



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 April 2024

Original: English

2024 session

27 July 2023–24 July 2024

Agenda item 11

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

UN-Nutrition

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour of submitting to the Economic and Social Council the report of UN-Nutrition¹ for the year 2023, pursuant to Council decision 2018/207.

¹ UN-Nutrition is the entity that unites the former United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition and the United Nations Network for Scaling Up Nutrition. It is an inter-agency coordination mechanism for United Nations agencies at the global, regional and country level with a mandate or interest in improving nutrition, using a “working as one” approach and speaking on nutrition with one voice. The Economic and Social Council, through its decision 2020/207, took note of the merger of the two bodies and the assumption by UN-Nutrition of the Standing Committee’s annual reporting obligations to the Council.



Report of UN-Nutrition*

I. In a world of plenty, hunger and malnutrition in all its forms still prevail.

1. On World Food Day, the United Nations Secretary-General said, “in our world of plenty, it is outrageous that a person dies of hunger every few seconds”, reminding the global community that despite progress, the commitments set to achieve zero hunger by 2030 are falling drastically short.

2. Recent information in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 (SOFI 2023)* indicates that global hunger, as measured by the prevalence of undernourishment, is still far above pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, affecting around 735 million people in 2022.² This means that 122 million more people are suffering from hunger than in 2019, before COVID-19 struck, compromising economies and affecting livelihoods. Another key Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 indicator, the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity, depicts an equally daunting situation, with 2.4 billion people living in food insecurity in 2022, about 900 million of them severely food insecure. Food insecurity disproportionately affects people living in rural areas and women, with a gender gap of 2.4 percentage points in 2022.³

3. As we strive towards realizing the right to adequate food, diet quality – and not only quantity or sufficient intake of calories – remains an issue. More than 3.1 billion people globally – or 42 percent – were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. The affordability of a healthy diet is becoming more critical for households in peri-urban and rural areas, who are increasingly reliant on food purchases.

4. Eating a healthy diet is critical to preventing all forms of malnutrition. Children, in particular, are highly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition. Worldwide, in 2022, an estimated 148.1 million children under the age of five (22.3 percent) were affected by stunting, while 45 million (6.8 percent) suffered from wasting.⁴ Childhood undernutrition is associated with poorer school performance, poorer lifelong health and lower income-generation capacity in adulthood, perpetuating and aggravating the poverty cycle, whereas childhood overweight has significant impacts on children’s physical health and psychological well-being. Worldwide, in 2022, an estimated 37 million children under the age of five (5.6 percent) were overweight.

5. The compounding impacts of economic instability, chronic poverty and rising inequity, urbanization, trade inefficiencies, wars and conflicts, aggressive marketing of foods high in fats, sugars and/or salt, and severe and extreme weather events due to climate change are major challenges that continue to negatively affect all aspects of food systems (from food production, food processing and food distribution and procurement to consumer behaviour).⁵ This has resulted in a growing number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. Amid rapid urbanization, increasing access to affordable healthy diets and achieving food security and improved nutrition for all requires urgent policies, legislation, research, programmes and investments to boost capacity to supply nutritious foods in cities and towns, leveraging connectivity across the rural–urban continuum.

* The present report is being issued without formal editing.

² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

6. In his address to the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stock-Taking Moment, the United Nations Secretary-General said: “Governments and businesses must work together to build systems that put people over profit. I call on governments and the food, agricultural, transportation and retail industries to explore new ways to lower the cost and increase the geographic availability of fresh, healthy food for all people.”⁶ Coherent policies and harmonized United Nations approaches and positions are critical to supporting Member States in their national and subnational efforts to deliver on the Secretary-General’s call and fulfil their citizens’ human right to adequate food.

7. Here, UN-Nutrition, as the interagency United Nations coordination mechanism for ensuring “one UN for nutrition”, is a critical player, enabling action to achieve positive nutrition outcomes.

8. The UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 sets out its three functions:⁷ i) support an enabling environment for better United Nations coordination on nutrition at country level; ii) foster global engagement and joined-up discussion among entities; and iii) facilitate progress on UN-Nutrition’s strategic priorities.

9. In 2023, UN-Nutrition stepped up its work to fulfil its mandate under the leadership of an interim Chair, Maximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In November 2023, Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) became the new Chair for a two-year term. Throughout 2023, the UN-Nutrition leadership was supported by a seven-member Steering Committee comprised of the nutrition heads of FAO, IAEA, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as an engaged Secretariat team. At end 2023, UNEP’s two-year term on the Steering Committee came to an end, and it was replaced by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) System Organization.

II. Addressing challenges through collective United Nations action in 2023

10. In 2023, the Member Agencies of UN-Nutrition worked as a collective on five interlinked priority workstreams, in line with its 2022–2023 workplan, to ensure Member Nations were supported by coherent and harmonized policies, approaches and positions for nutrition action.⁸

⁶ United Nations. 2023. Secretary General’s remarks to the United Nations Food System Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, 24 July 2023. Rome. [Cited 5 March 2024]. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2023-07-24/secretary-generals-remarks-the-un-food-systems-summit-2-stocktaking-moment>

⁷ UN-Nutrition. 2022. *UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030: One UN for nutrition*, Rome. <https://www.unnutrition.org/library/publication/un-nutrition-strategy-2022-2030-one-un-nutrition>

⁸ i) Promote and facilitate United Nations country teams’ coordination in nutrition; ii) healthy diets from sustainable food systems; iii) private-sector engagement for nutrition results; iv) hunger and severe malnutrition in crisis and fragile contexts; and v) accelerate coordinated work on global malnutrition targets.

II.1 – Promote and facilitate United Nations country teams’ coordination for nutrition

11. UN-Nutrition ultimately aims to coherently support national efforts to improve nutrition. It does this by facilitating coordination between United Nations country teams, encouraging joint programming on nutrition and strengthening country–region–global linkages to ensure that voices are heard and fed into global processes and are leveraged in global advocacy opportunities.

