



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Thirty-ninth Session

Berlin, Germany

4 - 8 December 2017

- I. Matters of Interest Arising from FAO and WHO
- II. Addendum to the Matters of Interest Arising from FAO and WHO

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016 - 2025

UN Member States proclaimed in April 2016 the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 (Nutrition Decade), which calls upon FAO and WHO to lead implementation of the Nutrition Decade and reach its aim to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025, and contribute to the realization of the SDGs by 2030. Importantly, the Nutrition Decade serves as an umbrella space for nutrition-related work along six crosscutting integrative areas based on the recommendations of ICN2 Framework for Action. These are: 1) Sustainable resilient food systems for healthy diets; 2) Aligned health systems providing 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; and 6) Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition.

Consequently, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition catalyzes change and provides a robust platform for Member State action to attain SDG2 and ensure sustainable food systems. A detailed programme of work for the Nutrition Decade has been developed through an inclusive process providing opportunities for all stakeholders to contribute. Champion countries are stepping forward to publicly make SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) commitments and set up action networks to advance on specific nutrition issues. The Milan Global Nutrition Summit has taken place on 4 November 2017, under the umbrella of the Nutrition Decade, and provided a forum for stakeholders to make additional ambitious commitments including new financing for nutrition. A total of US\$3.4 billion was galvanized including US\$640 million in new commitments to tackle global malnutrition crisis.

For more information: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs726e.pdf> and <http://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/en/>

Regional Symposia on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition

The International Symposium on sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition was jointly organized by FAO and WHO in December 2016. The Symposium was a follow-up to the ICN2, and was successful in expanding on not just what needs to be done, but how to accelerate actions. The 2016 Symposium highlighted the need for food system transformation, albeit with various examples from countries in all regions.

Regional Symposia on the same theme were organised in 2017, to further anchor the discussion around the actual challenges of each region, which would lead to context-specific policy guidance on effective actions needed to reshape the existing food system to promote healthy diets and improved nutrition. The Symposia brought together experts in the field of nutrition, health, agriculture, water and sanitation and other related fields, who will contribute to this agenda. The Symposia presented an opportunity to build momentum across the world for the fight against malnutrition in all its forms and develop viable programmes and policies that will make difference. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/sustainable-food-systems-nutrition-symposium/regional-symposia/en/>

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

This year's edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, launched in September 2017, (<http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>) marks the beginning of a new era in monitoring the progress towards achieving a world without hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Specifically, the report will henceforth monitor progress towards both the targets of ending hunger (SDG Target 2.1) and all forms of malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2). For the first time, this year's report is published by an expanded partnership, with UNICEF and WHO now joining FAO, IFAD and WFP.

The report uses both the traditional measure of the prevalence of undernourishment and a new indicator on the prevalence of severe food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale. The report further reviews various forms of malnutrition, including child stunting, wasting and overweight, adult obesity, anaemia in women and breastfeeding. A key finding is that after a prolonged decline, the most recent estimates indicate that global hunger increased in 2016 with 815 million people were affected. The food security situation has worsened, in particular, in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, South-Eastern Asia and Western Asia, and deteriorations have been observed most notably in situations of conflict and conflict combined with droughts or floods. The thematic part of the report sheds light on how the increasing incidence of conflict in the world is affecting food security and nutrition. It also explores how, by improving food security and nutrition and by making rural livelihoods more resilient, it is possible to help prevent conflicts and sustain peace.

Committee on World Food Security

At the 44th Annual Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), nutrition figured prominently on the agenda. The Committee considered the report on Nutrition and Food Systems commissioned from the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). The outcomes of CFS activities on nutrition in the last intersessional period were considered, and the Committee reiterated that the decision in CFS 43 “CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition” provides the main basis for CFS work on nutrition and its contribution to collective efforts under the framework of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Open Ended Working Group on Nutrition was mandated to develop terms of reference for the policy convergence process leading to voluntary guidelines for food systems and nutrition for submission to Plenary in CFS45; the HLPE Report on Nutrition and Food Systems would inform these. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/plenary/cfs44/en/>

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 the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) 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 will be published in the beginning of 2018 and will provide 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.

