

ONE UN FOR NUTRITION

UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030



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Foreword

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was not on track to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, let alone achieve the 2030 Agenda in full. Undernutrition remains high, requiring constant, coherent action to prevent and manage its challenges, especially among groups that are harder to reach. At the same time, the prevalence of other forms of malnutrition – overweight and obesity – has increased. Growing inequalities and new crises, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, COVID-19 and conflict, have exacerbated the nutrition situation, with deprived and marginalized groups suffering more.

Over the past decade, there have been new insights into the centrality of dietary risk factors to the global burden of disease and the link between dietary patterns and environmental problems. The underlying causes of various forms of malnutrition are often similar; COVID-19 turned the spotlight on existing problems and aggravated them. More challenges, such as those related to demographic trends, await us.

If we are to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, these challenges require swifter action, better nutrition governance, greater policy coherence and coordination. The 2030 Agenda and the commitment to implement the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) outcomes fuelled political momentum for nutrition, culminating in the launch of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025). UN-Nutrition was set up halfway through the Nutrition Decade, on the recommendation of ICN2, uniting the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition and the United Nations Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN).

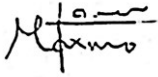
UN-Nutrition continues to work under the mandate of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It keeps under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the United Nations System response to the nutritional problems of the world; is a point of convergence in harmonizing the policies and activities of the United Nations System; provides initiative on the development and harmonization of concepts, policies and strategies and programmes in the United Nations System in response to the nutritional needs of countries; and appraises experience and progress towards the achievement of objectives and set guidelines for mutually supporting action at interagency and country level. It coordinates and leverages the strengths of agencies to address malnutrition and its root causes. Its work also includes serving as the United Nations support network for the SUN Movement.

A series of events in 2021, the Year of Action on Nutrition – the United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS), the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit – underscored the importance of nutrition, including the role of diet and its impact on health, climate and biodiversity. UN-Nutrition is building on the results of these events and will drive the nutrition agenda, both in development and humanitarian contexts and as a bridge between the two. This UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 lays the foundation for joint advocacy, coordination and

programming to improve nutrition across the United Nations System, aiming for policy coherence and consistent country-level impact as part of a joint commitment to accelerate progress on eliminating all forms of malnutrition.

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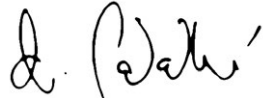
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1 Vision, mission, guiding principles and goals

VISION

A world without malnutrition, where everyone everywhere enjoys the right to adequate food, interdependent on and indivisible from all human rights now and in future.

MISSION

Coordinate and leverage the actions of United Nations Member Organizations to effectively address malnutrition in all its forms, as well as its root causes, by maximizing policy coherence, programmatic alignment and harmonized advocacy to governments and partners, leaving no one behind.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Make the human rights-based approach, including the PANTHER principle,¹ central to all the work of UN-Nutrition.
- Promote good governance for nutrition.
- Maintain inclusivity, subsidiarity and accountability in interagency collaboration and coordination.
- Align behind multisectoral, whole-of-government approaches spanning humanitarian and development contexts and take a holistic systems approach to achieving transformative change, free of conflicts of interest.
- Respect, support and act on country priorities and embrace countries' and people's right to self-determination.
- Recognize the interconnection between human and planetary health, working in harmony with nature and taking a One Health approach.
- Put people at the centre, focusing on the most vulnerable and prioritizing gender-transformative action.

GOALS

Effectively addressing malnutrition requires policy coherence and a joined-up approach across sectors. These coherent approaches need to be linked to consistent policy implementation in support of nutrition targets. UN-Nutrition, therefore, aims for:

- consistent joint action and implementation of policy; and
- coherent policies, approaches and positions on nutrition challenges across the United Nations System.

The two goals are interconnected and will jointly contribute to the realization of UN-Nutrition's vision.

¹ Participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and rule of law.



