



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

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**PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2),
INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION**

**Progress Report on Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2),
including Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)
Biennial Report**

Executive Summary

In 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) ("Decade") following the recommendations by the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014. This provides a unique time-bound opportunity to implement the ICN2 commitments and puts the spotlight on nutrition at the highest political levels. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization were mandated to co-convene the Decade's implementation with a Work Programme.

This fourth biennial progress report updates on progress made in the implementation of ICN2 commitments and the Decade since October 2021, covering key developments towards achieving the global nutrition and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and targets. These include substantial advances in a wide variety of nutrition-related activities at global, regional and national levels. The progress report also highlights additional efforts required for scaling up commitments and achieving impact across food, health, trade, social protection and agricultural systems.

Addressing the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the persisting underlying drivers of all forms of malnutrition requires continuous strong sustained political leadership for large scale coordinated action across sectors and beyond borders, addressing current crises in the short term as

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

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well as achieving long-term objectives. All stakeholders are called to act with urgency and deliver on the food and nutrition commitments made, including financial pledges and complementary investments in programming and policy, during the remaining two years of the Decade towards eliminating all forms of malnutrition and achieving the SDGs by 2030.

The CFS is invited to provide guidance to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Decade on the proposed way forward including on the format of the dialogues at the end of the Decade.

I. Background

1. In April 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 70/259¹ proclaiming 2016-2025 as the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (“Decade”). This had been recommended at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), co-hosted in November 2014 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), which adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition² and its companion Framework for Action³. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition provides a common vision for global action to eradicate hunger and end all forms of malnutrition, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, and presents ten broad policy commitments. The Framework for Action outlines 60 recommendations to guide the effective implementation of these commitments, which remain extremely relevant today.
2. The Decade provides all stakeholders with a time-bound opportunity to strengthen joint efforts and to stimulate the effective translation of the ICN2 commitments and recommendations into concrete nationally-determined policies and programmes, in support of achieving the World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) targets in support of the nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The effects of the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic,⁴ along with intensified conflicts, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, and climate change, impede progress towards ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and achieving the SDG targets.
3. The UN General Assembly mandated FAO and WHO to: (i) co-lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP); (ii) cooperatively develop a work programme for the Decade, using coordination mechanisms such as UN-Nutrition⁵ and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms; and (iii) produce biennial reports on the Decade’s implementation.
4. Designed in 2017, with the contribution of CFS stakeholders, the Decade’s Work Programme embraces six cross-cutting and interconnected action areas, based on the 60 ICN2 recommendations, building upon and connecting initiatives of governments and their many partners.⁶ Key information is further available on the Decade’s website.⁷
5. The Decade provides modalities of country engagement such as Action Networks for sharing experiences, promoting improved coordination and building political momentum to scale up global action around topics linked to the Decade’s Work Programme. The Decade encourages governments to turn the global ICN2 commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) commitments for action on nutrition. Forums are used for sharing knowledge, recognizing successes, voicing challenges and promoting collaboration for improved nutrition.
6. This fourth biennial report offers insights on the progress made in the follow-up to ICN2 commitments and the Decade’s implementation since CFS 49. It covers key developments at global, regional and country levels in the six action areas of the Decade’s Work Programme, which are either directly or indirectly linked to the Decade or brought additional emphasis on

¹ <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/259>

² www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf

³ www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf

⁴ www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9549037/pdf/40475_2022_Article_271.pdf

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/367352>

⁵ In follow-up of ICN2 recommendation 7, UN-Nutrition was established in 2020 as the result of the merger of UNSCN and the UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, to become the UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration mechanism for nutrition at both global and country level - www.unnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-12-04-SG-letter-to-CEB-on-UN-Nutrition-EOSG-2020-065261.pdf

⁶ www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/work_programme_nutrition_decade.pdf

⁷ www.un.org/nutrition

nutrition actions aligned with the Decade's aims, and are relevant to the work of CFS and its stakeholders.

II. Advancements in Action Areas of the Decade's Work Programme

7. Nutrition challenges facing countries continue to evolve and grow. More than 3.1 billion people in the world – or 42 percent– were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021, representing an increase of 134 million people compared to 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Globally, in 2022 among children under five years of age, 148 million were stunted, 45 million were wasted, and 37 million were overweight with largest burden on low-income and lower-middle-income countries.⁸ Solutions require long-term vision, systems thinking and strong sustained political leadership. Global, regional and country developments since CFS 49 in the six action areas include for instance the following:

Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets

- a. Global attention to the critical role of sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition continues to increase since the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) was held in 2021.⁹ 'Food systems for healthy diets' was a key thematic pillar of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G), convened by the Government of Japan in December 2021.¹⁰ The UNFSS +2 Stocktaking Moment (STM)¹¹ that took place in Rome, Italy on 24-26 July 2023, convened countries and stakeholders to review progress, identify successes, enduring bottlenecks and priorities to generate further momentum on action for food systems transformation in support of SDG acceleration;
- b. As part of the UNFSS, 53 Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement member countries hosted dialogues to build capacity and accelerate action on food system national pathways. Additionally, 14 SUN Focal Points were appointed as their national food systems convenor, building the linkages between food systems and nutrition. In November 2022, the SUN Movement with WHO, UN-Nutrition and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub hosted a Food Systems Solutions Dialogue with National Convenors, UN Resident Coordinators (RCs), UN agency regional and country teams (UNCTs), and SUN Focal Points to put health and nutrition central to food systems transformations. An intensive interactive workshop organized in May 2023, for RCs and UNCTs in 10 countries to promote alignment of policies and support in making food systems nutrition sensitive;
- c. The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) (Glasgow, November 2021) confirmed agriculture and food systems as a major priority for the climate agenda. At COP27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, November 2022)¹² UN agencies and partners supported the COP27 Presidency in launching the global Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), a multistakeholder, multisectoral global flagship initiative that will catalyze, mobilize, connect and advocate to address the critical nexus of climate change and nutrition, leveraging current global attention on food systems transformation for healthy people and a healthy planet to foster collaboration to accelerate transformative action on climate change and nutrition¹³;
- d. In 2022, the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, established by the UN Secretary-General¹⁴, provided an analysis of the current three-dimensional crisis,

⁸ www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3017en

⁹ www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit

¹⁰ <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/events>

¹¹ www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/en

¹² www.fao.org/events/detail/fao-at-cop27/en

¹³ www.gainhealth.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Initiative-on-climate-action-and-nutrition-I-CAN.pdf