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, food safety and environment. 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 146 surveys (51 are national and 95 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/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 the assessment of diet quality, for the development and application of food based dietary guidelines and nutrition labelling 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, technical support has been provided for the development of the West African and Kenyan Food Composition Tables, which are expected to be published in 2018.

All of the databases can be downloaded free of charge at the FAO/INFOODS website: <http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/en/>

FAO Publications on Food Labelling

At the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), governments affirmed that the “empowerment of consumers is necessary through improved and evidence-based health and nutrition information and education to make informed choices regarding consumption of food products for healthy dietary practices” (FAO/WHO 2014). Food labelling was included among the recommendations in the ICN2 Framework for Action (FAO/WHO, 2014). To this end, FAO has developed the following publications on food labelling for developing the capacity in countries to implement food labelling policies and programmes.

A handbook on food labelling that provides a brief introduction to labelling as part of an ongoing effort to assist regulators and others working in the area of food system who are responsible for formulating and implementing food labelling policies. Specific types of labels are explained such as ingredient lists (including allergen and food additive information), date marking, nutrition labels (back of pack panels and front of pack systems) as well as nutrient and health claims. Relevant sections of the book follow the guidance given by the Codex Alimentarius Commission on food labelling in particular the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985). The handbook can be accessed at: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/fc5f4bc2-650a-4704-9162-9eb9b3a1fdd0/>

A training resource for small food processors and artisans “Souvenir Food Packaging” has been developed by FAO. This guide provides Caribbean food processors and artisans with practical information on how to effectively position their products in the tourism market using design and packaging. The guide is written in a reader-friendly format with easy to follow instructions and contains basic information on packaging, labelling, materials and processes. The guide can be accessed at <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/c85fc517-7c9e-424f-bfd0-673d0d6c0863/>

A policy guideline for recovery and redistribution (R&R) of safe and nutritious food for human consumption, targeting a multi-stakeholder audience, including governments, actors in the food supply chain - providing, receiving or redistributing - recovered food - and civil society in developing, transition and developed countries. The guideline provides an introduction to the global framework and recent regional developments on food waste prevention that have directly included, for the first time, R&R as one of the solutions that contribute to the prevention of safe and nutritious food from being discarded or wasted. Reference is made to globally accepted food safety guidelines as well as various best practices at national level on how to deal with liability and in particular regarding quality and safety related date marking on pre-packaged food to prevent food waste, without compromising consumers' health. The guidance is expected to be published in the beginning of 2018.

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

FAO, with funding from the European Union, and the USAID-funded Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA) published a guide in 2016 for measuring women's dietary diversity titled, “Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD_W): A Guide to Measurement”. This guide provides users of the indicator detailed guidance on its use and application along with information on common-pitfalls. Card URLs: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/57157ba0-91a7-4087-ab59-d922d7020cc2/>

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. In 2017, FAO supported Tajikistan's Agency of Statistics on MDD-W data analysis, interpretation and reporting, so the data collected can be optimally used in providing a better understanding of the Tajikistan's nutrition situation, including dietary diversity of women of reproductive age.

FAO's Role on Strengthening Capacities of Universities in Nutrition Education - Education for Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT)

In line with the ICN2 Framework for Action recommendation to “Build nutrition skills and capacity to undertake nutrition education activities, particularly for front line workers, social workers, agricultural extension personnel, teachers and health professionals.” (Recommendation 20), FAO's Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN) has developed a nutrition education course for University students to learn how to effectively design, implement and evaluate nutrition education interventions. The ENACT course, which will be available in the FAO e-learning platform, aims at promoting long-term improvements in diet through an active approach based on identified needs, with attention to social and environmental contexts, all relevant sectors and the whole food cycle (production, processing, marketing, consumption). The face-to-face English version of the course (ENACT) was successfully piloted in 7 Anglophone African countries and the French version (ENAF) in 6 Francophone countries.

Materials for students are available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4952e/index.html>

Materials for tutors are available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4930e/index.html>

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 86 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 Colombia, Uruguay and Guyana, along with support on a national education strategy.
 3. Following a global review carried out, FAO and the Food Climate Research Network (FCRN) at the University of Oxford published “Plates, pyramids, planet. Developments in Healthy and Sustainable Eating and Dietary Guidelines and Related Policies: a State of Play Assessment” in 2016. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5640e.pdf>
 4. Work is currently ongoing for the development of a set of resource documents to help countries implement FBDGs.