2

United Nations coordination and collaboration for better nutrition governance

UN-NUTRITION'S APPROACH

UN-Nutrition is “one UN for nutrition”. It is the coordination mechanism that brings together United Nations agencies, programmes and funds at global, regional and country level with a mandate or interest in improving nutrition as a means of achieving sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. It ensures synergy, increased effectiveness and visibility of nutrition actions, directly or indirectly, implemented by United Nations agencies in countries and across regions. UN-Nutrition also enables its Members² to speak on nutrition with one voice.

“UN-Nutrition provides a dedicated platform for open, substantive, forward-looking and constructive dialogue amongst its UN members on their respective strategies and efforts related to nutrition. UN-Nutrition supports the formulation of aligned and joint approaches, positions and actions to address the complex causes of malnutrition and the many facets of evolving nutrition challenges. UN-Nutrition facilitates effective nutrition coordination and communication not only across UN agencies at all levels but also as a UN Network/constituency in relation to other stakeholder groups and partners recognizing that context-specific approaches are essential.”

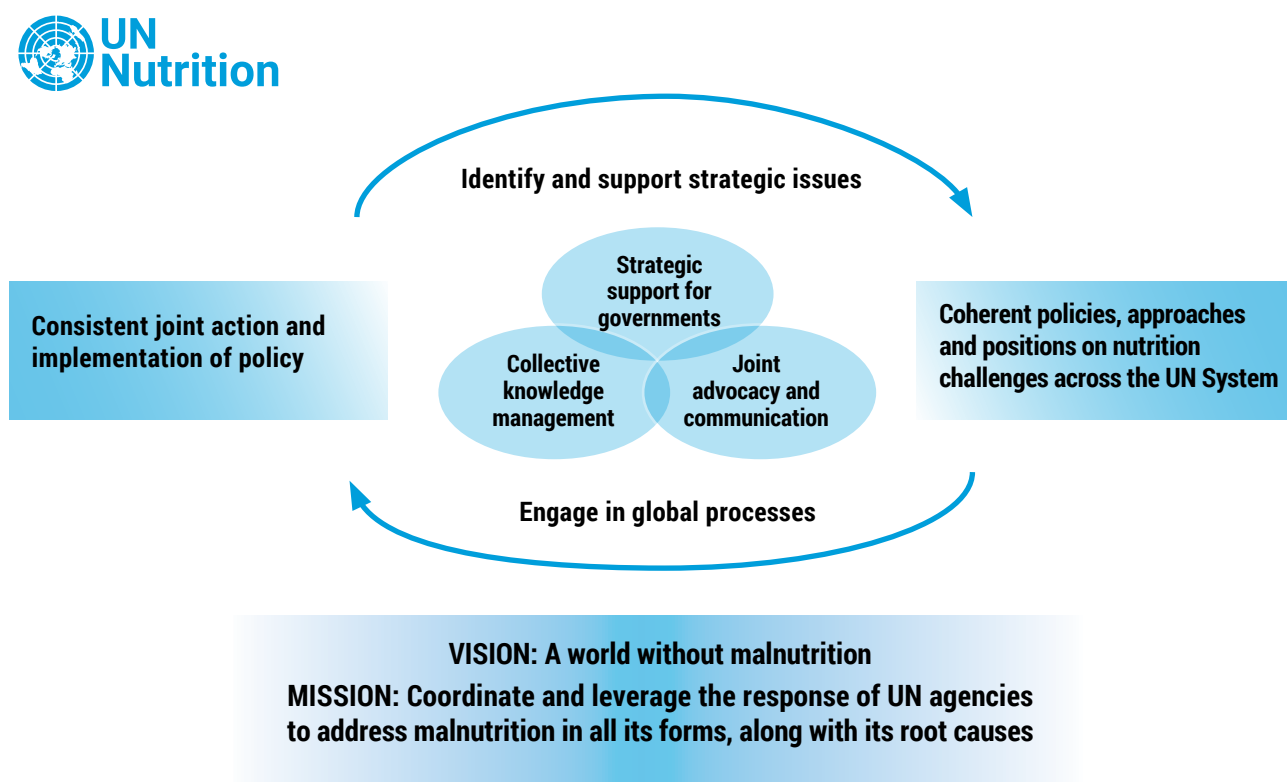
Source: *UN-Nutrition terms of reference, February 2020.*

