



*Better lives through livestock*

# Opportunities for Africa to address all forms of malnutrition: How can the UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022 - 2030 contribute?

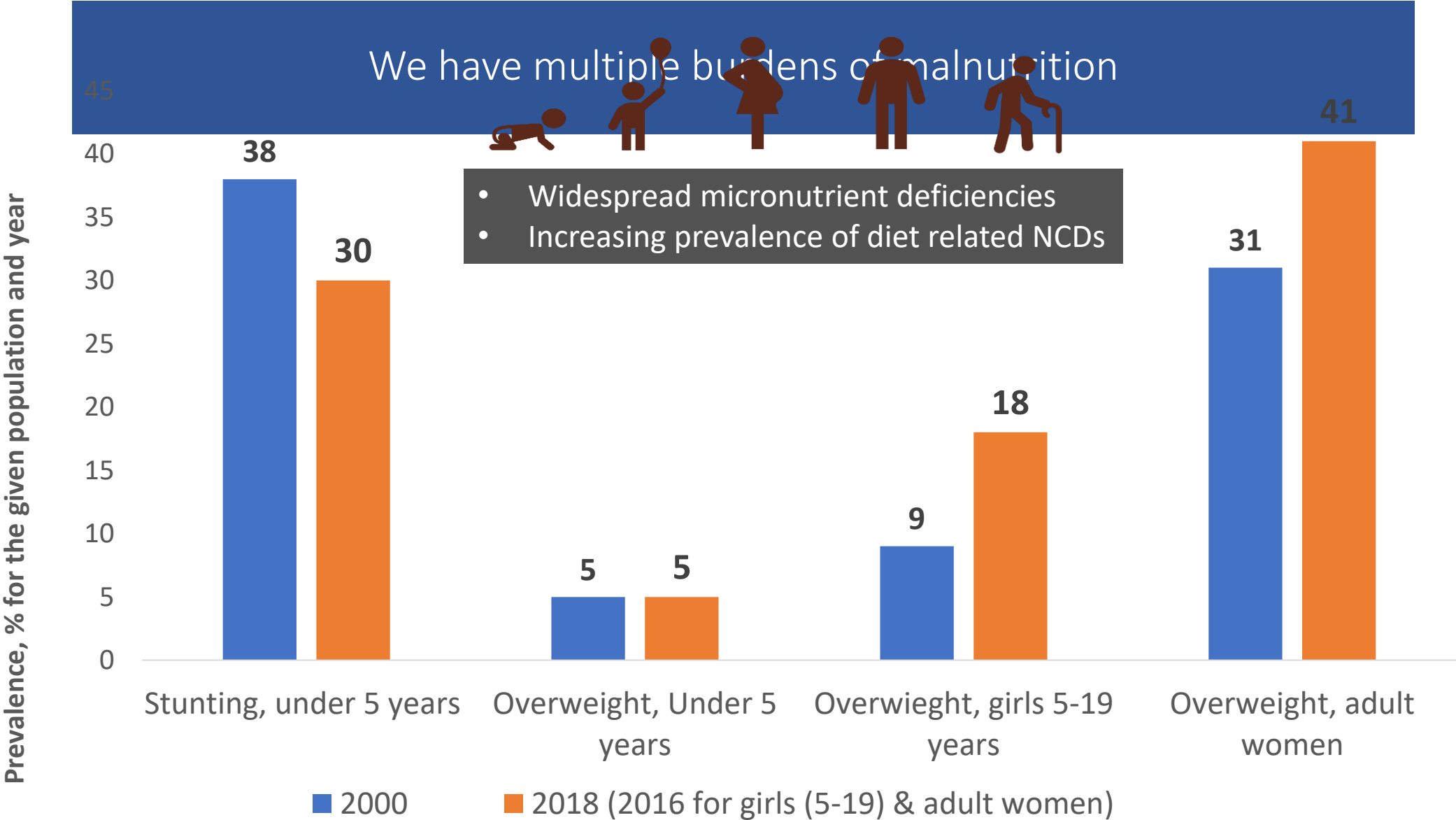
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*Namukolo Covic, Director General's Representative to Ethiopia  
CGIAR Regional Director, East and Southern Africa  
President: African Nutrition Society*

UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022-2030 Launch  
African Union, 31 October 2022

1. What do our overarching nutrition outcomes look like?

# Africa's current food systems are contributing to multiple burdens of malnutrition



Source, GNR, 2019

2. What does this say about the needed food systems transformation?
3. What contributions can the UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022-2030 make?

Opportunity in the rich continental policy environment for nutrition,  
even richer at country level!

- Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy 2015-2025
- CAADP nutrition targets in the Malabo Declaration complemented by dietary and nutrition indicators in the CAADP Results Framework 2015
- Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement
- Country Pathways; and Africa Common Position on the UNFSS
- Continental Declaration on Biofortification
- Staple food fortification is also an area of much attention
- African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative promoting investment in nutrition
- 2022 Year of Food Security and Nutrition
- Many other initiatives at country and regional levels
- **Conducive policy environment with impressive articulated political will**
- **But need to do better on needed investments and quality of implementation**

# The theme of this launch is very relevant to the challenges we face

**Theme:** Putting the UN-Nutrition strategy into practice during the age of intersecting crises

## Through three areas of collaboration

1. Coordinated United Nations strategic support for governments at all levels;
2. Collective knowledge management
3. Joint advocacy and communications.

Well aligned with Africa's common aspirations in agenda 2063 to have a well-nourished population; the Malabo targets and the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy towards eliminating all forms of malnutrition

- An African Union High-Level Conference on Food Security and Nutrition:  
10 October 2022

- Articulated 4Cs: **Climate, Conflict, COVID-19** and **Cost of food**

- **One CGIAR transition** for research to foster positive food systems transformation
- Aim to contribute country and regional impacts on food security, nutrition & health, land, and water in the climate crisis faced

The complementarity of UN-Nutrition members (@2022) provide an opportunity to address all forms of malnutrition synergistically from multiple fronts

1. **WFP:** World **Food** Programme
2. **FAO:** Food and **Agriculture** Organization of the United Nations
3. **IFAD:** International Fund for **Agricultural** Development
4. **WHO:** World **Health** Organization
5. **UNICEF:** United Nations **Children's** Fund
6. **IAEA:** International Atomic Energy Agency: **Stable isotopes**
7. **UNEP:** UN **Environment** Programme
8. **UNDP:** United Nations **Development** Programme
9. **UNDESA:** United Nations Department of **Economic and Social Affairs**
10. **OCHA:** United Nations Office for the Coordination of **Humanitarian Affairs**
11. **UNHCR:** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for **Human Rights**
12. **UNIDO:** United Nations **Industrial Development** Organization
13. **UN-Habitat**
14. **CGIAR as an associate member** (through the Alliance of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)/Bioversity)

What I miss and advocate for

- AUC: African Union Commission
- AUDA-NEPAD
- ANS: African Nutrition Society
- UN-Women

There are clear opportunities to align efforts to foster positive and collective momentum across Africa **on nutrition** in response to the United Nations Food Systems Summit

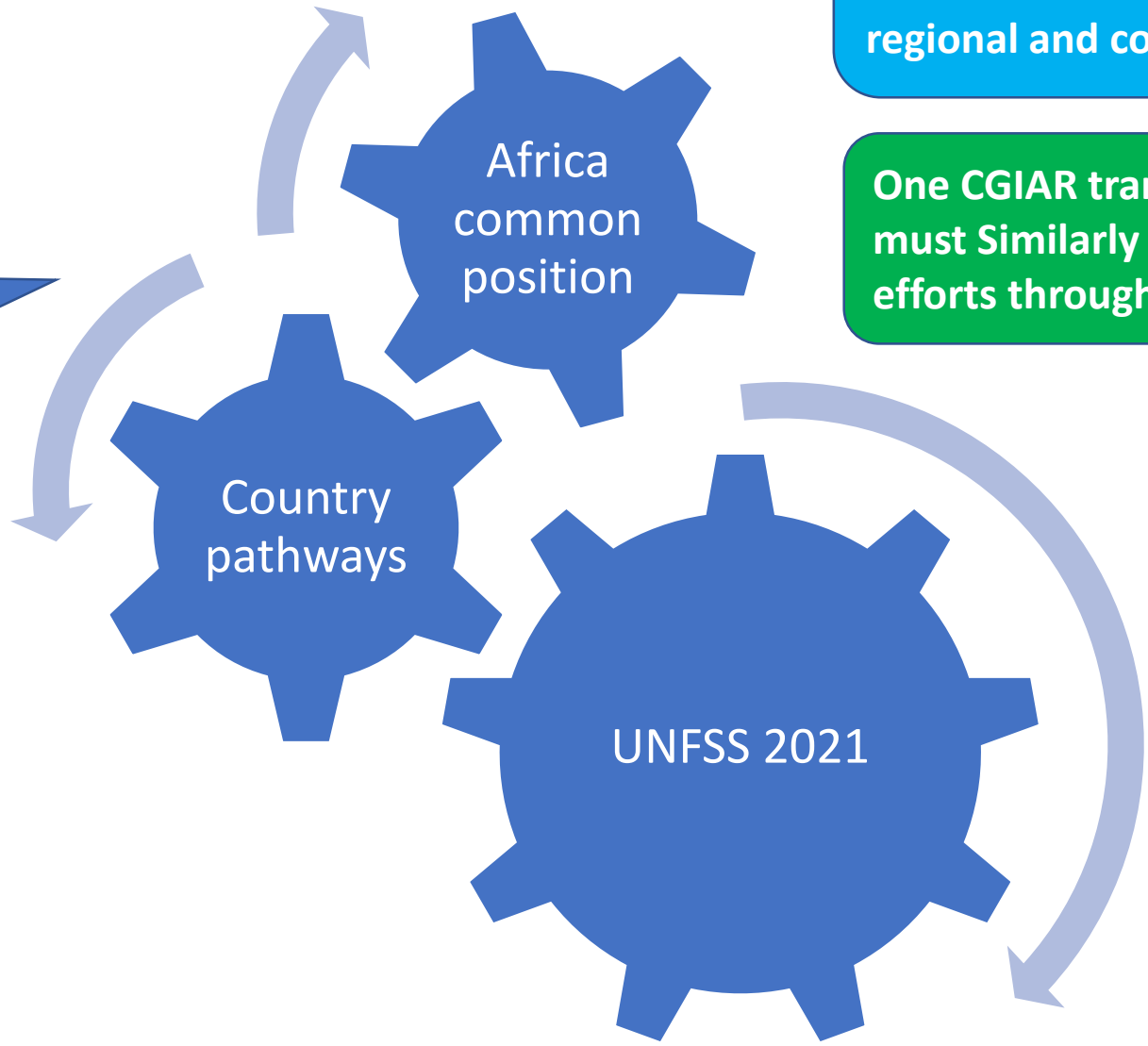
UN-Nutrition Strategy Can support and complement these efforts at the regional and country levels