¹⁴ <https://news.un.org/pages/global-crisis-response-group>

to guide a coordinated global response to the present disruptions in food systems while sustaining the transition to sustainable production¹⁵;

- e. The third observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) on 29 September 2022¹⁶ focused on climate benefits for people and the planet through food loss and waste reduction and the fourth observance of the IDAFLW on 29 September 2023 on taking action to transform agrifood systems;
- f. In May 2022, WHO Member States approved the new *Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030: towards stronger food safety systems and global cooperation*,¹⁷ which supports countries in building forward-looking food safety systems. It recognizes that the safety of food is closely linked to the health of animals, plants and the environment within which it is produced. Underpinning the strategy is an accountability framework with three global indicators and three global targets;
- g. FAO's strategic priorities for food safety encourage a more consistent integration of food safety in the development of sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, food security and nutrition policies, and agriculture development strategies. They were endorsed at the FAO Council at its 171st meeting in December 2022¹⁸ and are fully leveraging synergies with the new WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030;
- h. The FAO Foresight Report *Thinking About the Future of Food Safety*, released in 2022, provides an overview of the major global drivers and trends by describing their implications for food safety in particular and for agrifood systems by extrapolation;¹⁹
- i. The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the urgent need to strengthen the One Health approach.²⁰ In 2021, FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WHO launched a new One Health High-Level Expert Panel to improve understanding of how diseases with the potential to trigger pandemics, emerge and spread.²¹ UNEP joined in 2022 this Tripartite as an equal partner to form a new Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health.²² The Quadripartite launched a call to action in March 2023 to translate the One Health approach into policy action in all countries²³;
- j. The Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative was jointly launched in 2022 by FAO, WHO and UNICEF, and brings together UN agencies together with several technical experts and donors with an interest in the field. It aims to a) reach consensus on what constitutes a healthy diet and the measurement of the healthfulness of diets, and b) advance the evidence and practice needed to enable the measurement of progress towards the achievement of healthy diets in population, and generate the evidence needed related to current dietary patterns to inform policies and programmes across a wide range of sectors;²⁴

¹⁵ https://news.un.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GCRG_Brief2_Press_Release.pdf

¹⁶ www.fao.org/international-day-awareness-food-loss-waste/en

¹⁷ www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057685

¹⁸ www.fao.org/about/meetings/council/cl171/documents/en

¹⁹ www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8667en

²⁰ www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-manifesto-for-a-healthy-recovery-from-covid-19

²¹ [www.who.int/news/item/11-06-2021-26-international-experts-to-kickstart-the-joint-fao-oie-unep-who-one-health-high-level-expert-panel-\(ohhlepe\)](http://www.who.int/news/item/11-06-2021-26-international-experts-to-kickstart-the-joint-fao-oie-unep-who-one-health-high-level-expert-panel-(ohhlepe))

²² [www.who.int/news/item/29-04-2022-quadripartite-memorandum-of-understanding-\(mou\)-signed-for-a-new-era-of-one-health-collaboration](http://www.who.int/news/item/29-04-2022-quadripartite-memorandum-of-understanding-(mou)-signed-for-a-new-era-of-one-health-collaboration)

²³ www.who.int/news/item/27-03-2023-quadripartite-call-to-action-for-one-health-for-a-safer-world

²⁴ www.who.int/publications/m/item/healthy-diets-metrics-technical-expert-meeting-on-harmonizing-and-mainstreaming-measurement-of-healthy-diets-globally

Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

- k. The Global Action Plan for Child Wasting commissioned by the UN Secretary General²⁵ presents a framework to accelerate progress in preventing and managing child wasting and achieving the SDG target 2.2 on ending all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on child wasting. Twenty-two of twenty-three frontrunner countries have developed costed roadmaps to reach national target.²⁶ As signatories of the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, FAO, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, WHO and WFP developed a joint statement, championed by the five Principals and released in January 2022, calling for urgent, timely action to prevent, detect and treat child wasting in the 15 countries worst affected by the global food crisis²⁷. A monitoring framework is being developed by the 5 UN agencies for tracking the implementation of the roadmaps. The UN regional offices will be asked for inputs and regional webinars are planned in 2023 to finalize the monitoring framework and the indicators included. The guideline on wasting and nutritional oedema, developed by WHO, including the prevention and management recommendations are scheduled to be launched in October 2023;
- l. The WHA in 2022 approved the *Acceleration plan to STOP Obesity*²⁸ designed to stimulate country-level action against the obesity epidemic through five workstreams: i) develop and promote cost-effective actions; ii) provide technical and delivery support for frontrunner countries to develop and accelerate implementation of roadmaps to counteract obesity; iii) increase advocacy at global, regional and country levels to raise awareness and generate political commitment; iv) build and sustain engagement with partners; and v) place a stronger focus on accountability and reporting to monitor implementation of the acceleration plan at all levels. WHO is engaging with 28 frontrunner countries²⁹ supporting the implementation of tailored country acceleration roadmaps;

Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education

- m. Social protection and school health and nutrition programmes can be platforms for actions to address both undernutrition and overweight and obesity. FAO has recently launched two certified courses on food security, nutrition and social protection and the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment Tool on Food Security and Nutrition that is used to assess social assistance programmes;³⁰
- n. Dietary guidelines are important tools to facilitate transformation of food systems. To support countries, a new methodology to guide the development and implementation of dietary guidelines with a food systems approach and sustainability is being developed by FAO.³¹ The methodology has been developed with the support of experts in several countries, who have used it to develop/ update their new food systems-based dietary guidelines methodology;³²

²⁵ www.childwasting.org

²⁶ www.childwasting.org/the-gap-framework

²⁷ www.childwasting.org/files/ugd/2b7a06_7d22aa061acc47dabeda5a357b968570.pdf

²⁸ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75_10Add6-en.pdf

²⁹ Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Eswatini, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Seychelles, Slovenia, South Africa, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay

³⁰ <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=874> ; <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=875>

³¹ https://alertas.directoriolegislativo.org/?post_type=noticia&n=130224

³² <https://scalingupnutrition.org/resource-library/action-brief/development-and-generation-food-systems-based-dietary-guidelines>

Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition

- o. The Decade's Work Programme stresses that trade policies and agreements should support implementation of nutrition policies and programmes and should not negatively impact the right to adequate food in other countries;
- p. Despite this recognition, important gaps existing in evidence of the linkages between trade policies and agreements and nutrition issues. With this in mind, the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2024 report will have nutrition and trade as its theme;
- q. The nutrition financing gap was addressed at the N4G, where donor governments and donor organizations committed new nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive financing of around USD 27 billion to tackle malnutrition. Twenty-seven percent of the new N4G commitments addressed nutrition financing;³³
- r. On 17 June 2022, the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies was adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference, marking a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies. For the Agreement to become operational, two-thirds of members have to deposit their “instruments of acceptance” with the WTO;³⁴

Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages

- s. Governments have accelerated specific food environment policy actions. Thus far, 190 countries have included actions to promote supportive food environments for healthy diets in their national policies and strategies. Population information policies through counselling or media campaigns are more common (185 countries) than those that seek to change the food environment through nutrition labelling regulations, marketing restrictions, fiscal policies or reformulation (169). Of the 136 countries with nutrition labelling regulations, 89 have implemented mandatory nutrient declaration for all pre-packaged foods. Furthermore, 85 countries have imposed taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages at national level and mandatory policies to limit industrially produced trans-fatty acids are currently in effect in 62 countries protecting 3.8 billion people from those harmful substances; of these, 49 countries have best-practice policies in effect, covering 3.3 billion people.³⁵ Fifty-three countries implement mandatory measures toward sodium intake reduction including mandatory declaration of sodium on pre-packaged food, of which 9 countries implement multiple mandatory measures and all WHO best buys for sodium reduction³⁶;
- t. Based on the results of a global survey and key informant interviews held with focal points from ministries of education and health, a methodology and a set of manuals are being developed by FAO and WFP to support countries in devising and implementing context-specific, effective and feasible nutrition guidelines and standards for their school food and nutrition programs, using a food systems approach;
- u. WHO and UNICEF co-hosted a Global Congress on the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (June 2023) in Geneva, Switzerland. Delegates from over 100 countries discussed strategies to end the unethical marketing of breast-milk substitutes. They developed action plans to strengthen their legislation and improve monitoring and enforcement to better protect breastfeeding. Many regions agreed to develop regional networks for continued collaboration after the Congress;³⁷

³³ https://nutritionforgrowth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Tokyo-Compact-on-Global-N4G_Annex_Dec-14.pdf

³⁴ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/fish_e.htm

³⁵ www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/5597; <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en>; www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240031876; <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en/scorecard/TFA>

³⁶ www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240069985

³⁷ www.who.int/news/item/20-06-2023-global-congress-opens-to-counter-harmful-marketing-of-formula-milk#

Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition

- v. Effective governance is necessary to support the critical policy shifts and to better enable food security and nutrition policies and initiatives to meet the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 2.³⁸ A new coordination mechanism has been set up, in follow up of the UNFSS. The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub³⁹ is hosted in FAO, on behalf of the UN system and is resourced by seven UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes through the provision of staff and financial resources;
- w. To date, most countries have adopted the WHA global nutrition targets for 2025, covering child stunting (122 countries), anaemia in women (106), low birth weight (120), child overweight (141), exclusive breastfeeding (135) and child wasting (118);⁴⁰
- x. The initiative *Preventing and Managing Conflicts of Interest in Country-Level Nutrition Programs: A Roadmap for Implementing the World Health Organization's Draft Approach in the Americas* was launched in November 2021, acknowledging the need for transparent and accountable governance processes conducive to the participation of all stakeholders and multi-stakeholder partnerships for nutrition;⁴¹
- y. The global community has strengthened accountability to nutrition through continuous updating of statistics such as the annual global estimates for child stunting, overweight and wasting.⁴² Furthermore, the SOFI reports, such as the ones of 2022⁴³ and 2023⁴⁴, bring together the global data on hunger and malnutrition, informing the monitoring of the nutrition-related targets of the SDGs and policy action. The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) provides a platform for assessing the nutrition financing landscape.⁴⁵ In 2021, the GNR launched a new Nutrition Accountability Framework⁴⁶ and subsequently the 2022 GNR set out the role of accountability and its ability to transform action to tackle the nutrition crisis⁴⁷;
- z. A third report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Decade was delivered to the General Assembly on 12 April 2022⁴⁸, which led to UN General Assembly resolution 77/285⁴⁹ which was adopted on 16 May 2023, reaffirming Member States' commitment to undertake 10 years of sustained and coherent implementation of policies, programmes and increase investments to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, everywhere, leaving no one behind;
- aa. Progress reports on the implementation of the Decade were also submitted to the WHO Executive Board held in January-February 2023⁵⁰ and to the FAO Programme Committee held in March 2023⁵¹;
- bb. G7 health leaders (Nagasaki, Japan, 13-14 May 2023) recognized the need to mainstream nutrition services within universal health coverage in line with the Decade as well as the critical role of UN, multilateral agencies, global health initiatives and international financial institutions in preventing and treating malnutrition,⁵² while the G7

³⁸ www.fao.org/3/ca9733en/ca9733en.pdf

³⁹ www.unfoodsystemshub.org/about-us/structure/en

⁴⁰ <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en>

⁴¹ www.paho.org/en/events/preventing-and-managing-conflicts-interest-country-level-nutrition-programs-roadmap

⁴² www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates-unicef-who-wb?id=402

⁴³ www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc0639en

⁴⁴ www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3017en

⁴⁵ <https://globalnutritionreport.org>

⁴⁶ <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf>

⁴⁷ <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2022-global-nutrition-report>

⁴⁸ <https://undocs.org/en/A/76/796>

⁴⁹ <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/285>

⁵⁰ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB152/B152_24-en.pdf

⁵¹ www.fao.org/3/nl209en/nl209en.pdf

⁵² www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10500000/001096403.pdf

Heads of State acknowledge the need to protect and assist the most vulnerable populations, including women and children, in all aspects of food security from short-term food crisis responses through medium to long-term efforts to make food systems sustainable. They affirmed that nutrition is fundamental from the viewpoint of a human centered approach, and highlighted the importance of improving access to healthy diets, including through school meal programs.⁵³

III. Further engagement of stakeholders induced by the Decade

Commitments by governments

8. Country commitments for action are key to the Decade's support in leveraging government policy development, investments and actions on the ground. High-level commitments on ICN2 recommendations, including financing, made by governments through the N4G, the UNFSS or other existing platforms are important contributions towards achieving the aims of the Decade.⁵⁴
9. The Tokyo Compact on Global Nutrition for Growth included 396 new commitments made by 181 stakeholders to tackle malnutrition in all its forms, out of which 80 government departments/ministries from 66 countries made 224 commitments.⁵⁵ Governments also committed at N4G to increase national budget allocations to nutrition, and donor governments made financial commitments of over US\$15 billion for nutrition-related assistance through bilateral and multilateral assistance and for the development of nutrition policies and indicators.⁵⁶
10. The African Union (AU) Theme of the Year for 2022 *Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on The African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development* was launched during the 35th African Union Assembly⁵⁷, reaffirming the commitments of African countries to advance their nutrition goals. Guided by a roadmap endorsed by AU Member States, the African Union Commission implemented a series of activities together with stakeholders and partners, which contributed significantly to efforts in the areas of food security and nutrition, including strengthening governance and coordination mechanisms.

