



Investing in Nutrition

A pilot methodology and approach to mobilize investments for tackling malnutrition in all its forms

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World Health
Organization

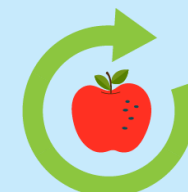


UN INTERAGENCY
TASK FORCE ON NCDs

#beatNCDs



@un_ncd



Health and Noncommunicable Diseases Investment Cases

- 120 Health Investment Cases conducted in 70 countries, resulting in 83 policy actions in line with recommendations (UNDP and WHO).



- 35 specifically examine the health and economic impacts of implementing policy actions detailed in the Global Action Plan on NCDs (WHO)
- Resulted in 22 policy measures being implemented including:
 - salt reduction initiatives in Ethiopia
 - nutrition labelling in Jamaica
 - efforts to eliminate trans-fats in Bahrain

- ❑ NOW focus in on **nutrition** - a powerful combination of several interventions looking at all forms of malnutrition



Background

- Increased investment in **ENAs** is critical to achieving the 2030 global nutrition targets

- Improved evidence of impact and cost-effectiveness of integrating **ENAs** into UHC creates an **opportunity** to enhance government investment

Essential Nutrition Actions



- Nutrition investment cases - a **powerful advocacy tool** to **scale up investment** in **ENAs** from both a health and economic perspective

- Nutrition investment cases **support policy decisions** that can assist in accelerating the implementation of **ENAs** throughout the lifecourse to address undernutrition, overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs



A novel approach for nutrition investment cases

(developed by UNDP, WHO, and coordinated through the UN-Nutrition Secretariat in support of the IATF)

➤ A peer reviewed approach building upon the established methodology comprising:

Situational Analysis	Economic Analysis
<p>Understand the status and context of nutrition in the country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevalence of and risk factors for malnutrition• Key nutrition-related legislation, policies and strategies• Governance and financing of nutrition• Status of essential nutrition actions modeled in investment case	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Estimate the current economic burden of malnutrition (wasting, stunting, obesity, micronutrient deficiencies, diet-related NCDs)2. Analyse the costs and benefits of scaling up a set of essential nutrition actions in a country over:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• short run (5 years)• long-run (15 years)

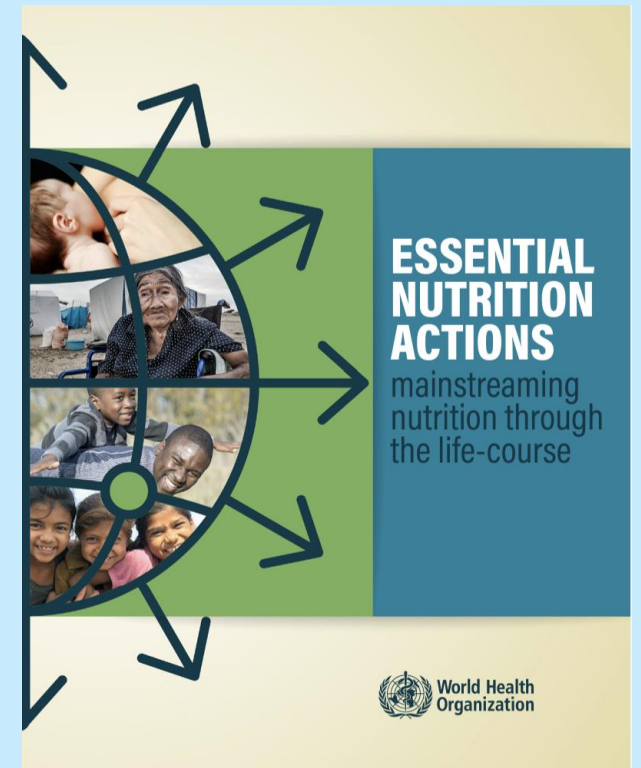


Essential nutrition actions - selection

- Currently, it is possible to assess the impact of 20 essential nutrition actions within nutrition investment cases

