities to achieve global food security and nutrition targets through trade and investment policies, implementation of the Principles for

¹³ As also called for by SDG 12.8: “by 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature”.

¹⁴ UNGA Resolution 68/177, paragraph 25

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/177

Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems¹⁵, implementation of standards and guidelines of the CODEX Alimentarius, and improvement of the availability and access of a safe and nutritious food supply through appropriate trade agreements and policies.

Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages

42. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:

- for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets (# 13, 15, 16);
- to promote, protect and support breastfeeding (# 29, 30, 31, 32, 33);
- to address childhood overweight and obesity (# 38, 39, 40, 41);
- to address anaemia in women of reproductive age (# 42, 43); and
- on water, sanitation and hygiene (# 51, 52).

43. This action area stresses the importance of environmental determinants in malnutrition outcomes, including the school, home, hospital and work environments, food production as well as urban environments. It also focuses on promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding in environments such as hospitals and the workplace. The use of regulatory and fiscal tools, such as labelling, taxation, subsidies consistent with the promotion of healthy diets and supply-side incentives, is needed to achieve a healthy food environment.

44. Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are essential for health and prevention of diarrhoeal disease, therefore improving nutrition status. Children who are affected by undernutrition are more likely to die from diarrhoea. In turn, diarrhoea undermines nutrition by reducing appetite and nutrient absorption. Over one billion people still practice open defecation. In line with the global call for action on sanitation, efforts should focus on improving hygiene, changing social norms, better management of human waste and waste-water, and completely eliminating the practice of open defecation by 2025.

Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition

45. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:

- to create an enabling environment for effective action (# 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7); and
- for accountability (# 58, 59, 60).

46. Effective nutrition action requires contributions from and coordination among all stakeholders and sectors. Governments lead and are responsible for fostering political dialogue and commitment, coordination, and national planning, ensuring coherence among policies and mechanisms, promoting responsible and sustainable investments, providing information as a public good and as a means of fostering learning and accountability, promoting inter-country collaboration, and strengthening the work of the UN system.

47. Governance processes should be transparent, accountable and conducive to the full participation of all stakeholders. Partnerships and platforms to promote collaboration should take the ICN2 outcomes, the WHA targets, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as essential references providing shared norms and standards. National, regional and global mechanisms to promote coherence across sectors and facilitate inclusive participation should include robust safeguards against abuse and conflicts of interest.

48. Governments should establish, as appropriate, national nutrition targets with milestones consistent with the timeframe for implementation of the Nutrition Decade, and should strengthen monitoring mechanisms as needed to track progress in achieving national targets. Working with national

¹⁵ CFS 2014/41/4 Add.1: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml620e.pdf>

governments, UN bodies and other relevant regional and international organizations, a global monitoring and reporting mechanism for the Nutrition Decade will be made available online. Biennial reports on progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the Nutrition Decade will be submitted to the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO and to the UN General Assembly.¹⁶

Means of Implementation

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

Commitments for Action

50. Under the Nutrition Decade, Member States, regional political and economic communities and the global community are called upon to translate the commitments made through the Rome Declaration on Nutrition into SMART commitments for action, in the context of national nutrition and nutrition-related policies, and in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, particularly people and communities most affected by nutrition challenges. The 60 recommendations of the ICN2 FfA, reflected in the above six action areas, represent a broad range of policy actions for addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Commitments that are SMART help all stakeholders understand what action is intended and improve tracking.
51. Member States should: (1) establish nutrition targets in line with the agreed six WHA Global Nutrition Targets (WHA 65.6) and Diet-related NCD Targets (WHA 66.10) by 2025; (2) commit to implement one or more of the ICN2 FfA recommendations, which are reflected in the six action areas of the Nutrition Decade; (3) allocate or mobilize adequate financial resources in support of domestic and international action required to achieve global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets.
52. While many countries have already developed and are implementing food and nutrition policies and action plans, they should continue to review and, if necessary, raise the level of ambition, improve the design, further refine priority for action, and allocate additional resources, in light of the Nutrition Decade, to accelerate and scale up their efforts in achieving the global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets. Country-specific commitments should reflect national priorities and depend on the country's nutrition situation, and current food and health systems. Member States should: (a) establish SMART commitments based on existing food and nutrition policies and action plans; (b) establish additional SMART commitments in line with the transformative ambitions of ICN2, the SDGs and the WHA targets; (c) establish SMART commitments in action areas not previously covered by existing policies and action plans; and (d) allocate additional resources for domestic and international policies.
53. Relevant UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other stakeholders are called upon to work collectively across sectors and constituencies to provide guidance and support to countries, upon request, for strengthened commitments. A resource guide, prepared by FAO and WHO, may be used to help in the formulation of country-specific commitments. UN system agencies should engage with other stakeholders to solicit adequate action in support to countries' SMART commitments.
54. Commitments from Member States should be formalized through communication between the Head of State or Minister and the Director-Generals of FAO or WHO, or both. Commitments can be submitted continuously throughout the course of the Nutrition Decade. Commitments made by Member States will be included in a publicly-accessible repository managed by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat. Commitments can be made by national authorities at different levels of

¹⁶ UNGA Resolution 70/259.

government, including municipalities, but should always be transmitted through government's central authorities.

