



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES**

**Fortieth Session**

**Berlin, Germany  
26 - 30 November 2018**

**MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO  
(Prepared by FAO and WHO)**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVICE REQUESTED BY CCNFSDU**

***Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU) for the establishment of nitrogen to protein conversion factors for soy-based and milk-based ingredients used in infant formula and follow-up formula***

At CCNFSDU39, the Committee requested the joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU) to provide scientific advice for the establishment of science-based nitrogen to protein conversion factor to use when determining the protein content of soy-based ingredients and milk-based ingredients used in infant formula and follow-up formula. According to the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures of JEMNU, key PICO questions were identified to guide the systematic review. A systematic review was then commissioned to experts in the fields of protein quantification and analysis, and the review is expected to be completed by April 2019. Furthermore, to supplement the data obtained from a review of the scientific literature, it is planned to issue a call for data before the end of November 2018 to collect relevant, unpublished data which may be available. A meeting of JEMNU to review and assess the quality of the evidence generated by the systematic review is expected to be held in mid-2019. A report presenting the outcomes of the meeting is expected to be submitted in advance of CCNFSDU41.

***FAO Expert Working Group on Protein Quality Assessment in Follow-up Formula for Young Children and Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods***

As follow-up to a request submitted by CCNFSDU 38, FAO organised an Expert Working Group to provide scientific advice on setting up guidelines for Codex members to determine protein quality using the Protein Digestibility–Corrected Amino Acid Score (PDCAAS) in Follow-up formula (FUF) for young children (12 – 36 months) and Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF). The working group session was held at the FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 6 to 9 November 2017. A report presenting the outcomes of the meeting was published in November 2018<sup>1</sup>, providing practical guidance on the measurement of protein quality in two distinct products used to feed children in different conditions RUTF and FUF for young children.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

***UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016 - 2025***

The first progress report on the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (Nutrition Decade), which was released in 2018 and was conveyed by the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly during its Seventy-second session, provides an overview of the progress made in implementing the Nutrition Decade, reflecting key developments at international, regional and country levels.

A letter, jointly signed by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, was sent to all 194 Member States' Ministers of Health and Agriculture, asking countries to make commitments to improve nutrition. To guide countries to translate the policies and actions recommended in the voluntary ICN2 Framework for Action into more binding, concrete country-specific commitments for action, FAO and WHO jointly published "Strengthening nutrition action: a resource guide for countries based on the policy recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition"

(<http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/strengthening-nutrition-action/en/>) . A joint FAO and WHO policy brief on "Driving commitment for nutrition within the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition" (<http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/decade-of-action-commitment-policybrief/en/>) sets out the drivers of commitment of people and organizations in support of actions for improved nutrition.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2487EN/ca2487en.pdf>

Increasingly, action networks, with global or regional scope, aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around specific topics linked to an action area of the work programme of the Nutrition Decade are being established. Norway is leading a global action network on sustainable food from the oceans and inland waters for food security and nutrition (<https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean/>).

On 24 July 2018, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution titled 'Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)' (A/72/L.63). By terms of this resolution, the General Assembly expressed concern that the world is not currently on track to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. The General Assembly took note of the related report of the Secretary-General (A/72/829) and described the work plan for the Nutrition Decade's implementation as a "living document" that builds upon and connects initiatives of Governments and their partners. Furthermore, the General Assembly reiterated its encouragements to Governments and their partners to make more ambitious commitments with a view to intensifying their efforts and scaling up their activities under the work programme of the Nutrition Decade. The General Assembly also reiterated its call to FAO and WHO to further strengthen their efforts in continuing to lead and monitor the implementation of the Nutrition Decade, in collaboration with the other UN agencies and bodies, and the multistakeholder platform of the CFS in line with its mandate.

A dedicated website for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is now available in all six UN languages ([www.un.org/nutrition](http://www.un.org/nutrition)).

### ***The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017: Building resilience for peace and security (SOFI 2018)***

This year's edition of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* (<http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>) was launched in September 2018, by the five UN agencies – FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF and WHO.

