Meeting the challenge of new era for food security and nutrition

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Emerging issues impacted on health and nutrition in 80s – 90s
- Nutrition transition: increasing overweight/obesity & nutrition-related NCDs
- Fetal programming of chronic diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Biotechnology — GM foods
- Micronutrients beyond the big three
- Food safety (i.e. BSE)
- SARS, bird flu, H1N1
  - AMR, etc

Continuously changing context and focus of global macropolicy environment related to food and nutrition
- 1990 – Child Summit
- 1992 – International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)
- 1996 – World Food Summit
- 1999 – PRSPs
- 2000 – MDGs
- 2002 – Building a World Fit for Children / WHO Global Strategy on food safety / WHO Global Strategy on infant and young child feeding
- 2004 – WHO Global Strategy on diet, PA and health
- 2006 – Repositioning Nutrition (WB)
- 2007 – Ending Child Hunger & Undernutrition (setting up REACH initiative)
- 2008 – Food price crisis, Pacific Health Summit, Lancet Nutrition Series on maternal & child undernutrition
  - G8 Global nutrition challenge – MCH (Health Experts' meeting)
Global context

Nutrition has gained considerable attention in the international community in recent years as a result of:

- Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement (2008)
- Adoption of CIP-IYCN and 6 Global Nutrition Targets by WHA in 2012
- Adoption of 9 voluntary Global NCD Targets and Global NCD Action Plan by WHA in 2013
- High-level Nutrition for Growth Compact (N4G) in 2013
  - Global Nutrition Report launched in 2014 to monitor N4G commitment accountability
  - Progress to be measured in Rio in 2016, in Rome in 2017 (?), in Tokyo in 2020 (?)
- ICN2 in November 2014
  - Adopted 6 global nutrition targets
  - Adopted diet & nutrition-related NCD targets
Global context

- Today, important agreements exist:
  - The double burden of malnutrition exists in the same countries, in the same communities, in the same household and even in the same individuals
  - Multiple forms of malnutrition exist
    - 795 million people chronically hungry
    - 159 million stunted children and 50 million wasted children (16 million severely)
    - over two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies
    - 41 million overweight children under five years of age and over 600 million obese and almost two billion overweight adults
  - There are important differences in the distribution of different forms of malnutrition, but the trends are similar
Today, important agreements exist:

- Increasing recognition of the links between early childhood nutrition and development of obesity and diet-related NCDs later in life (i.e. metabolic efficiencies serving well in condition of fetal undernutrition become maladaptive in the obesogenic environment leading to the development of: 1) abnormal lipid profiles; 2) altered glucose and insulin metabolism; 3) overweight & obesity)

- Focusing on the 1st 1000 days is critical in addressing the double burden of malnutrition
Global context

Nutrition has gained further momentum as a result of:

- SDG adopted Global Nutrition Targets (Goal 2, Target 2.2) in September 2015
  - End all forms of malnutrition, address the nutritional needs throughout the lifecourse, give universal access to safe and healthy food sustainably produced and ensure universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

  - Ensure engagement of a whole of governments, international organizations & various stakeholders to facilitate effective implementation of ICN2 FFA with clear timeline
  - Mainstream multisectoral nutrition action across various domains of SDGs to facilitate their achievement
  - Allow a coherent reporting of the progress in tackling malnutrition in all its forms across multiple geographies and food systems

Goal: Increase activities conducted at the national, regional and global levels to implement the recommended actions included in the ICN2 Framework for Action aimed at achieving the global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition and for NCD risk factor reduction to be achieved by 2025 and the corresponding SDG targets to be achieved by 2030
Global context

UNGA resolution --- "Increasing activities …. to implement the recommended actions included in the ICN2 Framework for Action aimed at achieving the global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition and for NCD risk factor reduction to be achieved by 2025 and the corresponding SDG targets to be achieved by 2030"
A healthy diet according to WHO