Country-led action networks and new coalitions

11. The Decade's country-led and -coordinated action networks allow countries to exchange knowledge, good practices and challenges, and provide mutual support to accelerate progress to improve food systems, diets and nutrition for all through policies and legislation.
12. Representatives from ministries, institutions and organizations participate in the informal Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, which is led by Norway. Both in 2021 and in 2022 network meetings were convened for its members and several meetings of the network's Task Force and working groups. Furthermore, in 2022, the network shared relevant news and actions through the network's webpage, network newsletters, twitter and Linked-in and the Gain Tool, organized two webinars on aquatic and terrestrial food systems, contributed to a webinar on the role of women in fisheries that was organized in the context of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquacultures, arranged for a side event both at CFS50 and at the UN

⁵³ www.g7hiroshima.go.jp/documents/pdf/Leaders_Communique_01_en.pdf

⁵⁴ www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/work_programme_nutrition_decade.pdf

⁵⁵ https://nutritionforgrowth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Tokyo-Compact-on-Global-N4G_Annex_Dec-14.pdf

⁵⁶ <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/%E2%98%8512091700%E3%80%90Full-Ver%E3%80%91Tokyo-Compact-on-Global-Nutrition-for-Growth.pdf>

⁵⁷ Assembly/AU/Dec.813-838(XXXV) - https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/42725-Assembly_AU_Dec_813-838_XXXV_E.pdf

Ocean Conference 2022, organized a webinar on the gain of food system cooperation in the Nordic region in June 2022 during a meeting of the Nordic Council of Ministers.⁵⁸ Norway is committed to continue leading the Global Action Network until 2030, bridging the Nutrition Decade and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).⁵⁹

13. The Regional Action Network for the Americas on Sustainable School Feeding, led by Brazil, organized a network meeting in November 2021.⁶⁰ Moreover in 2022, the network facilitated the organization of two webinars, a network meeting and a technical visit by ten countries to Brazil.⁶¹ In addition, a network meeting was held on 22-26 May 2023 with the participation of 13 countries.⁶² Network members also participated in the *II International Congress on School Feeding: building paths for Food and Nutrition Education*,⁶³ where network members had the opportunity to learn how the school feeding program has been implemented in Brazil, focusing on food preparation, distribution, acquisition of locally produced food and the use of educational school gardens. Furthermore in 2023, the network organized a face-to-face course for Caribbean professionals in the Dominican Republic in March 2023,⁶⁴ a training of tutors from 9 countries in April 2023 for the development of the course for teachers in food and nutrition education for better nutrition,⁶⁵ developed a series of podcasts on the sustainable school methodology⁶⁶ and published a document on the regulatory framework for school feeding⁶⁷. The Network currently has 21 participating countries from Latin America and the Caribbean.
14. The concept of the Decade's country-led action networks is also reflected in the newly emerged UNFSS Coalitions, which are support networks for the implementation of national pathways resulting from the UNFSS's process.⁶⁸ The coalitions' work supports the achievement of almost all the 17 SDGs, with an emphasis on SDG2 (Zero hunger and ending all forms of malnutrition) and SDG13 (Climate action). For example, the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS Coalition), launched in May 2022, encourages action across the food supply, food environments, and valuing of food in support of implementing countries' national pathways.⁶⁹ The School Meals Coalition, launched in November 2021, drives action to improve and scale-up school meals programmes in countries worldwide and includes, among other activities, a peer-to-peer community of best practice, led by Germany and created under the Decade.⁷⁰

Contributions by non-state actors

15. Nutrition stakeholders continue to work in the different action areas of the Decade. Below is a sample of actions provided by the non-state actors that have officially sent their commitments to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Decade and some CFS participants.

⁵⁸ <https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean>

⁵⁹ <https://oceandecade.org/>

⁶⁰ www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nWqK2pwg7c

⁶¹ <https://redraes.org/en/events>

⁶² Countries: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, and Venezuela; <https://redraes.org/en/twelve-latin-american-countries-discussed-the-next-steps-of-network-actions-towards-sustainable-school-feeding-in-the-region>;

www.flickr.com/photos/92702310@N07/albums/7217720308656425

⁶³ <https://redraes.org/ii-congreso-internacional-de-alimentacion-escolar-y-encuentro-de-representantes-de-los-paises-participantes-de-la-raes>

⁶⁴ <https://redraes.org/en/in-brazil-the-delegation-from-the-dominican-republic-learns-about-the-countrys-school-feeding-program>; <https://redraes.org/fotos-de-la-mision-tecnica-internacional-en-republica-dominicana-13-a-17-de-marzo-del-2023>; <https://redraes.org/en/ten-countries-participate-in-the-2nd-stage-of-the-school-feeding-course-for-the-caribbean-and-learn-about-school-feeding-policy-in-the-dominican-republic>

⁶⁵ <https://redraes.org/en/brazil-fao-cooperation-fao-and-meduca-organize-event-with-9-countries-to-strengthen-food-and-nutrition-education>

⁶⁶ <https://redraes.org/red-de-alimentacion-escolar-sostenible-lanza-serie-de-podcasts>; <https://redraes.org/podcast>; www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/news/ver/en/c/1642854

⁶⁷ <https://redraes.org/en/brazil-fao-cooperation-launches-document-on-regulatory-frameworks-in-school-feeding>

⁶⁸ <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/hub-solution/coalitions-of-action/en>