Governments have primary responsibility for improving the food and nutrition of their citizens. The United Nations System supports governments in fulfilling that responsibility. Due to the multisectoral nature of nutrition and the risk of fragmented actions and policies between sectors and actors, UN-Nutrition plays an important role in increasing harmonization on nutrition and providing coordinated and aligned support to governments, so they can have greater impact on people everywhere. Through UN-Nutrition, United Nations agencies, programmes and funds leverage their collective strengths, build synergies, increase efficiencies and complementarities and, ultimately, support governments and their partners in delivering on nutrition objectives and targets at all levels. In line with the responsibilities and strengths of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, be they normative, operational or technical, UN-Nutrition plays a key role in achieving good governance for nutrition. UN-Nutrition, therefore, connects with governing bodies, conventions and conferences of parties across the United Nations, promoting the integration of nutrition. Good governance transects the various areas of work outlined in this strategy.

² UN-Nutrition Members include (as of 2022): the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN-Habitat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and CGIAR (through the International Center for Tropical Agriculture [CIAT]/Bioversity, associate member).

The two interconnected goals – consistent joint action and implementation and coherent policies, approaches and positions on evolving nutrition challenges across the United Nations System – are underpinned by three areas of collaboration, namely: (1) coordinated United Nations strategic support for governments at all levels; (2) collective knowledge management; and (3) joint advocacy and communications. In all three areas, UN-Nutrition leverages the individual strengths and comparative advantages of its Members. For example, the normative agencies set the normative rules and technical guidelines, while implementing agencies provide operational guidance and further insights for potential guideline updates, thus complementing each other and allowing for improvement and innovation based on solid evidence. The two goals and three areas of work are connected through engagement in global processes and the identification of and support for strategic issues, working in a dynamic and harmonious way. This engagement allows UN-Nutrition to work and link with a broad, yet strategic set of actors, ensuring a critical flow of information, helping to coordinate and capitalize on efforts.

Figure 1.
UN-Nutrition “working as one” approach



Source: UN-Nutrition (2022).

GOAL 1: Consistent joint action and implementation of policy

It is critical that United Nations agencies have the capacity to respond and deliver as one system. Governments and other stakeholders rely on coordinated and coherent United Nations support that speaks in one voice and operates in tandem with its partners. UN-Nutrition promotes joint programming and embraces whole-of-government approaches to tackling malnutrition.

The UN-Nutrition Secretariat supports an enabling environment for United Nations coordination at national and subnational level, resulting in more effective technical assistance, advocacy and support for governments and their (sub-)national counterparts. It also supports the Resident Coordinator in aligning knowledge and action across United Nations country teams. This can include the identification of problematic themes and trends where support is needed and the provision of tools, knowledge management and communication for efficient support by capable UN agencies. How many and which agencies are involved will depend on the national context.

Ensuring coherent joint nutrition actions and policies requires working across all relevant sectors, including health, agriculture, water and sanitation, social protection, trade and commerce, education and environment. These sectors are reflected in the mandates of the United Nations agencies that are members of UN-Nutrition, spanning areas of work that are essential to addressing malnutrition directly or through the underlying causes.

Moreover, this multisectoral landscape cannot be addressed by one stakeholder alone; improving nutrition requires the engagement of numerous stakeholders, with governments taking the lead. United Nations agencies are encouraged to convene and coordinate their nutrition work in support of governments under the auspices of UN-Nutrition in all countries with a UN presence and relevant programmes. Furthermore, the United Nations should coordinate its efforts with other stakeholders to increase synergies and impact in all contexts. Where multisector, multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) for nutrition exist, UN-Nutrition can engage collectively with these platforms, coordinating its efforts with key government ministries and other relevant stakeholders, under government leadership. Should MSPs be lacking, UN-Nutrition can jointly engage with other stakeholders, leveraging any existing nutrition coordination mechanisms that are effective in country to facilitate coherent and holistic policy and actions for nutrition. In both cases, due diligence and clear rules of engagement will be upheld to prevent or, if needed, manage potential conflicts of interest. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat can help facilitate effective United Nations and multi-stakeholder coordination as outlined above.