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 teaching basic skills in food, nutrition and health, and improving outlooks and practices. In this regard, FAO promotes a “whole school” approach to SFNE, in which classroom learning is intertwined with practical activities and reinforced by a nutrition and health friendly school environment that involves the active participation of all school personnel, families and the community.

At the global level, FAO is working with a group of international experts on developing a shared vision for effective and quality SFNE in low and middle income countries (LMICs) including the development of global guidance materials (capacity needs assessment tool, white paper on best practices and principles of SFNE, etc.). At the regional and country levels, FAO has 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 guidance 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/>

WHO's Ambition and Action in Nutrition 2016–2025

In response to the revitalized global momentum for improving nutrition and the proclamation in 2016 of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025¹, the WHO has developed its Ambition and Action in Nutrition 2016–2025¹, defining the role, the unique value of WHO, the vision and mission and theory of change for advancing nutrition during this Nutrition Decade. 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. WHO is responsible for defining healthy sustainable diets that not only ensure the prevention of all forms of malnutrition and diet-related NCDs throughout the life course, but also are compatible with planetary health. This audacious goal requires developing national policies that incorporate both international and local contexts in order to ensure effective interventions that do not unintentionally harm local populations and cultures. Additionally, as global guidelines for sustainable diets are not yet defined, WHO will be challenged to clearly articulate and measure their goals in a fairly new field in nutrition. Along these lines, the WHO will: 1) Improve efficiency and transparency of the guideline development process; 2) Maintain and expand the guidance development groups; 3) Strengthen and expand guideline dissemination processes; 4) Update integrated guidance (effective means to achieve global nutrition targets); 5) Strengthen the process of monitoring adoption and evaluating impact of guideline adoption and implementation; 6) Develop tools to facilitate policy implementation and; 7) Keep the three levels of the Organization up to date with new and revised guidance. The new strategy has identified six priorities across three core functions of leadership, guidance and monitoring.

¹ <http://www.who.int/entity/nutrition/publications/nutrition-strategy-2016to2025/en/index.html>

World Health Assembly resolutions related to nutrition, obesity and diet-related NCD adopted in 2016 - 2017

The 70th WHA held in May 2017 adopted one resolution and one decision related to obesity and diet-related NCDs. The first resolution (WHA70.11 – http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70_R11-en.pdf) endorses the updated Appendix 3 (which lists “best buys” and other recommended interventions to address NCDs) to the global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013 – 2020 adopted by WHA in 2013. Updating of Appendix 3 was undertaken taking into consideration the emergence of new evidence of cost-effectiveness and the issuance of new WHO recommendations that show evidence of effective interventions. For reducing the consumption of unhealthy diet, recommended interventions include: 1) for best buy – reducing salt intake through reformulation, creating supportive food environment in public institutions, behaviour change communication and implementation of front-of-pack labelling; 2) for effective interventions – eliminating industrially produced *trans*-fats through legislation to ban their use and reducing sugars consumption through effective taxation on sugar-sweetened beverages; and 3) for other recommended interventions – promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months, implementing subsidies to increase the intake of fruits and vegetables, replacing saturated fat and *trans*-fats with unsaturated fats, limiting portion and package size, implementing nutrition education and counselling, implementing nutrition labelling and implementing mass media campaign on healthy diets.

The second WHA decision (WHA70(19) – [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70\(19\)-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70(19)-en.pdf)) welcomed the implementation plan to guide further action on the recommendations included in the report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity. It urges Member States to develop national responses, strategies and plans to end infant, child and adolescents obesity, and requests WHO to report to WHA periodically on the progress towards ending childhood obesity.

Implementation manual for WHO Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children

In 2016, the 69th World Health Assembly approved the WHO Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children (WHA69.9). The Guidance lays out several recommendations for controlling the marketing of foods and beverages targeted toward children under the age of 36 months, with the goal of protecting breastfeeding, preventing obesity and noncommunicable diseases, and promoting a healthy diet. To assist countries with implementing the recommendations, WHO has developed an Implementation Manual on the guidance. The Implementation Manual further articulates the rationale for each of the recommendations set forth in the guidance and describes possible actions countries can take to ensure effective national implementation of the recommendations. The Manual gives detailed suggestions for conducting a situation assessment, generating political support, establishing leadership teams, developing a legal and regulatory framework, and ensuring monitoring and enforcement.