12. To effectively support country teams, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat must be aware of a country’s nutrition-related technical assistance needs from a United Nations coordination perspective. While most technical assistance needs are addressed directly by the United Nations entities operating at country level, some requests are sent directly to the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, to be channelled to the most suitable provider. Hence, developing standard operating procedures for handling and tracking technical assistance requests was identified as a priority for the UN-Nutrition Secretariat in 2023. Some standard operating procedures were drafted for the Members review, based on an in-depth analysis of technical assistance requests from a variety of sources, including the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Joint Annual Assessment.

13. Furthermore, to better understand the status of United Nations coordination for nutrition at country level and to identify unmet technical assistance needs, a UN-Nutrition online country survey was drafted, pre-tested by field colleagues and launched.

14. In 2023, UN-Nutrition also started to support United Nations country teams in integrating nutrition into countries’ food system transformation pathways. On 20 and 21 March 2023, the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub (FS Hub), the UN-Nutrition Secretariat and the SUN Movement Secretariat organized two workshops on transforming food systems to deliver healthy and sustainable diets for all, with the participation of the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Offices and the United Nations country teams of ten countries: Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Somalia, Timor-Leste and Yemen.⁹

15. The countries were selected based on the fact that their national food systems pathway convenors also served as the SUN government focal points. More than 50 participants attended each workshop, including representatives from the resident coordinator offices, FAO, IFAD, the Pan-American Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

16. The workshops showed that close collaboration between the resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams leads to greater inclusion of food systems and nutrition issues in United Nations planning documents, particularly the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). This strong collaboration has also been observed in humanitarian contexts, where substantive efforts are being made to address the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

17. In general, the workshops suggested that having the same person double up as the SUN government focal point and the national food systems pathway convenor

⁹ UN-Nutrition. 2023. Transforming Food Systems to deliver healthy and sustainable diets for all: A virtual workshop for UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams on food systems transformation programming, 21–23 March 2023. Rome. <https://www.unnutrition.org/news/transforming-food-systems-deliver-healthy-and-sustainable-diets-all-virtual-workshop-un>

fostered greater alignment and integration of nutrition considerations in different sectoral plans, including cross-sectoral ones.

18. A key outcome of the workshop was the need to deepen understanding and practice of systems thinking (food, health, agriculture, trade, education, social protection and water systems) to ensure healthy diets and improved nutrition are key elements of food systems transformation. Continued advocacy efforts for multisectoral collaboration and integration are needed, as government and partners' personnel turnover can hamper programme continuity and sustainability.

19. In November 2023, four UN-Nutrition regional webinars took place,¹⁰ providing an overview of UN-Nutrition, including strategy, priority areas, tools and services to support countries' nutrition coordination, including UN-Nutrition guidance on integrating nutrition into UNSDCFs.¹¹ They included an interactive session, in which participants discussed challenges and opportunities for improving United Nations interagency collaboration on nutrition. The webinar series will continue in 2024–25.

Irish Aid partnership

20. The operational mechanism of UN-Nutrition support for United Nations country teams was piloted in 2023 with the continued support of Irish Aid. Intensive support was provided to enhance interagency coordination on nutrition action in nine countries, thanks to the Irish Aid-funded “Fostering ‘one UN’ through UN-Nutrition Country Support” project, which targeted Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. The project provided catalytic funding to United Nations country offices in these nations to coalesce sister agencies around a common narrative and joint programming for nutrition, in alignment with national needs and priorities. While responding to local challenges and needs, the 2023 country workplans highlighted commitments made at the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, in line with the global nutrition targets established by the 2012 World Health Assembly (WHA).

21. The Irish Aid partnership helped link global momentum for nutrition to United Nations joint programming at country level, while facilitating two-way communication between country teams and the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, to help address certain context-specific nutrition governance and coordination challenges. Some of the achievements include an analysis of Lesotho's, Liberia's and Sierra Leone's UNSDCFs, to evaluate the extent to which nutrition and climate actions are included and interconnected in the frameworks. Early findings show a pressing need to raise awareness of the links between nutrition and climate to protect the most vulnerable to malnutrition from further negative effects of climate change.

22. The UN-Nutrition facilitators of Burkina Faso and Niger participated in a regional workshop on food security and nutrition governance in West Africa in Cotonou, Benin, from 6 to 10 November 2023, organized by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States. A presentation on the Policy and Plan Overview analytical tools, supported by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat and in-country United Nations entities through the Irish Aid-supported project, was delivered to support the creation of a

¹⁰ The first was for the Asia region; the second was for Francophone countries in Africa; the third was for Anglophone Africa, the Near East and Europe; and the fourth was in Spanish for Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹¹ UN-Nutrition. 2023. *A guidance note on nutrition for United Nations country teams, their government counterparts, and other stakeholders*. Rome. <https://www.unnutrition.org/library/publication/guidance-note-nutrition-united-nations-country-teams-their-government>

regional guide for integrating nutrition into regional policies. The tools have been widely used to inform the guide.

23. Liberia updated its mapping of all key stakeholders on nutrition and its nutrition policy inventory,¹² which are crucial in mainstreaming nutrition and strengthening coordination between sectors. This led to the launch of its multisectoral nutrition costed strategic plan (2023–2027) in December 2023.

Activities conducted by UN-Nutrition in support of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

24. UN-Nutrition acts as the SUN Movement’s United Nations network and actively supported it throughout 2023. UNICEF and WFP played a key role in the SUN Lead Group, chaired by Catherine Russell, Executive Director of UNICEF. Furthermore, WFP and FAO (alternate) are members of the SUN Executive Committee. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat also participates in the SUN Global Support System as facilitator of the United Nations SUN support network. In this capacity, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat participated in quarterly technical assistance meetings, outlining country needs. It contributed to the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning and Knowledge Management working group, refining indicators for the movement, attending sessions of the 2023 Joint Annual Assessment launch and enhancing internetwork learning. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat also participated in the SUN Advocacy and Communications Task Team, helping to formulate and deliver on SUN priorities for 2023, including the development of the SUN achievements report and monthly SUN bulletins.