One CGIAR transition must Similarly complement efforts through research



Food Based Dietary Guidelines can help align these Efforts

Only 9 countries have Food Based Dietary Guidelines: an unprecedented opportunity to do better!





# Example: Ethiopia vision for food systems transformation could help align efforts

*“A holistic transformation of Ethiopia’s food systems from production to consumption that promotes enhanced food safety, nutrition and diets, improved livelihoods, greater land preservation and restoration and greater resilience to shocks and stress.”*

*“We seek to transform our food systems using sustainable and healthy diet-centered lens that minimizes tradeoffs through calling for strong collaboration across all food systems actors, uniting around a common goal of healthy and sustainable diets for all.”*



The food systems transformation countdown to 2030 initiative has proposed a monitoring and evaluation framework for food systems transformation with attention to better diets and nutrition outcomes

Fanzo, et al., 2021

### Outcomes of food systems

#### Diets, nutrition, and health

Diet quality  
Food security  
Food environments  
Policies affecting food environments

#### Environment and climate

Land use  
Greenhouse gas emissions  
Water use  
Pollution  
Biosphere integrity

#### Livelihoods, poverty, and equity

Poverty and income  
Employment  
Social protection  
Rights

### Crosscutting issues

Shared vision  
Strategic planning and policies  
Effective implementation  
Accountability

#### Governance

Exposure to shocks  
Resilience capacities  
Agrobiodiversity  
Food security stability  
Food system sustainability index