WHO Global Conference on NCDs

The WHO Global Conference on NCDs was hosted by the President of Uruguay in Montevideo, Uruguay from 18 to 20 October 2017. The aim of the Conference was to provide a platform for sharing lessons learned and best practices on how to enhance policy coherence across different spheres of policy making that have a bearing on attaining Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 on NCDs by 2030. The Conference’s overarching theme is “Noncommunicable Diseases and Sustainable Development – Promoting Policy Coherence: Leveraging political leadership to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one third and promote mental health”. It highlighted the critical links between reducing premature deaths from NCDs and enhancing policy coherence across areas that impact the governance, prevention, management and surveillance of NCDs. During the Conference, the Montevideo Roadmap was adopted arguing for accelerated investments in NCD prevention and control measures.

Unhealthy diet is a major risk factor for various NCDs and contributes to many of the causes of premature mortality and disability. The WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development organized a well-attended two-hour workshop on the Decade of Action on Nutrition at the Conference with the aim of highlighting the importance of creating an enabling food environment to promote healthy diet and nutrition. The workshop provided an opportunity for emerging experiences to be shared between countries. Two panel sessions at the workshop discussed innovative approaches to increase fruit and vegetable consumption among target groups such as school children, front-of-pack labelling and reformulation of foods. High-level speakers from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Finland, Iran, UK, and USA shared their experiences with the audience. A keynote address was given by the Deputy Commissioner of Health of New York City, illustrating how cities can be nutrition policy innovation hubs.

WHO guideline: Protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding in facilities providing maternity and newborn services

This guideline provides global, evidence-informed recommendations on protection, promotion and support of optimal breastfeeding in facilities providing maternity and newborn services, as a public health intervention. It is intended to contribute to discussions among stakeholders when selecting or prioritizing appropriate actions in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the global targets for 2025 as put forward in the Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in 2012, in resolution WHA65.6, the Global strategy for women's, children's, and adolescents' health (2016–2030), and the Global Strategy for infant and young child feeding. The document presents the key recommendations, a summary of the supporting evidence and a description of the considerations that contributed to the deliberations and consensus decision-making.

WHO guideline: Preventive chemotherapy to control soil-transmitted helminth infections in at-risk population groups

This guideline provides global, evidence-informed recommendations on preventive chemotherapy (deworming), as a public health intervention in areas endemic for soil-transmitted helminths, to decrease the worm burden of soil-transmitted helminth infections in children, adolescent girls, women of reproductive age and pregnant women, including those coinfecting with HIV. The recommendations contained in this guideline are intended for a wide audience, including policy-makers and their expert advisers as well as technical and programme staff at government institutions and organizations involved in the design, implementation and expansion of programmes to control soil-transmitted helminth infections and nutrition-sensitive actions for a safe and hygienic environment to improve public health. This guideline aims to help WHO Member States and their partners to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the global targets presented in the World Health Assembly resolution WHA66.12 on Neglected tropical diseases, the Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, the Global strategy for women's, children's, and adolescents' health (2016–2030), Water, sanitation and hygiene for accelerating and sustaining progress on neglected tropical diseases: a global strategy 2015–2020, Accelerating work to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases: a roadmap for implementation, Accelerating progress on HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis and neglected tropical diseases: a new agenda for 2016–2030 and Eliminating soil-transmitted helminthiasis as a public health problem in children: progress report 2001–2010 and strategic plan 2011–2020.

WHO guideline: Assessing and managing children at primary health-care facilities to prevent overweight and obesity in the context of the double burden of malnutrition. Updates for the integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI.)