- **Breastfeed** exclusively babies for the first 6 months and continuously breastfeed until two years and beyond

- **Energy** intake should **balance** energy expenditure

- Keep **total fat** intake to less than 30% of total energy intake, with a shift in fat consumption away from **saturated fats** to **unsaturated fats**, and towards the elimination of industrial **trans fats**

- Limit intake of **free sugars** to less than 10% (or even less than 5%) of total energy intake

- Keep **salt** intake to less than 5 g/day
  
  Eat at least 400g of **fruit and vegetable** a day
Translating into food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs)

- Are tools for communication and education
  - Promoting desirable food consumption patterns
  - Promoting nutritional well-being
  - Preventing and controlling diet-related diseases

- Should be based on scientific evidence on diet and health relationship

- Should be part of an integrated strategy to improve food security, nutrition and health

- Serve as a tool for implementing food & nutrition policies & programmes

- Serve as guidance for food, agriculture, and trade policies
What should a healthier food supply look like to support the dietary goals to address / combat malnutrition in all its forms?

- Salt/sodium intake 30%
- Raised blood pressure 25%
- Diabetes/obesity 0%

Saturated fat
Unsaturated fat
Trans fat
Sugars
Animal source foods
Fruit and vegetables
Ultraprocessed foods
Fortified food
2nd International Conference on Nutrition
Rome, 19 – 21 November 2014

Over 2,200 participants including:

- Representatives from more than 170 governments
- Heads of State and Government and Royals
- 85 Ministers and 23 Vice-Ministers from Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Health
- 100 Members of Parliament
- 30 representatives of the UN System and IGOs
- 150 representatives from civil society
- 100 representatives from the private sector, consumer associations, and producer organizations
- Many opinion leaders, researchers, and development experts
Outcome documents

1. Rome Declaration on Nutrition
2. Framework for Action

The vision:
- coherent policies
- coordinated action among different actors and sectors
- diversified, balanced and healthy diet
- empowerment of consumers
- national health systems integrating nutrition
- special attention to women
ICN2 Declaration: 10 Commitments

1. Eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition
2. Increase investments
3. Enhance sustainable food systems
4. Raise the profile of nutrition
5. Strengthen human and institutional capacities
6. Strengthen and facilitate, contributions and action by all stakeholders
7. Ensure healthy diets throughout the lifecourse
8. Create enabling environment for making informed choices
9. Implement the commitments through the Framework for Action
10. Integrate vision and commitments into the post-2015 agenda
Framework for Action

60 policy and programme options

- Enabling environment for effective action
- Sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets
- International trade and investment
- Nutrition education and information
- Social protection
- Health systems delivery of direct nutrition interventions and health services to improve nutrition
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Food safety
Policy coherence

Addressing production
Recommendation 10: Promote the diversification of crops including underutilized traditional crops, **more production of fruits and vegetables**, and appropriate production of animal-source products as needed, applying sustainable food production and natural resource management practices.

Addressing distribution
Recommendation 11: Improve **storage, preservation, transport and distribution technologies** and infrastructure to reduce seasonal food insecurity, food and nutrient loss and waste.

Addressing trade
Recommendation 18: Improve the availability and access of the food supply through **appropriate trade agreements** and policies and endeavour to ensure that such agreements and policies do not have a negative impact on the right to adequate food in other countries.

Addressing consumer behaviours
Recommendation 21: Conduct appropriate **social marketing campaigns** and lifestyle change communication programmes to promote physical activity, dietary diversification, consumption of micronutrient-rich foods such as **fruits and vegetables**, including traditional local foods and taking into consideration cultural aspects, better child and maternal nutrition, appropriate care practices and adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding, targeted and adapted for different audiences and stakeholders in the food system.

Addressing food environment in public institutions
Recommendation 16: Establish **food or nutrient-based standards to make healthy diets and safe drinking water accessible in public facilities** such as hospitals, childcare facilities, workplaces, universities, schools, food and catering services, government offices and prisons, and encourage the establishment of facilities for breastfeeding.
ICN2 recommended that the UN General Assembly endorse the Rome Declaration and Framework for Action and consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition for 2016-2025.

