



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**18th session
San José, Costa Rica, 19-23 November 2012**

NUTRITIONAL ISSUES AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Comments received in reply to CL 2012/20-LAC: Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica

CHILE

Item 7: Nutritional issues at national and regional level

Question 6: Issues relating to nutrition in the region

1. Please describe any developments since the 17th Session of the Committee regarding issues related to nutrition, such as: obesity, overweight, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies and any public health-oriented actions undertaken, including nutrition education and the use of nutritional labelling and claims, and implementation of the WHO Global strategy on diet, physical activity and health

In line with the WHO and PAHO programmes for physical health and combating obesity, Chile's Global Strategy against Obesity Project (EGO CHILE) was developed in the same perspective and along the same lines, under the Chilean Ministry of Health. Further information on activities carried out and priority aspects may be found on the Ministry of Health website, www.minsal.gob.cl, which also provides links to the EGO portal.

2. Please describe:

a. Current priority nutrition issues to be addressed nationally and regionally

Food supplement and food fortification programmes in Chile date from the early years of the previous century. These programmes have undergone constant modification since then, adapting to epidemiological changes among our population. Programmes today involve children, pregnant women, the elderly and other specific high-risk groups. The main objective of all programmes is always that of maintaining the nutritional status of our population at the best possible level and developing institutional capacity with regard to promoting healthy lifestyles. The first focus here is on women and children.

Objectives:

- to protect the mother's health during pregnancy and while breast-feeding, promote exclusive maternal breast-feeding up to the child's sixth month, and introduce appropriate weaning practices.
- to reduce the proportion of newborns with a low birth weight.
- to promote normal growth and development of children up to the age of six.
- to prevent and correct nutritional deficiencies.
- to encourage attendance at health checks.
- to distribute food as appropriate to the needs of target groups, the nutritional profile of the population and current scientific knowledge.
- to act as a coordinating centre for nutritional intervention throughout the life cycle, detecting, preventing and monitoring excessive weight gain in the beneficiary population.
- to keep newborns who are identified as being at major risk of malnutrition and non-transmissible chronic diseases within acceptable growth parameters.
- to contribute to the prevention and treatment of nutritional deficiencies among the elderly and maintenance of their physical and mental capacity to function.

COLOMBIA

Item 7: Nutritional issues at national and regional level

Question 6: Issues relating to nutrition in the region

1. Please describe any developments since the 17th Session of the Committee regarding issues related to nutrition, such as: obesity, overweight, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies and any public health-oriented actions undertaken, including nutrition education and the use of nutritional labelling and claims, and implementation of the WHO Global strategy on diet, physical activity and health

Through the issuance of Law 1355 of 2009, obesity and associated non-communicable chronic diseases were defined as a public health priority and measures to control, deal with and prevent them were adopted. Since then, strategies and regulations have been formulated to support the fulfilment of the adopted policy. MSPS has established the following programmes and regulations:

- Implementation of strategies to promote healthy lifestyles; as part of this component agreements have been reached with universities and the Colombian Sports Institute (COLDEPORTES) on the creation of the Healthy Universities Programme.
- Implementation of Plan A: wholesome water, physical activity, “breastfeed your baby”, healthy diet.
- Issuance of resolution of 2012, defining the Protocol for Approving New Food Health Claims.
- Issuance of Resolution 333 of 2011, establishing nutritional labelling requirements. In order to implement this Resolution, a protocol was created for the approval of new nutritional claims along with a handbook and a guide on nutritional labelling for industry, producers and consumers.
- Issuance of Resolution 2508 of 2012, establishing technical regulations on requirements for packaged products containing trans fats or saturated fats.

2. Please describe:

a. Current priority nutrition issues to be addressed nationally and regionally

One of Colombia's main priorities is structuring the Latin American values unification project for nutritional labelling purposes (RIEN) and drafting Dietary Guidelines for the Population (GABAS).

c. What additional support through capacity building is required

For Colombia, it is important that there be scientific support generating scientific evidence for the new approval of health claims on nutrients.

COSTA RICA

Item 7: Nutrition issues at national and regional level

Question 6: Issues related to nutrition in the region

1. Please describe any developments since the 17th session of the Committee regarding issues related to nutrition, such as: obesity, being overweight or underweight, micronutrient deficiencies and any public health-oriented actions undertaken, including nutrition education and the use of nutritional labelling and claims, and implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health

Ans/. Costa Rica has a Food and Nutrition Security Plan for 2011-2015, which includes activities related to all the following topics: obesity, being overweight, malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, publicity, etc., and has agreed on an action plan to carry this out. It can be found at http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/menu-superior-sobre-ministerio-ms/menu-superiores-sobre-ministerio-politicas-planes-salud-ms/cat_view/151-direccion-de-planificacion-estrategica/152-planes

Additionally, Costa Rica has the school soda regulation, the Central American Technical Regulation on Nutritional Labelling, the Physical Activity Plan and a plan to reduce salt intake. Available at http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/menu-superior-sobre-ministerio-ms/menu-superiores-sobre-ministerio-politicas-planes-salud-ms/cat_view/151-direccion-de-planificacion-estrategica/152-planes

2. Please describe:

a. Current priority nutrition issues to be addressed nationally and regionally

Ans/. Training of staff from the Divisions of Health Bodies for the effective implementation of Soda Regulations in Schools, the Central American Technical Regulation on Nutritional Labelling, and other areas of nutrition, as most of their training is in environmental management.

b. Current priority areas for capacity building (ongoing and for future)

R/. Costa Rica has no comments.

c. What additional support through capacity building is required

Ans/. It is necessary to develop an education campaign relating to the correct interpretation of nutritional labelling for the population. An undergraduate thesis in nutrition has been written which highlights the population's lack of knowledge and understanding in this area.