The SUN Movement is present in more than 60 countries with a high malnutrition burden, underscoring the need for UN-Nutrition to pay specific attention to supporting SUN countries. In these countries, UN-Nutrition operates as part of the SUN Movement's Global Support System (GSS)³. See Box 1 for more information.

³ The SUN Movement's Global Support System supports SUN Movement countries through the coordinated efforts of the SUN Movement Secretariat and four Networks, including UN-Nutrition, the SUN Civil Society Network, the SUN Donor Network and the SUN Business Network. At country level, the GSS coordinates its support to governments through the SUN MSPs.

Box 1.**Support for SUN Movement government focal points and MSPs**

Currently, 65 countries and four Indian states have joined the SUN Movement, committing to its vision, goals and principles. With the SUN Movement moving into its third phase (SUN 3.0), UN-Nutrition acts as part of its Global Support System (GSS). Here, it has a special role, because of the United Nations' vast technical knowledge, operational capacity and normative function, as well as its presence in many countries and regions. It can thus coordinate with other SUN networks globally and in country.

UN-Nutrition works synergistically and in close collaboration with other SUN networks to support governments' policy and programming processes, including the assessment of results. Under the auspices of UN-Nutrition, UN agencies at national and subnational level join forces and assist SUN government focal points in facilitating effective multistakeholder, multisectoral coordination through MSPs. They support the roll-out of the joint annual assessment (JAA) for multisectoral and multistakeholder planning and work to strengthen national nutritional capacity (technical and institutional). The UN-Nutrition Secretariat leads joint engagement with other networks at global level, while the UN agencies (backed by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat) provide capacity-building and technical support to governments to promote nutritional upscaling and coordination.

GOAL 2: Coherent policies, approaches and positions on nutrition challenges across the United Nations System

UN-Nutrition engages in global and regional processes and with strategic partners. Examples include the United Nations governing bodies, task forces and forums, such as the World Health Assembly (WHA), the FAO Conference, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the cluster system, the Interagency Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases and the United Nations General Assembly. Beyond United Nations bodies, UN-Nutrition engages with multiple stakeholders including civil society, directly through the SUN Movement or other (coordinating) bodies.

UN-Nutrition also engages with scientific and academic actors, such as the Global Nutrition Report, the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and the International Union for Nutrition Scientists. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat acts as a convener across the United Nations System and beyond, linking debates and forums that matter for nutrition and ensuring nutrition is firmly on the agenda. This helps the UN-Nutrition member agencies to identify strategic opportunities and issues relevant to nutrition and to lead constructive debate to promote coherent and consistent views on such issues among United Nations agencies.

An example of how this collaboration has worked in practice is UN-Nutrition's support for the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) (see Box 2).



Box 2. Working as one to promote the VGFSyN

UN-Nutrition is working as one to support the development and adoption of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). From its inception, UN-Nutrition has worked as one, delivering evidence and technical documentation to inform the first drafts of the VGFSyN. During negotiations, a small technical working group, facilitated by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, with experts from United Nations agencies, discussed language options that offered the best technical fit for the text and were acceptable to the various stakeholders that participated in the negotiations. UN-Nutrition offered technically accurate language and compromise solutions. UN-Nutrition also insisted on evidence-based solutions for the text and a reliance on existing normative guidelines. The joint engagement resulted in a stronger United Nations voice in the negotiations. Now, with the VGFSyN adopted, UN-Nutrition has disseminated the VGFSyN to national colleagues, encouraging its use in conjunction with normative and technical (evidence-based) guidance to ensure the guidelines have the desired effect.