As part of its response to the global epidemic of obesity, WHO has issued guidelines to support primary healthcare workers identify and manage children who are overweight or obese. Specifically, all infants and children aged less than 5 years presenting to primary health-care facilities should have both weight and height measured in order to determine their weight-for-height and their nutritional status according to WHO child growth standards. Comparing a child's weight with norms for its length/height is an effective way to assess for both wasting and overweight. Where infants and children are identified as overweight, WHO recommends providing counselling to parents and caregivers on nutrition and physical activity including promotion and support for exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months and continued breastfeeding until 24 months or beyond. If children are obese, they should be further assessed and an appropriate management plan should be developed. This can be done by a health worker at primary health-care level, if adequately trained, or at a referral clinic or local hospital. Additionally, moderate wasting and stunting are potential risk factors for children becoming overweight or obese. Within these populations, and until there is a more definitive evidence base, to avoid increasing the risk of overweight and obesity WHO recommends not to provide formulated supplementary foods on a routine basis to children who are moderately wasted or stunted.

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

At the 11th meeting held in Brijuni, Croatia in July 2017, the NUGAG Subgroup reviewed and discussed the results of the final systematic reviews of the evidence related to the intake of CHO (in particular, fibre and starch), non-sugar sweeteners and PUFA (including EPA and DHA) and formulated evidence-informed recommendations for all three topics. This included detailed discussion of criteria in (in addition to the quality of the evidence) to be considered when moving from evidence to recommendations (i.e. the balance of evidence on benefits and harms, values and preferences, resource implications, priority of the problems, equity and human rights, acceptability and feasibility). The guidelines on CHO, non-sugar sweeteners and PUFA are being drafted by the WHO Secretariat while waiting for all the background systematic reviews to be published. Regarding dietary patterns, the NUGAG Subgroup discussed several methodological approaches that could be used to assess dietary patterns, taking into consideration the definition and characteristics determined at the 9th meeting of the NUGAG Subgroup on Diet on Health. The development of key PICO questions to guide systematic reviews are being developed in order to proceed with the systematic review.

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

In accordance with the Organization-wide transformation in strengthening WHO's role in developing evidence-informed public health guidance, the WHO has been strengthening its role and leadership in providing evidence-informed policy and programme guidance to Member States for promoting healthy diets and nutrition throughout the lifecourse, in partnership with relevant internal departments and other concerned partners, as appropriate. This normative mandate was reaffirmed through a request from the 63rd World Health Assembly (May 2010) "to strengthen the evidence base on effective and safe nutrition actions to counteract the public health effects of the double burden of malnutrition, and to describe good practices for successful implementation". To help implement the development of evidence-informed policy guidance and measures to support Member States in developing enabling food environments to promote healthy diet and nutrition, WHO is establishing *the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions*, which will work alongside the NUGAG Subgroup on Diet and Health, and had issued call for experts during April – May 2017 to identify experts to serve as members. NUGAG Subgroup on Policy Action will start reviewing possible guideline development in 3 policy action areas (i.e. nutrition labelling, fiscal policies, and trade and investment). Preparations for these scoping documents will start before the end of 2017.

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 7 June to 21 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 are currently being analysed and a final ranking of topics for guideline development is expected by the end of 2017. See <http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/guideline-development/prioritization-process/en/> for more information.

WHO Technical meeting: Use and interpretation of haemoglobin concentrations for assessing anaemia status in individuals and populations

WHO has initiated a 4-year project to review its global guidelines for haemoglobin thresholds used to define anaemia at the individual and population levels. As a first step, more than 4,000 technical experts, researchers, blood banks, policy makers and programme implementers were asked to identify priority questions to understand the key information and knowledge that would enable a revised definition of haemoglobin thresholds, in the form of a prioritized list of scoping questions. Over 500 questions from more than 150 respondents were received and consolidated into 58 questions across six categories that were ranked as the most relevant aspects on anaemia diagnosis. Based on the questions and research needs that scored highest by stakeholders, and priorities outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, in collaboration with the WHO Department of Service Delivery and Safety is convening this technical meeting in Geneva Switzerland from 29 November to 1 December, 2017.

