



Calls to Action to Increase Accountability for Nutrition Actions Donors

CALL TO ACTION 1: Elevate the Role of Nutrition across the Sustainable Development Goals

In recognition of the critical role of nutrition in achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaders of the international finance institutions and the United Nations, other members of Scaling Up Nutrition Lead Group, and other national nutrition champions should advocate strongly for the set of SDG Nutrition Indicators proposed by the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, and supported by a broad group of civil society organizations, to be included in the indicator set put forward to the UN Statistical Commission by the end of 2015.

- 1.1 Leaders of the international finance institutions, the UN, other **members of the Scaling Up Nutrition Lead Group**, and other national nutrition champions, should advocate for the inclusion of nutrition indicators in the set of indicators used to monitor the SDGs. Specifically, they should engage with the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to advocate for the six World Health Assembly (WHA) indicators and women's dietary diversity indicator. These indicators can be applied to the SDGs related to, for example, poverty, health, gender equality, and sustainable food systems.

CALL TO ACTION 2: Strengthen National Accountability on Nutrition Targets

Presidential and prime ministerial offices of countries that are off course to meet the World Health Assembly's global targets to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition should convene cross-government, cross-party, and multistakeholder consultations to discuss the challenges of meeting the global targets, course corrections they can make, and the support they need. The findings should be reported at the 2016 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit hosted by the Government of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro and at any equivalent global or regional reporting opportunity.

- 2.3 Technical expert groups, innovation hubs, and research funders—including the World Bank's Research Department, the WHO/UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring (TEAM), 3ie, and Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA)—should look for ways to strengthen accountability within nutrition. These groups should issue calls for accountability tools, methods, metrics, and evaluations.

CALL TO ACTION 3: Strengthen the Nutrition for Growth Process

Signatories of the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Compact, adopted in 2013, should carry out their commitments and give full reports on their progress to the *Global Nutrition Report* team for publication in 2016. At the 2016 N4G Rio Summit, **more governments, international agencies, external funders, civil society organizations, and businesses** need to make ambitious N4G

commitments, which should be specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART). These commitments from existing and new signatories should aim to achieve the WHA global nutrition targets by 2025 and, in line with the SDGs, end malnutrition by 2030.

- 3.1 **All signatories to the N4G Compact** should report on implementation of their commitments to the Global Nutrition Report team. In 2015 fewer signatories responded to requests to report on their commitments than in 2014. The share of signatories who are “on-course” for meeting their commitments remains below 50 percent.
- 3.2 **Existing N4G signatories** should seek to widen the N4G circle of commitment by inviting additional governments, international agencies, external funders, civil society organizations, and businesses to make SMART and ambitious pledges at the 2016 N4G Summit. At the moment, the N4G Compact has only 110 signatories, and nearly all of them are concerned with undernutrition rather than with malnutrition in all its forms.

CALL TO ACTION 4: Deliver Better Nutrition Outcomes with Existing Funding

To justify calls for more funding, **governments and donors** should continue to invest in ways of delivering better nutrition outcomes with existing funding. They should also demonstrate how they are seeking to improve the quality and effectiveness of current spending. **Governments** should continue to document their nutrition spending and engage with **researchers** to determine costs of nutrition strategies. **Donors** should report their disbursements, and **civil society organizations** should continue to call for transparent budgets. **Governments and donors** should increase their work with **researchers** to estimate budget allocations to obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases.

- 4.1 Governments and **donors** should work more closely with researchers to estimate the impacts and costs of different strategies for implementing and scaling up nutrition actions. These country-specific estimates of impacts and costs will help governments refine their strategies and increase the likelihood that their investments will have a greater impact on nutrition status.
- 4.3 Each year, **donors** should report their commitments and disbursements—both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive—to the Global Nutrition Report team. The availability of these data will better guide their actions and the actions of their partners. A failure of donors to do so risks undermining their accountability and credibility.
- 4.5 Given the insufficient tracking of expenditure on obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases, governments and **donors** should work more closely with researchers to estimate costs and track spending on strategies to prevent and control these diseases. Such estimates are currently unavailable.

CALL TO ACTION 5: Increase Funding for Nutrition Action

Governments spend, on average, between 1 and 2 percent of their budgets on nutrition, and donors spend approximately 4 percent—far too little to meet global nutrition targets by 2025. Accordingly, **governments** should—at a minimum—double the share of their budgets allocated to improving nutrition. **Donor** spending on nutrition will also need to more than double.