WORKING AS ONE: INTERLINKED AREAS OF JOINT WORK

Coordinated strategic support for governments at all levels

Governments have primary responsibility for respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of their populations. The United Nations supports governments in realizing globally agreed (nutrition) targets and the right to adequate food, health and related human rights. All United Nations Member Nations benefit from its support, including normative guidance, evidence-based guidelines and data. Operational support is provided to Members on request. UN-Nutrition places specific emphasis on improving the governance of nutrition and fostering United Nations System-wide coherence and coordination through a “One UN” approach to supporting Members’ efforts to address all forms of malnutrition. United Nations support can take place on several levels, even though the primary focus may be at national level. Depending on context and need, it will take into consideration the dynamics of urban–rural links and the territorial characteristics of (local) food systems. UN-Nutrition supports the implementation of national food system pathways developed in alignment with the FSS and the realization of nutrition commitments, such as those made through N4G, with the various tools and mechanisms at its disposal.

A key tool for joint United Nations planning in support of governments is the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Nutrition can be integrated into the UNSDCF cycle at any time. The optimal opportunity is during the annual Common Country Analysis (CCA) exercise, which provides an independent, impartial and collective assessment and analysis of a country’s situation. UN-Nutrition can provide coordinated and coherent information on food and nutrition indicators to inform a CCA, ensuring that all entry points for nutrition data are used to best shape holistic responses. These data must be reflected in the CCA for holistic responses to context-specific nutrition problems to be integrated into the five-year UNSDCF. Once integrated, resources can be mobilized to support the financing of programmes developed in this context. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat plays a key role in sharing information on opportunities for financing and partnerships to promote joint programming and work, also in humanitarian situations.

UN Resident Coordinators are crucial convenors, not only for United Nations agencies, but also for other actors and networks that may play a role in nutrition actions at country level. UN-Nutrition, be it through a United Nations country team, the Secretariat or individual member agencies, will support the efforts under way in a country to coordinate nutrition efforts and work with the Resident Coordinator, as appropriate.

UN-Nutrition member agencies deliver technical assistance and capacity building at country level. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat can act as a broker and help United Nations agencies to be strategic and effective in providing technical assistance, advocacy and support to governments and their subnational counterparts. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat aims to offer proactive support to countries facing a high burden of malnutrition and where United Nations member agency collaboration on nutrition is limited in anticipating national needs.

A coherent approach to nutrition must span disaster risk reduction, early warnings, humanitarian response, recovery, longer-term development efforts and resilience building and include working with all relevant nutrition stakeholders across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Coordination with and between the various clusters (food security; nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); health) is essential for adequate multisectoral disaster preparedness and response. United Nations member agencies can come together under the auspices of UN-Nutrition to support the transition from activated clusters to non-activated clusters as the situation on the ground improves and can provide continued, coherent support to re-empowered governments to address food security and nutrition needs in those contexts. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat can support this transition by liaising with appropriate partners and share collective knowledge with and among agencies to ensure the most effective support for the government in question.

Similarly, UN-Nutrition can assist governments in harmonizing and achieving synergies and co-benefits between nutrition and environmental interventions, in line with the call for a sustainable food systems and One Health approach. Sustainable diets can also be the healthier option, thus providing opportunities for the alignment of nutrition and environmental/climate policies and interventions.

Collective knowledge management

Knowledge management is key to ensuring that UN-Nutrition meets its interconnected goals: effective and coherent action/implementation at all levels and coherent global approaches to and positions on nutrition. The UN-Nutrition approach to knowledge management is to provide strategic discussion and/or policy papers that include coordinated inputs from across the United Nations member agencies. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat undertakes the following actions in support of collective knowledge management:

1. Curate and disseminate existing knowledge in a way that works for countries and meets their needs and priorities. To help governments and other nutrition actors to filter the mass of existing guidance, documentation, case studies and reports, UN-Nutrition aims to pool and review this material and assist in bringing knowledge together in generic, context-specific and updated products (for advocacy, training, etc.).
2. Coordinate the input of United Nations agencies into discussion and/or policy papers. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat draws on the collective knowledge of United Nations agencies and other experts in a particular field to ensure new information becomes available through appropriate products in accordance with needs, requests and opportunities. UN-Nutrition can transform agency contributions into concrete outputs, such as concept and discussion papers.

