

WFP and the Nutrition Decade

WFP's strategic plan focuses on ending hunger and contributing to a revitalized global partnership, key components to implement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The mandate of WFP in both the humanitarian and development sphere and the organization's expertise and long experience call for prioritization of emergency, life-saving and development-enabling work that benefits the poorest and most marginalized people, and those left behind. The overarching goal of WFP's strategic plan is to make food assistance nutritionally balanced, nutritious food accessible and available for vulnerable populations all year round, eliminate all forms of malnutrition, increase rural economic opportunity, prevent food waste, and promote sustainable agricultural development.

Within the strategic plan, WFP's strategic objective 2 is to improve nutrition, aiming to ensure that no one suffers from malnutrition (SDG target 2.2). Malnourished children and adults must therefore receive appropriate treatment, but diets which contribute to prevention must also be healthy, safe and adequately nutritious and be supported by complementary actions that guarantee proper utilization to enable sustained nutrition outcomes. Addressing malnutrition also calls for bold collaboration with governments to strengthen nationally-owned responses and incorporate nutrition in social safety net policies and programmes that have the capacity and resources to deliver nutrition results. WFP is committed to working with WHO, UNICEF, FAO, and IFAD and other UN agencies to leverage all available synergies to contribute to collective nutrition results – not only in least-developed countries but universally throughout the world.

Investments in nutrition are guided by WFP's new Nutrition Policy (2017-2021), which outlines WFP's global work to support national commitments to achieve SGD targets for ending all forms of malnutrition – including both undernutrition (wasting, stunting, and micronutrient deficiencies) and overweight. While support for nutrition in emergencies remains central to WFP's work, the policy also puts forth an integrated approach to nutrition by simultaneously considering issues of availability, access, demand and consumption of nutritious foods to achieve the goal of adequate and healthy diets for vulnerable groups of all ages. WFP has committed to supporting national priorities in its recently approved Nutrition Policy in February 2017 by the Executive Board, which highlights the central importance of healthy, nutritious diets in addressing all forms of malnutrition and acknowledges the important role of the food system in ensuring these diets are available, accessible and affordable.

The Nutrition Decade is a strong commitment by UN Member States to undertake a 10-year timeframe of sustained action, bringing together all actors, across all sectors, to join forces and work collectively towards eradicating malnutrition in all its forms. The work programme of the Nutrition Decade, envisions the following six cross-cutting integrative Action Areas, derived from the recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action:

- 1. Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets;*
- 2. Aligned health systems for 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;*
- 6. Review, strengthen and promote nutrition governance and accountability.*

Ensuring good nutrition before, during and after emergencies is crucial for reaching those who would otherwise be left behind. Ending malnutrition in all its forms requires a strong focus on the changing nature and increasing complexity of emergencies, as well as an explicit understanding of the links between emergencies and long-term nutrition outcomes. Conflict and climate change can amplify nutrition needs that are already above critical levels in many contexts. WFP will work with partners to support governments to include nutrition in preparedness planning and to accelerate necessary nutrition support in emergencies.

With unmatched field presence in nutrition programming, WFP has a unique role in its contribution to the Nutrition Decade. Through its collaboration with communities and governments, WFP's malnutrition treatment and prevention programs reach some 9 million children under age five annually, 4.2 million pregnant and lactating women, and 13.4 million beneficiaries in total.¹ Partnership with the private sector to develop specialized nutritious foods and improve supply chains to provide these nutrition services continues, and is expanding to new value chains that support inclusive economic development such as those through the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) forums (e.g. the SUN Business Network), as well as those that explore cost-effective local production and availability of appropriate complementary foods. WFP's ability to simulate markets for better nutrition is made possible by injecting its significant demand for nutritious foods into untapped markets. WFP's work in 'nutrition-sensitive' programming (i.e. incorporating nutrition objectives and outcomes into humanitarian and development programmes) is further driving the expansion of WFP's nutrition impact through its broad base of global food security and social protection interventions.