**Decade of Action on Nutrition**

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**April 2016**

i) implement the commitments of this Declaration through the Framework for Action which will also contribute to ensuring accountability and monitoring progress in global nutrition targets;  
j) give due consideration to integrating the vision and commitments of this Declaration into the post-2015 development agenda process including a possible related global goal.

16. We call on FAO and WHO, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other international organizations, to support national governments, upon request, in developing, strengthening and implementing their policies, programmes and plans to address the multiple challenges of malnutrition.

17. We recommend to the United Nations General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, as well as the Framework for Action which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by governments, as appropriate, and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025 within existing structures and available resources.

**Decade concept**

The Decade will provide an umbrella for all relevant stakeholders to **consolidate and align nutrition actions across different sectors and facilitate coherent policy processes** across the areas identified in the ICN2 outcome documents.
Decade content: 6 pillars

- Sustainable food systems for healthy diets
- Enabling food and breastfeeding environments
- Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions
- Social protection and nutrition education
- Trade and investment for improved nutrition
- Review, strengthen and promote nutrition governance and accountability
Making SMART commitments

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) so that they can be tracked and monitored taking into account existing indicators

Example

FFA R29: Adapt and implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions

The Head of Government/Minister of Health will acknowledge adequate breastfeeding as the highest priority for the Government to combat the double burden of malnutrition and makes the following commitment(s):

• Example 1— By 2017, a legislation will be established that introduces the provisions of the International Code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes
• Example 2 - By 2017, a functional unit will have been established (in the Ministry of Health) to effectively and actively monitor, implement and enforce sanctions in case of violations, with a first report produced by the end of 2018.
Commitments: what and how

- Country-specific commitments for action will vary across countries as they would reflect national priorities and depend on the country’s nutrition situation, and current food and health systems.
- FAO and WHO are preparing a resource guide to assist countries in translating the ICN2 FFA 60 recommended actions into country specific SMART commitments for action on nutrition.
- The commitment submission process will be continuous during the Decade; commitments are expected to be signed off by high-level representatives of countries before being submitted to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.
- For public accountability, the submitted commitments will be tracked on a regular basis by country self-assessments through an open access database co-facilitated by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

WHO Global Database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA)

- Contains more than 1,500 policies & 2,500 actions
  - Policy (policies, strategies, action plans, legislations)
  - Action (programmes and interventions) including:
    - Target group, coverage, delivery mechanism
    - Implementing partners
    - Lessons learnt and best practices

www.who.int/nutrition/gina
Policy environment and main gaps

Policies
- Most countries have nutrition policies, but *they do not*:
  - Address challenges of the double burden of malnutrition
  - Address nutrition challenges throughout lifecourse
  - Include evidence-informed actions comprehensively
  - Address underlying and basic causes of malnutrition
- Food security strategies seldom include nutrition goals or actions

Coordination
- Coordination mechanisms exist in most countries, but *they do not*:
  - Address existing challenges
  - Anchor in high-level policy making frameworks e.g. PMO

Implementation
- Most countries implement some key interventions at national scale, but *they do not*:
  - Implement a comprehensive set of essential nutrition actions at scale
  - Implement adequately the Int’l Code of Marketing of BMS
  - Reach women before pregnancy with micronutrient interventions
  - Address adequately risk factors for obesity and diet-related NCDs

Monitoring and evaluation
- Most countries conduct national surveys, but *they do not*:
  - Include relevant indicators
  - Disaggregate data sufficiently to address inequities
  - Conduct surveys routinely in a timely manner
  - Use collected data inform policy

Main aim is to:

Compile the updated information on countries’ progress in implementing actions to achieve the Global Nutrition Targets 2025 (and diet-related NCD targets 2025) and implementing ICN2 commitment and the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Covering the action areas related to:

