

Second International Conference on Nutrition

19-21 November 2014, Rome, Italy



The Zero Hunger Challenge and ICN2

WHAT

The Zero Hunger Challenge, launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the Rio Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, envisions a future where no individual is hungry or food insecure. The vision can be achieved by ensuring that everyone everywhere has stable access to adequate food and nourishment all year round; no child less than two years old experiences long term undernutrition (or stunting); smallholders' production and incomes are at least doubled; all food systems are made sustainable; and waste and loss of food are reduced to barest minimums.

"We are the first generation in history that can end hunger. We cannot let this opportunity slip through our fingers."

*José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General*

The Secretary-General's Zero Hunger vision builds upon ongoing efforts by communities, cities, nations and regional organizations across the globe. It calls for a comprehensive commitment by individuals from all sectors to eliminate hunger worldwide within our lifetimes. By encouraging investments in agriculture, improved food systems, rural employment, and social protection, the Zero Hunger Challenge will make a major contribution to peace and stability and to the reduction of poverty.



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ICN2 and the Zero Hunger Challenge

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) is well aligned with the Zero Hunger Challenge in its vision to eliminate hunger and malnutrition by improving diets and thereby raising levels of nutrition and to create a more sustainable, equitable food system. Both call for the commitment and participation of multiple stakeholders, including governments, researchers, the private sector and civil society organizations, to work together to address major nutrition challenges. ICN2 will bring these groups together to collectively endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for action for improving nutrition worldwide. One of the overall goals of ICN2 is to contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda, including the Zero Hunger Challenge, by ensuring a higher degree of policy attention to nutrition issues at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels.



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How

There are five key pillars in the Zero Hunger Challenge vision.

FAO and ICN2 will address each in a number of ways.

1. **Zero stunted children less than 2 years.**
161 million children under the age of five were estimated to be stunted or chronically malnourished (low height-for-age) in 2013, and 51 million children under five were estimated to be wasted or acutely malnourished (low weight-for-height). Maternal and childhood nutrition is a key priority for ICN2. Participants are advocating for nutrition interventions that start from the early stages of life, before and during pregnancy for mothers, and for the first 1 000 days of children's lives, to promote and support adequate breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding, as well as healthy eating in the home and at school during childhood.
2. **100% access to adequate food all year round.**
Year-around access to sufficient, affordable and culturally acceptable food, adequate both in quantity and quality, is a key determinant of good nutrition. In an effort to improve access to adequate food, FAO is raising awareness and garnering support for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems. This approach puts nutritionally-rich foods, dietary diversity, and food fortification at the heart of overcoming malnutrition, while simultaneously supporting rural livelihoods.
3. **All food systems are sustainable.**
Good nutrition requires sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems. ICN2 is predicated on the agreement that food systems should be sustainable, and all components for food production, processing and distribution (including land, soil, seeds, fertilizers, water, energy, harvesting, storage and transport) should be managed sustainably, with due attention to environmental and climatic impacts.
4. **100% increase in smallholder productivity and income.**
Supporting smallholder farming has the dual benefit of reducing rural poverty and increasing the availability of healthy, culturally appropriate food. FAO is raising the profile of family and smallholder farming through initiatives such as the International Year of Family Farming. One of the goals of ICN2 is to reshape food systems in a way that will ultimately strengthen local farmers and ensure the health of the population at large.
5. **Zero loss or waste of food.**
FAO and ICN2 stakeholders also recognize that efforts should be made to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste throughout the food chain, including consumption, as these can negatively impact sustainability and nutrition security.

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#icn2

