

UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

SIDE EVENT REPORT

Overcoming the Synergistic Determinants of the Multiple Burden of Malnutrition through Healthy Food Systems: Potentialities of South-South Cooperation in the Nurture the Future Project

27 July 2025 | 14:00 – 15:15

Organizers and partners: Ministry of Health of Brazil, WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger Brazil; Ministry of Health of Peru; Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Side event overview (50-100 words): This side event explored how South-South cooperation can address the synergistic determinants of the multiple burden of malnutrition in Latin America, with a focus on school-aged children. It presented integrated, intersectoral approaches linking health, education, agriculture, and social protection. Through the Nurture the Future South-South cooperation project's results and other initiatives, the session highlighted strategies for building healthy, sustainable food systems, fostering policy innovation, and strengthening technical and institutional capacities in the Global South.

List of speakers and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Mrs. Angela Leal - Director of the Department of Health Promotion and Prevention - Ministry of Health of Brazil	Mrs. Angela Leal highlighted that the multiple forms of malnutrition are driven by synergistic determinants—interconnected biological, environmental, social, and behavioral factors that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations and deepen inequalities. Thus Brazil's commitment to tackling multiple forms of malnutrition is carried out through intersectoral action and cooperation. She underscored the role of the country's universal public health system (SUS) and primary health care in promoting breastfeeding, healthy complementary feeding, and reducing the consumption of ultra-processed foods in early childhood,

	<p>guided by internationally recognized Brazilian dietary guidelines. She then emphasized long-standing nutritional supplementation programs, the integration of health and education through the School Health Program, and the importance of equitable, sustainable, and culturally appropriate policies. Her address concluded by reaffirming the value of South-South cooperation in building fairer food and health systems for children.</p>
<p>2. Mrs. Beatriz Quispe - National Coordinator for the Healthy Eating Component of the Ministry of Health of Peru</p>	<p>Mrs. Beatriz Quispe pointed out that Peru faces a persistent multiple burden of malnutrition—ranging from chronic child undernutrition and anemia to rising overweight and obesity—which heavily impacts population health, strains the health system, and causes significant economic and social losses, affecting up to 3% of the country’s GDP and having impacts over work productivity, schooling absenteeism and pressure to raise public investment and social assistance. To address these synergistic determinants, the Ministry of Health promotes “double-duty” strategies that tackle undernutrition and excess weight simultaneously through life-course nutrition promotion, community and intercultural education, healthier food environments, front-of-pack labelling and advertising regulation, and intersectoral territorial coordination. Mrs. Quispe also stressed that investing in integrated, evidence-based, and equity-driven interventions is essential to strengthen health, reduce inequalities, and ensure sustainable development.</p>
<p>3. Dr. Luiza Trabuco - Extraordinary Secretary for the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty - Ministry of Social Development, Family, and Fight Against Hunger of Brazil</p>	<p>Dr. Luiza Trabuco emphasized Brazil’s intersectoral approach to tackling the synergistic determinants of malnutrition by integrating health, education, social protection, agriculture, and food systems policies through the National Food and Nutrition Security System (Sisan). She highlighted initiatives such as the Brazil without hunger Plan, which has lifted 24 million people out of severe food insecurity since 2023, and the role of the Interministerial Chamber of Food and Nutrition Security (Caisan) in coordinating 24 ministries to advance just, healthy, and sustainable food systems. Civil society engagement through national conferences and the upcoming 3rd National Plan on Food and Nutrition Security (III Plansan 2025–2027) is also underscored by her as key to shaping and monitoring goals across sectors. Finally, Dr. Trabuco reaffirmed Brazil’s commitment to the human right to</p>