In addition to maintaining emergency expertise, WFP will support national governments by working in partnership to identify platforms for maximizing the reach of nutrition interventions and reducing the costs of scale-up. For example, national social protection programmes, which are implemented on a large scale and target the most vulnerable people, represent an important opportunity for delivering nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programming. Such platforms can help tackle the underlying causes of malnutrition by: i) reducing inequities and vulnerability; ii) protecting incomes, crops and assets; iii) ensuring that basic needs can be met; iv) securing access to nutritious diets; and v) providing access to health services, safe drinking water and sanitation.

Through collaboration with other agencies, WFP has pioneered innovative approaches, strengthened national expertise and promoted local capacity in fortification. Using innovation and new technologies and working with partners to place micronutrient deficiency diseases higher on international and national political agendas, WFP addresses micronutrient deficiencies through: i) careful attention to micronutrient needs in terms of context and target populations in ration planning; (ii) programming donor-supplied or internationally procured fortified foods; (iii) promotion and use of locally processed fortified foods; and (iv) increasing advocacy for fortification at national and international policy-making levels.

Bringing attention to decision-makers at all levels to prioritize nutrition and take action must be achieved through evidence combined with advocacy tools. The Cost of Hunger in Africa study (COHA), supported by WFP, has made an innovative contribution to the discussion on nutrition by raising nutrition to the economic development context, making nutrition more than just a health issue, and putting forth key recommendations on nutrition policy and interventions. Furthering discussions on barriers to achieving adequate nutrition is fostered by WFP's work using strategies and tools such as the Cost of Diet (CoD) analysis, Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) tool and mVAM for Nutrition. Combining innovative analysis with a stakeholder process, FNG including CoD contributes to reducing barriers to adequate nutrient intake by supporting national strategies and utilizing a multi-sectoral approach to improving nutrition. WFP's mVAM for Nutrition collaborative tool further strengthens the evidence base for nutrition through remote mobile data collection at a larger, more effective and efficient scale, contributing to decreasing the global gap in nutrition data.

Considering WFP's wide-ranging role in nutrition and expertise in food security analysis, significant contributions can be made to Action Area 1 (Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets), Action Area 2 (Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions), Action Area 3 (Social protection and nutrition education), Action Area 5 (Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages) and Action Area 6 (Review, Strengthen, and promote nutrition governance and accountability) of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade.

¹ Based on 2016 achievements

WFP Policy Priorities and Planned Activities

WFP Policy Priorities	Planned Activities	Outcomes	Nutrition Decade Action Area
Nutrition in Emergencies	<p>Building on its nutrition expertise and unique position in responding to emergency contexts, WFP will scale up its core capacity in emergencies through enhanced standards, tools and actions for nutrition in emergencies and for emergency preparedness and response, ensuring that the key target groups for WFP's nutrition interventions are reached.</p> <p>Strengthen partnerships with government and other organizations to build national capacity, implement nutrition programming prior to emergencies, and ensure that treatment and prevention programs including severe acute malnutrition are implemented cohesively with complementary nutrition interventions such as promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies and micronutrient deficiency prevention. Technical support to rapid nutrition assessment should also be support. In areas with a high risk of shocks, integrate nutrition components into emergency preparedness tools and systems.</p> <p>Enhance advocating with partners for provision of health, hygiene, sanitation, social protection, amongst others, for those affected by crisis.</p>	<p>Improved prevention of malnutrition, mortality and morbidity</p> <p>Improved coverage, access to and appropriate utilization of interventions</p> <p>Reduced incidence of acute malnutrition cases, contributing to decreased risk of mortality</p> <p>Increased response capacity to emergency nutrition crises</p>	Action Area 3, 5 and 6
MAM Treatment and Prevention	<p>Expanding on MAM prevention and treatment programmes, quality management of MAM will be improved through working with national governments to scale up nutrition sensitive programs, improving social safety nets, and implementing social behaviour change communication programmes based on operational research.</p> <p>Enhance home and/or large-scale fortification programs either through direct provision by WFP, or integration into local markets or social protection programmes with WFP's assistance; and establish or expand general food fortification at national or regional levels by working in partnership with governments and other partners.</p>	<p>Reduced MAM rates and mortality</p> <p>Maintained / enhanced individual and household access to adequate food</p>	Action Area 1, 2, and 3

