

ROME NUTRITION WEEK 2026 – CONCEPT NOTE

Shaping the Future of Joint Nutrition Action in a Changing World

25-28 May 2026, FAO HQ, Rome

CONTEXT

There is broad recognition that good nutrition is fundamental to health, growth, development, and all aspects of social and economic well-being and equity. Yet the 2025 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) [2] report warns that in 2024, 2.6 billion people—31.9 percent of the world’s population—could not afford a healthy diet. Moreover, according to the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises,[3] in 2024, an estimated 294 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity, with 227.1 million of them living in just 40 countries or territories. In addition, 26 countries and territories experiencing food crises were identified as having nutrition crises. Policy coherence and coordination are not optional; they are essential for accelerating progress toward ending hunger and food insecurity and achieving good nutrition for all.

Within this understanding, in 2025, the Rome Nutrition Week (RNW), was held from 26–30 May under the theme “Coherent Policy and Action for Better Nutrition.” With strong engagement from UN-Nutrition members, the week convened a cumulative total of approximately 5,000 engagements, both virtually and in person, across 21 joint sessions. The event strengthened system-wide coherence and elevated nutrition within global policy debates. Participants held structured dialogues that improved shared understanding of actionable policies and the challenges in putting them in place. The discussions also highlighted ways to increase efficiency across agencies and strengthen collective approaches aligned with the extended UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the WHO global nutrition targets.

As a result, nutrition was positioned more clearly as a cross-cutting development priority that requires coordinated UN action. Building on the achievement and outcomes of RNW 2025, its 2026 edition will take place between 25-28 May, under the overarching theme of ***Shaping the Future of Joint Nutrition Action in a Changing World***. It aims at going one step further and taking coordinated and coherent action to actionable solutions as a unified UN leadership is essential to address nutrition challenges among the most vulnerable populations. The High-level event on World Nutrition Day is the flagship moment of Rome Nutrition Week and will bring together UN Senior Leadership, Permanent Representatives to the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and other key global actors, to offer insights and strategic direction, for renewing collective commitments with the extension of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (“Nutrition Decade”) and the extension of the World Health Assembly global nutrition targets to 2030.

Following and building on last year's edition of the RNW, this year we take a step further on collaboration and coordination to help shape the future of nutrition. Rome Nutrition Week 2026 will provide a platform for collaborative events, convening and conversation, with the aim of putting nutrition at the heart of everything we do.

Rome Nutrition Week 2026 will be a timely opportunity for in-depth conversations, including working better together, finding efficiencies, and adopting more coherent policy approaches. It is evermore critical that we come together to strengthen cooperation and build on comparative advantages.

Daily Focus Areas

- 25 May: Nutrition Evidence and Innovation for Agrifood Systems Transformation
- 26 May: Aligning Finance for Nutrition Integration
- 27 May: Local Food Solutions for Global Impact
- 28 May: Delivering as One for Coherent Nutrition Action

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Raise visibility of nutrition issues, matching the theme on coherence
2. Engage senior level stakeholders on nutrition in RBAs and beyond
3. Strengthen political leadership and engagement from governments and UN regional offices on nutrition integration into sectoral policies
4. Compile actionable insights on how the UN system can enhance collaboration and coherence in support of country-led nutrition integration strategies

FORMAT

Rome Nutrition Week 2026 will take place over four days from 25-28 May at FAO Headquarters, combining high-level dialogue, technical exchange, and interactive experiences.

Core Programme

- **Three Thematic Sessions** each day, organized by Member States, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and held at FAO headquarters, Ethiopia Room.
- **One Plenary Session** each day, organized by each RBA and UN-Nutrition, in the Sheikh Zayed Centre (SZC), FAO headquarters.
- **High-Level Flagship Event** entitled *Delivering as One for Coherent Nutrition Action*, organized by FAO, held on Thursday, 28 May 2026 (World Nutrition Day) from 11:00 to 12:30 CET, in the SZC.



Thematic exhibitions

- Taking place throughout the week
- Located in the FAO Atrium
- Featuring interactive displays as well as country and regional experiences

PARTICIPANTS

1. Rome-based member states of the UN
2. Members of UN-Nutrition
3. Wider nutrition stakeholders
4. CSOs, social movements, private sector, international financial institutions (IFIs) and development finance institutions (DFIs)

For any questions, please contact the organizers at: rome-nutrition-week@fao.org.