II.2 – Healthy diets from sustainable food systems

25. Underpinning UN-Nutrition’s support for United Nations country teams are the efforts of its Member Agencies to align their messaging to promote and mainstream healthy diets from sustainable food systems.

26. To enhance the knowledge base for nutrition action, the UN-Nutrition discussion paper *Nutrition and the environment – Nurturing people, protecting the planet* was developed under the leadership of UNEP.¹³ The paper was officially launched on 26 April 2023 at a virtual side event of the Fourth Global Conference of One Planet Network’s Sustainable Food System Programme. It was disseminated through the *UN-Nutrition Newsletter*,¹⁴ posted on the UN-Nutrition website and profiled in social media.

27. In 2023, UN-Nutrition Members continued to take centre stage in key global multistakeholder processes, including the Coalition for Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS); the School Meals Coalition; and the Initiative for Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN).

28. The HDSFS Secretariat comprises staff from FAO, WHO and the UN-Nutrition Secretariat and supports coalition members in conceptualizing and handling its three functions: i) facilitating stakeholder coordination for aligning policies, ii) peer-to-peer learning and iii) special projects, including a) sustainable food-based dietary guidelines, b) HDSFS in fragile settings and c) nutrition in nationally determined

¹² UN-Nutrition. n.d. Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping. In: *UN-Nutrition*. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unnutrition.org/library/tools/nutrition-stakeholder-and-action-mapping>

¹³ UN-Nutrition. 2023. *Nutrition and the environment: Nurturing people, protecting the planet*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5757en>

¹⁴ UN-Nutrition. 2023. *UN-Nutrition Newsletter*. Rome. <https://mailchi.mp/unnutrition/newsletter-2023-issue1?e=3ed45bb455>

contributions. In 2023, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat supported the coalition by developing a dedicated webpage on the UN-Nutrition website.¹⁵ It also helped to finalize the coalition’s principles of engagement of non-state actors to foster inclusive coalition membership free from conflicts of interest. These principles served as a basis for the School Meals Coalition’s own principles of engagement.

29. The HDSFS Coalition participated in various seminars and events in 2023,¹⁶ including four livestreamed side events supported by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat,¹⁷ and two core sessions during the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 (UNFSS+2) Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, profiling Members’ collaborative efforts with other coalitions. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat helped organize coalition-led side events at the Fifty-first Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS51) and at the European Union Pavilion at the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP28).¹⁸

30. Since October 2023, the HDSFS Coalition has had a dedicated section of UN-Nutrition’s newsletter. On request, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat drafted the coalition’s theory of change for Members’ consideration. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat also liaised with the FS Hub to identify potential areas of collaboration in 2024.

31. The School Meals Coalition is supported by a secretariat hosted by WFP. It aims to scale up school meal programmes to ensure that every child receives a healthy, nutritious meal in school by 2030. In 2023, 92 national governments and almost 100 partners had joined the coalition. Its first global summit took place on 18–19 October 2023, hosted by the President of France, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron. UN-Nutrition Steering Committee members from FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO are among the United Nations members of the coalition, speaking with one voice on the need to ensure that food quality, healthy diets and good nutrition are incorporated as objectives into all school meal programmes. The global summit had eight livestreamed plenary sessions,¹⁹ with UN-Nutrition Member Agencies speaking at three of them. For example, the WFP Executive Director spoke at the high-level opening segment and the WFP Assistant Executive Director at the closing session.

32. I-CAN was developed by the Government of Egypt during its presidency of COP27, together with UN-Nutrition Members WHO and FAO and other partners such

¹⁵ UN-Nutrition. n.d. The Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS). In: *UN-Nutrition*. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024].

<https://www.unnutrition.org/coalition-action-healthy-diets-sustainable-food-systems-children-and-all-hdsfs>

¹⁶ UN-Nutrition. 2023. HDSFS at the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, 24–26 July 2023, Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unnutrition.org/events/hdsfs-un-food-systems-summit-2-stocktaking-moment>

¹⁷ The side events were: i) “City, local and national governments join forces to accelerate transition towards healthy, inclusive, sustainable and resilient food systems”; ii) “Towards healthy and sustainable food systems: Agroecology, soil and healthy diets”; iii) “Food systems transformation amid a polycrisis: Addressing climate, food insecurity, malnutrition, and conflicts”; and iv) “National pathways: Spotlight on nutrition, gender and food system policy actions”.

¹⁸ UN-Nutrition. 2023. COP28 (EU Pavilion): Connecting climate action and nutrition – paving the way to healthy diets from sustainable food systems, 8 December 2023, Dubai. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unnutrition.org/events/cop28-eu-pavilion-connecting-climate-action-and-nutrition-paving-way-healthy-diets>

¹⁹ School Meals Coalition. 2023. School Meals Coalition First Global Summit, 18–19 October 2023, Paris. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://schoolmealscoalition.org/global-summit-2023/>

as the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the SUN Movement.^{20,21} I-CAN aims to catalyse, mobilize, connect and advocate for integrated climate and nutrition action. In 2023, UN-Nutrition supported the promotion of I-CAN's key messages and reports at CFS51 and COP28.

II.3 – Private-sector engagement for nutrition results

33. Private-sector engagement for nutrition results is the third priority area of UN-Nutrition's work, underpinning coherent country support. Often, governments and other nutrition stakeholders request United Nations guidance on how to ensure that their engagement with private-sector entities adds value, while managing and mitigating conflict-of-interest risks. The UN-Nutrition Private Sector Task Team (PSTT) comprises technical staff from FAO, IAEA, IFAD, UNICEF, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), WHO and WFP. The PSTT developed a live inventory of entities' principles, definitions, reasons and types of engagement, exclusionary criteria, due diligence mechanisms and case studies. A preliminary inventory analysis indicated that entity-specific mandates, business models and protocols lead to differences in reasoning and approaches to engagement with the private sector. Consequently, it may be difficult to reconcile these differences and produce joint UN-Nutrition guidance on the matter. It also became clear that it is important to advance evidence-based approaches to inform private-sector engagement in nutrition. Combined with a literature review, the analysis of the inventory will enable UN-Nutrition to identify commonalities and differences in United Nations processes and develop a common understanding that can serve as a basis for each entity to shift towards greater incorporation of nutrition considerations into their private-sector engagement protocols.