55. High-level commitments on ICN2 recommendations made through Nutrition for Growth (N4G) or other existing platforms and relevant initiatives across multiple sectors may be submitted also to the Nutrition Decade repository. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will coordinate these platforms to ensure consistency of the commitments and monitoring.
56. Regional political and economic communities, development banks and UN agencies may also submit their own commitments to the Nutrition Decade directly to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat. Non-state actors may make their commitments in support of Member States SMART commitments. They may also do so through international platforms that receive commitments from Non-State actors.
57. To the extent feasible, the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will endeavour to record and analyse commitments made by governments, regional and economic communities, development banks and UN Agencies. Governments and other UN and international organizations submitting commitments should provide information annually to allow regular tracking of progress on implementation and document achievements and successes.
58. Non-State actors should provide tracking information to the governments or the platforms they committed to.

Action Networks

59. Through the convening and catalytic roles of the Nutrition Decade, action networks are to be established. These action networks are informal coalitions of countries aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around specific topics linked to one or more action areas of the Nutrition Decade, through advocating for the establishment of policies and legislation, allowing the exchange of practices and experiences, highlighting successes and lessons learnt, and providing mutual support to accelerate implementation. Action networks will help countries implement their SMART commitments.
60. Action networks have already been established on some topics (e.g. salt reduction, control of the marketing of foods to children) in some regions. **Table 1** provides a list of potential action networks areas that require increased policy attention and commitment.
61. An action network may be established at the request of one or more countries, who should define the objectives, scope and initial programme of work, identify other partner countries, convene meetings and manage joint initiatives. Action networks may be regional or global, and operate under the leadership of a government institution. The UN system may support action networks, particularly through the provision of operational tools.
62. The countries convening an action network should decide on how to engage with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, as appropriate. It is important that the action networks avoid conflicts of interest in both their membership and implementation of activities.
63. The establishment of an action network should be communicated to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in writing by the convening countries. The joint Secretariat will disseminate the action network information, news and tools.
64. Governments and regional political and economic communities that have made formal commitments and actively support other countries through action networks will be recognized as Nutrition Decade champions. The Nutrition Decade champions are frontrunners and lead by example the global movement to improve nutrition.

Fora and Conferences

65. The Nutrition Decade was launched on 19 July 2016 in New York on the sidelines of the meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). An advocacy event for the Nutrition Decade was also arranged on 20 September 2016 during the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.
66. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and relevant UN organisations and coordinating mechanisms, works with the widest possible range of social actors and institutions to build upon and connect already planned events, and to organize new bridge-building events for planning, sharing of knowledge, recognition of successes, voicing of challenges and obstacles, for promoting collaboration and support in any of the six action areas, and more generally for promoting the Nutrition Decade and its aims.
67. CFS provides a platform for greater policy convergence as well as space for dialogue and experience sharing among governments and other stakeholders. CFS could identify gaps, coordinate actions, strengthen collaborations, monitor impacts and build cross-sectoral coherence.
68. Periodic gatherings of the SUN Movement and Nutrition for Growth provide opportunities to discuss and mobilize financial and political commitments from governments, donors, civil society, UN system and business. **Table 2** includes a list of convening opportunities for the first biennium of the Nutrition Decade.

Accelerating implementation

69. In order for the commitments to be implemented and the expected impact to be achieved, all stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade should cooperate to ensure the adequate design and rollout of policies and programmes. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and relevant UN organizations, coordinating mechanisms and other stakeholders will seek to improve synergies and expand the opportunities to provide technical assistance, building on existing mechanisms, so that countries receive timely, coherent and high quality support, for example by encouraging and facilitating multilateral and bilateral policy collaboration in the context of development aid, south-south and triangular cooperation, as well as by NGOs, philanthropic foundations and the UN system.
70. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of UNICEF, WFP, IFAD, relevant UN organizations, coordinating mechanisms, and other stakeholders of Nutrition Decade should advocate for the generation of new evidence and guidance on effective nutrition programmes and policies. An emphasis will be placed on peer learning and technology transfer, sharing good practices, knowledge and technologies, innovation and research outcomes.
71. All stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade should advocate for strengthening capacities at all levels, including the community level as appropriate. For example, the inclusion of nutrition elements in the curricula of health and agriculture workers, public and private managers, and other professions relevant to nutrition.
72. As recommended by the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will strive to implement the Nutrition Decade within available resources. The stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade should collectively advocate in a harmonized way for the mobilization of new financial resources while considering options for resource pooling to support implementation of national policies and programmes. Funding will be sought from a variety of sources, including development banks and foundations, and via innovative financing mechanisms as well as development assistance. All fundraising is to be conducted in such a way as to avoid both perceived and actual conflict of interest.