⁶⁹ www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5840/icode

⁷⁰ <https://schoolmealscoalition.org>

16. The Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS) and its standing committee, the Canadian Malnutrition Task Force (CMTF) formally committed their support to the Decade in October 2022, specifically CAN DReaM (Creating Alliances Nationally to address Disease Related Malnutrition) Initiative.⁷¹ Since then, CNS/CMTF have been undertaking a scoping review on practices to address Disease Related Malnutrition (DRM), for which a systematic literature search was developed, tested and peer-reviewed.
17. CARE's Food and Water Systems (FWS) team places gender justice and community-based approaches at the core of its programming and works across the eight change areas in its Right to Food, Water and Nutrition (FWN) Impact Area Strategy.⁷² Between July 2020 and June 2022, CARE supported 8.5 million people responding to their food and water needs. CARE, through sharing, learning, promoting local innovations and scaling proven models like She Feeds the World⁷³, Village Savings and Loans Associations⁷⁴ and Farmers Field Business Schools⁷⁵ is achieving its Right to FWN Impact Area Strategy goal "*to ensure the fulfillment of the right to adequate and nutritious food and clean water for all by promoting sustainable, productive, equitable and resilient (SuPER) FWS.*" CARE is now implementing more than 790 nutrition-sensitive and women-centered agriculture, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and resilience programs in Africa and Asia. CARE contributed to the FAO report *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems*⁷⁶ and chaired the negotiations to develop the *Policy Guidelines for the Promotion of Decent Work in the Agri-Food Sector*⁷⁷ of the International Labour Organization.
18. The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (GLOPAN) influenced multiple international events on the need for sustainable food systems for healthy diets e.g. through: participating in setting the agenda on diets and food systems for N4G; a keynote and side event at N4G and COP26; convening two international Windsor meetings in 2022⁷⁸ and 2023⁷⁹ on food systems and the 1.5+ agenda, and contributing to the Sharm el Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. It published an analysis critiquing the lack of focus on agriculture and food systems at COP26, an influential paper on a net zero equivalent for food systems⁸⁰ and highlighted the potential of the AU Year of Nutrition in advancing Africa's nutrition and food system goals as a member of its technical committee. It co-founded the Food Systems Collaboration Network in 2022 and has since been a leading member. GloPan published a technical paper with new modelling on repurposing agricultural subsidies in sub-Saharan Africa⁸¹ and a policy brief on Nigerian aquatic food systems⁸². It launched a policy tool⁸³ based on its policy briefs and assisted countries on food system transformation (e.g. Ghana and Nepal) and the FAO Regional Office for Africa office⁸⁴ through dedicated briefings on the Foresight 2.0 report.
19. As a CGIAR Centre, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) leads Sustainable Animal Productivity⁸⁵ and One Health⁸⁶, which integrate multiple CGIAR capacities to address food security, nutrition and food safety. ILRI's research teams have provided evidence that has informed global reviews of livestock derived foods (LDFs) and their role in

⁷¹ www.un.org/nutrition/news/canadian-nutrition-society-and-canadian-malnutrition-task-force-commit-nutrition-decade

⁷² [www.dropbox.com/s/5u996ab1fa2qwlw/Right to Food Water and Nutrition Impact Area Strategy - Final.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/s/5u996ab1fa2qwlw/Right%20to%20Food%20Water%20and%20Nutrition%20Impact%20Area%20Strategy%20-%20Final.pdf)

⁷³ www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/nutrition/she-feeds-the-world

⁷⁴ www.care-international.org/what-we-do/womens-economic-justice/village-savings-and-loans-associations

⁷⁵ www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/agriculture/ffbs

⁷⁶ www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5343en

⁷⁷ www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/codes-of-practice-and-guidelines/WCMS_873895/lang--en/index.htm

⁷⁸ www.glopan.org/towards-a-net-zero-equivalent-global-food-systems

⁷⁹ www.glopan.org/9th-annual-panel-meeting

⁸⁰ www.glopan.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Benton-Webb-et-al.-2021-Net-Zero-Equivalent-Target-for-Food-Nature-Food.pdf

⁸¹ www.glopan.org/subsidies

⁸² www.glopan.org/3950-2

⁸³ www.glopan.org/policy_tool

⁸⁴ www.glopan.org/briefing-for-the-food-and-agriculture-organization-fao-regional-office-for-africa

⁸⁵ www.cgiar.org/initiative/sustainable-animal-productivity

⁸⁶ www.cgiar.org/initiative/one-health

sustainable, healthy diets solutions.⁸⁷ New tools such as RhomisNutrition⁸⁸ and FoodSense⁸⁹ help incorporate nutritional dimensions related to LDFs in household diets. At household and national level, communication, behaviour change and education make important contributions towards increased and balanced consumption of LDFs particularly among children.⁹⁰ ILRI's work on food safety in informal markets⁹¹ contributes towards ensuring LDFs are safe as well as nutritious⁹². While the relationship between consumption of LDFs and health outcomes is notoriously difficult to assess, a recent study done by ILRI⁹³ showed that vaccinating household chickens resulted in more access to nutritious foods, with better physical development for both boys and girls⁹⁴.

20. Members of the CFS Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) illustrative list of diverse activities are the following. The International Food & Beverage Alliance (IFBA) committed to align with the WHO's standard for phasing out iTFAs from the global food supply by the end of 2023. In May 2023, IFBA announced its members had achieved 100 percent compliance with its commitment. In June 2022, IFBA, in collaboration with the American Oil Chemists Society, published a practical guide *Bakery and Confectionery Manufacturer's Guide for iTFA Replacement*,⁹⁵ to help other food manufacturers around the world phase out iTFA from their food products. Sodium content reduction has long been a priority within IFBA's agenda to reformulate and innovate foods and beverages for better nutrition. IFBA supports the WHO dietary recommendation of a maximum of 5 g salt intake per day⁹⁶ and WHO's target to reduce the global population intake of salt by a relative 30 percent by 2025. IFBA members have been working towards this objective and in December 2021, launched the IFBA Global Sodium Commitment.⁹⁷ Guided by its vision of "Health for all, hunger for none," Bayer launched the Nutrient Gap Initiative with a goal to impact 50 million people annually by 2030 by expanding access to diverse nutritious food (such as vegetables, fruits, grains) and nutritional supplements.⁹⁸ Bayer is dedicated to advancing sustainable farming for the benefit of growers, consumers, and the planet, that is why Bayer is joining like-minded companies from across the private sector, committing USD 160 million to help end global hunger by 2030. This includes investments in research and development, helping smallholder farmer's access to e.g. quality vegetable and rice seeds based on the latest technology, educating communities on sustainable agricultural practices, providing growers with farming solutions, and introducing smallholder farmers to new income-generating opportunities. The US Dairy Export Council and US dairy industry are actively engaged in developing and implementing food system solutions to improve global food security and nutrition. Partnerships with purpose-driven organizations have led to increased access to nutritious food for schoolchildren through GENYOUth's "Mission 57: End Student Hunger"⁹⁹ and other national fundraising events. The Innovation Center for US Dairy (IC) worked with the nation's food banking system to host the Dairy Nourishes America Symposium¹⁰⁰ and dairy processors to create solutions that increased access to dairy products for people experiencing food insecurity. The IC has also developed research partnerships to evaluate the relationship between improvements to soil health and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and to research enteric methane mitigation strategies as a part of the Greener Cattle Initiative.
21. In response to global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and food insecurity, HarvestPlus and partners demonstrated dedication to scaling biofortification.