II.4 – Hunger and severe malnutrition in crisis and fragile contexts and accelerating coordinated work on global malnutrition targets

34. In 2023, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat drafted a narrative and key advocacy messaging on ensuring healthy diets and good nutrition in crisis and fragile contexts following interviews with focal points from FAO, IAEA, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, WFP and WHO, in consultation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the SUN Movement, the FS Hub and the Global Nutrition Cluster focal point. As agency leads of this priority area, UNICEF and WFP will review the draft and follow up with a view to its finalization and dissemination in 2024.

35. UN-Nutrition also supported the inclusion of two nutrition outcome indicators in the Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) and advocated for its use by sharing the tool on its knowledge hub.²² The JIAF 2.0 Technical Manual is the result of a highly collaborative process that brought together partners from across the humanitarian community, including United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations, humanitarian clusters, United Nations specialized agencies and donors.

²⁰ GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition). 2023. *Accelerating Action and Opening Opportunities: A Closer Integration of Climate and Nutrition*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.gainhealth.org/resources/reports-and-publications/accelerating-action-and-opening-opportunities-closer-integration-climate-and-nutrition>; <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8415en/cc8415en.pdf>

²¹ ATACH (Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health). n.d. Climate Action and Nutrition Working Group. In: *ATACH*. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.atachcommunity.com/our-mission/climate-action-and-nutrition-working-group/>

²² JIAF (Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework). 2023. JIAF 2.0 Technical Manual. In: *JIAF*. New York. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.jiaf.info/resources/>

Launched in August 2023, it will be rolled out with the 2024 Humanitarian Programme Cycle, a coordinated set of actions undertaken by humanitarian actors to improve the predictability, speed and effectiveness of their response to emergencies.

36. The global nutrition targets to address the double burden of malnutrition, adopted by the WHA in 2012, are approaching their 2025 deadline. The One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Session of the WHO Executive Board collected input from Members and non-state actors on the possible extension of the targets to align them with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In 2023, UN-Nutrition Members provided valuable insights on and support for the initiative. A number of Members asked the UN-Nutrition Secretariat to support consultations in 2024 by serving as the platform for gathering UN-Nutrition Member Agency comments on the extension of the targets from country, regional and global colleagues.

II.5 – UN-Nutrition attendance at key events in 2023

37. The year 2023 presented UN-Nutrition Member Agencies with opportunities to expand the reach of their joint messages, speaking as “One UN for Nutrition” to large audiences beyond the nutrition community. The first opportunity was the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment, held on 24–26 July 2023 at FAO headquarters in Rome. For three days, governments and partners took stock of progress on implementing their 2021 commitments to transform food systems for better and ensure more sustainable outcomes for people, planet and prosperity, leaving no one behind. FAO, IFAD and WFP collaborated with the FS Hub to organize the summit, also speaking at plenary sessions, in leadership dialogues, special events and side events.²³ FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO jointly organized a high-level dialogue on Food Systems for People’s Health and Nutrition.²⁴

38. In addition, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat organized a booth to raise awareness about its functions, along with resources developed by UN-Nutrition Member Agencies to support nutrition-smart food systems transformation. A video about UN-Nutrition’s work was played on large screens around the conference venue and on the UNFSS+2 digital platform. The initiatives were well received by stakeholders, many of whom seemed to be grappling with how to concretely reflect nutrition in food systems transformation.

39. As follow-up to UNFSS+2, the UN-Nutrition Steering Committee sent a letter to United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, sharing reflections and suggestions on how to support the implementation of the Secretary-General’s call to action. The letter also suggested strengthening collaboration between UN-Nutrition and the FS Hub to ensure healthy diets and nutrition outcomes were part and parcel of food systems transformation. The Deputy Secretary-General welcomed continued collaboration with the FS Hub on concrete initiatives targeting national food systems pathway convenors, as well as regional coordinators and United Nations country teams. Discussions are ongoing about greater collaboration between UN-Nutrition and the FS Hub in 2024 and beyond.

40. Importantly, also in July 2023, UN-Nutrition Member Agencies provided joint input to the thematic review of the 2023 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable

²³ United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. 2023. UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment. In: *United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub*. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment>

²⁴ United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. 2023. UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment: Food Systems for the People [video], 25 July 2023. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/programme/food-systems-for-people's-nutrition-and-health/en>

Development (HLPF), which undertook an in-depth review of SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 17 on partnerships. The HLPF met in July and helped prepare for the SDG Summit convened under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (19 to 20 September 2023).

41. The second opportunity was Climate Week and the associated advocacy events, from 17 to 24 September 2023, on the sidelines of the Seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly. UN-Nutrition participated in several side meetings and events, strengthening strategic interconnections between the themes of nutrition and environment/climate, making the nutrition investment case and promoting public food procurement as a way to help transform food systems.

42. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat, WHO and SUN Movement co-organized the *Integrating Essential Nutrition Action on Universal Health Coverage* side event on 18 September. As part of its joint work with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WHO, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat presented a newly developed methodology for investment cases to address all forms of malnutrition across the life course, which was received with great interest.

43. UN-Nutrition Member Agencies and the Secretariat attended Food Day at the General Assembly on 20 September 2023, led by the World Wildlife Foundation, participating in the main event and two Action Labs (*Action Lab 2 on Consumption and Diets* and *Action Lab 6 on Health & Nutrition*). The latter was co-organized and moderated by UN-Nutrition Members WHO and WFP, together with the World Wildlife Fund and the Rockefeller Foundation, supported by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat.

44. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat also co-organized and moderated on 22 September 2023 the “New York Climate Week event: Public Food Procurement to Meet New York City’s Climate Goals”. Other co-organizers were New York City, the City of Copenhagen and Colorado State University.