The report further reviews the current status of hunger and the different forms of malnutrition, including child stunting, wasting and overweight, adult obesity, anaemia in women and breastfeeding. A key finding is that new evidence continues to signal a rise in world hunger and a reversal of trends after a prolonged decline. In 2017, the number of undernourished people is estimated to have increased to 821 million. Wasting continues to affect over 50 million children under five in the world and these children are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality. At the same time, over 38 million children under five are overweight. Progress has been made in reducing child stunting, however, over 151 million are still affected. Prevalence of adult obesity and anaemia in women of reproductive age are increasing each year, in 2017 more than one in eight adults, or more than 672 million, in the world is obese. This year's focus is on how climate variability and extremes are threatening to erode and reverse gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, by harming agricultural productivity, contributing to shortfalls of food availability and negatively impacting food utilisation. Moreover, the cumulative effect of changes in climate is undermining people's access to healthy diets, safe nutrition and health.

### ***Committee on World Food Security (CFS)***

At the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), nutrition featured prominently on the agenda. The Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, in support to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and recognized the importance of an inclusive process leading to the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines, open to all interested stakeholders, which will be facilitated by the CFS Secretariat with the assistance of a Technical Task Team, under the guidance of the CFS Open-Ended Working Group on Nutrition. The Voluntary Guidelines are expected to provide guidance to help countries operationalizing the ICN2 Framework for Action recommendations under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/plenary/cfs45/en/>

### ***FAO/WHO International Consultation on Sustainable Healthy Diets***

During a meeting held on 12 July 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO agreed that the two agencies would work closer together in the area of Healthy Diets. A dialogue between WHO and FAO on what constitutes a healthy diet was proposed, which could contribute to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. As a follow up, a one day meeting was held on 14 December 2017 in Geneva between the two technical departments of FAO and WHO, and it was agreed to jointly organize an International Consultation on Sustainable Healthy Diets in February 2019 at FAO Headquarters. It is planned that the consultation will provide guiding principles on healthy diets that countries and citizens can follow to achieve nutritional well-being while at the same time ensuring sustainability.

### ***FAO/WHO Brief for Parliamentarians on 'The Nutrition Challenge – Food System Solutions'***

Parliamentarians can guide and monitor public sector policies and budget allocations towards transforming food systems. Therefore, Parliamentarians are well placed to facilitate the implementation of the ICN2 commitments made by countries under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), and hold key stakeholders accountable for their action. The brief (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca2024en/CA2024EN.pdf>) describes what parliamentarians need to know about the current nutrition situation in the world and how food systems are shaping food environments that steer people towards unhealthy diets which are one of the causal factors of malnutrition in all its forms. In October 2018, at the occasion of the Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition that took place in Madrid, the FAO Director-General presented “The Nutrition Challenge” brief, in which FAO and WHO set out a series of measures that parliamentarians can take to transform food systems.

### ***Global Food Consumption Databases***

Reliable information on food consumption collected at individual level is needed to estimate nutrient intake and to identify key sources of nutrients in the diet. To address the issue of insufficient access to such data, FAO and WHO have developed a tool called FAO/WHO GIFT (FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool). This comprehensive database is a multipurpose tool. FAO/WHO GIFT provides simple and accurate food-based indicators, derived from sex and age disaggregated data on individual food consumption that are needed in the fields of nutrition and food safety. The food classification and description system used is called FoodEx2. It has been developed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and was enhanced for use at global level. The tool is freely accessible online through an interactive web platform: <http://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/>. The platform already contains an inventory map with detailed information on 188 surveys (54 are national and 134 are sub-national), mainly from low and middle income countries. The platform is currently being populated with microdata from surveys that the end user can download as such.

### ***FAO’s Role in supporting countries to develop and implement Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs)***

1. The FAO website on Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) was launched in November 2014, and serves as a repository and platform for information exchange on dietary guidelines from across the world. The website currently features national food based dietary guidelines from 101 countries, and will be continuously updated as guidelines are created and revised.
  - To access the FAO website on FBDGs: <http://www.fao.org/nutrition/nutrition-education/food-dietary-guidelines/en/>.
2. Direct technical assistance has been provided to the Governments of Afghanistan and Sierra Leone to develop national FBDGs. Technical assistance for the revision of FBDGs was also provided to a number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
3. Work is currently ongoing for the development of a set of resource documents to help countries implement FBDGs.
4. FAO in partnership with Wageningen University & Research, held an International Technical Workshop on “Innovations for the Development of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines: Integrating Sustainability into FBDGs”, from 23-25 October 2018, in the Netherlands. The overall goal of the international technical workshop is to guide the development of resources that will improve the methodology used by low-and middle-income countries (LMIC) to develop food-based dietary guidelines and suggest ways for incorporating sustainability into FBDGs.

