



# COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

## **Forty-ninth Session**

***"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"***

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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**

### **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 Decade's implementation with a Work Programme.

This third biennial progress report updates on progress made in the implementation of ICN2 commitments and the Decade since October 2019, covering key developments towards achieving the global nutrition and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets. These include advances in nutrition-related activities within the six action areas of the Decade's Work Programme. It also documents stakeholders' engagement in nutrition, induced by the Decade, as well as advances in the science-base for improved nutrition and interlinkages with other nutrition-relevant global processes such as the UN Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2021.

This reporting period is marked by the impacts of the COVID pandemic, which is threatening the food security, nutrition and health of millions of people around the world. Addressing these requires large scale coordinated action across sectors and borders and securing concrete, bold commitments and plans for the remaining years of the Decade towards eliminating all forms of malnutrition by 2025 and achieving the SDGs by 2030.

## I. BACKGROUND

1. In April 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 70/259<sup>1</sup> 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 Nutrition<sup>2</sup> and its companion Framework for Action<sup>3</sup>. 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.
2. The Decade provides all stakeholders with a unique time-bound opportunity to strengthen joint efforts to implement the ICN2 commitments and recommendations, alongside the nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs will only be achieved when much greater political focus is devoted to improving nutrition, as nutrition is both an input and an outcome of sustainable development. The Decade puts the spotlight on nutrition at the highest political levels with particular focus on SDG2 and SDG3.
3. The Decade aims to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the global nutrition and diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD) targets by 2025, and contribute to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030.
4. The Decade provides an enabling environment for all countries, regardless of their income, the nature of their malnutrition challenges or the characteristics of their food and health systems, to ensure that governments and stakeholders take action to develop and implement inclusive policies aimed at ending all forms of malnutrition.
5. 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 Nutrition<sup>4</sup> and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms; and (iii) produce biennial reports on Decade’s implementation.
6. Designed in 2017, with the contribution of CFS stakeholders, the Decade’s Work Programme embraces six cross-cutting and connected action areas, based on the 60 recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action, building upon and connecting initiatives of governments and their many partners.<sup>5</sup>
7. 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 specific 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/259>.

<sup>2</sup> [www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> [www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> UN Nutrition is a UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration mechanism for nutrition at the global and country levels, which was established in 2020 as the result of the merger of the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and the UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. [www.unnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-12-04-SG-letter-to-CEB-on-UN-Nutrition-EOSG-2020-065261.pdf](http://www.unnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-12-04-SG-letter-to-CEB-on-UN-Nutrition-EOSG-2020-065261.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> [www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/work\\_programme\\_nutrition\\_decade.pdf](http://www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/work_programme_nutrition_decade.pdf).

promoting collaboration for improved nutrition. Key information is further available on the Decade's website.<sup>6</sup>

8. This third biennial report examines the progress made on ICN2 commitments and Decade's implementation since CFS 46, covering key developments at international, regional and country levels in the six action areas of the Decade with relevance to the work of CFS and its stakeholders.

## II. ADVANCEMENTS IN ACTION AREAS OF THE DECADE'S WORK PROGRAMME

9. While some progress has been made during the first half of the Decade, from 2016 to 2021, the nutrition challenges facing countries continue to evolve and grow. Solutions require strong sustained political leadership. Global, regional and country developments in the last two years in the six action areas include the following:

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

- a) Current food systems are not delivering the quality diets needed for optimal health, are putting pressure on the planet's natural resources<sup>7</sup> and climate and are accelerating biodiversity loss<sup>8</sup>. Agriculture and food production are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and account for large portions of the planet's land and fresh-water use.<sup>9</sup> Healthy diets are unaffordable for 3 billion people worldwide.<sup>10</sup> Food systems need to be re-aligned in ways that make them more resilient and sustainable, ensuring they deliver nutritious foods for the healthy diets needed for people's and planetary health, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shown their true fragility;<sup>11</sup>
- b) Under the Decade, the critical role of sustainable food systems, and the need to work across sectors and with multiple partners, promoting policy coherence to address malnutrition in all its forms, has gained increased recognition within intergovernmental and scientific fora. The nutrition narrative is shifting towards a more holistic approach linking it with food systems, climate and health. One high-level process is the UN Food Systems Summit (UN FSS) 2021.<sup>12</sup> Within the scientific community, interconnections between different forms of malnutrition and healthy diets from sustainable food systems have further evolved. These recognize the potential for policy options across food systems to deliver double duty actions that address malnutrition in all its forms.<sup>13</sup> The 2019 Lancet Commission Report on Obesity<sup>14</sup> highlighted food, transport and urban systems as systemic drivers of obesity, and actions across these drivers as obesity solutions.
- c) The critical role of a sustainable food systems approach in eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition is also underlined by the 2019 Report<sup>15</sup> of the UN Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, emphasizing the need for inclusive food

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<sup>6</sup> [www.un.org/nutrition](http://www.un.org/nutrition)

<sup>7</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>.

<sup>8</sup> [www.fao.org/3/CA3129EN/CA3129EN.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/CA3129EN/CA3129EN.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> [www.ipcc.ch/srccl/](http://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/).

<sup>10</sup> [www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4474en](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4474en); [www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9692en/](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9692en/).

<sup>11</sup> <https://foresight.glopan.org/>.

<sup>12</sup> [www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit](http://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit).

<sup>13</sup> [www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2818%2931788-4](http://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2818%2931788-4) ; [www.thelancet.com/series/double-burden-malnutrition](http://www.thelancet.com/series/double-burden-malnutrition).

<sup>14</sup> [www.worldobesity.org/what-we-do/projects/lancet-commission-on-obesity/lancet-commission-report-on-obesity](http://www.worldobesity.org/what-we-do/projects/lancet-commission-on-obesity/lancet-commission-report-on-obesity).