#### Resilience and sustainability

Some of these are being considered to monitor Agriculture Development Programmes

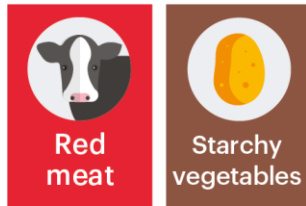
# This is the African context

## Current Intakes vs Planetary Health Diet

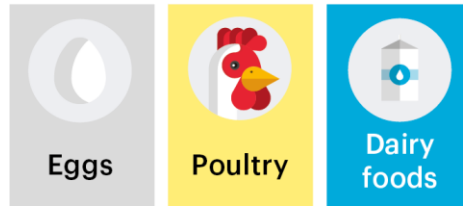


### Sub-Saharan Africa

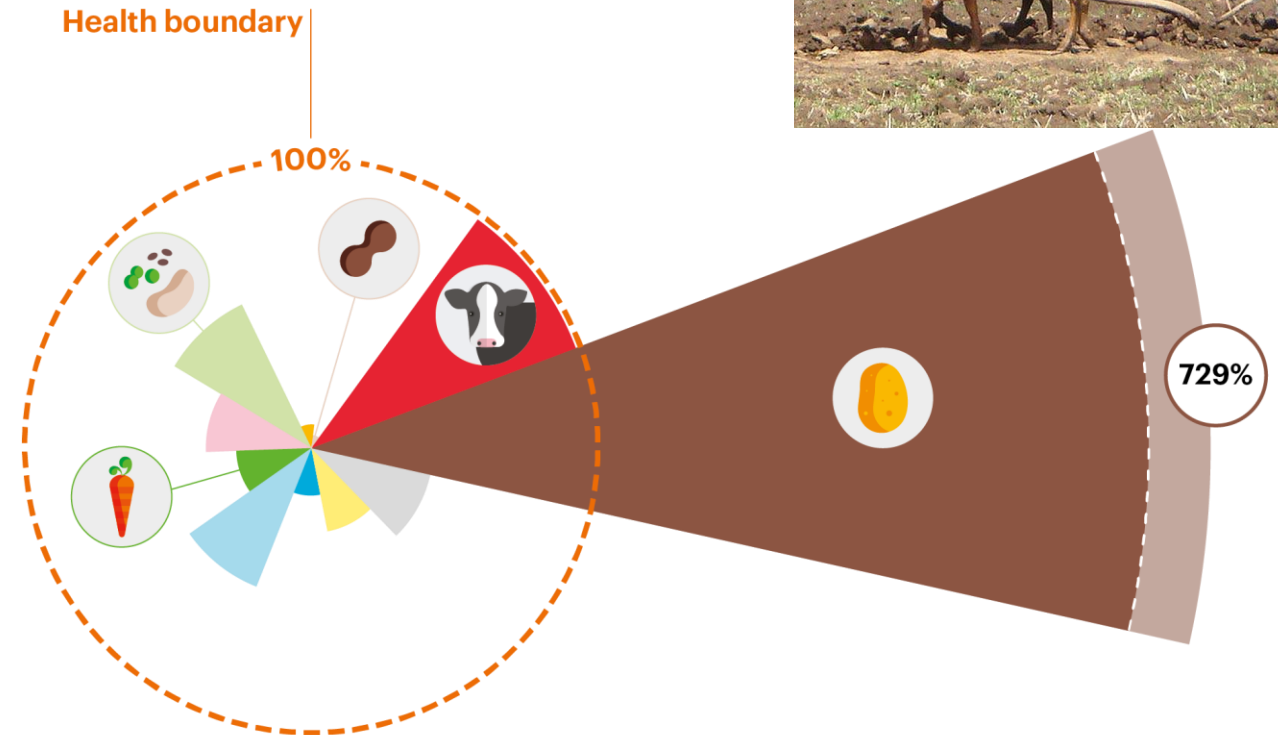
#### Limited intake



#### Optional foods

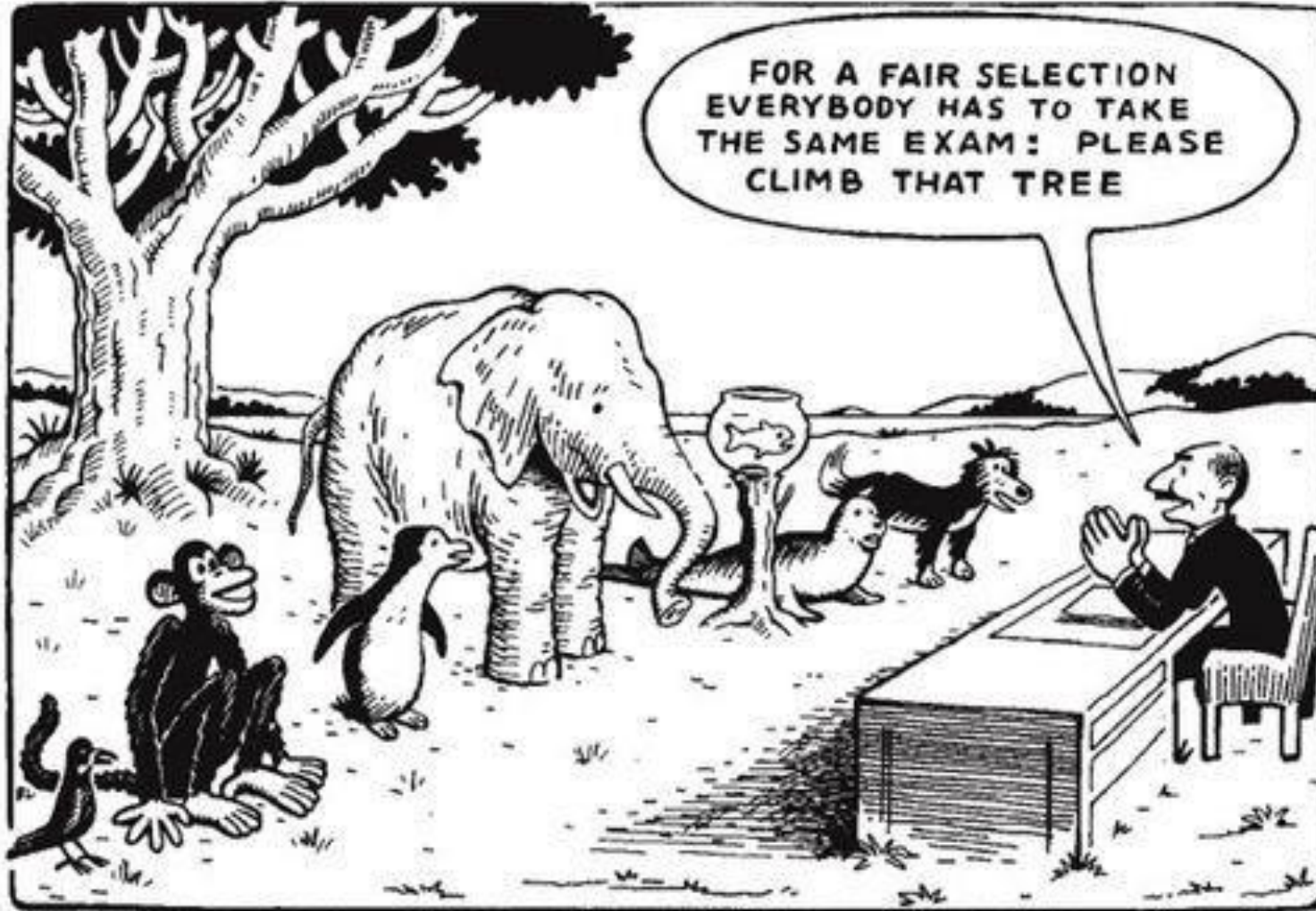


#### Emphasized foods



**To do better on these consumption patterns  
for better nutrition and health  
Attention to sustainable production practices  
And solutions is a must!**

# Context is important: Equal treatment is not always what is needed!

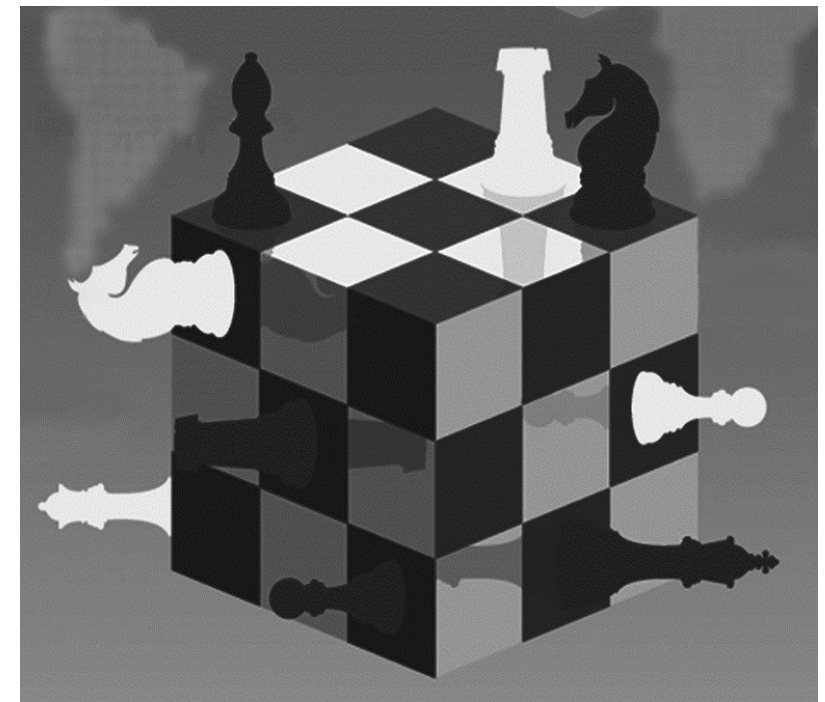


- The presence of UN-Nutrition at country level armed with the strategy being launched today should be leveraged to bring nuance to the efforts being taken!
- Around global tables the “UN Nutrition Community” can use the strategy to foster inclusivity to ensure no one is left behind!



# Key messages

1. Africa has **multiple burdens of malnutrition** and related food systems challenges that must be addressed
2. **We have opportunities** we can leverage in the rich policy environment for nutrition and on the current food systems transformation momentum from the UNFSS to bring about positive changes
3. **But all relevant actors must be deliberate in their efforts** to generate synergies for collective momentum
4. **The UN-Nutrition Strategy being launched today can contribute to accelerating the changes needed by enhancing synergies through the three collaborative areas so clearly articulated.**
5. **Recommend additional members, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, African Nutrition Society**





# Highlights of the UN-Nutrition Strategy, 2022–2030

ADFNS side event no. 3



31 October 2022

# 'Working as One' – strategic insights



**VISION: A world without malnutrition**  
**MISSION: Coordinate and leverage the response of UN agencies to address malnutrition in all its forms, along with its root causes**

# Priorities among the many challenges

## Priority Areas

**Healthy diets** in the context of climate change/natural resources/biodiversity: Building a narrative about the food, health and environment nexus

UN joint criteria for engagement with **private sector**

**Nutrition in fragile contexts**, including the need to work towards systems change

Accelerate coordinated work on the **World Health Assembly (WHA) nutrition targets**