### ***FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Databases***

FAO coordinates the International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOODS), a worldwide network of food composition experts aiming to improve the quality, availability, reliability and use of food composition data. These data are necessary, for example, for the assessment of diet quality, for the development and application of food based dietary guidelines and nutrition labelling or selected Codex standards. FAO/INFOODS have recently published three new food composition databases: FAO/INFOODS Global food composition database for fish and shellfish, for Pulses, and for Pulses on Dry Matter Basis. The FAO/INFOODS Food Composition database for Biodiversity and the Analytical Food Composition database have been updated as well. Moreover, FAO is coordinating the update of the West African and Kenyan Food Composition Tables, which will be published in 2018. Work is on-going on developing FAO/INFOODS Compilation guidelines and the FAO/INFOODS Evaluation Framework to Assess the Quality of Published Food Composition Tables and Databases (FCT/FCDBs) – (Evaluation Framework), both expected to be published in 2019.

The databased can be downloaded at the FAO/INFOODDS website: <http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/en/>

***Minimum Dietary Diversity-Women (MDD-W) – A global standardized food-based indicator for monitoring dietary diversity and micronutrient adequacy of women's diets***

Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) is a dichotomous indicator of whether or not women at 15-49 years of age have consumed at least five out of ten defined food groups the previous day or night. The proportion of women at 15–49 years of age who reach this minimum in a population can be used as a proxy indicator for higher micronutrient adequacy, one important dimension of diet quality. With support from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), FAO commenced a two-year research project in early 2018 to refine MDD-W data Collection Tool, with capacity development and data collection activities in three focus countries - Cambodia, Ethiopia and Zambia. The results of the study will be published as a supplement to the aforementioned user guide, providing new information on the optimal operationalization of MDD-W data collection, including recommendations with context-specific guidelines, useful in maximizing completeness and accuracy of reported diets of women worldwide.

***FAO's role in school-based food and nutrition education (SFNE)***

FAO recognizes schoolchildren as a priority population for nutrition interventions and views the school as an ideal setting for developing skills and capacities in food, nutrition and health. In this regard, FAO promotes school-based food and nutrition education (SFNE) as a critical strategy to foster these capacities in children and the wider school community and to support the nutrition outcomes of other school interventions and programmes.

FAO, in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates University held an international expert consultation on SFNE in December 2017, which provided a renewed vision for SFNE respond directly responds to food security, nutrition and other sustainable development challenges. Following the consultation, FAO is developing global guidance material to support this new vision for SFNE, with a focus on low and middle-income countries. At the regional and country level, FAO has recently provided technical support, for the design of the Human Ecology/Nutrition Education subject area in the Malawi Teacher's Curriculum, for mainstreaming behavioral-based SFNE in the national curriculum review for Kenya, and during the Inception Workshop for the Assessment of Good Practices for Mainstreaming School Feeding and Nutrition Education in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. More information on FAO's role in schools is available at: <http://www.fao.org/school-food/en/>

***Joint FAO/WFP/IFAD/ Bioversity International (RBAs) working group on sustainable food value chains for nutrition (FVCN) and home grown school feeding (HGSEF)***

FAO in collaboration with IFAD, WFP and Bioversity International identified food value chains for nutrition as a priority area to set up a working group on the topic. The Rome based agencies (RBAs) will seek to partner with governments, development agencies and others to facilitate development of sustainable food value chains for nutrition at country level. To this end, FAO is leading the development of an e-learning course to equip project designers and managers with the concepts, principles and tools they need to leverage value chain approaches to improve nutrition.

Additionally FAO with WFP and IFAD, in close collaboration with the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF), the Partnership for Child Development (PCD), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil have joined forces to publish a resource framework for the design, implementation and scale-up of country-led Home Grown School Feeding (HGSEF) programmes. Currently FAO is leading the development of an e-learning course on Home Grown School Feeding for use by programme practitioners, policy-makers, development partners, governments, civil society and community-based organizations and the private sector.

***WHO's Ambition and Action in Nutrition 2016–2025***

WHO's Ambition and Action in Nutrition acknowledges the need for multisectoral collaboration outside the health sector to combat the spread of malnutrition in all its forms and will, in partnership with FAO, follow up on the ICN2 outcomes, including the Codex and food safety related outcomes. In order to realize the Ambition and Action in Nutrition, WHO has embarked on building the capacity of its nutrition staff and other staff working on nutrition-related issues at all levels. Two face-to-face trainings for EMRO and AFRO staff have taken place addressing global and region-specific nutrition issues. The AFRO training has a session on food safety and Codex Alimentarius. A Nutrition Knowledge Hub (NKH) has been developed through which interested staff can access six e-courses that the NHD Department has developed on nutrition-related issues. The NKH also brings together existing nutrition resources from the WHO regions and UN sister-agencies. The NKH is launched on 14 December 2018.