<sup>15</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/74/237>.

systems that work for nutrition, improving sustainability by reducing food losses, ensuring food safety, and strengthening climate resilience. Furthermore, the 2020 version of this Report<sup>16</sup> examines transformational change in food systems and how it can help accelerate achieving the SDGs and enhancing food security and nutrition, including during the COVID-19 pandemic;

- d) In December 2019, the General Assembly adopted resolution 74/244<sup>17</sup> designating 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. Moreover, resolution 74/209<sup>18</sup>, dedicating 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, was passed following requests for more sustainable patterns of production and consumption at the FAO Conference in 2019;
- e) CFS 47 in February 2021 endorsed the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN),<sup>19</sup> which was the outcome of an extensive process of multi-stakeholder consultations and negotiations. The VGFSyN are CFS's contribution to the Decade supporting countries and their partners in operationalizing the ICN2 recommendations. It aims to support the development of coordinated multi-sectoral national policies, laws, programmes and investment plans to enable sustainable food systems to provide safe and healthy diets. They are expected to provide valuable input into the UN FSS;
- f) The Decade's Work Programme urges for the integration of food safety considerations into food systems action to ensure progress in improving nutrition. In May 2020, WHO Member States adopted resolution WHA73.5 to strengthen efforts on food safety urging them to apply a One Health approach across supply chains and promoting sustainability and affordability of safe, sufficient nutritious food for all populations. Member States requested that WHO, in coordination with FAO and in consultation with Member States and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), updates the Global strategy for food safety to address current and emerging challenges, incorporating new technologies and innovative strategies to strengthening food safety systems.<sup>20</sup>
- g) The emergence of COVID-19 has underlined the urgent need to strengthen the One Health approach, emphasizing the connections between human, animal and environmental health, in line with promoting a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19.<sup>21</sup> In 2021, FAO, OIE, UN 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.

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

- h) As outlined in the Decade's Work Programme, strong health systems are needed to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms through the delivery of evidence-informed nutrition interventions and services for all ages in all settings and diseases that can aggravate undernutrition. Health systems also must deal with the long-term health consequences associated with overweight and obesity and the prevention and control of diet-related NCDs. Integrating nutrition into Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is one of three core areas of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit<sup>22</sup> in December 2021 and new financial and policy

<sup>16</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/75/272>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/244>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/209>.

<sup>19</sup> [www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs2021/Documents/CFS\\_VGs\\_Food\\_Systems\\_and\\_Nutrition\\_Strategy\\_EN.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs2021/Documents/CFS_VGs_Food_Systems_and_Nutrition_Strategy_EN.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA73/A73\\_R5-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA73/A73_R5-en.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> [www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-manifesto-healthy-recovery-covid19](http://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-manifesto-healthy-recovery-covid19).

<sup>22</sup> <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/events/>.

commitments are expected to pave the way towards achieving the global nutrition targets;

- i) Health system disruptions, like those seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbate all forms of malnutrition through their impact on the delivery of essential health and nutrition interventions. A strengthened health system response for nutritional care needs to ensure the continuity of nutrition services, particularly early detection and community-based management of wasting, infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition programmes, while using adequate measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission and safeguarding public confidence in national health systems;<sup>23</sup>
- j) Making specific reference to the Decade, the Declaration<sup>24</sup> of the G20 Meeting of Health Ministers (Okayama, October 2019) committed to accelerate efforts to enhance nutrition and address all forms of malnutrition. Through the Rome Declaration<sup>25</sup> presented at the Global Health Summit (Rome, May 2021), leaders of G20 and other states committed to undertake health promotion and work on the social determinants of health to address, inter alia, food and nutrition, as part of efforts to enhance overall resilience to future health crises;
- k) The first Global Action Plan on Child Wasting (GAP), released in March 2020 and developed by FAO, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, WFP and WHO with inputs from other key stakeholders, presents a framework to accelerate progress in preventing and managing child wasting and achieving the SDG target on child wasting. Six countries have finalized their GAP Country Operational Roadmaps and another sixteen are currently developing them.<sup>26</sup> Further potential support could be leveraged by positioning GAP Country Operational Roadmaps as nationally endorsed game-changing opportunities to scale up impactful nutrition actions, as part of the UN FSS and Tokyo N4G Summit;

### ***Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education***

- l) Social protection and school health and nutrition programmes can deliver double-duty actions addressing both undernutrition and overweight and obesity.<sup>27</sup> An in-depth review of legislation, standards and guidelines for school food in 77 Member States found that they refer to food or nutrient-based criteria including the promotion of fruits, vegetables and clean drinking water and recommendations to discourage carbonated and non-carbonated soft drinks.<sup>28</sup> WFP estimated that 370 million children missed school meals due COVID-19-related school closures;<sup>29</sup>
- m) The COVID-19 pandemic reduced dietary intake quality in many countries due to pandemic-induced income losses and breakdown of food markets because of demand shocks and supply constraints. Given the socio-economic effects of this pandemic, social protection systems will become the mainstay for many people for the duration of the current crisis and possibly beyond. Strengthened social protection systems for nutrition are needed;<sup>30</sup>
- n) The 2020 WHO-UNICEF-Lancet Commission report “A future for the world’s children” considers ways in which governments, medical professionals, and society can accelerate progress on child health and wellbeing strategies. The report advocates for more public

<sup>23</sup> [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg\\_policy\\_brief\\_on\\_covid\\_impact\\_on\\_food\\_security.pdf](http://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_food_security.pdf);  
[www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-essential-health-services-2020.1](http://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-essential-health-services-2020.1).

<sup>24</sup> [www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/G20Okayama\\_HM\\_EN.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/G20Okayama_HM_EN.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> [www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html).

<sup>26</sup> [www.childwasting.org/](http://www.childwasting.org/); [www.childwasting.org/the-gap-framework](http://www.childwasting.org/the-gap-framework).