⁸⁷ www.slideshare.net/ILRI/unnutritioncovicpptx; <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/118103>; www.unnutrition.org/library/publication/livestock-derived-foods-and-sustainable-healthy-diets; www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1751731122000040?via%3Dihub

⁸⁸ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/117298>

⁸⁹ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/126383>

⁹⁰ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/117244>

⁹¹ www.cnbcfric.com/2021/why-informal-markets-deserve-more-credit-in-a-nutritious-global-food-system

⁹² <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/130652>

⁹³ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/119829>

⁹⁴ www.buzzsprout.com/1539610/11749250-can-one-chicken-make-a-difference-to-a-child-s-health

⁹⁵ <https://ifballiance.org/publications/manufacturers-guide-to-eliminate-industrially-produced-trans-fat>

⁹⁶ www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/salt-reduction

⁹⁷ <https://ifballiance.org/commitments/product-formulation/reducing-sodium>

⁹⁸ www.bayer.com/en/the-nutrient-gap-initiative

⁹⁹ <https://genyouthnow.org/our-work/end-student-hunger>

¹⁰⁰ www.dairynourishesamerica.org/symposium-report

Progress achieved from 2019 to 2023 demonstrates sustained global commitment to improving nutrition and health through the adoption of this ag-nutrition technology¹⁰¹. HarvestPlus is making meaningful progress towards achieving the commitments made in 2019. In 2023, it is anticipated that 100 million lives will be enriched with biofortification. Advancements in crop development, strengthened partnerships, enhanced seed distribution, policy inclusion, and regional and global endorsements, have created an enabling environment to address micronutrient deficiencies. HarvestPlus and partners are increasing availability of new technologies, developing more than 293 varieties of locally-adapted biofortified crops now available to smallholder farmers. HarvestPlus strives to empower farmers, especially women, to build food system, personal resilience, and improve health and livelihoods. Its reach grew in 2022 to 17.3 million farming households (78 percent increase from 9.7 million in 2020).

22. The SUN Movement promoted accountability for nutrition outcomes through the Joint Annual Assessment and tracking of public financial allocations. In 2022, 53 SUN countries have national level multi-stakeholder, multisectoral nutrition coordination entities; 42 have established multi-stakeholder platforms at subnational level. The Youth Leaders for Nutrition programme added 20 dynamic young leaders to become Civil Society National Youth Nutrition Coordinators. Capacity-strengthening workshops on budget analysis, nutrition plan costing and monitoring and evaluation were delivered in eight countries¹⁰². Furthermore, the SUN Movement also facilitated eight regional webinars on the global food and nutrition crisis in 2022 to promote peer-to-peer learning and exchange.

Contributions by UN organizations

23. In 2022, FAO contributed to the generation and use of data and metrics on diets, food composition, food safety, food security and agrifood systems in 110 countries. Its support for 103 countries directly ensured the integration of dietary and nutrition-related data analysis into UN Common Country Analyses. Early 2023, the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool included quantitative individual food consumption data from 241 surveys, 36 of them with downloadable datasets.¹⁰³ FAO provided legal, normative, policy and technical assistance to 106 countries on enabling healthy diets and supported the development and implementation of dietary guidelines in 56 countries, while also advancing a methodology for updating dietary guidelines using a food systems approach and including sustainability considerations.¹⁰⁴ FAO, together with Agreenium, offered a massive open online course on nutrition and food systems¹⁰⁵ and continued to strengthen the capacity of professionals around the world, with a particular focus on effective nutrition education in Sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁰⁶ FAO launched the child wasting prevention action plan (2023–2024).¹⁰⁷ FAO contributed actively to the follow-up to the UNFSS and was designated by the UN Secretary-General to be the host for its UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, on behalf of the UN system. FAO mobilized partners to identify and address policy and investments gaps to support countries in achieving sustainable solutions to food crises.¹⁰⁸ It also hosted the UNFSS +2 Stocktaking Moment.
24. WHO actively supports two UNFSS follow-up mechanisms. A full-time staff has been seconded to the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub since March 2022; and WHO is co-chair with UNEP of the UN Food Systems Task Force, which has more than 30 UN Agencies, Programmes and Funds as members and holds regular meetings. A WHO policy analysis of

¹⁰¹ www.harvestplus.org/african-union-endorses-biofortification-to-tackle-malnutrition-and-enrich-school-meals; www.harvestplus.org/harvestplus-world-food-programme-release-joint-brief-on-biofortification; www.harvestplus.org/un-report-tallies-increased-food-and-nutrition-insecurity-amid-covid-19-notes-value-of-biofortification-as-a-response

¹⁰² Burkina Faso, Burundi, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Mali and Sudan.

¹⁰³ www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en

¹⁰⁴ https://alertas.directoriolegislativo.org/?post_type=noticia&n=130224

¹⁰⁵ www.unescap.org/events/2022/massive-open-online-course-mooc-nutrition-and-food-systems-learn-about-pathways