WHO Technical consultation: Risk of excessive intake of vitamins and minerals delivered through public health interventions - current practices and case studies

With a view of providing policymakers with the best available evidence to inform policies and programmes simultaneously providing micronutrients across the population or for specific population groups, the WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development convened this technical consultation in Panamá City, Panamá, on 4 – 6 October, 2017. Existing evidence was presented on the safety of the provision of micronutrients to vulnerable populations in settings where a combination of interventions include micronutrients, along with programmatic evidence of successful implementation experiences, best practices and lessons learnt. The consultation drew on background papers and case studies that were commissioned through a public call for papers. The outcome of this technical consultation will contribute to the Member States' efforts to strengthen their health systems and provide them with a summary of technical considerations and lessons learnt which can be useful in the implementation of programmes delivering micronutrients.

Second Global Nutrition Policy Review (2016 – 2017)

Following the first Global Nutrition Policy Review (GNPR1) (http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/policies/global_nut_policyreview/en/) conducted in 2009-2010, WHO conducted the second Global Nutrition Policy Review (GNPR2) in 2016 – 2017. The outcomes of the GNPR2 will help taking stock on the progress towards achieving the commitments of the ICN2 Rome Declaration and also serve as a baseline for monitoring country actions to achieve the aims of the Decade of Action for Nutrition (2016 – 2025). Preliminary outcomes of GNPR2 were presented at the International Symposium for Healthy Diet and Improved Nutrition held in Rome, Italy on 1 – 2 December 2016 as well as at the special event on "Meeting the challenge of a new era for achieving healthy diets and nutrition: Outcomes of the 2nd Global Nutrition Policy Review" which was organized by WHO at the International Symposium.

172 Member States and one area responded to the Review, which equals to an overall response rate of 89% of WHO Member States. Summary results were also reported to the 70th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2017 as requested by WHA resolution 68.19 and also WHA decision 68(14). The final report is currently being prepared for publishing before the end of 2017. 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)

In the context of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016 - 2025), countries and partners are encouraged to make SMART commitments. These will be either new commitments or strengthened existing commitments which are already included in countries' existing national policies. To monitor these SMART commitments and track their implementation, WHO/FAO are currently developing a repository to be integrated within the WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA) (<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/>). GINA, which was launched in 2012, currently contains more than 1,800 national policies and 2,500 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 Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS) (<http://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis/en/>) is a dynamic web-based tool that provides a user-friendly snapshot of a country's nutrition situation from a national perspective, presenting key indicators and measures of nutrition status as well as the underlying factors related to food, health, and care. Data are gathered from the WHO Global Nutrition Databases and the WHO Global Health Observatory. It also incorporates information from UN partners, including FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank and other partners such as Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The NLIS country profiles are currently being expanded to include a special highlight on the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework adopted by the 68th 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.

Since its launch in 2009, WHO has continuously worked to improve the organization, structure and presentation of information on the NLIS website. In order to continue improving the user experience, WHO will launch a user survey before the end of October 2017 to get feedback on the website and learn more about how the NLIS country profiles are being used.

Development of Nutrient Profile Models for Regulating Marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children

Nutrient profile models are tools that can be used to implement public health strategies and interventions to promote healthy diets, such as marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children, procurement of foods in public institutions (e.g. schools), nutrition labelling (i.e. front-of-package labelling), health claims and fiscal policies (i.e. taxation, subsidies). Ad hoc development of various nutrient profile models and their applications by different stakeholders resulted in inconsistencies and created confusion for target audiences and consumers with respect to various public health measures. Therefore, WHO was requested by a number of Member States to take the lead in formulating a coordinated approach for developing/adapting nutrient profile models which could be used for different public health interventions in order to facilitate the implementation of coherent public health strategies.

As the first step, WHO developed a Guiding Principles and Framework Manual, following a similar manual developed by WHO which provided step by step process for developing FBDGs. This manual was then field-tested in 6 countries (i.e. Canada, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Thailand and United Arab Emirates) during 2011 - 2013. Simultaneously, several WHO Regional Offices have taken actions to develop regional nutrient profile models for regulating the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children – European Region (2013-2015), Eastern Mediterranean Region (2014 – 2015), American Region (2015 – 2016), Western Pacific Region (2015 – 2016) and South-East Asia Region (2016). Currently the African Region is undertaking preparatory work to develop its regional nutrient profile model following the principles and approaches used in other WHO regions. Bringing together the principles and evidence base used to develop regional models, WHO is also now in a process of developing an unified global nutrient profile model for regulating marketing. It is also planned to assess possibility and feasibility of adapting the marketing model for other applications, such as regulating the promotion and sale of foods and beverages in and around schools, implementing fiscal policies, in particular taxation of food and beverages high in sugars, fat and sodium, as well as for front-of-pack labelling.