<sup>27</sup> <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/255414/WHO-NMH-NHD-17.2-eng.pdf>.

<sup>28</sup> [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB148/B148\\_7-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB148/B148_7-en.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> [www.wfp.org/school-meals](http://www.wfp.org/school-meals).

<sup>30</sup> [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg\\_policy\\_brief\\_on\\_covid\\_impact\\_on\\_food\\_security.pdf](http://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_food_security.pdf);  
[www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf).

financing of services, effective delivery, and equitable social protection to meet the SDGs;<sup>31</sup>

- o) The 13th “Policies against Hunger” Conference held in June 2021 in Berlin organized by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, released specific recommendations on how to make best use of school nutrition contributing to ending hunger and malnutrition, sending out a vital signal to enhance global cooperation in this regard;<sup>32</sup>

#### ***Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition***

- p) Trade has the potential to expand consumer choices and contribute to healthy diets including allowing sufficient quantities of diverse, nutritious foods to be available all year round. Imports may be a source of minimally-processed nutritious foods with a longer shelf life that can contribute to offsetting seasonal scarcity of perishable foods. Trade can also contribute to nutrition outcomes through its support to livelihoods and income generation for those working throughout the food system, particularly those engaged in primary food production. Certain global value chains and agri-food industries currently produce food products high in unhealthy fats, sugars and/or salt. Increased globalization of the food supply increases exposure to various food hazards. 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;
- q) The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (GLOPAN), demonstrates in their 2021 paper the benefits of aligning trade policies with the goal of providing healthy diets from sustainable food systems for all. The brief provides guidance and outlines why policymakers should pay more attention to the value of trade instruments as part of their portfolio of nutrition actions;<sup>33</sup>
- r) The 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report identified improved trade standards with a nutrition-oriented focus among the key policy areas for strengthening food environments to promote health dietary patterns with positive impacts on the environment;<sup>34</sup>
- s) Accelerated investment should be a pillar of the COVID-19 response, aiming for immediate impact to sustain and improve livelihoods, while also preparing for a more inclusive, environmentally sustainable and resilient food system recovery;<sup>35</sup>

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

- t) The COVID-19 pandemic has re-emphasized the need for policies and programmes that ensure safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages. School closures, diminished or suspended promotion of breastfeeding and nutrition counselling activities, and altered purchasing patterns favouring products with poorer nutrition quality, are documented outcomes of the pandemic;<sup>36</sup>
- u) Thus far, 189 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 (181 countries) than those that seek to change the food environment (156). Of the 120 countries with nutrition labelling regulations, 78 have implemented mandatory nutrient declaration for all pre-packaged food. Furthermore,

<sup>31</sup> [www.unicef.org/mexico/media/2916/file/Child%20health.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/media/2916/file/Child%20health.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> [www.policies-against-hunger.de/en/](http://www.policies-against-hunger.de/en/).

<sup>33</sup> [www.glopan.org/trade](http://www.glopan.org/trade).

<sup>34</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>.

<sup>35</sup> [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg\\_policy\\_brief\\_on\\_covid\\_impact\\_on\\_food\\_security.pdf](http://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_covid_impact_on_food_security.pdf).

<sup>36</sup> [www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf); [www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9692en/](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9692en/).



76 countries have imposed taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages<sup>37</sup> and 57 have implemented policies to limit *trans*-fatty acids from the food supply; if successful, elimination will protect 3.2 billion people from those harmful substances by the end of 2021;<sup>38</sup>.

- v) Food environments within the urban food agenda in high- and middle-income countries were discussed at the 5th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Annual Gathering and Mayors Summit (Montpellier, October 2019), highlighting healthy diets as an important strategy to address nutrition challenges in urban contexts;<sup>39</sup>
- w) May 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.<sup>40</sup> To date, most countries (70%) have enacted legislation to implement at least some provisions of the Code. Unfortunately, only 25 countries have implemented measures that are substantially aligned with the Code;<sup>41</sup>

### ***Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition***

- x) The Decade's Work Programme outlines the responsibility of governments in fostering political dialogue and commitment. Governance processes should be transparent, accountable and conducive to the full participation of all stakeholders. Partnerships and platforms to promote collaboration should take the ICN2 outcomes, the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets, and the 2030 Agenda as essential references providing shared norms and standards;
- y) The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging health, food, education and social protection systems world-wide, and the gains already made in addressing malnutrition in all its forms must be protected through increased and well-targeted, official development assistance, and domestic resource allocations that focus on nutrition;<sup>42</sup>
- z) To date, most countries have adopted the global nutrition targets for 2025, covering child stunting (118 countries), anaemia in women (104), low birth weight (119), child overweight (138), exclusive breastfeeding (130) and child wasting (112).<sup>43</sup> Strengthened monitoring mechanisms are needed to track progress in achieving national targets. Nutrition data and information systems serve as a foundation to boost nutrition action;
- aa) In March 2021, UNICEF, WHO and World Bank released the new annual global estimates for child stunting, overweight and wasting. These supersede former analyses results published by the Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) group.<sup>44</sup> The SOFI reports in 2020<sup>45</sup> and 2021<sup>46</sup> as well as the 2020 Global Nutrition Report<sup>47</sup> used, analyzed and discussed global data on hunger and malnutrition, informing the monitoring of the nutrition-related targets of the SDGs and policy action;

<sup>37</sup> <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en>.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/replace-trans-fat>

<sup>39</sup> [www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/global-forum/montpellier-2019/](http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/global-forum/montpellier-2019/)

<sup>40</sup> [www.who.int/news/item/21-05-2021-WHO-UNICEF-statement-on-the-40th-anniversary-of-the-international-code-of-marketing-breastmilk-substitutes](http://www.who.int/news/item/21-05-2021-WHO-UNICEF-statement-on-the-40th-anniversary-of-the-international-code-of-marketing-breastmilk-substitutes).