45. UN-Nutrition participated in a third key event in 2023, promoting United Nations joint messaging, namely, **CFS51**. On 25 October, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat co-organized with FAO, UN-Habitat, GAIN, New School University, the Urban Food Systems Coalition, and United Cities and Local Governments the side event entitled “Our seat at the table: maximizing transformative opportunities across the rural–urban continuum to deliver healthy diets from sustainable food systems”. It highlighted the need to elevate nutrition in multilevel and multisectoral governance for stronger rural–urban linkages as part of food systems transformation in order to deliver healthy diets for all. UN-Nutrition also prepared a list of events featuring nutrition at CFS51, which it shared with its country focal points, encouraging their attendance.

46. UN-Nutrition also contributed to the CFS throughout 2023 by participating in CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, submitting inputs to the new multiyear plan of work 2024–2027 and promoting the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at various events. The guidelines were included as key reference material in documents published and posted on the UN-Nutrition Knowledge Hub, as well as in the UN-Nutrition’s social media account.

47. At the end of 2023, a fourth key opportunity for joint advocacy presented itself at **COP28**, which took place from 30 November to 12 December in Dubai. The governments of Brazil and Switzerland, UN-Nutrition, WHO and the HDSFS Coalition co-organized the side event “Healthy and sustainable diets for nurturing people and planet” at the Health Pavilion.

III. Key actions undertaken by UN-Nutrition Member Agencies in 2023

48. In addition to working as a collective force, the Member Agencies of the UN-Nutrition Steering Committee contributed substantially as individual agencies within their respective mandates and operational modalities to nutrition-related activities and achievements.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

49. In 2023, FAO completed a full two years of implementing its Vision and Strategy for FAOs Work in Nutrition. In 136 countries, FAO helped to generate, collate, understand and use data and metrics on diets, food composition, food safety, food security and agrifood systems. Its support for 107 countries ensured the integration of dietary and nutrition-related data and analysis into United Nations Common Country Analyses. By end 2023, the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool had shared 52 surveys collecting quantitative food consumption data and information on 320 identified studies. The database provided access to all microdata, as well as useful food-based statistics in the fields of nutrition, dietary diversity, environmental impact and food safety.²⁵ Furthermore, FAO developed a new data domain on food and diet in the FAOSTAT platform, centralizing harmonized nutrition-relevant data and statistics for the first time on topics from food availability and acquisition to consumption (intake).²⁶ At the request of the FAO Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, FAO undertook a robust evidence review of the role of terrestrial animal-source foods in human health as part of a four-part series that will culminate in recommendations on the sustainable production and consumption of terrestrial animal-source foods.

50. FAO convened more than 485 national dialogues in 110 countries to address policy coherence and trade-offs in food systems policies and actions to enable healthy diets. FAO produced important global public goods to support these national efforts, including an e-learning course to help countries develop step-by-step agrifood system pathways to healthy diets,²⁷ as well as an updated methodology, with a section on consumers, for mapping territorial markets.²⁸ FAO also contributed to the follow-up to the UNFSS and was designated by the United Nations Secretary-General as host of the FS Hub on behalf of the United Nations System. It also hosted the UNFSS +2 Stocktaking Moment.

51. FAO provided legal, normative, policy and technical assistance to 125 countries in 2023. For example, in 57 countries, it supported the development and implementation of dietary guidelines. At the global level, FAO finalized a methodology for updating dietary guidelines using a food systems approach, including sustainability considerations, which will be launched in 2024.²⁹ In collaboration with WHO, FAO is finalizing an updated evidence-based, factsheet on what constitutes a healthy diet and, together with UNICEF and other partners, has launched the Healthy Diets

²⁵ FAO and WHO. n.d. FAO/WHO GIFT – Global Individual Food consumption data Tool. In: *FAO*. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en

²⁶ FAO. n.d. FAOSTAT: Food and agriculture data. In: *FAO*. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home

²⁷ FAO. n.d. FAO elearning Academy. In: *FAO*. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=976>

²⁸ FAO. 2023. *Mapping of territorial markets: Methodology and guidelines for participatory data collection*. Rome. www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB9484EN

²⁹ Fundación Directorio Legislativo. 2022. FAO shares experiences of food systems based food guides. In: *Fundación Directorio Legislativo*. Buenos Aires. [Cited 3 March 2024]. https://alertas.directoriolegislativo.org/?post_type=noticia&n=130224

Monitoring Initiative to advance consensus on and the development and roll-out of metrics to measure healthy diets.

International Atomic Energy Agency

52. In 2023, IAEA continued to support activities related to protein quality assessment and discussions on protein requirements, including the International Symposium on Dietary Protein for Human Health, which it co-organized with FAO, Wageningen University & Research, and the Riddet Institute of Massey University. Work to develop a joint FAO–IAEA Protein Database continued, as did IAEA’s support for 16 Asian countries in assessing the protein quality of sustainable food sources.

53. A first-of-its-kind, regionally harmonized Master of Science in Nutrition and Nuclear Techniques for Africa was officially launched in November 2023 at the Fifth Federation of African Nutrition Societies Conference in Dakar. Students reported to the International University of Rabat, Morocco from October 2023, while those going to North-West University, South Africa will report in February 2024. Approval processes are under way in Ghana and Senegal.

54. The first international body-composition reference charts for infants were also published in 2023 based on an IAEA-supported study. These charts provide clinicians and researchers with a tool to interpret infant body composition data to inform and evaluate interventions to combat malnutrition and establish healthier childhood trajectories.

A publication in *Nature Metabolism* using data from IAEA’s Doubly Labelled Water database showed that total energy expenditure has declined in both men and women over the past 30 years due to a reduction in basal energy expenditure, while activity energy expenditure had significantly increased, offering new insights into strategies for obesity management.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

55. In 2023, IFAD met its corporate commitment to ensure 100 percent of its Country Strategic Opportunities Programmes (COSOPs) were designed as nutrition sensitive. Ten new nutrition-sensitive projects were approved and technical support was provided to 112 ongoing nutrition-sensitive projects in 61 countries. Through them, 2.7 million people received support for improved nutrition.