<p>Stunting Prevention</p>	<p>Expansion of focus on chronic malnutrition, building on the greater than one million beneficiaries reached through stunting prevention programming in 2016, a two-fold increase since 2015.</p> <p>Ensure nutrition sensitive programming in development and emergency settings while enhancing fortification programs, treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition, and social behaviour change communication programs, in addition to advocating with all partners for provision of other services including health, hygiene, sanitation and social protection.</p>	<p>Reduced stunting rates</p> <p>Improved consumption of high-quality, nutrient-dense foods among targeted individuals</p>	<p>Action Area 1, 2 and 3</p>
<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>WFP will continue to engage in strong and effective multi-sectoral partnerships with the aim to accelerate nutrition support in emergencies, diversify interventions, build capacity to deliver support to nutritionally vulnerable populations, and improve national capacity development. Partnerships including south-south and triangular co-operation will be strengthened through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued involvement with the UN Network for SUN • Increased engagement with private sector, through the SUN Business Network • Enhanced partnerships with Governments, NGOs, and UN and other Agencies • Active engagement in the nutrition cluster in responding to disaster and in preparedness 	<p>Enhanced strategic partnerships with public and private sectors, Rome-based agencies and other operational partners</p> <p>Expanded capacities of public- and private-sector institutions and systems, to identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations</p>	<p>Action Area 6</p>
<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>Leverage partnerships to advocate for greater multi-sectoral accountability, coordination and strategies at country level for nutrition sensitivity.</p> <p>Raise awareness of nutrition challenges, solutions, and lessons learned, and advocate for greater investments in nutrition by engaging partners including traditional and non-traditional donors and stakeholders in discussions around WFP's nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific programming and resource-mobilization.</p>	<p>Increased engagement in multi-stakeholder coordination platforms</p> <p>Increased number of beneficiaries receiving WFP-supported nutritional messaging and counselling</p>	<p>Action Area 3 and 6</p>

Policy and Programme Support for Countries	<p>While maintaining its core capacity in nutrition emergencies, WFP will provide policy and programme support to countries through technical and advisory support, national capacity building, introducing innovations and fostering evidence-based decision-making. Targeted activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide country-level support in the design and visioning of nutrition-sensitive strategies as well as technical support for the expansion of national nutrition policies and programs. • Utilizing WFP’s Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis tool, scale up situational nutrition analyses to reduce the nutrient intake gap among key vulnerable groups. 	<p>Enhanced social and public-sector capacity to identify, target and assist nutritionally vulnerable populations</p> <p>Increased support for national ownership of and prioritization of food security and nutrition policy reforms.</p>	<p>Action Area 2 and 6</p>
Strengthening Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation, and the Evidence Base	<p>Continue contributions to the global evidence base for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and programme implementation.</p> <p>Support nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific research and enhance research capacity at country-level to measure nutrition contributions through nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific programmes.</p> <p>Improve data collection technology for nutrition analysis and M&E strategies using existing tools such as Cost of Hunger analysis (COHA), Cost of Diet (CoD), Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG), and mVAM for Nutrition.</p>	<p>Improved outcomes of school nutrition-sensitive and nutrition specific programs including School Meal Programs</p> <p>Increased effectiveness and utilization of CoD, FNG, COHA, mVAM and improved data quality</p>	<p>Action Area 2, 3, and 6</p>
Food Systems	<p>Through analysis and knowledge management, coordination and integration, and partnerships and advocacy, WFP is committed to leveraging its \$1.2 billion worth of quality food purchases per year toward outcomes that strengthen food systems including improved integration of supply chains with programs and interventions.</p> <p>Utilize innovative methods to improve the quality of foods and food systems, including linking fortification efforts to social protection programs and scale up and roll-out of Filling the Nutrient Gap programming.</p>	<p>Improved value chains for high-quality, nutrition-dense foods</p> <p>Improved household adaptation and resilience to shocks</p> <p>Stabilized / improved availability and affordability of appropriate foods in markets</p>	<p>Action Area 1 and 5</p>