<sup>41</sup> [www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240006010](http://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240006010).

<sup>42</sup> [www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf).

<sup>43</sup> <https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en>.

<sup>44</sup> [www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates-unicef-who-wb?id=402](http://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates-unicef-who-wb?id=402).

<sup>45</sup> [www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9692en/](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9692en/).

<sup>46</sup> [www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf).

<sup>47</sup> <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2020-global-nutrition-report/>.

- bb) A second report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Decade was delivered to the General Assembly on 13 April 2020;<sup>48</sup>
- cc) FAO organized a webinar in December 2020 to review FAO's contribution to global nutrition since its establishment with the given mandate on "raising levels of nutrition".<sup>49</sup>

### III. FURTHER ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS INDUCED BY THE DECADE

#### *Commitments by governments*

10. Country commitments for action are key to the Decade's support in leveraging government policy development, investments and actions on the ground. No additional formal commitments have been submitted to the joint FAO/WHO Decade Secretariat during the reporting period of this report.
11. The Tokyo N4G Summit will provide an opportunity to take stock and make new financial and policy commitments at the mid-term of the Decade. It will bring together countries, donors and partners to demonstrate progress and present clear commitments towards the global nutrition targets and the SDGs.
12. High-level commitments on ICN2 recommendations made by governments through the Tokyo N4G Summit, the UN FSS or other existing platforms may be submitted to the Decade Secretariat for inclusion in the Decade repository.<sup>50</sup>

#### *Country-led action networks*

13. Led and coordinated by one or more countries, action networks allow countries to exchange knowledge and good practices, successes and challenges, and provide mutual support to accelerate progress to improve food systems, diets and nutrition for all through policies and legislation.
14. In October 2019, Germany announced plans to form a peer-to-peer network to foster healthy, sustainable school nutrition by supporting the exchange of national government experts. This network, which is currently under development, is going to be integrated into the multi-stakeholder "School Meals Coalition" built up during the preparatory process of the UN FSS.
15. The Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, led by Norway, organized a workshop in September 2020 to discuss the Action Plan and review a "Gain and Share tool".<sup>51</sup> In 2021, it also organized three Independent UN FSS Dialogues on the role of aquatic foods in sustainable food systems.<sup>52</sup>
16. The Global Action Network on Nutrition Labelling, which is being led by France, Australia and Chile, shared experiences in two virtual webinars in 2020. The first discussed an evaluation of

<sup>48</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/74/794>.

<sup>49</sup> [www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5447/icode/](http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5447/icode/).

<sup>50</sup> [www.un.org/nutrition/commitments/database](http://www.un.org/nutrition/commitments/database).

<sup>51</sup> <https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean/meetings-and-events/online-workshop-september-2020/>.

<sup>52</sup> <https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean/meetings-and-events/webinar-30april-2021/>;

<https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean/meetings-and-events/webinar-20-may/>;

<https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean/meetings-and-events/webinar-25june2021/>.



Australia and New Zealand's health star rating system<sup>53</sup> and the second gave an overview on the development of the Chilean front-of-package food warning label<sup>54</sup>.

17. The Regional Action Network for the Americas on Sustainable School Feeding, led by Brazil, organized two virtual meetings in 2020<sup>55</sup> to exchange experiences on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school feeding programmes. In addition, a virtual discussion in February 2021<sup>56</sup> was facilitated, where Peru, Brazil, Colombia and El Salvador presented their experiences in school feeding programs and a virtual dialogue in April 2021<sup>57</sup> on food waste in schools.

### *Contributions by non-state actors*

18. CARE pledged its support to the Decade (September 2019)<sup>58</sup> using an integrated model entitled "Collective Impact for Nutrition (CI4N)"<sup>59</sup> developed through 10 years of programming across multiple countries using the 2013 Lancet nutrition interventions<sup>60</sup>. For example, under this programme, Bangladesh, has reduced food insecurity for 1.5 million people, by increasing the number of households growing vegetables and household's dietary diversity. Nepal has reduced food insecurity for nearly 1.2 million people through health and nutrition services that target adolescents, addressing anaemia and food diversity. In collaboration with the Graca Machel Trust, a second regional nutrition budget analysis has been developed for Southern and East Africa, which examines government commitments and disbursements on nutrition and emphasizes the importance of achieving nutrition objectives and nutrition-sensitive development planning.

19. The Civil Society (CS) Nutrition Group facilitated civil society coordination and collaboration on the Decade and ICN2 follow-up by sharing information on nutrition-related research, policies and initiatives, organising dialogues, and promoting the effective participation and engagement of those most affected by hunger and malnutrition in reshaping nutrition policies. This primarily took place in the context of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) of the CFS. During the reporting period of this report, the CS Nutrition Group focused on the CFS policy convergence processes on "Food Systems and Nutrition" and "Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches". In particular, CSM actively participated in the negotiations on the CFS VGFSyN with the high ambition that the development of such guidelines would be crucial to address the ecological, climate, justice, sanitary, nutritional and hunger crisis that humanity is facing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CSM also published ground-level experiences and concerns from constituencies and communities around the world, with dedicated reports from women and youth.<sup>61</sup>

20. Since committing their support to the Decade in February 2019, GLOPAN has fulfilled its pledge through a programme of high-level roundtables in Pakistan, Ghana, Nepal and Ethiopia. These roundtables brought together policymakers from different sectors in the food system to engage them around Decade's Action Area 1 and discuss the policy options required to achieve sustainable, resilient food systems that provide healthy diets for all. During this time, the Panel also continued to produce and deliver evidence in the form of four evidence-based technical and policy briefs and a second Foresight report to encourage and support governments in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) as they design and implement food and nutrition policies.<sup>62</sup>

21. The Global Dairy Platform has been initiating, and/or refining existing projects with global health and environmental implications. The Dairy Nourishes Africa (DNA) program helped dairy

<sup>53</sup> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_5ZhsriDEo&t=41s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_5ZhsriDEo&t=41s).