3. Identify knowledge gaps or a lack of common understanding on certain issues by periodically conducting emerging nutrition issues analysis, including in the context of food systems. Examples of determinants that have been and are likely to influence nutrition outcomes are those that relate to environmental issues (biodiversity, climate change) and demographics (ageing populations, migration, population growth, demographic dividend, etc.).
4. Create a space for new knowledge and insights from Indigenous Peoples, as well as best practices to be shared, especially from (young) scientists from varied areas of expertise (including human sciences) and from low-income countries. Examples include calling for papers in the UN-Nutrition Journal or inviting scientists to contribute on a new topic of interest.

“Hot topics” from UN-Nutrition Secretariat emerging issues analysis surveys

In the latest [UN-Nutrition analysis of emerging issues](#), conducted in 2021, UN-Nutrition members and stakeholders classified environmental topics as being of high relevance to global nutrition. “Healthy diets, including access and cost” were most often cited. The analysis also concluded that there were many unanswered questions on sustainable healthy diets, from true cost and access to food (as a pillar of food security) to sustainable production practices, plant-rich diets and biodiversity.

Source: UN-Nutrition Secretariat. 2021. *Analysis on emerging nutrition issues*. Rome.

UN-Nutrition plans how United Nations agencies can best leverage, advocate for and address these topics on the international policy agenda. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat engages with other platforms and strategic partners, including non-nutrition ones, to ensure UN-Nutrition covers the full intersectoral breadth of nutritional issues. This also ensures that the lessons and experiences of these actors are captured in global learning and the exchange of information, while providing guidance on programming to ensure alignment with global and intergovernmental nutrition targets and goals. UN-Nutrition channels the collective thought leadership of the United Nations System on nutrition through this area of joint work.

The SUN Movement benefits from knowledge management through UN-Nutrition’s efforts, specifically country-to-country peer learning, while the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, including as part of the SUN GSS, organizes webinars, develops knowledge products, etc. UN-Nutrition’s knowledge management can also support the work of the Humanitarian Cluster System by facilitating communication and sharing information among actors, as well as by providing support through knowledge management.

Speaking in one voice: Joint communication and advocacy to end malnutrition in all its forms

Communication connects the global and country levels and facilitates the sharing of knowledge across the United Nations System and beyond. It is strongly linked to collective knowledge management. The Secretariat coordinates communications on behalf of UN-Nutrition and in liaison with individual member agencies as appropriate. Key communication platforms and channels include a dedicated UN-Nutrition website, newsletters, webinars, in-person events, journals and (social) media.

UN-Nutrition's joint advocacy draws on the collective knowledge (management) of UN-Nutrition and is informed by country priorities, the products of individual United Nations member agencies and those compiled through UN-Nutrition Secretariat coordination and outreach. This area of work encompasses both coherent global advocacy for nutrition across the United Nations System and beyond and the alignment of country advocacy. It aims to ensure that nutrition remains high on the political agenda at all levels. Advocacy may also serve to secure funding for nutrition and ensure the coherent use of (limited) resources.

In country, UN-Nutrition supports evidence-based and joint advocacy from actors in MSPs (where present) to promote coherent policy, financing, etc. Based on country priorities, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat elevates country voices in global advocacy efforts and policy development.

Collectively, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat assists members in mainstreaming nutrition in key political processes, in particular, how best to engage and with which tools. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat identifies key events and liaises with member agencies to ensure appropriate representation. It links with and convenes strategic partners and actors for joint advocacy work, for example, the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The SUN GSS is another key partner in joint advocacy on nutrition.

Key target forums for advocacy include, but are not limited to, United Nations governing bodies (for example, WHA, CFS, HLPF, the United Nations Environment Assembly, the communities of practice on climate and biodiversity, and the UN-Habitat Assembly). Non-United Nations forums also offer important advocacy opportunities, such as the N4G summit. UN-Nutrition member agencies will speak with one voice on agreed advocacy messages at the various events they attend.