***UN Third High-level meeting on NCDs***

At the third high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on NCDs (New York, September 2018), heads of State and Government agreed to take responsibility for their countries' efforts to prevent and

treat NCDs, including policies, legislative and regulatory measures, including fiscal measures to protect people from tobacco use, unhealthy diets and harmful use of alcohol. The meeting adopted a political declaration ([http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/2](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/2)), in which it called on food manufacturers to take several actions, including reformulating products to reduce salt, free sugars and saturated and industrially-produced *trans*-fats, using nutrition labelling on packaged food to inform consumers and restricting the marketing of foods and beverages to children.

### ***World Health Assembly resolution related to infant and young child feeding (2018)***

The 71<sup>st</sup> WHA held in May 2018 adopted one resolution related to infant and young child feeding ([http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA71/A71\\_R9-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71_R9-en.pdf)). The resolution urges Member States to take a number of actions to improve infant and young child feeding. It reiterates previous WHA resolutions calling for implementing and/or strengthening national mechanisms for effective implementation of measures aimed at giving effect to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, as well as other WHO evidence-based recommendations; implementing WHO recommendations to end inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children; and ensuring evidence-based and appropriate infant and young child feeding during emergencies. The resolution also calls for an increase in investment in breastfeeding policies and programmes.

### ***Marketing of breast-milk substitutes: national implementation of the international code: status report 2018***

This biennial update on the legal status of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes was published in May 2018 ([http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/code\\_report2018/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/code_report2018/en/)). The report documents that 136 out of 194 countries had some form of legal measure in place covering all, many or few provisions of the Code. Three countries enacted new Code-related legislation, three adopted additional legal measures to strengthen their legislative frameworks, and two took retrogressive steps by repealing laws or specific provisions of laws. The report also provides information on the provisions about marketing of complementary foods among the 59 countries that cover complementary foods as part of their Code law. Of those, 29 require messages and labels for complementary foods to include a statement on the importance of continued breastfeeding for up to 2 years or beyond, while 23 require mention of the importance of not introducing complementary feeding before 6 months of age. Thirty-seven of the countries prohibit manufacturers and distributors from sponsoring meetings of health professionals and scientific meetings, but in only 14 countries are manufacturers and distributors prohibited from using health facilities to host events, contests or campaigns.

### ***NetCode toolkit for ongoing monitoring and periodic assessment of the Code***

WHO leads the Network for Global Monitoring and Support for Implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and Subsequent relevant World Health Assembly Resolutions (NetCode). The NetCode partner developed a toolkit to reinvigorate and reinforce ongoing monitoring and periodic assessment of the Code and national laws by providing protocols, guidance, and tools. The toolkit is comprised of two protocols, one for ongoing monitoring systems and one for periodic assessments. The ongoing monitoring system is designed to be run by the government and integrated into existing regulatory and enforcement systems, to continuously monitor adherence to the Code in a systematic and sustainable way so as to take immediate enforcement action. The periodic assessment protocol defines a standard research model to quantify the level of compliance with national laws and the Code (every 3 to 5 years), identifying gaps and issues that need to be addressed through policy and legislative measures, programming and investments.

### ***Frequently asked questions on the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes***

WHO has published an easy-to-read booklet on the Code, provide detailed information on specific questions that have arisen (<https://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/breastmilk-substitutes-FAQ2017/en/>). It is intended for policy-makers, health workers and others concerned with the Code, as well as the general public.

### ***Implementation Guidance on the revised Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative 2018***

Based on the patient care [guidelines](#) published in 2017, WHO and UNICEF published new guidance in 2018 on the implementation of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative. The guidance revised the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding for the first time since 1989. The steps are subdivided into critical management procedures key clinical practices. Step 1 on birthing facility policies now explicitly includes the requirement for the facilities to comply fully with the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. The implementation guidance emphasizes scaling up to universal coverage and ensuring sustainability over time through integrating the programme more fully in the health-care system.