<sup>54</sup> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0M-OQJTw0&ab\\_channel=UNNutrition](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0M-OQJTw0&ab_channel=UNNutrition).

<sup>55</sup> [www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/news/ver/en/c/1270658/](https://www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/news/ver/en/c/1270658/); [www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/en/c/1272319/](https://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/en/c/1272319/)

<sup>56</sup> [www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/news/ver/en/c/1373367/](https://www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/news/ver/en/c/1373367/).

<sup>57</sup> [www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/eventos/ver/en/?uid=1394300](https://www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/eventos/ver/en/?uid=1394300).

<sup>58</sup> [www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition?idnews=1994](https://www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition?idnews=1994).

<sup>59</sup> [www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/nutrition/collective-impact-for-nutrition/](https://www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/nutrition/collective-impact-for-nutrition/).

<sup>60</sup> [www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-nutrition](https://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-nutrition).

<sup>61</sup> [www.csm4cfs.org/policy-processes/global-policy-response-to-covid-19/](https://www.csm4cfs.org/policy-processes/global-policy-response-to-covid-19/).

<sup>62</sup> [www.glopan.org/](https://www.glopan.org/).

farmers in Tanzania to be more productive and profitable, even during times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Net Zero Pathways to Low-Carbon Dairy (NZIP) initiative aims to develop pathways towards low-carbon dairy systems considering the diversity of dairy systems globally, their contributions to food security and nutrition and to livelihoods and economies around the world<sup>63</sup>.

22. HarvestPlus committed to the Decade in February 2018. In 2020, globally an estimated 9.7 million households were growing biofortified crops, translating to almost 50 million people at the farm household level, benefiting from biofortified crops. The 2020 HarvestPlus annual report summarizes progress and how HarvestPlus partners pivoted to crisis-response amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>64</sup> Fortification of cereals has been established and legislated in 87 countries globally<sup>65</sup> and 24 low-income countries have included biofortification in an array of policies/programs.<sup>66</sup> A total of 240 nutritious, climate-smart, high-yielding, biofortified varieties have been released in 30 countries.<sup>67</sup> These varieties were co-developed by HarvestPlus, breeding centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the national agricultural research services (NARS), in close consultation and engagement with the farmers and communities who produce and consume these staple crops. Harvestplus is coordinating a knowledge hub on biofortification interventions.

23. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) has continued, since its official pledge to the Decade in October 2019,<sup>68</sup> to research the role of livestock production systems and animal-source foods in healthy diets in LMICs, addressing the action areas in the Decade's Work Programme. This includes the institute's research portfolio on One Health,<sup>69</sup> which includes detection, prevention, and control of zoonoses, foodborne diseases in informal markets and Anti-Microbial Resistance solutions for LMICs. Coupling research that improves the productivity of chicken (Ethiopia, Tanzania and Nigeria),<sup>70</sup> or dairy cattle (Kenya, Rwanda)<sup>71</sup> along with both nutrition and hygiene education. Engagement with county governments in Kenya led to increased nutrition investments including budget allocations for Community Health Volunteers to conduct household nutrition messaging.

24. Members of the International Food & Beverage Alliance (IFBA) are working to improve the nutritional content of their foods and beverages. In May 2019, IFBA committed to align with the WHO's objective for eliminating industrially produced *trans* fat from the global food supply by 2023; as of May 2021, most IBFA members reported to have reached this target. IFBA has joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Business Network to undertake pilot studies funded by Resolve to Save Lives and provided technical assistance to local manufacturers in two countries (Nigeria and Pakistan) to phase out industrially produced *trans* fat. To contribute to sodium reduction in consumers' diets, IBFA members have invested in researching consumer insights to explore innovative approaches to sodium reduction. Moreover, IBFA members have reformulated products with less added sugar and developed alternative sweeteners. IFBA has adopted a set of "Principles for a global approach to fact-based nutrition labelling", which are in line with national regulations and guidance and where such regulations and guidance do not exist, are in line with Codex Alimentarius. In 2020, IFBA adopted a Global Policy on Marketing Communications to Children with a common commitment to either not advertise foods and beverages to children under 12 at all or advertise only products that meet specific nutrition standards.

25. The Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) to the CFS is an open platform providing a permanent seat for private enterprises right across the entire agri-food value chain and acts as a focal point for

<sup>63</sup> [www.dairyindustries.com/news/36953/gdp-announces-net-zero-initiative/](http://www.dairyindustries.com/news/36953/gdp-announces-net-zero-initiative/).

<sup>64</sup> [www.harvestplus.org/knowledge-market/in-the-news/responding-crisis-building-resilience-2020-harvestplus-annual-report](http://www.harvestplus.org/knowledge-market/in-the-news/responding-crisis-building-resilience-2020-harvestplus-annual-report).

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.ffinetwork.org/globalprogress>.

<sup>66</sup> [www.harvestplus.org/](http://www.harvestplus.org/).

<sup>67</sup> [www.harvestplus.org/content/biofortified-crop-map-what-available-where](http://www.harvestplus.org/content/biofortified-crop-map-what-available-where).

<sup>68</sup> [www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition?idnews=1998](http://www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition?idnews=1998).

<sup>69</sup> [www.ilri.org/one-health](http://www.ilri.org/one-health).

<sup>70</sup> [www.ilri.org/research/projects/agriculture-nutrition-ethiopia-project](http://www.ilri.org/research/projects/agriculture-nutrition-ethiopia-project).