56. In Abidjan, IFAD convened more than 60 technical staff from IFAD-funded projects, government line ministries, partners and nutrition stakeholders for a knowledge- and experience-sharing workshop. Participants built capacity through peer-to-peer learning, demonstrations and presentations from experts on state-of-the-art technology and approaches to enhancing nutrition in the context of food systems in the West and Central Africa regions.

57. A special guest at the IFAD co-hosted pavilion at COP28, His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho, the African Union’s champion on nutrition, acknowledged his country’s fruitful partnership with IFAD on improving nutrition through the transformation of agrifood systems. His Majesty underlined the crucial role of engaging rural smallholder farmers, women and youth in ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition.³⁰ IFAD also supported the High-Level Dialogue on Nutrition Financing hosted by his Majesty King Letsie III in Maseru, Lesotho. The meeting

³⁰ IFAD. 2023. Catalyzing sustainable food futures: IFAD’s partnership with civil society actors [video]. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.youtube.com/live/a-EfVZwN7VE?si=S1fz8Q4IGT2dBWVZ>, 03 December 2023.

discussed strategies to increase public financing for nutrition and for better allocation of nutrition resources.

58. IFAD undertook two studies on social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) in East and Southern Africa and Asia and the Pacific, including a deep dive into six nutrition-sensitive projects to identify best practices for SBCC interventions. The research provided several recommendations to improve nutrition SBCC in IFAD's nutrition-sensitive investments, which it presented at two regional webinars.

59. IFAD is an active member of the School Meals Coalition. Its first global ministerial meeting was held in Paris in October 2023 and attended by IFAD's Vice-President, who highlighted its work on food systems transformation, connecting small-scale farmers to school feeding programmes, and IFAD's increasingly ambitious commitments on nutrition for the current and next replenishment.³¹

60. IFAD maintains its commitment to exploring effective interventions to address the rise in overweight and obesity in low- and middle-income countries by publishing a series of reports, organizing events and developing communication products on how to limit the rise in overweight-and obesity within the scope of nutrition-sensitive agricultural projects and programmes.^{32,33,34,35} For the thirteenth replenishment cycle (2025–2027), IFAD renewed its commitment to ensure that 60 percent of IFAD13-funded projects were nutrition sensitive. IFAD also aims to reach 5 million people with improved nutrition. In addition to 100 percent of new COSOPs being nutrition sensitive, IFAD will align new COSOPs with nationally adopted food systems transformation pathways where they exist.

United Nations Children's Fund

61. Guided by its Nutrition Strategy 2020–2030, in 2023, UNICEF-supported programmes reached over 300 million children and women with improved diets, services and practices for the timely prevention and treatment of undernutrition in early childhood, including in fragile contexts and humanitarian settings. More than 100 million school-aged children and adolescents also benefited from programmes and services for the prevention of overweight and obesity.

62. On International Women's Day, UNICEF launched its flagship report *Undernourished and Overlooked: The Global Nutrition Crisis in Adolescent Girls and Women*,³⁶ drawing attention to the global nutrition crisis in adolescent girls and women while presenting evidence about how some countries are responding to this crisis.

63. As part of its approach to transforming food systems for children, UNICEF published *Food Systems for Children: UNICEF in Action for Food Systems*

³¹ School Meals Coalition. 2023. School Meals Coalition Global Summit [video]. Paris. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DknJ39Yyzmk>

³² IFAD. 2023. Overweight and Obesity and its linkages to food systems in LMICs, 22 June 2023, Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/overweight-and-obesity-and-its-linkages-to-food-systems-in-lmics>

³³ IFAD. 2023. Overweight and Obesity and its linkages to food systems in LMICs [video], 18 July 2023, Rome. <https://youtu.be/0gVnpJ6q7Uc>.

³⁴ IFAD. 2023. We must do more to curb obesity and overweight in low- and middle-income countries [blog], 2 August 2023. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/we-must-do-more-to-curb-obesity-and-overweight-in-low-and-middle-income-countries>.

³⁵ IFAD. 2023. Counting the cost of malnutrition [podcast episode 48], 25 September 2023. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/podcast-episode-48>.

³⁶ UNICEF. 2023. *Undernourished and Overlooked: A global nutrition crisis in adolescent girls and women*. New York. <https://www.unicef.org/reports/undernourished-overlooked-nutrition-crisis>

Transformation,³⁷ describing its engagement with public and private food system actors to improve children’s access to nutritious foods, healthy food environments and positive food practices. It also issued its *Programme Guidance on Engaging with the Food and Beverage Industry*,³⁸ advocating for the policies, practices and products of the food and beverage industry to align with children’s right to food, nutrition, health, protection and a sustainable planet.

64. In support of the No Time to Waste Acceleration Plan 2022–2023, UNICEF launched The Child Nutrition Fund,³⁹ which aims to strengthen global and domestic governance for maternal and child nutrition by optimizing global funding and leveraging domestic funding to scale up essential actions for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting.

65. Lastly, on the occasion of COP28, UNICEF released *The Global Climate Crisis is a Child Nutrition Crisis*,⁴⁰ outlining its five-point agenda to respond, adapt, mitigate, transform and measure actions to prevent child malnutrition in populations affected by climate change, while mitigating the climate crisis.

World Food Programme

66. In 2023, WFP significantly expanded its global outreach, reaching almost 28 million people in 53 countries – 13.3 million beneficiaries through malnutrition prevention programmes and 14.7 million through malnutrition treatment programmes – providing lifesaving nutritional assistance. WFP also integrated nutrition throughout its operations in complementary sectors, such as agriculture, social protection and school-based programming, in 69 countries to better address the underlying determinants of malnutrition, such as inadequate access to food and care for children and women.

67. In 2023, WFP distributed 1.46 million metric tons of fortified staple foods, such as maize meal, wheat flour, rice, oil and iodized salt, in 64 countries. It also assisted six countries in optimizing their food systems to provide healthy diets and improve nutrition, drawing on Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis.

68. Furthermore, WFP continued to actively support several UNFSS coalitions, such as the HDSFS and the Fighting Food Crises along the HDP Nexus Coalition.

