

**Summary Note:** Side event on: 'Leaving no-one behind in the fight against malnutrition in all its forms'

**HLPF:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July - UNHQ – New York

**Webcast:** <http://tinyurl.com/hjv9mpo>.

**Hosts:** Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

- 1) The purpose of the side-event on 'Leaving no-one behind in the fight against malnutrition in all its forms' was to draw attention to the importance of nutrition to achieving the full potential of the 2030 Agenda.** The event showcased how governments are embedding nutrition in their national strategies, policies, plans and investments in sustainable systems for sustainable social and economic development, and working with others to achieve their aims. The event also marked the launch of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025).
  
- 2) Panellists discussed how malnutrition, in all its forms, represents a significant barrier to equitable and sustainable social and economic development.** They emphasised that poor nutrition disproportionately affects women, and - influenced by political, economic, geographic and social factors - is both a driver and an outcome of inequity. They noted that undernutrition inhibits cognitive development and educational success, both of which are important determinants of labour productivity and economic growth. They also noted the risks factors of overweight and obesity for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The impacts of climate change on food security and nutrition are further exacerbating existing inequalities. People-centred policies are essential if the hardest to reach people are prioritised to ensure that no-one is left behind.
  
- 3) Improved nutrition will be essential if the full ambition of the 2030 Agenda is to be realized.** Twelve of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals contain indicators that track important inputs into nutrition. Impact can be achieved faster, and for everyone, by:
  - a. **Policy coherence across sectors:** investing in effective implementation of both specific actions for nutrition, as well as nutrition-sensitive strategies, that are rights based and gender equitable;
  - b. **High level political commitment:** Political leadership is essential to enhance national policies and institutional frameworks and to stimulate investment;
  - c. **Multi-stakeholder collaboration:** innovative alliances and the engagement of all stakeholders with national authorities are needed – attention should be paid to conflicts of interest.
  - d. **Strengthened, responsive and disaggregated data systems;** enable policy makers to identify and track progress in reducing nutritional inequities and encourage mutual accountability;
  - e. **Enabling mutual learning:** malnutrition is a universal issue and much can be learned from the experiences from countries and across regions; and
  - f. **Accelerating implementation:** The world is still far off the trajectory required to end malnutrition in all its forms. Action is needed now, building on the existing evidence - base.
  
- 4) The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) is a rallying call for everybody to accelerate Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) actions to end malnutrition in all its forms.**