<sup>71</sup> [www.ilri.org/news/diversification-diets-community-led-solution-improves-nutritional-outcomes-kenya's-pastoral](http://www.ilri.org/news/diversification-diets-community-led-solution-improves-nutritional-outcomes-kenya's-pastoral); [www.ilri.org/news/social-and-behaviour-change-improves-milk-consumption-rwanda's-children](http://www.ilri.org/news/social-and-behaviour-change-improves-milk-consumption-rwanda's-children).

businesses around the world. During the reporting period of this report, PSM was active in the CFS policy convergence process leading to the VGFSyN and closely involved in all CFS nutrition meetings. Post-endorsement, PSM has committed to promote the uptake of the VGFSyN in the last quarter of 2021. During the UN FSS preparation process, PSM has engaged in all UN FSS Action Tracks related to nutrition with the aim to promote the integration of the outcomes from the endorsed VGFSyN within the outputs of the UN FSS.

26. The SUN Movement in 2020-2021 welcomed Timor Leste and Ecuador, and now comprises 63 countries and four Indian States. During the reporting period of this report, the SUN Movement contributed to the implementation of actions in all action areas of the Decade's Work Programme.<sup>72</sup> Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on policy and funding priorities, the SUN Movement continued to ensure that nutrition remained a high priority globally. In 2020, the SUN Movement played an important role in the advocacy, communication and mobilisation for the UN FSS and Tokyo N4G Summit, promoting the Year of Action on Nutrition,<sup>73</sup> during the WHA and consultations on the CFS VGFSyN. The SUN Movement promoted accountability for nutrition outcomes through the Joint Annual Assessment and tracking of public financial allocations.<sup>74</sup> Furthermore, the SUN Strategy 3.0 (2021-2025) was launched, which focuses on transparency, openness and inclusiveness while tackling the urgent need for greater pace in helping the nutrition community navigate the new COVID-19 landscape. The SUN Movement is supported by a Civil Society Network (SUN CSN), a Business Network (SBN), SUN Donor Network (SDN), and the UN Nutrition (SUN) Network (UNN):

- a) The SUN CSN works in 53 countries representing over 4,000 organisations locally, nationally, and internationally, most of which are part of national level Civil Society Alliances (CSAs) split across four regional groups. In 2019, 42 SUN countries had developed multi-year costed nutrition plans. In over 50% of these, CSAs contributed significantly to their development. The Youth Leaders for Nutrition (YL4N) programme today empowers 13 young champions to advocate for nutrition in their countries. In 2020, all four regional groups held meetings, which provided CSAs with the opportunity to celebrate and learn from major regional initiatives, including the Asia #nutritioncantwait campaign, the East and Southern Africa budget analysis report, the West and Central Africa Parliamentary engagement work, and Latin America & Caribbean's innovative virtual learning programme pilot;
- b) The SBN, co-convened by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and WFP, supported 44 countries to mobilise business for nutrition. The platform has expanded to over 1,000 business members, including 25 global members. This growth was achieved by leveraging existing and new partnerships with governments, multi-national companies, donors and the broader SUN Movement to support key initiatives, including strengthening the resilience of small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the 2020 SUN Pitch Competition, SBN hosted a virtual pitch event where 500 SMEs across Africa and Asia applied, and 21 finalists were selected to receive Business Development Support and compete for Technical Assistance and cash prizes.
- c) The SDN, brings together a group of bilateral donors, multilateral government donors, development banks and private foundations. The SDN worked on improving the accountability of nutrition financing and remained committed to improve coordination, knowledge sharing, and learning between global and national SDN members and to work on a strong, effective and coherent global leadership on nutrition through an aligned and strategic advocacy;

<sup>72</sup> <https://scalingupnutrition.org/progress-impact/sun-movement-annual-progress-report/>.

<sup>73</sup> <https://scalingupnutrition.org/progress-impact/nutrition-year-of-action/>.

<sup>74</sup> <https://scalingupnutrition.org/progress-impact/monitoring-evaluation-accountability-and-learning-meal/joint-assessment-exercise/>.

27. Under WaterAid's 'Healthy Start' global advocacy priority,<sup>75</sup> nine country teams worked in partnership with national governments and others to advocate for greater integration of WASH in national nutrition policies,<sup>76</sup> and to pilot integrated WASH-nutrition programming (e.g. in Malawi). In response, several countries, including Cambodia and Madagascar, integrated WASH as a priority area within their national nutrition policies and plans. At the global level, WaterAid continued to advocate for greater coordination of WASH and nutrition within nutrition coalitions targeting donor governments and in global policy processes. In January 2021, WaterAid supported a major European Commission event 'Water and Beyond: EU transformative approaches for international partnerships'.<sup>77</sup> In addition, WaterAid actively contributed to the SUN-Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Partnership, building actionable evidence of what works and developing country case studies. The findings were presented during a workshop at the SUN Global Gathering in November 2019 and published in a report.<sup>78</sup>

### *Contributions by UN organizations*

28. After a thorough two-year consultative process, the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition (Nutrition Strategy) was endorsed at the 166th Session of the FAO Council in 2021.<sup>79</sup> This corporate document aims to guide and support the Organization in its mission to raise levels of nutrition. FAO's vision for nutrition is a world where all people are eating healthy diets from sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agri-food systems. The mission is to tackle malnutrition in all its forms by accelerating impactful policies and actions across agri-food systems to enable healthy diets for all. In terms of ICN2 follow-up, FAO's country support in 2020 mainly addressed issues related to food safety, governance and coordinating mechanisms for food security and nutrition, food systems for nutrition, food environments, income generation and decent rural employment, nutrition policies and nutrition education. FAO also provided support to 35 countries in developing or revising their food-based dietary guidelines and to 30 countries in developing school food and nutrition programmes.