¹⁰⁶ www.fao.org/nutrition/education/professional-training

¹⁰⁷ www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3050en

¹⁰⁸ www.fao.org/3/ni547en/ni547en.pdf

106 national pathways conducted in early 2022¹⁰⁹ shows that while aspects to boost production of nutritious foods such as nutrition sensitive agriculture, food safety and raising awareness featured in over 75 percent of pathways, policy measures to shift consumption patterns towards healthier diets and reduce the availability, affordability, and accessibility of foods high in unhealthy fats, sugars and salts (including labelling, marketing regulation and fiscal policies) remain scarce. In May 2023, WHO launched a Comprehensive framework for action to accelerate the reduction anaemia globally. The framework addresses the prevention, diagnosis and management of all forms of anaemia due to a wide variety of causes, including micronutrient deficiencies, inflammation, infection, obstetric and gynaecological disorders, and inherited blood disorders. It describes how multiple sectors can work together to identify and address key barriers and seize opportunities to reduce the burden of anaemia.¹¹⁰ At the 2023 WHA a resolution on accelerating efforts to prevent micronutrient deficiencies through safe and effective food fortification was adopted.¹¹¹ WHO provides continued support to Member States to transform food systems, and to create healthy food environments to achieve better health outcomes, and has initiated a suite of guidelines on priority food environment policies, along with implementation tools and policy briefs. An action framework for developing and implementing public food procurement and service policies for a healthy diet¹¹² was published in 2021 and provides an overview of how to develop (or strengthen), implement, assess compliance with, and evaluate, the effectiveness of a healthy public food procurement and service policy. Reviews of contextual factors on implementing food environment policies were conducted to inform the development of policy guidelines on nutrition labelling policies,¹¹³ food marketing restrictions,¹¹⁴ school food and nutrition policies,¹¹⁵ and fiscal policies to promote healthy diets¹¹⁶. The guideline on policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing¹¹⁷ was launched on 3 July 2023, followed by the launch of a joint UNICEF/WHO implementation tool to restrict food marketing on 7 July 2023. The guideline on fiscal policies to promote healthy diets is to be released in October 2023.

25. FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) jointly organized a meeting in March 2023 during which participants agreed on a framework for developing a protein database, the way forward for reviewing protein requirements and the need to collect more data from low- and middle-income countries including on climate smart crops.¹¹⁸ A new project under IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is supporting stable isotope techniques to assess protein quality of sustainable food sources in 16 Asian countries.¹¹⁹ A new research project aims to optimize the isotope method for vitamin A assessment for use in population surveys and programme evaluations since it is the only practical assessment method across the entire spectrum of vitamin A status.¹²⁰ A harmonised 'Master of Science in Applied Human Nutrition and Nuclear Techniques' was developed for Africa under the IAEA TCP and is now approved by two universities (South Africa and Morocco).
26. In collaboration with Wageningen University, IFAD has deepened the evidence base surrounding the linkages between climate and nutrition.¹²¹ Staff trainings were held and IFAD jointly with other partners advocated for enhancing climate finance towards improving diets and increased investment in nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart food system transformation. Several advocacy events were organized during COP26 and COP27 that underlined the importance of scaling up innovative and sustainable approaches to address climate change in

¹⁰⁹ www.unnutrition.org/library/publication/un-nutrition-journal-volume-1-transforming-nutrition

¹¹⁰ www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074033

¹¹¹ www.who.int/news/item/29-05-2023-new-wha-resolution-to-accelerate-efforts-on-food-micronutrient-fortification

¹¹² <https://extranet.who.int/iris/restricted/handle/10665/338525>

¹¹³ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345119>

¹¹⁴ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345128>

¹¹⁵ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345130>

¹¹⁶ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345114>

¹¹⁷ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/370113>

¹¹⁸ www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-and-fao-kickstart-the-development-of-pioneering-protein-quality-database

¹¹⁹ www.iaea.org/services/technical-cooperation-programme; www.iaea.org/projects/tc/ras6103

¹²⁰ www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/new-crp-optimising-nuclear-techniques-to-assess-vitamin-a-status-in-population-surveys-from-deficiency-to-excess-phase-ii-e43035; www.iaea.org/projects/crp/e43035

¹²¹ www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/webinar-food-systems-harnessing-nutrition-co-benefits-of-climate-resilient-agriculture

food systems for adaptation, mitigation and resilience. IFAD supported the AU Year of Nutrition by contributing to the UN-Nutrition joint nutrition narrative, provision of technical inputs to the Abidjan Declaration Implementation Plan, collaborating and supporting the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, supporting the AU Nutrition Summit hosted by the King of Lesotho focusing on increasing finance for nutrition. Moreover, in 2022, a comprehensive literature review of the evidence on the main drivers of overweight and obesity was produced and practice-based examples from five selected countries were provided.¹²² The *IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples: 2022 update*,¹²³ approved in December 2022, includes a principle of engagement on Food Sovereignty, food security and nutrition. For operationalizing this principle, IFAD has developed innovative tools, supported financially by the Government of Canada.¹²⁴ IFAD continued to meet its commitment to support the Decade, by approving in 2022, nine new nutrition-sensitive projects reaching IFAD's target of 60 percent. The ongoing 115 projects are reaching 2.07 million persons provided with nutrition support by 2022.

27. Following the launch of the Global Action Plan for Child Wasting in 2020 and the development of multi-systemic, costed country roadmaps in 2021, UNHCR continued to work alongside FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and others to advance the reduction of wasting efforts. UNHCR launched its Global Public Health and Nutrition Strategy 2021-2025¹²⁵ with a focus of ensuring adequate nutrition throughout the life cycle and eliminating all forms of malnutrition. Key priorities include promoting healthy diets, access to basic services, and prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition. During the 2021-2022 period, UNHCR and partners reached over 480 000 children in 30 countries who were affected by wasting; supported the promotion of infant and young child nutrition using the infant and young child feeding multisectoral framework for action¹²⁶ in 21 countries and reached over 9 million refugees with basic services and assistance that contribute towards the prevention of the various forms of malnutrition.
28. Guided by its Nutrition Strategy 2020-2030,¹²⁷ UNICEF provided thought leadership, strategic direction and technical support to end all forms of malnutrition in 141 countries. These actions led to 356.3 million children under-five and 116.1 million school-age children and adolescents reached with programmes for the prevention of malnutrition. Moreover, 182 million children benefited from programmes for the early detection and treatment of wasting, of which 7.3 million received treatment for severe wasting (a 33 percent increase from 2021), including in humanitarian contexts. As the combined effects of poverty, conflict and climate change created a global food and nutrition crisis, UNICEF mounted an unprecedented response – the No Time to Waste Acceleration Plan 2022-2033¹²⁸ – to mobilize USD 1.2 billion and reach more than 26 million children and women with essential maternal and child nutrition and nutrition-sensitive social protection actions for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting in the 15 worst-affected countries. An important milestone in UNICEF's thought leadership during this period was the publication of *Undernourished and Overlooked*,¹²⁹ which sounded the alarm on the crisis of undernutrition on adolescent girls and women.
29. Over the biennium 2021-2023, WFP significantly scaled up its programmes to address malnutrition and improve diets across 73 countries. In response to the worst global food crisis in modern history, in 2022, WFP assisted 160 million food-insecure people, while prioritizing efforts to save lives and prevent long-term negative impacts on children and communities. WFP reached more than 28 million vulnerable women and children with programmes to prevent and treat malnutrition across 49 countries, up from 17.3 million in 2020; worked to