	<p>adequate food, the 2030 Agenda, and global cooperation, including through the Global Alliance Against Hunger and opportunities like COP 30, stressing the importance of collective action for a healthier, more sustainable future.</p>
<p>4. Mr. Daniel Balaban - Director - Centre of Excellence against Hunger, World Food Programme</p>	<p>Mr. Daniel Balaban underscored that health and nutrition are shaped by social, economic, and political factors that often perpetuate inequalities, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as low-income families, women, Black populations, and traditional communities. In this context, the Nurture the future South-South cooperation project addresses the multiple burden of malnutrition in school-aged populations. The initiative has delivered capacity-building and educational materials, conducted comparative analyses, strengthened knowledge networks, and fostered institutional capacity in nutrition and health sectors, in order to address undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity. Its new phase will focus on monitoring health and nutrition indicators, preventing nutritional deficiencies, and enhancing intersectoral collaboration between health and education. The project's core lesson is that combating malnutrition requires integrated, cross-sector approaches that produce concrete results in building healthier and more sustainable food systems.</p>
<p>5. Mrs. Riffat Iqbal - Project Analyst at the General Coordination for South-South and Trilateral Cooperation with International Organizations - Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)</p>	<p>Mrs. Riffat Iqbal discussed Brazil's view of South-South cooperation as a strategic instrument to address the multiple burden of malnutrition—encompassing undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity—driven by synergistic determinants such as food insecurity, poverty, urbanization, dietary shifts, limited access to healthy foods, unsustainable agriculture, and aggressive marketing of unhealthy products. Guided by constitutional principles of solidarity and horizontal exchange, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) coordinates technical and humanitarian partnerships, including the innovative trilateral model with international organizations, which combines national expertise with global reach to institutionalize best practices and strengthen governance in the Global South. This cooperation enables the sharing of integrated public policies—from nutrition education and primary health protocols to regulatory measures on labeling, advertising, and taxation—while also building political commitment to the human right to adequate</p>

food. Initiatives like *Nurture the Future*, school feeding coalitions, the Sustainable School Feeding Network, and AlimentaLAB illustrate how these partnerships promote culturally appropriate, sustainable food systems, directly tackling structural causes of malnutrition and ensuring healthier diets for vulnerable populations.

Overall session summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 300 words)

The session highlighted the urgency of addressing the multiple burden of malnutrition, shaped by synergistic determinants such as poverty, food insecurity, inequities, and unsustainable food systems, using the Nurture the Future South-south cooperation project as an example. Speakers from Brazil, Peru, the WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE), and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) emphasized the need for intersectoral, rights-based, and equity-driven strategies that integrate health, education, agriculture, and social protection. Brazil underscored the role of its universal health system, dietary guidelines, and food and nutrition security governance mechanisms, alongside the *Brazil without Hunger Plan*, which has lifted millions out of severe food insecurity. Peru emphasized the social and economic costs of malnutrition and presented double-duty interventions to simultaneously address undernutrition and obesity through community education, healthier food environments, and regulatory measures. The WFP CoE shared lessons from the *Nurture the Future* project, including capacity building, knowledge exchange, and evidence generation, reaffirming that combating malnutrition requires integrated, cross-sector solutions. ABC highlighted South-South cooperation as innovative frameworks to share best practices, institutionalize effective policies, and strengthen governance in the Global South.

Conclusions

1. Malnutrition in all its forms is a structural challenge requiring systemic, intersectoral, and multilevel responses.
2. South-South cooperation is a powerful mechanism to foster shared solutions, promote culturally appropriate policies, and reduce inequities.
3. Integrated approaches—combining nutrition promotion, social protection, and regulatory frameworks—are essential to strengthen resilience and sustainability of food systems.

Recommended Actions

- Expand investment in double-duty interventions targeting the multiple burden of malnutrition.
- Strengthen intersectoral governance platforms towards a food systems approach that align health, education, agriculture, and social protection.
- Scale up South-South cooperation initiatives to replicate successful experiences.
- Prioritize community engagement, culturally sensitive approaches, and civil society participation in designing and monitoring policies.
- Promote regulatory frameworks to improve food environments and protect vulnerable groups.