29. WHO released normative products to support countries in the implementation of the ICN2 commitments, including a toolkit for care providers to implement the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative ; frequently asked questions on the international code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes; updated guidelines on micronutrient supplementation on vitamin D and multiple micronutrient supplements for antenatal care for positive pregnancy outcomes, and guidelines on the dairy protein content in ready-to-use therapeutic foods for treatment of severe acute malnutrition. WHO also released new tools to support countries in food reformulation for healthy diets including for sodium reduction and the elimination of industrially produced *trans* fat, through global sodium benchmarks and a global laboratory protocol for measuring fatty acid profiles of foods. WHO also launched an Action framework on public food procurement and service policies that guides the development and implementation of public food procurement and service policies for healthy diets. Moreover, WHO continuously tracked progress on the achievement of global nutrition targets and on the implementation of nutrition policies through the publication of JMEs and the Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action that includes information for 201 countries and territories.

30. The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) programme on nutrition enhances countries' capabilities to combat malnutrition in all its forms throughout life by supporting the use of accurate nuclear techniques (including stable isotopes) in nutrition assessments. In October 2020, the IAEA convened a meeting to discuss the linkages between food systems, climate change and diet

<sup>75</sup> <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/healthy-start>.

<sup>76</sup> WaterAid teams in Cambodia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Zambia.

<sup>77</sup> [https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-water\\_and\\_sanitation/discussions/key-takeaway-points-waterandbeyond-high-level-event](https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-water_and_sanitation/discussions/key-takeaway-points-waterandbeyond-high-level-event).

<sup>78</sup> <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxooof256/files/integrating-wash-and-nutrition-in-practice-what-works-what-doesnt-0.pdf>; <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxooof256/files/lintgration-aepa-nutrition-en-pratique--ce-qui-fonctionne-ce-qui-ne-fonctionne-pas-0.pdf>; <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxooof256/files/practical-pathways-to-integrate-nutrition-and-water-sanitation-and-hygiene.pdf>

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/ne853en/ne853en.pdf>.

quality, including food yield and production, changes in crop nutrient composition and nutrient bioavailability and the accumulation of carbohydrates in crops. As part of a 2020 IAEA research project, a dual isotope tracer method was developed to assess true protein digestion. The generated data contribute to the FAO database on true protein digestion and aid understanding of the protein quality of nutrient-rich plant varieties.

31. Following IFAD's Nutrition action plan 2019-2025, all new nutrition sensitive Country Strategic Opportunity Programmes and 33 out of 60 projects were approved. IFAD increased nutrition staff and built their capacities on nutrition sensitive agriculture. Infrastructure projects promoted water, sanitation and hygiene, social behaviour change and diversification of food production. Five guidelines on investing in neglected and underutilized species value chains were also developed in collaboration with the Alliance of Bioversity and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Furthermore, the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility addressed the key immediate challenges faced by small-scale farmers due to the COVID-19 pandemic tackling, among others, issues of malnutrition and access to clean water. IFAD also strengthened partnerships with UN agencies, academia, research and private sector. Innovations on project friendly nutrition metrics and technologies for evidence-based management decisions were developed in partnership with McGill University. In collaboration with Wageningen University & Research, technical support and capacity building efforts were undertaken for closer integration of climate and nutrition in IFAD's operations.

32. UNICEF launched its Nutrition Strategy 2020-2030 with a focus on preventing all forms of malnutrition, in all children, adolescents and women through a systems approach and scaling up preventive nutrition policies and programmes, such as Family Friendly Policies, to create safe and supportive environments. Moreover, breastfeeding advocacy was accelerated in 46 countries; a Programming Guidance on Improving Young Children's Diets focusing on a systems approach to improve children's diets was released; the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting was rolled out in 23 countries; data collection tools to assess the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition and a repository to monitor nutrition and innovative strategies were established and adopted by countries. As lead agency for the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) and the GNC Technical Alliance, UNICEF supported over 40 guidance and joint statements in response to COVID-19. Despite COVID-19 disruptions, 118 countries received support to adapt and continue maternal and child nutrition programmes. Consequently, UNICEF reached nearly 244 million children and 35 million adolescents with services to prevent stunting, anaemia, and other forms of malnutrition, and 5 million children with life-saving treatment and care for severe wasting.

33. Together with WHO and the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (UNIATF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has completed over 20 NCD investment cases that examine the health and economic impact of NCDs and the returns on investment from cost-effective preventive and clinical interventions (such as modelling the impact of reducing salt consumption through WHO SHAKE interventions). Newer cases included consideration of other dietary risk factors, food-systems, nutrition-related policies, interventions, and recommendations. In addition, UNDP, WHO and UNIATF jointly assisted governments in strengthening multisectoral approaches to NCDs. In 2020, with the support of UN Volunteers, UNDP developed and piloted a model to forecast revenue from increased tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverage taxes. UNDP developed a social impact bond that aims to assist tobacco farmers in Zambia a shift from tobacco to economically viable and nutritious crops.

34. UNEP activities on the Decade spanned policy design, awareness-raising, integration of food systems and sustainable food consumption in climate strategies, and piloting new approaches. UNEP facilitated a regional workshop with African policymakers and stakeholders that identified opportunities and challenges to implementing a food systems approach to food policies in the region in November 2019. UNEP and the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme organized a series of technical webinars on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in cities and on sustainable food systems, benefits of integrating sustainable food consumption in Nationally Determined Contributions and national climate strategies and changing food behaviours under COVID-19. In 2021, UNEP and FAO gave support in Uganda and Tanzania to an integrated approach to food and

agriculture policies in the context of the UN FSS. In May 2021, UNEP started a sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture project for healthy diets and climate resilience in Kampala, Uganda, and initiated work on a sustainable food city partnership, addressing food waste and sustainable diets, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

35. UN Habitat currently works in over 90 countries to promote transformative change in cities and human settlements. Under the Decade, UN Habitat collaborated with UN Nutrition to contribute to healthy diets that include sustainability considerations in both urban and neighbouring rural areas, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty. In 2020, UN Habitat contributed to the UNSCN Discussion paper on Urban-Rural Linkages for Nutrition - Territorial approaches for sustainable development, the AGRA's 2020 Agriculture Status Report on Feeding Africa's Cities and the 2021 Cities and Pandemics Report, including webinar series on urban rural linkages discussing crisis responses and post-recovery actions. Additionally, UN Habitat joined the Urban Food Systems Working Group that is co-chaired by FAO and GAIN and engaged in the UN FSS preparation with a cross-cutting focus on territorial governance.

