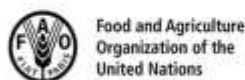

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Second International Conference on Nutrition
Rome, 19-21 November 2014
Roundtable 2: Improving Policy Coherence for Nutrition

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Introduction

1. It is well-established that nutrition objectives can only be achieved through a multi-sectoral response. This requires different sectors and stakeholders working together in a more coherent and collaborative manner to address malnutrition in all its forms. Improved policy coherence across sectors is one important tool that nutrition planners can use to address malnutrition. It is the systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives¹. This implies that the synergies and linkages between nutrition and objectives in economic development, agriculture, health, gender, empowerment, social protection and education are recognized and understood, and that policies can be aligned and implemented to modify, guide and reinforce them for positive nutritional outcomes. For example, policies in agriculture and health along with other relevant policies across the food system related to trade in, production and marketing of, availability, acquisition, consumption and utilization of food all need to be considered when making efforts to protect and promote food security and tackle malnutrition in all its forms.

2. There is a need for the nutrition community to engage with the policy coherence agenda in order to ensure that the policy, strategy and activities of each sector contribute to and reinforce the work of other sectors and actors rather than undermine and weaken them. This requires a thorough understanding of the main policy factors influencing nutrition, which can be very different in countries being in different stages of the nutrition transition.

3. The incorporation of nutrition objectives, concerns and considerations into development processes so that improved nutrition becomes an explicit result of development is not a new concept. What is needed for all sectors is to engage in each other's policy making processes so that shared objectives can be identified and trade-offs minimized. This requires first a commitment to raise nutrition higher up the development agenda and make improved nutrition an explicit political goal, especially for those most nutritionally vulnerable, including resource poor, landless, small holder farmers, the food insecure and those who have been neglected, socially excluded, economically marginalized and those bypassed in the development process.

¹ OECD. Policy coherence: Vital for global development. Policy Brief. Paris, 2003. Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/development/pcd/20202515.pdf>



II. Objectives of the Roundtable

4. This Roundtable theme on improving policy coherence for nutrition will discuss the following in three panels:

Panel 1: **Coherence between economic policies and healthy changes in diets.** This panel will assess the opportunities and challenges of creating greater coherence between economic objectives and healthy diets, including lessons from countries who have worked to enhance coherence, an assessment of the economic benefits of improved nutrition and a private sector perspective.

Panel 2: **Policy coherence for nutrition-sensitive agriculture.** This panel will provide concrete examples on how agricultural projects, programmes and policies can be designed to be more sensitive to nutritional needs.

Panel 3: **Nutrition in all sectors.** This panel will illustrate how countries have been able to integrate nutrition in various sectors such as agriculture, health, education, trade and social welfare.

III. Format of the Roundtable

5. The Roundtable will have the following format:

- Co-Chairs: Welcome remarks
- Moderator: Introductory remarks (5 minutes)
- Main speaker to introduce the theme (15 minutes)
- Panelists (7 minutes each)
- Open discussion from the floor (25 minutes)
- Closing remarks (5 minutes).