69. At the beginning of 2023, WFP released a joint statement with FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO calling for urgent action to prevent, detect and manage child wasting in the 15 worst-affected countries in the context of the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. WFP is also partnering with UNICEF and the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance on a revised strategic approach to child wasting, in line with recent WHO guidelines on this topic.

³⁷ UNICEF. 2021. *Food Systems for Children: UNICEF in Action for Food Systems Transformation*. New York. <https://www.unicef.org/documents/food-systems-children>

³⁸ UNICEF. 2023. *Engaging with the Food and Beverage Industry: UNICEF Programme Guidance*. New York. <https://www.unicef.org/documents/nutrition/engaging-food-and-beverage-industry>

³⁹ UNICEF. n.d. The Child Nutrition Fund: Accelerating the scale-up of sustainable policies, programmes and supplies to end child wasting. In: *UNICEF*. New York. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unicef.org/child-health-and-survival/the-child-nutrition-fund>

⁴⁰ UNICEF. 2023. *The global climate crisis is a child nutrition crisis: UNICEF Agenda for Child Nutrition and Climate Action*. New York. <https://www.unicef.org/media/150356/file/The%20Global%20Climate%20Crisis%20is%20a%20Child%20Crisis.pdf>

World Health Organization

70. In 2023, WHO continued to actively support UNFSS follow-up mechanisms and activities, hosting the HDFS, ⁴¹ being a member of the School Meals Coalition, ⁴² supporting the FS Hub, ⁴³ co-chairing the United Nations Food Systems Task Force and engaging in the first UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment. ⁴⁴

71. Working with the COP28 presidency, WHO was instrumental in orchestrating the inaugural thematic health day at COP28. ⁴⁵ It organized or co-organized nine events with a focus on nutrition and/or healthy diets; promoted the signing of a United Arab Emirates Declaration on Climate and Health by 149 countries ⁴⁶ (which acknowledges the need to shift to more sustainable and healthy diets); and convened more than 50 Ministers of Health for a ministerial meeting at the conference, many of whom voiced the need for access to healthy and sustainable diets, ensuring food security and good nutrition, and the need to transform food systems for better health for people and planet.

72. WHO worked with its Member States to transform food systems, create healthy food environments, ensure universal access to safe and healthy diets and essential nutrition actions, and contribute to achieving global nutrition targets and better health outcomes. It published guidelines on: policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing, ⁴⁷ complementary feeding of infants and young children 6-23 months, ⁴⁸ the prevention and treatment of wasting in infants and children, ⁴⁹ the use of non-sugar sweeteners, ⁵⁰ total fat intake for the prevention of unhealthy weight gain in adults and children, ⁵¹ saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake for adults and children, ⁵² and on carbohydrate intake for adults and children. ⁵³ It also published implementation tools, guidance and policy briefs, including the comprehensive

⁴¹ UN-Nutrition. n.d. The Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDFS). In: UN-Nutrition. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unnutrition.org/coalition-action-healthy-diets-sustainable-food-systems-children-and-all-hdfs>

⁴² School Meals Coalition. n.d. *School Meals Coalition*. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://schoolmealscoalition.org/>

⁴³ United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. n.d. Hosting and Management. In: *United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub*. [Cited 3 March 2023]. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/about-us/structure/en>

⁴⁴ United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. 2023. UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment. In: United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment>

⁴⁵ WHO. 2023. Over 40 million health professionals demand bold health and climate action at COP28. In: *WHO*, 2 December 2023. Dubai. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.who.int/news/item/02-12-2023-over-40-million-health-professionals-demand-bold-health-and-climate-action-at-cop28>

⁴⁶ COP28 UAE. 2023. COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health. In: *COP28*. Dubai. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.cop28.com/en/cop28-uae-declaration-on-climate-and-health>

⁴⁷ WHO. 2023. *Policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing: WHO guideline*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240075412>

⁴⁸ WHO. 2023. *WHO Guideline for complementary feeding of infants and young children 6-23 months of age*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240081864>

⁴⁹ WHO. 2023. *WHO guideline on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema (acute malnutrition) in infants and children under 5 years*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/noPQkE>

⁵⁰ WHO. 2023. *Use of non-sugar sweeteners: WHO guideline*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073616>

⁵¹ WHO. 2023. *Total fat intake for the prevention of unhealthy weight gain in adults and children: WHO guideline*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073654>

⁵² WHO. 2023. *Saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake for adults and children: WHO guideline*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073630>

⁵³ WHO. 2023. *Carbohydrate intake for adults and children: WHO guideline*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073593>

framework for action to accelerate the reduction of anaemia,⁵⁴ health service delivery framework for prevention and management of obesity,⁵⁵ guidance on regulatory approaches to address digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes,⁵⁶ the setup of a validation programme on trans-fat elimination,⁵⁷ and technical clarification on sponsorship of health professional and scientific meetings by companies that market foods for infants and young children.⁵⁸ As the 2025 deadline for the global nutrition targets approaches, an update on progress was provided to the WHO Executive Board meeting,⁵⁹ and a white paper on the possible extension and increased ambition of the targets is forthcoming. Member States are invited to provide guidance on next steps. UN-Nutrition will assist in collecting input from United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

IV. UN-Nutrition stewardship

73. Throughout 2023, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat worked to coalesce Member Agencies as a collective voice on knowledge management, advocacy and communications.

Information and knowledge management

74. The UN-Nutrition website went live in May 2023 and the Knowledge Hub was launched in October 2023, including over 300 knowledge resources developed by United Nations and other stakeholders and more than 50 nutrition-related tools for policy and programming support. Three newsletter issues were prepared and disseminated to the 4 833 UN-Nutrition subscribers. The English version of the UN-Nutrition *Information Note*,⁶⁰ which describes UN-Nutrition's mission and goals, was published in April 2023 and is available on the website, accompanied by frequently asked questions. UN-Nutrition also used social media to disseminate seminal nutrition-related publications, stories, messaging on various global awareness campaigns and information about nutrition-related events and other major developments.