1. Policies, strategies and plans relevant to nutrition
2. Coordination mechanisms for nutrition
3. National capacity for nutrition
4. Nutrition actions, programmes and measures being implemented
   - Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
   - School health and nutrition programmes
   - Promotion of healthy diet and prevention of overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs
   - Vitamin and mineral nutrition
   - Prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition
   - Nutrition and infectious disease

World Health Organization
An example of countries' exhibited commitment to improve food environment for their populations

- Countries (and cities) implementing or considering taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs):
  - Colombia
  - Hungary
  - Ireland
  - Philippines
  - Mexico
  - Portugal
  - Samoa
  - South Africa
  - Tonga
  - UK
  - Cities in US
Codex work taking into consideration of NCDs

GUIDELINES ON NUTRITION LABELLING

Updated in 2015

3. NUTRIENT DECLARATION

3.1 Application of nutrient declaration

3.1.1 Nutrient declaration should be mandatory for all prepackaged foods for which nutrition or health claims, as defined in the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997), are made.

3.1.2 Nutrient declaration should be mandatory for all other prepackaged foods except where national circumstances would not support such declarations. Certain foods may be exempted for example, on the basis of nutritional or dietary insignificance or small packaging.

3.2 Listing of nutrients

3.2.1 Where nutrient declaration is applied, the declaration of the following should be mandatory:

3.2.1.1 Energy value; and

3.2.1.2 The amounts of protein, available carbohydrate (i.e. dietary carbohydrate excluding dietary fibre), fat, saturated fat, sodium, and total sugar, and

3.4.4.2 NRVs-NCD

Intake levels not to exceed

- Saturated fatty acids: 20 g\textsuperscript{9}
- Sodium: 2 000 mg\textsuperscript{8}

Intake levels to achieve

- Potassium: 3 500 mg\textsuperscript{8}

\textsuperscript{8} This value is based on the reference energy intake of 8370 kilojoules/2000 kilocalories.

\textsuperscript{9} The selection of this nutrient for the establishment of an NRV was based on “convincing evidence” for a relationship with NCD risk as reported in the report “Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases,” WHO Technical Report Series 916, WHO, 2003.

\textsuperscript{10} The selection of these nutrients for the establishment of an NRV was based on “high quality” evidence for a relationship with a biomarker for NCD risk in adults as reported in the respective 2012 WHO Guidelines on sodium and potassium intake for adults and children.

World Health Organization
Codex work increasingly requested to be coherent & align with WHO policies and guidelines
Meeting the challenge of new era for food security and nutrition

- Need to **look at the commitments seriously** – Making commitments is one thing, but being able to deliver on them has proven more problematic
  - Each decade had its solemn government pledges to eliminate hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition
  - World declarations have increased in scope, details and multiple reaffirmation of concern and an updated “to do” list
  - Even when political commitment is present, there is little ‘buy-in’ from senior officials especially outside of health and agriculture

- Need to **strengthen capacities**
  - To understand and respond to the increasing complexity of food and nutrition policy development, programme designing and implementation

- Need to **strengthen evidence-informed policy-making**
  - Research should not be carried out in a vacuum
  - Evidence produced must be relevant to those working in the field
  - It has to form part of a linkage process, taking into account all the factors that might encourage or impede its usefulness in the domain of policy-making and decision-making
Meeting the challenge of new era for food security and nutrition

- Need for **bold action** to improve food environment and food system to meet nutrition challenge
  - Global context is changing and countries are ready e.g. SSB taxation, Codex

- Need for "revolutionary" interaction among stakeholders
  - Each has a role to play and a responsibility to fulfil — scientists, governments, international, bilateral and nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, communities and individuals at the grassroots level

Through addressing these:

- *Could the Decade of Action serve as a tipping point for implementing coherent global policy action?*
- *What could G7 do to create this tipping point?*