Capacity-building workshops to develop and implement evidence-informed nutrition policies and strategies in countries in Africa and Myanmar

The objective of the workshops was to help strengthen the capacity of countries to refine and further develop evidence-informed nutrition policies and strategies to address all forms of malnutrition throughout the lifecourse through the use of existing WHO policy planning and implementation tools. Following several sub-regional and national capacity-building workshops held during 2016 in countries in Africa, in June 2017, a national capacity building workshop was held in Myanmar, including nutrition programme managers from multiple sectors, WHO nutrition focal persons and development partners at the national level.

The workshops provided an overview of the evidence-informed policy planning process and training on relevant WHO policy-planning tools, including the Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLIS), Landscape Analysis Country Assessment, the WHO e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA), the WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA), the OneHealth Tool, the System of Health Accounts (SHA) 2011 and the Global Targets Tracking Tool. Didactic sessions were accompanied by extensive hands-on training for many of the tools.

UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group: Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (2017 edition)

In May 2017, the inter-agency team released new joint estimates of child stunting, overweight, underweight, wasting and severe wasting (<http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates2016>). The same methodology as in previous years was applied. More details on the methodology can be found at <http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates2011>. The new estimates supersede former analyses results published by UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank Group. The underlying data set consists of 806 national survey data which were standardized for analysis purpose. Estimates are adjusted where necessary to be nationally representative and to cover the age range 0-5 years. The adjustments are specified in the Notes column. As a result of making these adjustments, prevalence might be slightly different from the survey results reported elsewhere.

Globally in 2016, there were 155 million stunted children (too short for their age), 52 million wasted (too light for their height) and 41 million overweight (too heavy for their height). Stunting prevalence was highest in the African Region and the South-East Asia Region (both 34%, or 55 million and 60 million, respectively). The highest prevalence of wasting (15.3%) and number of wasted children (27 million) were found in the South-East Asia Region. Between 2000 and 2016, the number of overweight children under 5 years increased globally by 33% and in 2016, more than 9 million overweight children live in the South-East Asia Region.

Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework to track progress of Global Nutrition Targets

In 2014, Member States approved the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework (GNMF) on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, including six core outcome indicators to track progress against the six Global Nutrition Targets adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2012. The monitoring framework has a core set of indicators, to be reported by all countries and an extended set of indicators, from which countries can draw to design national nutrition surveillance systems fitting their specific epidemiological patterns and programme decisions. Countries are recommended to include within their national monitoring framework the core set of 21 indicators contained within the GNMF.

Timely and credible data are essential for governments and other stakeholders for decision-making, better use of resources and efficient implementation of programmes that address nutrition priorities. In collaboration with other health and environmental sectors and the WHO-UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory group on nutrition Monitoring (TEAM), WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD) has developed operational guidance for 21 GNMF indicators so that the Global Nutrition Targets can be monitored systematically across countries. The operational guidance manual will be available by end of 2017. Furthermore, NHD provides technical support to countries through national and regional workshops, followed by more in-depth collaboration, to help them to align their national nutrition monitoring framework with the GNMF indicators. This is important to move towards operationalization of better monitoring and reporting at the country-level so that effects of nutrition programmes can be measured and used in a timely way to improve programmes and also contribute to better monitoring of the global nutrition targets and other indicators of the GNMF.

Global Nutrition Targets Tracking Tool

The translation of the six Global Nutrition Targets (endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2012) into national targets needs to consider nutrition profiles, risk factor trends, demographic changes, experience with developing and implementing nutrition policies, and health system development. WHO, the European Commission and UNICEF developed a web-based tracking tool to: 1) support countries in adapting the global targets to their national settings, 2) track progress of national targets through assessing current status and past trend data, 3) explore scenarios using different rates of progress towards 2025, and 4) use the information to help taking policy measures to accelerate progress.