73. Costing of policies and programmes has been developed in several countries, and global costs of the scaling up of effective programmes to achieve global nutrition targets have been estimated by the World Bank¹⁷. The Nutrition Decade provides an opportunity to exchange experiences on how domestic resources may be mobilized, for example through orienting available country resources towards nutrition objectives or leveraging private investments.
74. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and relevant UN organisations and coordinating mechanisms will call attention to adequate measures to prevent undue influences on public policy making that may be associated to offers of financial assistance.

Evidence-informed Advocacy and Communication

75. Advocacy is a key element of the Nutrition Decade. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and relevant UN organisations and coordinating mechanisms, will connect with existing networks of advocates in different sectors at global and local levels, reach out to media for influencing public figures, and develop common messages to: (a) invite policy makers to make SMART commitments; (b) call the attention to effective policies and programmes in the six action areas; (c) mobilize greater resources and capacities in nutrition; and (d) disseminate achievements and success stories.
76. Specific and specialized campaigns on the Nutrition Decade are to be co-developed by partners to prioritize and promote nutrition impact. These campaigns are being identified and should include civil society platforms, existing nutrition-related campaigns and novel forms of media, including social media.
77. A visual identity¹⁸ has been developed for use across the Nutrition Decade. It is available in all UN languages. Governments and other stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade willing to use the Nutrition Decade visual identity may do so after submitting a formal request and given authorization by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat.
78. Information on the Nutrition Decade is currently available on the respective websites of FAO¹⁹, WHO²⁰ and UNSCN²¹, and is to be complemented by combined Nutrition Decade products and activities, including a dedicated website, printed and electronic documentation, webcast events, etc.

Governance

79. The Nutrition Decade facilitates broad consultation among its stakeholders to seek alignment of priorities, policy instruments, and monitoring mechanisms.
80. FAO and WHO will provide secretarial support to the activities of the Nutrition Decade, with support by UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and relevant UN agencies, funds, programmes and coordinating mechanisms such as the UNSCN and multi-stakeholder platforms such as CFS.
81. Secretarial activities will use existing resources in the UN system.

¹⁷ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition/publication/an-investment-framework-for-nutrition-reaching-the-global-targets-for-stunting-anemia-breastfeeding-wasting>

¹⁸  UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
ACTION ON NUTRITION
2016-2025

¹⁹ <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/408970/icode/>

²⁰ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/en/>

²¹ <https://www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition>

82. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with support by UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and relevant UN agencies, funds, programmes and coordinating mechanisms, will periodically convene Member States representatives to discuss updates to the Work Programme and progress reports. The Secretariat will periodically convene and consult with other relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, parliamentarians, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Secretariat will use mechanisms and platforms such as the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the CFS, SUN Movement and the Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of NCDs²², and engage with other international and regional organizations and platforms, such as Nutrition for Growth, the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition, and others. **Table 2** illustrates priority activities of the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat for the first biennium of the Nutrition Decade.

Accountability and Shared Learning

83. Biennial reports on the Nutrition Decade implementation will be submitted to the WHA, the FAO Conference and the UN General Assembly. The reports will describe the overall progress on the implementation of ICN2 outcomes and diet-related SDGs, as well as a mapping of the commitments made by governments, their progress and achievements. The reports will also include a summary of global achievements, including the progress of CFS work on nutrition. The reports will contribute to the SDG reporting needs.
84. Tracking implementation of policy progress and country-specific commitments will be based on country self-assessments, facilitated through UN-led policy surveys, and ad hoc validation studies performed by the UN system and academia.
85. The biennial reports will provide opportunities for discussion among governments and other stakeholders of the progress under the Nutrition Decade. Comments made by the FAO and WHO Governing Bodies and by CFS will feed into the reports to the UN General Assembly. The Work Programme will be updated with each biennial report.
86. An open and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders to evaluate the progress of the Nutrition Decade will be convened at mid-term (2020-2021) and at the end of the Nutrition Decade (2025). Member States will be consulted as to the format of these reviews.
87. A dialogue on accountability, in line with declarations on aid effectiveness (Accra Agenda, Paris Declaration) and the Framework for policy coherence for sustainable development²³, will be established, with all relevant initiatives and platforms aimed at soliciting commitments in nutrition and related fields. For example, the Agenda 2030 monitoring and accountability system that lies within the HLPF and ECOSOC, the SDG2 accountability framework led by the Global Initiative on Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN²⁴), CFS, SUN Movement, Nutrition for Growth, Every Woman, Every Child will be considered with the purpose of harmonizing the format and process of commitment submission, agreeing on criteria for commitment, ensuring quality and streamlining the tracking systems. The Countdown 2030, the Global Nutrition Report and the Independent Accountability Panel may also provide important mechanisms for the Nutrition Decade accountability.