¹²² www.ifad.org/nl/web/latest/-/overweight-and-obesity-and-its-linkages-to-food-systems-in-lmics

¹²³ www.ifad.org/documents/38711624/39417924/ip_policy_e.pdf/a7cd3bc3-8622-4302-afdf-6db216ad5feb

¹²⁴ www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/sustainable-and-resilient-indigenous-peoples-food-systems-for-improved-nutrition

¹²⁵ www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/612643544.pdf

¹²⁶ www.unhcr.org/media/infant-and-young-child-feeding-refugee-situations-multi-sectoral-framework-action

¹²⁷ www.unicef.org/reports/nutrition-strategy-2020-2030

¹²⁸ www.unicef.org/documents/NTTW-acceleration-plan-2022

¹²⁹ www.unicef.org/reports/undernourished-overlooked-nutrition-crisis

address root causes of malnutrition through strengthened resilience, food and social protection programmes across 69 countries. WFP's use of cash-based transfers reached record levels in 2022 in response to the global food and nutrition crisis, with the transfer of USD 3.3 billion in cash and vouchers. WFP also distributed fortified staples, such as maize meal, wheat flour, rice, oil, and salt, in 64 countries. Additionally, since 2022, WFP has supported 14 countries in ensuring food systems delivered healthier diets and improved nutrition through the Fill the Nutrient Gap analyses. Furthermore, WFP actively supported several Coalitions, created in the context of the UNFSS, including the HDSFS Coalition, the School Meals Coalition, the Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Coalition, and the Resilient Local Food Supply Chains Alliance. WFP also provided significant support to the roll-out of the AU Year of Nutrition in 2022, contributing to increased momentum for nutrition, particularly around coordination, impact, and accountability across the continent.¹³⁰

30. In 2022-2023, UN-Nutrition continued to bring the UN family together in support of the Decade and launched its Strategic Plan 2022-2030¹³¹ emphasizing supporting countries to address malnutrition and promote people's and planetary health. An online assessment of countries' nutrition coordination processes was conducted in 2022, showing improvements in coordination particularly in countries where the United Nations Resident Coordinator or Humanitarian Coordinator were actively engaged in nutrition. Specific guidance to mainstream nutrition in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks was produced and piloted, for wider dissemination in 2023. Importantly, in-depth support was provided to countries with financial support received from Irish Aid enabling nutrition policy environments in Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. The discussion paper *Nutrition and the environment: nurturing people, protecting the planet*¹³² was launched at COP27. Underpinning support to countries, UN-Nutrition worked on four key priority workstreams closely aligned with the Decade's action areas: (1) promoting healthy diets from sustainable food systems; (2) fostering private sector engagement for nutrition results; (3) addressing nutrition in crisis and fragile contexts; and (4) accelerating coordinated work on globally agreed malnutrition targets.
31. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly with WHO and UN-Nutrition, developed a methodology for investment cases on all forms of malnutrition, which was piloted in Zimbabwe. The nutrition investment cases are designed as advocacy tools to encourage governments to invest in sustainable and resilient food systems for improved nutrition and to strengthen multisectoral governance and accountability for nutrition. The work on nutrition investment cases was shared at international conferences including the N4G and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences-International Congress of Nutrition in December 2022. UNDP's work on the Tobacco Social Impact Bond in Zambia supports tobacco farmers to switch from growing tobacco to growing nutritious food crops instead. This work supports sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets and was discussed at the WHA in May 2023. The theme of World No Tobacco Day 2023 was *Grow food, not tobacco*.¹³³

IV. Way Forward

32. Despite the increased global attention to nutrition, healthy diets, food systems and the relation with human and planetary health, the world is not on track to meet its commitments to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the need, among others, to: (i) have resilient, fair and sustainable agrifood systems; (ii) recognize the role and rights of smallholders, family farmers, and food workers; (iii) acknowledge health actions as smart investments; (iv) strengthen the interconnectedness of food, health and ecosystems and the use of a One Health approach; (v) empower the voice

¹³⁰ https://executiveboard.wfp.org/document_download/WFP-0000148942

¹³¹ www.unnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Nutrition-Strategy-2022-2030_WEB_28Oct2022_EN.pdf

¹³² www.unnutrition.org/library/publication/nutrition-and-environment-nurturing-people-protecting-planet

¹³³ www.who.int/europe/news-room/events/item/2023/05/31/default-calendar/world-no-tobacco-day-2023--we-need-food--not-tobacco#

of youth, women and indigenous peoples; and (vi) reiterate good governance for nutrition. The UNFSS and the N4G convened in 2021 secured concrete bold multi-sectoral commitments towards eliminating all forms of malnutrition over the second half of the Decade by 2025 and towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

33. ECOSOC resolution 1989/84¹³⁴ on international decades provides that the implementation of a decade's programme of work should be appraised at the mid-point and at the end of the decade. In keeping with resolution 1989/84, the status of implementation of commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition should be reviewed at the end of the Decade, in an open and participatory process. The resolution also states that a subsequent decade could be proclaimed provide that the objectives of the first decade have not been fully attained.
34. In this regard, the Decade's Work Programme¹³⁵ foresees the convening of open and inclusive dialogues towards the end of the Decade, 2025, for reflection on global progress and challenges encountered and identification of potential way forward to continue advancing nutrition beyond 2025. This was also proposed in WHO's report to the Executive Board (EB152/24)¹³⁶ and supported by several Member States at WHA76 as well as in FAO's report to the FAO Programme Committee (PC 135/INF/6)¹³⁷. Planning is underway for the series of dialogues;
35. UN General Assembly resolution 77/285¹³⁸ emphasizes the need to "maintain political momentum to scale up nutrition action in the context of the follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit and to promote coordination between ongoing processes, including the work of the Committee on World Food Security, the coalitions, commitments and national pathways emanating from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, and the work programme of the Decade". The UNFSS +4 in 2025 could serve as global dialogue to assess the implementation of the Decade
36. The CFS is invited to provide guidance to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Decade on the proposed way forward including on the format of the dialogues at the end of the Decade.

¹³⁴ https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/75597/files/E_RES_1989_84-EN.pdf

¹³⁵ www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/work_programme_nutrition_decade.pdf

¹³⁶ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB152/B152_24-en.pdf

¹³⁷ www.fao.org/3/nl209en/nl209en.pdf

¹³⁸ <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/285>