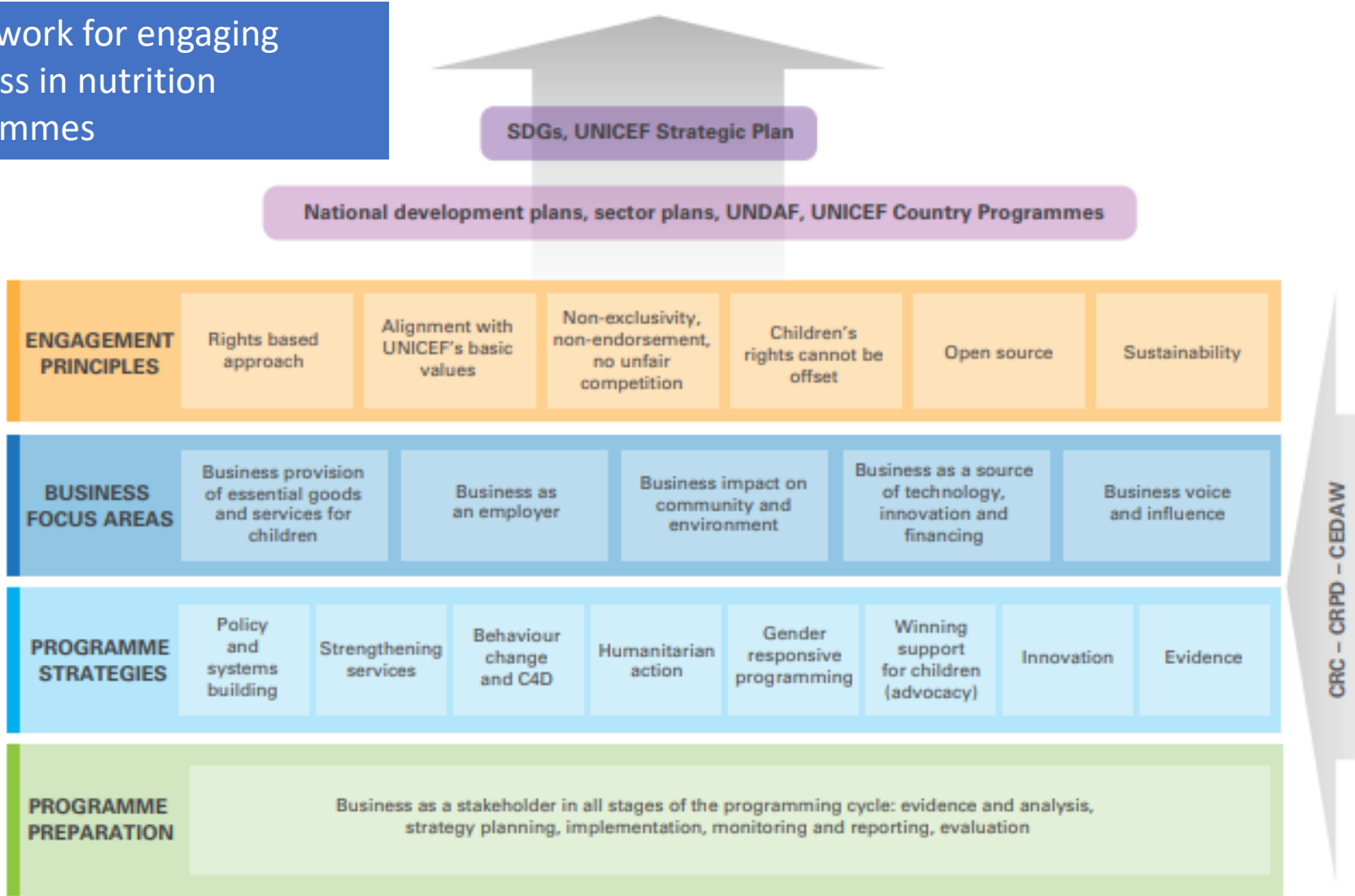
## Private Sector Engagement

13th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS)  
Side event 3: On the road to 2030: Putting the UN-Nutrition  
strategy into practice during the age of intersecting crises

**Stanley Chitekwe, UNICEF Ethiopia**

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

# Framework for engaging business in nutrition programmes



1. Programme Guidance – Engaging Business for Nutrition Outcomes (2021)
2. Case Studies Compendium on Engaging Business for Nutrition Outcomes (2021)
3. UNICEF Nutrition Strategy 2020–2030
4. Engagement with Business – Programme Guidance for Country Offices (2019)
5. UNICEF Conceptual Framework on the Determinants of Maternal and Child Nutrition, 2020

