

## WHO's contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 is a catalyst for Member State action and provides a robust platform to translate the commitments of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 into national and regional policies, programmes and partnerships to end malnutrition in all its forms.

WHO's recently developed *Ambition and Action in Nutrition 2016-2025* focuses and revitalizes our nutrition priorities like never before, and the Nutrition Decade acts as an impetus for action to reach WHO's Vision: "A world free from all forms of malnutrition where all people achieve health and well-being." This innovative strategy commits WHO, a health agency, to focus on ensuring sustainable diets through its Mission: "To work with Member States and partners to ensure universal access to effective nutrition actions and to healthy and sustainable diets." WHO will accomplish this goal by working towards six clearly defined priority areas across the three core functions of Leadership, Guidance and Monitoring.

### Priority areas for WHO contributions to the Nutrition Decade:

#### i) Shaping the narrative of the global nutrition agenda

→ *Linked to Action Area 6 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Work with UN agencies, programmes, funds and other bodies, civil society and other partners to design and support global and national campaigns and advocacy initiatives
- b. Identify Member States that have implemented successful nutrition policies and promote them as nutrition leaders
- c. Organize and participate regularly in high-level meetings on nutrition and related policy areas (e.g. G7, G20, N4G, SUN-GG, CFS)
- d. Develop an Organization-wide nutrition advocacy strategy and nutrition advocacy toolkit including the Nutrition Decade, for adaptation and use by regional and country offices
- e. Advocate for the adequate inclusion of an agenda to tackle malnutrition in all its forms in national nutrition priorities
- f. Promote global nutrition reports (such as GNR, SOFI, GBD) and collaborate in their development and dissemination
- g. Support country-level nutrition governance and multi-sectoral coordination for nutrition, including through the UN Network for SUN
- h. Actively take part in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on nutrition and food safety, and implement, as appropriate, internationally adopted standards at the national level (Framework for Action Recommendation (FFA R) 54)

#### ii) Leveraging changes in relevant non-health sectors to improve and mainstream nutrition

→ *Linked to Action Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Agriculture and Food Systems:
  - Steer and participate in the development or update of global policy frameworks addressing agriculture and food systems (e.g. through participating in the work of the Committee on World Food Security)

- Participate in global, regional and national policy dialogue on trade regulations and other regulatory measures related to food and nutrition (including the WTO Agreements on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and Technical Barriers to Trade, labelling or other dialogues held in the European Union, Mercosur and the Caribbean Community)
- b. Establish a dialogue with private sector actors (food manufacturers and food retailers) to influence the reformulation of foods, and the implementation of policy changes on nutrition labelling and marketing restrictions, while preventing and effectively managing conflict of interest risk (FFA R 14)
- c. Environment:
  - Develop the evidence base for the alignment of measures to reduce the environmental impact of food production
  - Participate in the development or update of global policy frameworks addressing climate change and biodiversity loss
- d. Human rights and Social Protection:
  - Participate in the Human Rights Council and related activities – develop a General Comment on nutrition and children’s rights; use of core indicators in relation to children’s rights to health and safe and nutritious foods
    - Collaborate with the Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food and the Right to health
    - Collaborate with the International Labour Organization on implementing the Maternity Protection Convention #183 and the corresponding Recommendation 191

**iii) Leveraging the implementation of effective nutrition policies and programmes in all settings, including situations of emergencies and crisis**

→ *Linked to Action Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Provide support to country policy development through sharing of good practices and evidence for effective action
- b. Support country policy implementation through assistance on policy design
- c. Develop an operating model for nutrition in emergencies and preparedness plans to support the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- d. Continue supporting the Breastfeeding Advocacy Initiative to increase political commitment to and investment in breastfeeding as the cornerstone of child nutrition, health and development
- e. Implement food control systems, including reviewing and modernizing national food safety legislation and regulations to ensure that food producers and suppliers throughout the food chain operate responsibly (FFA R53)
- f. Raise awareness among relevant stakeholders on the problems posed by antimicrobial resistance, and implement appropriate multisectoral measures to address antimicrobial resistance, including prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary and human medicine (FFA R56)

**iv) Defining healthy sustainable diets and guide the identification and use of effective nutrition interventions**

→ *Linked to Action Areas 1 and 2 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Engage countries and partners in identifying needs for guidelines including thematic prioritization for their development and establishing a web-based nutrition guideline development tracking system

- b. Develop end-user-oriented guideline derivative products that expedite guideline integration and illustrate effective means to achieving Global Nutrition Targets
- c. Ensure emergency considerations are clear in WHO nutrition guidelines
- d. Develop and implement national guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals according to internationally recognized standards adopted by competent international organizations to reduce non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials and to phase out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters in the absence of risk analysis as described in Codex Code of Practice CAC/RCP61-2005 (FFA R 57)

**v) Improving the availability of nutrition actions in health systems**

→ *Linked to Action Areas, 2, and 6 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Promote delivery of effective nutrition actions at scale by ensuring that they are included in other WHO essential care practice guides (e.g. IMCI, ANC guidelines, Integrated Management of Pregnancy and Childbirth, nutritional guidance for the management of communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS and NCDs, etc.)
- b. Ensure inclusion of effective nutrition actions in training programmes for the health workforce
- c. Improve availability of therapeutic nutrition products by ensuring their inclusion in essential medicine lists and the prequalification of manufacturers
- d. Ensure mainstreaming of nutrition and the inclusion of effective nutrition actions in common health sector planning tools (e.g. costing and expenditure tracking)

**vi) Supporting the establishment of targets and monitoring systems for nutrition**

→ *Linked to Action Areas 2 and 6 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Support countries to establish national targets for nutrition and for diet-related NCDs
- b. Define national nutrition monitoring frameworks in line with the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework and the Noncommunicable Disease Monitoring Framework
- c. Establish partnerships to move forward the data revolution for nutrition while safeguarding public health from conflict of interest
- d. Support Member States in strengthening the nutrition component of national information systems, including data collection and analysis for evidence-informed policy decision-making
- e. Participate in and contribute to international networks to exchange food safety information, including for managing emergencies (FFA R55)

**Specifically, jointly with FAO:**

- a. Further update and support the Nutrition Decade work programme and its implementation, led by Member States.
- b. Coordinate and consolidate with other UN agencies the biennial nutrition-related reporting to the UN General Assembly.
- c. Maintain an open access database of commitments for public accountability and include an analysis of the commitments made in the biennial reports on implementation of the outcome document of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the Framework for Action;
- d. Sustain compelling advocacy and communication around the Nutrition Decade, based on effective use of social media and human-centered narratives.