Promoting joint advocacy

75. The UN-Nutrition Communications and Advocacy Technical Task Team, comprising representatives of various UN-Nutrition Member Agencies, was established in July 2023 to streamline the approach to joint planning and communications for global events and ensure coherent messaging and cross-agency support. This approach was taken to the Seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General

⁵⁴ WHO. 2023. *Accelerating anaemia reduction: a comprehensive framework for action*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074033>

⁵⁵ WHO. 2023. *Health service delivery framework for prevention and management of obesity*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073234>

⁵⁶ WHO. 2023. *Guidance on regulatory measures aimed at restricting digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240084490>

⁵⁷ WHO. 2023. WHO's trans fat elimination validation program is now open for country applications. In: WHO. Geneva, Switzerland. [Cited 3 March 2024]. <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-04-2023-who-trans-fat-elimination-validation-program-is-now-open-for-country-applications>

⁵⁸ WHO. 2023. *Clarification on sponsorship of health professional and scientific meetings by companies that market foods for infants and young children: information note*. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074422>

⁵⁹ WHO. 2023. *Maternal, infant and young child nutrition: Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition: biennial report*. Geneva, Switzerland. https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB154/B154_22-en.pdf

⁶⁰ UN-Nutrition. 2023. *Information note*. Rome. <https://www.unnutrition.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/UN-Nutrition%20information%20note%20%28final%29.pdf>.

Assembly, CFS51 and COP28. Healthy diets from sustainable food systems were identified as the key theme of interagency advocacy. Facilitated by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, the Task Team started an overview of United Nations-linked initiatives to support healthy diets from sustainable food systems.

Facilitating communities of practice

76. In 2023, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat continued to facilitate the community of practice (CoP) on school nutrition. The CoP was confirmed as a valuable peer-to-peer platform for exchanges on United Nations support and guidance to countries to promote nutrition action across the school system. Members of the CoP helped to keep nutrition high on the School Meals Coalition agenda and to forge links with the HDSFS. The CoP prepared content on tackling all forms of malnutrition through schools for the UNESCO State of School Health and Nutrition report, launched in February 2023.⁶¹ It also provided inputs to the survey questionnaire for the 2023 data-collection round of the *Global Report of School Meal Programs around the World* by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation.⁶²

77. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat continued to lead and facilitate the Nutrition Technical Working Group of the Inter Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (IATF). Focus areas in 2023 included finalizing a report on the nutrition investment case methodology for all forms of malnutrition developed with UNDP and WHO. Zimbabwe was selected to test the methodology, and an economic and situational analysis was completed.⁶³

78. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat participated in the IATF Twentieth Plenary on 8–10 March 2023 at WHO headquarters in Geneva, when the IATF celebrated its tenth anniversary. Throughout 2023, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat supported the IATF human rights team, facilitating the nutrition, human rights and law CoP. It co-organized a special session on human rights-based approaches to the non-communicable disease response at the IATF Twenty-first Plenary on 10–12 October 2023 at the IAEA in Vienna. There, WHO presented a tool for Member Nations to assist with decision-making on engagement with the private sector in the context of reducing and preventing non-communicable diseases. Productive follow-up meetings took place between the WHO and UN-Nutrition Secretariat teams working on private-sector engagement and collaboration.

Engaging with several global processes/partnerships to ensure nutrition was integrated into the proceedings and co-organizing several key events

79. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat participated regularly in the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme Multistakeholder Advisory Committee as an observer. The programme held its Fourth Global Conference on 24–27 April 2023 in Hanoi. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat co-led and moderated Session 6 on connecting coalitions emanating from the UNFSS to strengthen the support ecosystem, in close collaboration with the FS Hub. It conducted preparatory work by developing an online questionnaire to be completed by the focal points of the various coalitions to reflect on the extent to which they adopted a food systems approach in their design and activities.

⁶¹ UNESCO. 2023. *Ready to Learn and Thrive: School health and nutrition around the world*. Paris. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384421>.

⁶² GCNF (Global Child Nutrition Foundation). 2022. *School Meal Programs Around The World*. Seattle, WA. <https://gcnf.org/global-reports/>

⁶³ UN-Nutrition. n.d. UN-Nutrition Inventory. In: *UN-Nutrition*. Rome. [Cited 3 March 2024. <https://www.unnutrition.org/library/tools/un-nutrition-inventory>

80. UN-Nutrition engaged in the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, co-organizing with the CFS a high-level panel on 20 January 2023, moderated by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat. Speakers included the Ministries of Agriculture of Chile and Côte d’Ivoire, the United Arab Emirates Minister of Climate Change and Environment, the WHO Director of Environment and the CFS Chair. The Global Forum is an international conference on central issues of agricultural and food policies held each year in Berlin; the 2023 Forum addressed the issue of “Food Systems Transformation: A Worldwide Response to Multiple Crises”.

V. The way forward

81. While UN-Nutrition has made strong progress to date, a number of critical, globally relevant nutrition-related issues remain, which need to be tackled jointly. These include ensuring that the promotion of healthy diets takes environmental concerns fully into account; building food system resilience to ensure healthy diets and improved nutrition, with a particular emphasis on fragile and conflict-affected states; mainstreaming nutrition into One Health approaches; promoting good governance for nutrition at all levels; and fostering conflict-of-interest-free private-sector engagement for more impactful nutrition results.

82. These challenges are intrinsically linked. They underscore the relevance of UN-Nutrition’s priority areas of work and the importance of adopting systems thinking and human-rights approaches to improve nutrition.

83. UN-Nutrition will focus on and advocate for these issues and seize opportunities for greater joint impact, including collaboration with the FS Hub, to ensure common goals guide the United Nations System’s work on nutrition in the run-up to the 2025 UNFSS +4 Stocktaking Moment. UN-Nutrition will capitalize on the opportunities offered by the SUN Movement Global Gathering in 2024, as well as the preparations for the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris in 2025.

84. As we approach the end of United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and the global nutrition targets adopted by the 2012 WHA, UN-Nutrition will facilitate dialogue on their potential extension to 2030, thus enhancing their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and to ending malnutrition in all its forms, leaving no one behind.