# UNICEF Approach to Engaging Business for Programme Outcomes

- **Transformational changes** to and by business actors can scale up and accelerate UNICEF programme outcomes.
- **UNICEF rules of engagement with business**
  1. Rights-based approach
  2. Non-exclusivity, non-endorsement, fair competition, transparency
  3. Children's rights cannot be offset
  4. Open-source solutions
  5. Sustainability
  6. Sustainable procurement
- **Business focus areas as potential programme entry points**
  1. Business as a provider of essential goods and services for children and families (*large scale FF, Micronutrient Supplements*)
  2. Business as an employer (*Workplace policies e.g. Maternity protection policies*)
  3. Business impact on communities and the environment (*production of nutritious, safe, and affordable foods*)
  4. Business technology and innovation (*supply chain for low-cost nutrition commodities*)
  5. Business as a positive influence in society (*Stronger corporate responsibility*)



## Engaging Business for Nutrition Outcomes

A Compendium of UNICEF's Experience

# Business as a provider of essential goods and a source of technology and innovation

## *Scaling up RUTF production in Nigeria and Ethiopia*

### ***Advantages of locally procured product***



#### **Cost efficiency**

Supply chain management cost efficiency gained due to close proximity to the source



#### **Lead time**

Reduced lead time from the time an order is submitted to the time it is delivered



#### **Acceptability**

Better acceptability and/or government endorsement of locally produced product



#### **Development**

Local production of RUTF contributes to development objectives (e.g., creating jobs)

### ***Challenges with locally procured product***



#### **Increased cost**

Importation of ingredients (e.g., milk powder, peanuts, vitamin-mineral mix) and materials (e.g., packaging) more expensive



#### **Tax exemptions**

Imported finished RUTF products are tax exempt due to their programmatic purpose



#### **Production capacity**

Challenges attracting investment capital to expand production; high interest rates on capital loans



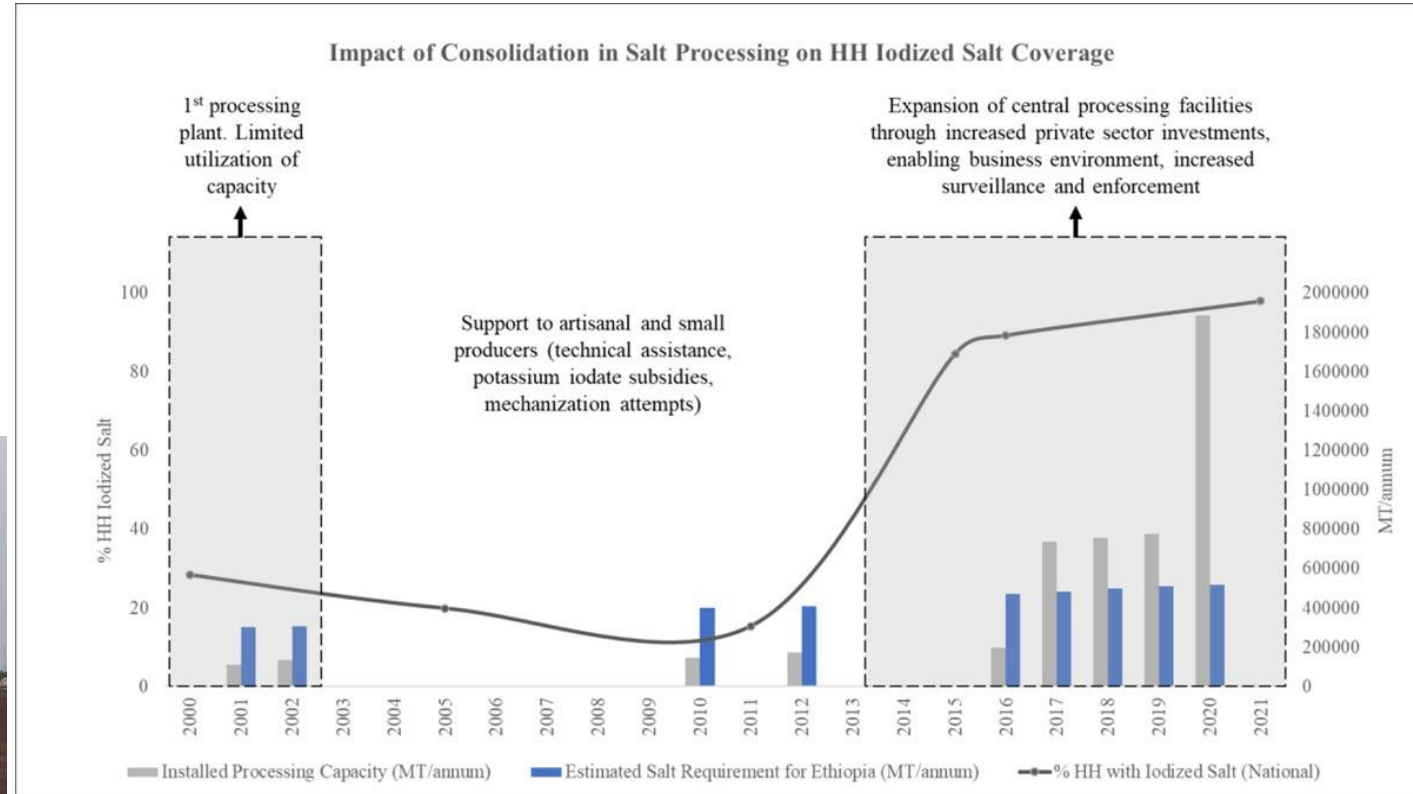
#### **Regulations**

National standards may not be sufficient; access to quality testing labs for quality assurance may be limited