TIMELINE

The strategy covers the period from 2022 to 2030 and will be complemented by biennial workplans that set out specific priorities and activities to be undertaken. The careful monitoring and review of workplan achievements by the Chair and the Steering Committee will allow for timely course corrections, if needed.

The United Nations System has recently committed to jointly leading a [Food Systems Coordination Hub](#) as a follow-up to the FSS. The purposes of the hub are as follows:

- The Hub will align itself with existing United Nations functions and capacities in its work and with existing structures and mechanisms.
- The Hub will act as the catalyst inside the United Nations System in relation to food systems and the 2030 Agenda. Replacing the time-bound FSS Secretariat, the Hub will take on essential coordination functions to bring together and link food systems knowledge and expertise from diverse constituencies, including through a Stakeholder Advisory Group, to support national progress on the SDGs in response to country priorities. These include:
 - continued support for national food systems dialogue and pathways by coordinating technical and policy support requested by countries as they formulate and implement national pathways for food systems transformation;
 - staying connected with the broader ecosystem of actors for sustainable food systems, including coalitions and other initiatives, as well as the science ecosystem, and promoting the better integration of these efforts with country demand; and
 - the elevation of priority topics on the food systems transformation agenda for the strategic thought leadership of United Nations agencies and leading actors in the ecosystem of support.

UN-Nutrition, through the Secretariat or the United Nations agencies (backed by the Secretariat), can support the work of the Hub, for instance, by assisting the continuation of national dialogues and the implementation of national pathways.

Until 2025, which coincides with the second half of the Nutrition Decade, UN-Nutrition is focusing on achieving the objectives of the Nutrition Decade, the aim of which is to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025, and contribute to the realization of the SDGs by 2030.

An additional focus for UN-Nutrition is the realization of nutrition commitments made at the FSS and the N4G Summit in support of the Nutrition Decade. Considering the importance of environmental and climate issues that impact nutrition, and vice versa, and the increasing momentum behind the topics of food systems, diets and nutrition, the series of climate and biodiversity conferences of parties are providing important opportunities to advance nutrition. The regular meetings of United Nations governing bodies, such as the FAO Conference, WHA, ECOSOC, HLPF and United Nations Environmental Assemblies, provide important additional opportunities to ensure nutrition messaging is maintained in a consistent and coherent way across the United Nations System.

The next N4G Summit is expected to be held in France in 2024. UN-Nutrition will assist countries in delivering and presenting their results at this milestone for nutrition. The period up to 2025 also overlaps with the roll-out of the SUN 3.0 strategy. As part of the GSS, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat works together with other SUN networks to help achieve the SUN 3.0 objectives.

From 2026, UN-Nutrition will continue to advocate for high-level political engagement for nutrition throughout the 2030 Agenda. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat will continue to generate tools and knowledge to support United Nations member agencies in integrating nutrition in UNSDCFs as they strive to assist countries in achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda and eliminating all forms of malnutrition. In the first quarter of 2025, a robust review will be launched to inform the implementation of the UN-Nutrition Strategy from 2026. More specific priorities for the latter half of the decade will be set after the midterm review and be reflected in the subsequent workplans.



3 Stewardship and funding

UN-Nutrition is led by a Chair and a seven-member Steering Committee. The five constituent Steering Committee members – FAO, WHO, IFAD, UNICEF and WFP – are complemented by two additional members on rotating basis⁴. The rotating members have a two-year mandate, which can be renewed. The Steering Committee will meet at least quarterly. It will review, among other things, progress reports generated by the Secretariat.

Per UN-Nutrition’s terms of reference, the Principals of the five constituent member agencies will elect, by consensus, a Chair who is at least of Assistant Principal level. The Chair’s mandate is for two years, renewable once. The Chair’s position should be filled on rotational basis by the five constituent member agencies, where possible. The Chair will occupy this honorary position *ad personam*⁵. The Chair runs the Steering Committee meetings, liaises with the Principals of the member agencies, represents UN-Nutrition in global and country forums, liaises with the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General and ECOSOC, and assists in resource mobilization for the Secretariat. If agreed by the Steering Committee, UN-Nutrition may also be represented externally by one of the UN-Nutrition member agencies.