Selection Criteria for Essential Nutrition Actions:

- 1) The intervention addresses a disease, or a condition directly or indirectly linked to at least one of the five forms of malnutrition (wasting, stunting, micronutrient deficiency, obesity, diet-related NCDs)
- 2) Data on the cost of the intervention is available or can be estimated from the OneHealth Tool costing module
- 3) The intervention or policy's health impact can be modeled in the OneHealth Tool



Essential nutrition actions - packaged



PERICONCEPTUAL

Fortification

Folic acid
Iron



PREGNANCY

Supplementation

Iron - folic acid
Calcium
Balanced energy-protein



PREVENTATIVE

Breastfeeding Promotion

Complementary Feeding

Education only or
Education &
Supplementation

Supplementation

Vitamin A
Zinc



CURATIVE

Treatment of Diarrhoea

Zinc
Oral rehydration solution

Treatment of Measles

Vitamin A

Treatment of Acute Malnutrition

Wasting (mod & severe)



HEALTHY DIET

Salt Reduction

The SHAKE technical package:
Surveillance
Harness industry
Standards for labelling
and marketing
Knowledge
Environment



Methodology

1. Estimate the economic burden of malnutrition

1. Direct healthcare costs
2. Indirect medical costs
3. Future loss of earnings due to unfulfilled education potential
4. Foregone labour output due to premature deaths
5. Loss of productivity due to absenteeism and presenteeism

2. Estimation of the return on investment of scaling up essential nutrition actions

1. Scaling-Up Pattern
2. Costs of Interventions
3. Health Benefits
4. Economic Benefits
5. Return on Investment



Proof of Concept: Zimbabwe

The investment case for all forms of malnutrition in Zimbabwe



This investment case addresses **all forms of malnutrition** across the **life cycle**, from stunting and wasting to obesity and diet-related NCDs.

The burden of malnutrition affects population health, development and the economy in Zimbabwe.



Around **1 in 4 children** under five are affected by stunting and **3 in 20 adults** are obese.



Each year, the economic burden of malnutrition in Zimbabwe costs **US\$650 million**, equivalent of

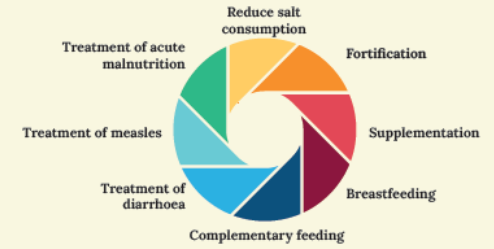
3.4% of its GDP or

US\$44 per capita.

Loss of economic productivity

due to malnutrition is the largest contributor to the economic burden of malnutrition in Zimbabwe.

Essential nutrition actions in this investment case



Investing in these actions over 15 years would cost around **US\$472 million** and could generate nearly

US\$4.5 billion.

For every US\$1 invested in these actions, there is an expected return of **US\$4.4** after 5 years and **US\$9.5** after 15 years.



Investing in these actions over 15 years could save nearly

49,000 lives & add 116,000 Healthy Life Years.

Investments to address all forms of malnutrition call for a **whole-of-society** and **whole-of government** approach.



Conclusions & Next Steps

- Build upon the methodologies to move from a health system approach to a **multisector approach**, to make investments work for nutrition and for food system transformation.
- Continue research to **expand modelling** to **all Essential Nutrition Actions**.
- **Integrate the updated Appendix 3** which supports the implementation roadmap (2023-2030) of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2030 **for better coverage of overnutrition, overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs**.
 - Inclusion of the impact of sugar-sweetened beverages taxation
 - elimination of trans-fatty acids and/or reduce saturated fats, free sugars and/or sodium
 - expansion of the salt package to include other nutrients.
- Seeking **interested Member States** to undertake Nutrition Investment Cases.