### ***HIV and infant feeding in emergencies: operational guidance (2018)***

Many millions of people around the world are affected by emergencies, the majority of whom are women and children. Among them are many who are known to be living with HIV and others who may not know their HIV status. This operational guidance is based on a consultation convened by WHO, UNICEF and the Emergency Nutrition Network in September 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, which brought together a cross-section of senior-level participants from United Nations agencies, governments, nongovernmental organizations, academia and other agencies working in nutrition and HIV in emergencies. This document sets out basic principles related to HIV and infant feeding in emergency settings, and the actions that government and other stakeholders can take to prepare for emergencies.

### ***Updating of nutrient requirements for infants and young children under the age of 3 years***

WHO has initiated the process of preparing to update the nutrient requirements for infants and young children under the age of 3 years. The process includes identification of existing recommended nutrient requirements and physiological bases used in setting up those requirements in different countries through compiling an extensive list of national dietary guidelines from the countries in all regions. WHO has also reviewed the recent scientific literature on both macronutrients and micronutrients with a view to prioritize nutrients for updating their requirements for this age group. Currently a scoping document is being prepared to guide the preparation of required systematic reviews to assess the existing evidence for updating these nutrient requirements. Discussions are underway between FAO and WHO to undertake this update jointly in 2019.

### ***WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Diet and Health***

#### **Carbohydrates, polyunsaturated fatty acids, and dietary patterns**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Diet and Health will take place 3-6 December 2018 in Geneva Switzerland. The NUGAG subgroup on Diet and Health will be finalizing evidence-informed recommendations for **carbohydrates** (including dietary fibre) and **polyunsaturated fatty acids** (including EPA and DHA), taking into consideration not only the quality of evidence, but additional criteria including the balance of evidence on benefits and harms, values and preferences, resource implications, priority of the problems, equity and human rights, acceptability and feasibility. Three of the background systematic reviews for polyunsaturated fatty acids were recently published as Cochrane reviews, as was one on dietary starch and oral health. Several additional reviews will be published in late 2018 through early 2019. Regarding **dietary patterns**, the NUGAG Subgroup on Diet and Health will be reviewing the results from the initial systematic review which was guided by the PICO questions developed at the 11<sup>th</sup> NUGAG meeting in 2017.

#### **Saturated fatty acids and *trans*-fatty acids**

A public consultation on the draft WHO guidelines on saturated fatty acid intake and *trans*-fatty acid intake in adults and children was held in May 2018. Comments have been reviewed and the guidelines are now being finalized for release in early 2019.

#### **Non-sugar sweeteners**

The WHO draft guideline on non-sugar sweetener use in adults and children is being finalized and a public consultation is being planned for December 2018.

### ***WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions***

To help implement the development of evidence-informed policy guidance and measures to support Member States in creating an enabling food environment to promote healthy diets and nutrition, WHO established *the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions*, which will work alongside the NUGAG Subgroup on Diet and Health. The NUGAG Subgroup on Policy Actions will initially focus on developing three policy guidelines, namely nutrition labelling policies, policies to restrict food marketing to children and fiscal policies to promote healthy diets. Developing guidelines on policy actions to promote healthy diets and nutrition will contribute greatly to the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), which aims to increase action at the national, regional and global levels to achieve commitments of the outcome documents of the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). It will also contribute to achieving commitments of the Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, and ultimately the health- and nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Experts to serve as members have been identified and the first meeting of the NUGAG Subgroup on Policy Actions, during which scope of the guidelines will be discussed and finalized, will be held on 11-14 December 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### ***WHO guideline: Fortification of rice with vitamins and minerals in public health***

This is the first evidence-informed guideline from WHO for this intervention with this specific food vehicle – rice. The focus of this guideline is on the use of this intervention as a public health strategy and not on market-driven fortification of rice. Given the many types of rice consumed in various countries worldwide as food vehicles for fortification, as well as an update on the process currently used in fortification of rice kernels, a separate guideline for this food vehicle was deemed necessary. In order to produce this guideline, the rigorous procedures described in the WHO handbook for guideline development were followed. This guideline complements the WHO/FAO Guidelines on food fortification with micronutrients (2006) and the Pan American Health Organization publication, Iron compounds for food fortification: guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean 2002. This document expands the sections on dissemination and updates the summary of evidence used for the guideline, based on the most recent systematic and narrative reviews on the topic.