The tool is available in English, French, Russian and Spanish and provides: (i) country indicator profiles on current status and required progress; (ii) the possibility to explore alternative rates of change and their impact; and (iii) comparison of national, regional and global progress. The tool's underlying data is updated as new estimates of the target indicators become available, such as the UNICEF-WHO-World Bank joint malnutrition estimates for stunting, wasting and overweight or the Global Health Observatory for anaemia in women of reproductive age.

The WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development provides country support through national and regional workshops to strengthen country's capacity to set and track national nutrition targets and to monitor progress towards the global nutrition targets 2025. Also, a e-learning course has been developed to disseminate the tool more efficiently. The tool and all the related material can be accessed at <http://www.who.int/nutrition/trackingtool>.

Updated global estimates of anaemia for preschool age children and women of reproductive age

The WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, in collaboration with the WHO Department of Information Evidence and Research, has prepared an update of the global estimates of anaemia in women of reproductive age, as well as for infants and young children 6-59 months of age, to include up to the year 2016. The methodology used to generate these estimates is the same methodology used for the estimates published in The global prevalence of anaemia in 2011 and Global, regional and national trends in haemoglobin concentration and prevalence of total severe anaemia in children and pregnant and non-pregnant women for 1995-2011. These new estimates of anaemia have been published in the WHO Global Health Observatory for both children and women, in the 2017 *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, and are being used to track the progress in achieving the Global nutrition target 2, a 50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age and appear in the WHO Global targets tracking tool.

Nutritional anaemias: tools for effective prevention and control

This [reference document](#), released in November 2017, aims to help Member States and their partners in their efforts to make informed decisions on the appropriate nutrition actions to prevent and control nutritional anaemias. The suggestions, steps and course of actions proposed are intended for health workers covering a wide audience, including policy-makers, economists and technical and programme staff in ministries and organizations involved in the design, implementation and scaling-up of public health actions, to help in the design and implementation of a comprehensive nutrition-based strategy for combating nutritional anaemias. The document presents the key aspects to be taken into account when considering implementation of a programme for detection and control of anaemia at national or regional level. This manual is intended to contribute to discussions among stakeholders when selecting or prioritizing interventions to be undertaken in their specific context.

WHO Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol

The Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol was endorsed by the 63rd World Health Assembly in May 2010 (WHA63.13). Since then, WHO has been implementing the Global Strategy with a focus on low- and middle-income countries through providing support to their efforts on alcohol control, and producing and disseminating relevant public health oriented information to advocate for strengthened commitments and partnerships in addressing the harmful use of alcohol. According to the latest WHO estimates, approximately 3.3 million deaths are caused worldwide by the harmful use of alcohol. The WHO Forum on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours held in Geneva in June 2017 addressed the current challenges in implementing alcohol control measures and good practices in reducing alcohol-related harm.

The Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol includes, among recommended policy options and interventions, providing consumer information and labelling alcoholic beverages to indicate the harm related to alcohol. In 2017, the WHO Regional Office for Europe published a discussion document that presented an analysis of the policy options available for introducing warning and product labelling on alcoholic beverage containers. It outlines the existing legal and policy frameworks and the current level of implementation of the product labelling in the WHO European Region. Some components that could be considered when developing effective health warning labels are described in that document as well.

WHO monitors alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harm and policy responses at the global, regional and country levels, and the next WHO Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health is planned to be released in 2018. Inclusion of the reduction of the harmful use of alcohol in the health targets of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG 2030) calls for strengthening country capacity to reduce alcohol-related harm by implementing the most effective and cost-effective policy options and interventions supported by appropriate health system responses and scientifically sound information with regard to alcohol and health.

Addendum**CORRECTION BY THE WHO OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL**

- Whereas it is stated on page 6 of the document that the WHO Technical Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children was approved by the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly through resolution WHA69.9, it should be noted that this Guidance was not approved or endorsed, but was welcomed with appreciation (see operative paragraph 1 of resolution WHA69.9). Resolution WHA69.9 itself (i.e., the resolution as a whole) was adopted by consensus on 28 May 2016 at the eighth plenary meeting of the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.
- It is WHO Member States that give meaning to the language they use.
- Furthermore, in WHO practice, operative terms such as "welcomes," "welcomes with appreciation", "notes," and "notes with appreciation" have different meanings and are not used synonymously with the term "approves."