



CFS 5



Application of CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition through the Front-of-Pack labelling system - High level side event in the context of the 50th World Committee on Food Security

Background

The World Committee on Food Security (CFS)' Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition ([CFS' VGFSyN](#)) are an inter-governmental and multi-stakeholder policy tool. They are intended to provide guidance mainly to governments as well as specialized institutions and other stakeholders on appropriate policies, responsible investments and institutional arrangements needed to address the key causes of malnutrition in all its forms from a food systems perspective (CFS, 2021). The CFS' VGFSyN recommend governments to promote evidence-based food and nutrition labelling, including Front-of-Pack labelling (FOPL) to allow consumers to correctly identify the amount of nutrients in products and promote healthy diets.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, one in four adults suffers from obesity and the prevalence of overweight in children under 5 years of age is above the world average (FAO, IFAD, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, 2022). In addition, at the regional level, hunger showed increases between 2017 and 2019, which moved us away from meeting the commitments of the SDGs for 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic accentuated this trend and added 13 million more people who suffered from hunger between 2019 and 2021, reaching 56.5 million.

Likewise, it had been estimated that the effects of the Russia-Ukraine War on food prices will further increase hunger levels in all regions of the world, which could also affect the prevalence of other forms of malnutrition due to an increase in the consumption of food products high in calories and critical nutrients (FAO, 2022).

In this context, front-of-package food labelling schemes are one of the cost-effective, evidence-based policies that promote food safety and contribute to the prevention of overweight and obesity, as well as other forms of malnutrition (Sacks et al., 2011a; WHO, 2017a; OECD, 2019). They support people to improve their knowledge, the quality of information and empower consumers to make healthier food choices.

In LAC, already ten countries have enacted FOPL regulation, from which six were implemented (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Peru and Ecuador) and four are in this process (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela). The experience and evidence accumulated in the region on the matter have allowed FOPL systems to evolve towards a system that currently produces the best results in real scenarios. The black warning octagons effectively reduce purchases of products with excessive amounts of nutrients and contribute to the reformulation of products, without affecting jobs in the food production sector (INTA, 2018; CPI, 2020; Corvalán et al., 2021; Paraje et al., 2021; Paraje et al., 2022).

In addition, it is known that FOPL with other policies to reduce supply and demand for products with excess critical nutrients -such as regulations in school environments and food marketing- allows Latin American countries to contribute to the transformation of their food systems at the regional level (FAO, PAHO and WHO. 2016; Dillman et al., 2020).

General objective of the side event

To share evidence and good practices from several LAC countries and key stakeholders in the application of FOPL, in the context of the CFS' VGFSyN.

Organizers

- FAO
- Parliamentary front against hunger (FPH)
- Unicef
- Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)
- Consumers International (CI)
- Right to food observatory (ODA)
- Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO)

Date and format

Date: October 12, 2022

Time: 18:30 – 19:45 Rome time (75 minutes session)

Format: English/ Spanish virtual session. Register [HERE](#)

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AGENDA

TIME	SESSION
5 minutes	Welcome – Chair , Daniela Godoy, Senior Policy Officer Food Security and Nutrition
15 minutes Five interventions (3 minutes each)	Greetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO Regional Representative for LAC – Mr. Mario Lubetkin • Diana Carolina Corcho Mejia, Ministry of Health –Colombia • Hugo Lopez Gatell, Secretary of Health Prevention and Promotion- Mexico • Jairo Flores – FPH Latin America and the Caribbean Coordinator • Stefan Larenas – ODECU President/ Consumer international member
1 minute	VIDEO FOPL MÉXICO UNICEF link (to confirm)
40 minutes Five presenters (5 minutes each one)	Panel Evidence and alignment with VGFSyN guidelines Moderator- FAO – Israel Ríos, Nutrition Officer FAO SLM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 1 – INTA – Camila Corvalán- Impact of Chilean labeling in the food production sector • Panelist 2 – PAHO- Fabio Da Silva Gomez- Superiority of nutritional warnings in LAC • Panelist 3 – Unicef – Paula Veliz- FOPL in LAC and the superiority of children's rights • Panelist 4 – HCC – Maisha Hutton – Evidence and implementation challenges in the Caribbean • Panelist 5 - ODA – Alejandra Girona - ODA perspective in favor of FOPL.
10 minutes	Conclusions and clousure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniela Godoy, Senior Policy Officer Food Security and Nutrition

*Agenda may be subject to minor change

Target audience: Government authorities and decision makers, representatives of academia, civil society and private sector who design, are interested, implement or evaluate this type of policy and regulation.