36. WFP reached a total of 17.3 million beneficiaries through nutrition-specific activities across 51 countries in 2020. 9.1 million women and children suffering from acute malnutrition benefitted from malnutrition treatment programmes. WFP significantly scaled up malnutrition prevention programmes in 2020, reaching 8.4 million people with interventions to prevent acute malnutrition, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. This included a record number of 5.8 million vulnerable children, a 12 per cent increase compared to 2019, and close to 2.6 million pregnant and lactating women and girls. Nutrition-sensitive programmes addressing underlying causes of malnutrition were implemented in 69 countries. To mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP scaled up cash-based transfers, transferring US\$ 1.15 billion to vulnerable people in 64 countries. WFP also adapted school meal programmes, including nutritious take-home rations for seven million schoolchildren, increasing local purchases by 17% compared to 2019. WFP supported 50 governments with their social protection interventions in response to the pandemic. WFP provided technical assistance on food fortification or distributed fortified staple foods to more than 40 countries. WFP also supported 22 countries to make decisions on how to ensure food systems deliver healthier diets and improved nutrition through the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis.

37. UN Nutrition brought its focus to the nutrition-related response to the COVID-19 pandemic and delivered knowledge products to foster policy cohesion and raise the profile of nutrition within the global COVID-19 response. This included a comprehensive and continually updated resource list on nutrition in the COVID-19 response from its UN member agencies. UN Nutrition, through its former UN Network for SUN, also supported governments with the nutrition aspects of the COVID-19 response. This encompassed a range of activities including mainstreaming nutrition into national COVID-19 response plans and supporting the development of nutrition response plans, providing guidance in support of continuity of essential nutrition services and developing shock-response and nutrition-sensitive social protection models. UN Resident Coordinators were engaged in 70 percent of SUN countries in 2019. In 2020, the UN Nutrition provided technical support to 61 SUN countries and articulated a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition in joint UN frameworks. Both the sensitization of UN leadership and joint planning on nutrition have resulted in joint programming on nutrition, as exhibited by 84 percent of SUN countries in 2020. Furthermore in 2020, UN Nutrition supported the Decade's Mid-term Review (MTR) process and enhanced communications and advocacy for the Decade.

#### **IV. MID-TERM REVIEW**

38. The Decade's MTR, convened by the Decade Secretariat, provided an opportunity to review the achievements in the action areas of the Decade's Work Programme and identify gaps and barriers encountered for making progress from 2016 to 2020. The MTR also aimed to identify focus areas for priority action for the second half of the Decade, from 2021 to 2025.



39. The MTR process included informal consultations in 2020 with Geneva Mission Focal Points on 19 March,<sup>80</sup> Permanent Representatives to FAO in Rome on 29 April<sup>81</sup> and Permanent Missions to the UN in New York on 23 July<sup>82</sup> and with CSM to CFS, PSM to CFS and UN Nutrition member agencies. A MTR Foresight paper,<sup>83</sup> developed by the Decade Secretariat, served as the background document for these informal dialogues.

40. Advocacy efforts during the first half of the Decade on the importance of nutrition, healthy diets, and food systems for human and planetary health are showing results. Global attention to the critical role of sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition has never been so prominently discussed, particularly with the approaching of the UN FSS in September 2021. A clear understanding of the effective interventions to be delivered by health systems as part of UHC has also emerged over the first half of the Decade. Relating to specific food environment policy action, the implementation of fiscal policies to promote healthy diets, particularly taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, has accelerated over the first half of the Decade.

41. In 2021, the UN Nutrition Secretariat facilitated an online consultation at the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition to inform an update of the Decade's Work Programme. Stakeholders had the opportunity to share their views and suggestions on priority actions that should be taken in the coming five years to end all forms of malnutrition.<sup>84</sup> A total of 185 persons from 64 countries responded. These reflections will be taken into consideration when revising the Decade's Work Programme until 2025.

## V. WAY FORWARD

42. The SOFI Reports in 2020 and 2021 revealed that the world is not on track to meet its commitments to end world hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and its ramifications, has made the achievements of these goals even more challenging. Accelerated efforts are needed to ensure that our food systems deliver healthy diets in a sustainable way, nutrition-related actions are integrated into national health systems and UHC plans, responsible investments in agriculture and food are increased and coherence between trade policy and nutrition action is facilitated.

43. The UN FSS in September 2021 and the Tokyo N4G Summit in December 2021 provide crucial opportunities to secure concrete bold commitments and plans towards eliminating all forms of malnutrition over the second half of the Decade by 2025 and towards the SDGs by 2030.

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<sup>80</sup> [www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/03/19/default-calendar/member-states-informal-briefing-mid-term-review-of-the-un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition](http://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/03/19/default-calendar/member-states-informal-briefing-mid-term-review-of-the-un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition).

<sup>81</sup> [www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/final\\_provisional\\_agenda\\_fao\\_member\\_country\\_briefing\\_on\\_mtr\\_nutrition.pdf](http://www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/final_provisional_agenda_fao_member_country_briefing_on_mtr_nutrition.pdf).

<sup>82</sup> [www.un.org/nutrition/un-decade-action-on-nutrition-halfway-through](http://www.un.org/nutrition/un-decade-action-on-nutrition-halfway-through).

<sup>83</sup> [www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/nutrition\\_decade\\_mtr\\_background\\_paper\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/nutrition_decade_mtr_background_paper_en.pdf).

<sup>84</sup> [www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/consultations/decade-nutrition-priority-actions](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/consultations/decade-nutrition-priority-actions).