UN-Nutrition is supported by the Secretariat, the main functions of which are:

- supporting an enabling environment for the coordination of United Nations member agencies at country level;
- convening global engagement and joined-up discussion among United Nations member agencies; and
- facilitating progress on UN-Nutrition’s strategic priorities.

An Executive Secretary leads the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, supporting the Chair and Steering Committee in achieving their mandates and playing a key role in leading advocacy for nutrition at strategic global, regional and country events and is responsible for strengthening current partnerships and building new alliances⁶.

The UN-Nutrition member agencies have their own plans and budgets that can be used for joint UN-Nutrition actions. The budget for the core workplan of the Secretariat stems primarily from UN-Nutrition Steering Committee Members, through the secondment of staff or a fixed annual contribution. Other members contribute financially on a voluntary basis. The hosting agency of the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, currently FAO, also provides significant financial and in-kind resources to the Secretariat, including office space, equipment and administrative support. All administrative arrangements are set out in a formal Letter of Agreement between the hosting agency and the Chair, copies of which are shared with the Principals of the other agencies for their information.

⁴ As of the time of publishing, the rotating members were IAEA and UNEP.

⁵ This means that the Chair does not represent the organization they come from. Should the Chair leave their organization, the position will not be automatically passed on to his or her replacement. Consensus will be sought to elect a new Chair.

⁶ According to the terms of reference of the Executive Secretary.

External donors can provide additional financial support for specific activities or projects, for example, for certain country actions or to develop a discussion paper. Such funds will be administered in accordance with the rules and regulations of the hosting agency.

The UN-Nutrition Secretariat may also assist United Nations Member Organizations in developing joint programmes or projects. UN-Nutrition member agencies commit to dedicating staff time to UN-Nutrition meetings at Director level, as well as technical staff to contribute to the three areas of joint work of UN-Nutrition.

The Secretariat will prepare biennial workplans to be approved by the Steering Committee, which focus on the Secretariat's activities.



4

Accountability, monitoring and evaluation

ACCOUNTABILITY

UN-Nutrition must account to Member Nations through ECOSOC on an annual basis on the progress of efforts to address malnutrition in all its forms. In addition, UN-Nutrition supports the monitoring of the Nutrition Decade for the United Nations General Assembly and reports to other United Nations governing bodies through its Members: the FAO Conference, the United Nations Environmental Assembly, WHA and the Executive Board of programmes and funds.

The constituent members will meet annually at Deputy Principal level to review UN-Nutrition progress on achieving its objectives, review progress on the biennial workplan and the results of the annual country survey, and correct course as needed.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The biennial workplans will include sections on activities and measurable results, as well as a budget that will be used to monitor progress. The Secretariat will deliver yearly narrative and financial reports to update on progress and the results of the workplans.

The Secretariat will also undertake regular country surveys to track and monitor joint country-level coordination. This process will feed into the joint SUN Movement annual assessment in SUN countries.

There will be a midterm review of the strategy in 2025 to coincide with the end of the Nutrition Decade and the WHA nutrition targets, as well as the final five years of the SDG timeframe. An end-term evaluation is also planned for 2030. UN-Nutrition member agencies at global and country level will be consulted on the performance of UN-Nutrition, as well as on progress towards its two interconnected goals. In addition to these two key elements of in-depth analysis, intermediate updates of UN-Nutrition's strategy may be necessary based on new data, key lessons learned or intelligence on the evolving nutrition landscape.

Acronyms

CCA	Common Country Analysis
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
COP26	Twenty-sixth United Nations Climate Change Conference
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSS	Food Systems Summit
GSS	Global Support System
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICN2	Second International Conference on Nutrition
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MSPs	multi-stakeholder platforms
N4G	Nutrition for Growth
NCD	Non-communicable disease
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PANTHER	Participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and rule of law
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VGFSyN	Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
WHA	World Health Assembly
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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