



Calls to Action to Increase Accountability for Nutrition Actions Government

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.
- 1.2 Representatives of international agencies, **nonmember governments**, academia, and civil society organizations should participate as observers in meetings of the IAEG-SDGs to raise awareness of the proposed nutrition indicators

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.

- 2.1 To improve accountability, **all countries** should establish national nutrition targets, based on the World Health Assembly's global targets to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition and on the nutrition-related targets of the World Health Organization's (WHO's) global monitoring framework for noncommunicable diseases. Countries should follow up these target commitments with stronger monitoring.

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.
- 3.4 **The Global Nutrition Report Stakeholder Group** should commission an independent body to undertake a one-time evaluation of the process for assessing N4G commitments and make public recommendations for strengthening it. Current methods are limited since they rely on self-assessment by signatories and independent review by the Global Nutrition Report co-chairs and Secretariat.

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.
- 4.2 **Governments** should compare current estimates of their nutrition budget allocations with costed plans so that they can develop credible and transparent estimates of funding gaps in time for the Rio 2016 Compact. Doing this will help them better align resources and plans.

The Global Nutrition Report 2016 will aim to report on more than 30 country nutrition budget allocations.

- 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.

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.

- 6.4 Researchers should work with **national nutrition champions** to document, analyze, monitor, and evaluate efforts to create enabling environments for the implementation of nutrition actions. Combining lessons from undernutrition, obesity, and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases, including from recent Lancet series on these issues, they should bring the results together into action-oriented lessons and present them in an international journal by 2018. To accomplish this, researchers will need to (1) identify which actions to track, (2) develop metrics, methods, and databases to track progress on those actions, (3) analyze the effectiveness of the actions and the factors in their success, and (4) draw lessons

between countries.

- 6.5 At the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, **governments** should set coverage targets for interventions to address severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Governments and donors should then commit to monitoring progress against these targets.

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.

- 7.1 **Governments** should build climate change more explicitly into existing and new national nutrition strategies. Reviews of nutrition policies show that many countries do not yet incorporate climate change into their nutrition policies.

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.

- 8.2 Drawing on expertise from global food systems initiatives, **governments** should develop a set of indicators to measure the inputs, processes, and outcomes that define their national food systems. This would enable countries to understand better how their food systems behave and how they might be moved toward improved nutrition and sustainability. Measurement also allows citizens to hold governments to account for the impact of their food system policies on health and sustainability.
- 8.3 **Governments** should develop, implement, and monitor plans and policies for making their food systems more nutrition friendly. The number of policy options for doing so is potentially overwhelming. Governments at all income levels therefore need a careful and comprehensive process for identifying high-impact policy options to make their food systems more nutrition friendly. Low-income countries should be offered external support to undertake this task.

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:

- 9.4 **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.
- 9.5 **Governments** should promote transparency by establishing a register of formal public-private partnerships and other mechanisms of engagement. This would enable all to see the terms under which public-private collaborations are established.
- 9.6 **Governments** should explore potential engagement with businesses beyond the food sector. For example, engagement with mobile phone network operators on nutrition might prove important for behavior change and could improve accountability of a wide range of nutrition actors.

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.

- 10.1 **High-income country governments** should step up their efforts to enter nutrition data into international databases. At least 10 high-income countries should enter data for at least one of the WHA indicators to the WHO/UNICEF databases in time to appear in the 2016 Global Nutrition Report. Even though high-income countries have greater capacity to produce these data than other countries, they are responsible for major gaps in international databases. Their failure to provide internationally comparable data risks their credibility as nutrition partners and accountability champions.
- 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 4 of 12 key interventions.