- 5.1 By the time of the 2020 N4G Summit in Japan, governments and **donors** should have doubled their share of spending on actions explicitly intended to have an impact on nutrition. Precise estimates of what is needed to meet the WHA targets are not available, but preliminary work on stunting by the World Bank (see Chapter 5) suggests that by 2025 governments need to at least double their spending on proven nutrition interventions and donors need to more than quadruple funding for these interventions. In addition, the scope for increasing the share of government and **donor** nutrition-related spending in sectors such as agriculture, education, health, social protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene is large because these budgets are large in magnitude and the opportunities for win-win solutions are plentiful.
- 5.2 More **donors** need to invest in nutrition. The 13 bilateral donors that are currently spending less than US\$1 million a year on nutrition, as measured by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), should make substantial new commitments to nutrition. For donors seeking to maximize the human and economic impact of their funds, nutrition is a high-impact investment.

CALL TO ACTION 6: Implement Actions to Address Malnutrition in All Its Forms

Governments, international agencies, civil society organizations, and businesses should implement the ICN2 Framework for Action, which addresses malnutrition in all its forms. To encourage action, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO** should, by the end of 2016, develop objective and verifiable indicators for determining how well the Framework for Action is being implemented. The **Committee on Food Security** should identify opportunities for making nutrition actions across sectors more coherent. **Civil society** should raise awareness and mobilize support for implementing the framework and highlight areas where progress is lagging. To encourage a focus on malnutrition in *all* its forms, **researchers** should identify actions that address both undernutrition and obesity/nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases synergistically and clarify the factors that can create an enabling environment for improving nutrition.

- No specific calls to action for this audience

CALL TO ACTION 7: Actively Build Alliances between Nutrition and Climate Change Communities around Common Goals

By the time of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in November 2016, **the climate change and nutrition communities** should form alliances to meet common goals. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** should form a group comprising nutrition and climate-health experts to assess the climate-nutrition literature and define new research and policy agendas. **Governments** should build climate change explicitly into their national nutrition and health strategies. And **civil society** should use existing networks to build climate change–nutrition alliances to advocate for nutrition at the COP21 and other leading climate change events and processes.

- No specific calls to action for this audience

CALL TO ACTION 8: Develop Indicators of the Impact of Food Systems on Nutrition and Health Outcomes

Building on the food systems focus of the ICN2 in 2014, **global food systems initiatives** should, by the end of 2016, propose indicators of the impact of food systems on nutrition and health outcomes.

- No specific calls to action for this audience

CALL TO ACTION 9: Build a Greater Shared Understanding of the Roles and Responsibilities of Business in Nutrition

Once the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors is finalized, the **four large UN agencies most concerned with nutrition—FAO, UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and WHO—together with other relevant international bodies**, should establish an inclusive, time-bound commission to clarify the roles and responsibilities of **business** in nutrition.

Whether or not a commission is established, the following additional actions should be undertaken:

- 9.2 **Research funders** should finance long-term research programs to generate evidence on what works and what does not in terms of business involvement in nutrition. At present there is too little evidence to guide improved accountability. Research is needed to (1) develop metrics to guide action and promote accountability, and (2) independently and transparently evaluate the actions businesses take to improve nutrition.
- 9.4 Governments should strengthen regulatory frameworks for business to reduce negative nutrition outcomes. By the end of 2016 **donors** should explore setting up a fund to support the capacity of public bodies to develop, strengthen, and enforce regulations on business conduct. Regulation should take into account the international nature of many businesses and the potential for regulation to create incentives for positive action and to level the playing field for all businesses.

CALL TO ACTION 10: Identify the Data Gaps that Hinder Effective Action—and Fill Them

Countries, donors, and agencies should work with the technical nutrition community to identify and prioritize the data gaps that are holding back action and then invest in the capacity to fill the gaps. **All countries, including high-income countries**, should reach out to UN agencies to facilitate the conversion of their own data into international databases convened by the UN agencies.

- 10.2 **Donors** should fund an inclusive process—involving governments, the World Bank, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and donors—to identify remaining data gaps and invest in the international and national capacity to fill them. Data are needed to guide action, support advocacy, monitor progress toward the WHA and SDG targets, and strengthen accountability. Data gaps are holding back action, and yet there is currently inadequate information on the most critical gaps. The development of a long-term multidonor plan to invest in data should be well underway by the 2016 N4G Summit in Rio.
- 10.3 National governments, international agencies, and program implementers should place a special focus on collecting credible coverage data for interventions to prevent and treat undernutrition. **Donors** should increase support for (1) the development of global indicators of program coverage for interventions that need it and (2) research to identify

factors associated with increases in coverage. Currently, internationally comparable data are available on the coverage of only 3 of 12 key interventions.