²² <http://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/history/en/>

²³ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2016), Better Policies for Sustainable Development 2016: A New Framework for Policy Coherence, OECD Publishing, Paris.
<http://www.oecd.org/development/better-policies-for-sustainable-development-2016-9789264256996-en.htm>

²⁴ <http://www.godan.info/> Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition

88. Progress in achieving the global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets is to be measured throughout the Nutrition Decade at national and global levels. Targeted programme and policy evaluations should be carried out, with support by the UN system to identify good practices.

Living Part

Table 1 - Potential topics for the establishment of action networks to ensure policy attention and commitment

<p>Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fruit and vegetable</i>: sustainable intensification of agricultural production and agro-ecology, post-harvest and processing, markets, public and private investments, incentives for local markets and small farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) • <i>Animal source foods</i>: sustainable livestock and poultry production, sustainable fisheries, markets and value addition, circular economy and waste reduction, equitable access, moving away from intensive farming systems and supporting small-scale farming and SMEs • <i>Sustainable, healthy fisheries, oceans, seas and marine resources</i> • <i>Food losses and wastes</i>: provide good practices, examples of actions across the value chain, create alliances and inform consumers to reduce food loss and waste • <i>Food reformulation</i>: provide reference ranges for reformulation of products (removal of trans fatty acids, reduction of sodium, sugar and saturated fat and portion size) , reformulation technologies, establish country and regional platforms, product monitoring mechanisms; benchmarks/standards for complementary food; fortification; support for food processing SMEs in developing countries • <i>Contrast of antimicrobial resistance</i>: reduction of the use of antimicrobials in food production and use of alternative techniques to protect animal health
<p>Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anaemia</i>: delivery in health systems of weekly iron/folic acid supplements • <i>Acute malnutrition</i>: improving availability and access to ready-to-use therapeutic foods • <i>Adolescent health and nutrition</i>: counselling, adolescent marriage, school health and nutrition
<p>Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>School food and nutrition</i>: improved school curricula and nutrition standards for school meals • <i>Health promotion</i>: social marketing campaigns and lifestyle change communication programmes to promote healthy eating and physical activity
<p>Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nutrition sensitive investments</i>: analysing the nutrition impact of public and private investment policies in the food sector; making the investment case for an investment shift
<p>Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Urban sustainable food systems</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provision of safe and nutritious food in public institutions</i> • <i>Regulatory instruments to promote healthy diets</i>: taxation of food and beverages, pricing policies for sugar-sweetened beverages and foods that do not contribute to healthy diets • <i>Marketing of foods and beverages to children</i> • <i>Breastfeeding and early nutrition</i>: appropriate care practices and adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding, baby friendly hospital initiative, Code and Net-code, maternity protection laws
<p>Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action plan development and costing</i>: national nutrition targets should be developed for countries not having these in place yet, as well as food-based dietary guidelines considering the national context and harmonizing relevant frameworks (such as WHA targets, SDGs and ICN2 commitments), while adopting a “leave no-one behind approach” to ensure progress for all • <i>Monitoring and surveillance of nutrition indicators</i> • <i>Research and evidence generation</i> • <i>Capacity and workforce development</i> • <i>Prevention of conflict of interest</i>

Table 2 – Activities in the 1st biennium (April 2016 - April 2018) by stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade

Activities	Timeframe
Request for commitments to Member States	June 2017
Mapping of initiatives and stakeholders	April-June 2017
Approaching potential partners across sectors	June 2017-Apr 2018
Resource guide for commitment development	May 2016-May 2017
Commitment database establishment	May 2017
Advocacy and technical support to the submission of commitments	May 2017-April 2018
Advocacy and technical support the establishment of action networks	May 2017-April 2018
Dialogue on accountability with Every Woman, Every Child	May 2017-April 2018
Fora and conferences	Dates
Convening of Member States for Work Programme discussion	December 2016, February 2017, and March 2017
WHA	May 2016 and May 2017
FAO Council	December 2016
FAO Committees on Forestry, on Fisheries, and on Agriculture	Respectively June 2016, July 2016 and September 2016
FAO Conference	July 2017

HLPF	July 2016 and July 2017
WHO Regional Committees	2017
FAO Regional Conferences	2018
CFS Session	October 2016 and October 2017
Nutrition for Growth	November 2017
SUN Movement Global gathering	November 2017
UNGA	September 2016 and September 2017
Reports	Dates
70 th WHA	May 2017
FAO Conference	July 2017
CFS 44	October 2017
UNGA	Autumn 2017
State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition	June 2017
Global Nutrition Report	November 2017