# Success of the USI program & mandatory FF Standards In Ethiopia

- Achieved 89% HH iodized salt coverage from its lowest point of 15% coverage and improve population iodine intake.
- The establishment of centralized iodization facilities(CIFs) have been instrumental in improving iodized salt coverage and access.
- Development partner support and Government commitment and efforts on enforcement have created the right enabling environment to attract investments in salt processing.

Moved from artisanal way of iodization to CIF



Received: 1 November 2021 | Revised: 16 August 2022 | Accepted: 19 August 2022  
DOI: 10.1111/mcn.13427

SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE

Maternal & Child Nutrition WILEY

## The advancement of Ethiopia's salt iodization programme—The success story of the central iodized facilities

Rizwan Yusufali<sup>1</sup> | Denise Frohmann<sup>1</sup> | Tesfaye Chuko<sup>2</sup> | Arnaud Lailou<sup>2</sup>

# Building Nutrition resilience for young children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women through food systems and novel food-based solutions



*Egg powder processing plant, HILINA Food Products PLC @2021*



*Egg powder processing plant, Ethio-Gabana @2022*



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH - ETHIOPIA



**HILINA**  
ENRICHED FOODS



# Objectives of UN (UNICEF) engagement with private sector: Example: The Egg Powder Initiative

Overall AIM: Develop and institutionalize affordable egg powder as a preferred locally produced food-based product through existing systems and platforms; i) where we screen pregnant women, ii) targeting discharged children from SAM treatment to prevent relapse, iii) targeting underweight adolescent girls through school feeding programs, iv) and targeting general public consumers using the social marketing approaches and business models

## Specific Objectives

- To support local production of the egg powder as a preferred and sustainable local food-based solution to improve the diet and nutrition among children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls in Ethiopia.
- To support minimum (a) quality and standards, and (b) market feasibility and demand generation for sustainable local production of egg powder in Ethiopia.
- To build / model public private partnerships required to develop and scale up sustainable food systems / food-based solutions in Ethiopia

## Long terms goals

- Novel and affordable nutritious food products are available and accessible at scale for children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls.
- The sustainable market is established to support the large-scale production of egg powder and return of investments through a public-private partnership.
- Advocacy and market shaping on sustainable food systems to save lives and improve nutrition resilience among children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescents' girls

# Lessons learnt and next steps

- Innovation and Technology –development of context specific food-based solutions across the food systems (low-cost, durable (long-shelf life) and complementary option to improve child, PLW and adolescent nutrition at scale)
- Strategic partnerships (PPPs) - government, academia, research institutions and private sector - instrumental in driving this innovation.
- Scalability and sustainability (market driven approaches) – thinking through the value chain (including required investments from eggs production, demand generation the SBC work on recipes and marketing)
- Knowledge management - validated approaches to research and development of similar products (in the pipeline, including papaya and avocado powder, high folate yielding fermented staples like injera, etc)





Thank you!



## **Nutrition in fragile contexts**

Abigail Perry, Director of Nutrition, WFP

*October 2022*

*13<sup>th</sup> Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security. "On the road to 2030: Putting the UN Nutrition strategy into practice during the age of intersecting crises"*



World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Responding to the malnutrition crisis

Combined effects of **intersecting crises** are pushing millions of people into even more critical levels of hunger and malnutrition.

While providing emergency food assistance is imperative, **we must make a shift from addressing hunger to nourishing populations.**

**Timely treatment must go hand in hand with early action to prevent malnutrition.**



# The role of UN Nutrition



UN-Nutrition members can be a catalyser to move the needle on nutrition in fragile contexts.

- Requires policy coherence, coordinated investments, harmonized advocacy and action across multiple sectors, including agriculture, education, health, social protection and WASH.
- UN-Nutrition coordination with partners such as the **SUN Movement** and **Humanitarian Cluster System** is essential for adequate preparedness and response.



# UN-Nutrition collaboration at the country-level

## Examples



### nIGERIA

- Development Partners Network
- Joint agenda, workplan, programming
- Nutrition budget for government ministries

### dRC

- UN-Nutrition mapping
- Strategic planning with government
- UN-Nutrition common narrative
- Joint UN proposals



# UN Nutrition

# Thank you



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