### ***Priority-setting in nutrition guideline development***

In an effort to maintain independency and transparency in the normative work of WHO, and to enhance the understanding of the process used to prioritize topics for guideline development among Member States and stakeholders, the WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development has updated the prioritization process it uses, including the development of an online consultation tool to further facilitate the participation of Member States and other stakeholders. The first consultation was held from June to July 2017 and allowed participants to suggest topics for guideline development along with supporting information regarding public health importance and available scientific evidence. Results of the consultation were analysed, reviewed by the WHO Expert Advisory Panel in Nutrition, and the final ranking of topics for guideline development completed in July 2018. The summary report can be viewed at [http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/guideline-development/prioritization-process/Prioritization\\_process\\_results\\_2017-2018.pdf](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/guideline-development/prioritization-process/Prioritization_process_results_2017-2018.pdf).

### ***WHO Technical consultation – Nutrition-related products and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines: practical considerations and feasibility***

As more nutrition-related products are being developed for use in public health and clinical interventions for the prevention and treatment of undernutrition (i.e. ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs), therapeutic-formula diets (F75 & F100), iron-containing multiple micronutrient powders, vitamin and mineral supplements), ensuring access to these products by those who need them the most is critical. Access to these nutrition-related products may be improved by including them in the WHO Model of Essential Medicines List (EML), a core element of universal health coverage. Alternatively, some of these products may be registered as food for special medical purposes. WHO convened this technical consultation on 20 - 21 September 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland, to identify the criteria that define a nutrition-related product to be considered as candidate for inclusion in the EML and to determine the advantages, disadvantages and trade-offs that would result from the inclusion of nutrition-related products in the EML.

### ***Nutritional anaemias: tools for effective prevention and control***

A brief on “Weekly iron and folic acid supplementation as an anaemia-prevention strategy in women and adolescent girls: Lessons learnt from implementation of programmes among non-pregnant women of reproductive age” has been published (<http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/micronutrients/WIFS-anaemia-prevention-women-adolescent-girls/en/>). This brief aims to reinforce the common understanding among multiple stakeholders of the significance of investing in the weekly iron and folic acid supplementation (WIFS) programme for non-pregnant women of reproductive age, including adolescent girls and adult women ranging from 15 to 49 years of age.

### ***Second Global Nutrition Policy Review (2016 – 2017)***

The analyses of the information and data provided by 176 Member States (91%) and one area which had responded to the Review have been completed and the final report is scheduled to be published before the end of 2018. Summary results were reported to the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2018 as requested by WHA resolution 68.19 and also WHA decision 68(14). Results were also used in the Secretary-General’s report to the 72<sup>nd</sup> UNGA session on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025). All individual country data will be uploaded to the WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA) as soon as the report is released.

### ***WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA)***

A repository to monitor the SMART commitments made by the countries and their implementations in an effort to achieve the goals of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016 – 2025) was developed by WHO and FAO, and has been integrated within the WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA) (<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/>) and also on the United Nations website for the Decade (<https://www.un.org/nutrition/commitments/gina>).

GINA currently contains the information on approximately 2,000 national policies and 3,000 programme actions being implemented in countries. These data come from three sources, notably WHO's regular monitoring activities (e.g. surveys, reports from WHO Regional/Country Offices, desk reviews), information from partners (that maintain databases of nutrition related policies or that support the implementation of nutrition programmes and actions in countries), and information by registered users through a wiki-approach.

#### ***Updated Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS) country profiles***

The NLIS country profiles are currently being expanded to include a special highlight on the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework adopted by the 68<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (68(14)) in 2015 to facilitate tracking countries' progress towards achieving the Global Nutrition Targets 2025 based on the 21 outcome, process and policy indicators. As result of these updates and new developments in the indicators included, WHO is updating the Indicator Interpretation Guide, which provides information on the indicators included, their definitions and consequences or implications for nutrition, as well as their data sources.

Since its launch in 2009, WHO has continuously worked on improving the organization, structure and presentation of information on the NLIS website. In order to continue improving the user experience, WHO has launched a user survey to get feedback on the website and learn more about how the NLIS country profiles are being used.

#### ***WHO Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition Information System: Micronutrients Database***

The WHO Micronutrients Database is an interactive platform for summarizing data published in reports and manuscripts on the micronutrient status of populations representative at the national, regional (within country) and first administrative level (e.g. canton, state, province). In this pilot version of the Micronutrients Database, users may download data on the micronutrient status of populations and create maps of the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies. As this is a pilot version of the expanded WHO Micronutrients Database, feedback is welcome while efforts are being made to continuously improve users' access to this database. Countries and researchers are encouraged to help keep the database updated. WHO would be happy to be informed, through the Micronutrients Database website, of the representative data that meet the criteria and are not yet included in the database.