

## **Indicators with Impact**

### **How to measure Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Members of the International Coalition on Advocating Nutrition (ICAN) – World Vision, The Hunger Project, Save the Children, Concern Worldwide and Action Against Hunger – hosted a multi-stakeholder discussion at the United Nations to discuss specific nutrition indicators that are inherently multi-purpose and thus critical for inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moderated by World Vision Ireland's CEO, Helen Keogh, panelists discussed achievements in various development areas via nutrition initiatives, opportunities to leverage the comprehensive nature of the SDGs, why nutrition indicators are so crucial and how nutrition can be fully addressed in the Post 2015 Global Development Agenda Framework.

Anthony Caswell Pérez, Director of International Affairs, Advocacy and Child Rights Governances of Save the Children Mexico, noted that the set of eight indicators backed by ICAN were devised from lessons in development over the last 15 years and have strong, supporting scientific evidence. Out of these eight indicators, six are the Global Nutrition Targets unanimously agreed by the all UN Member states at the World Health Assembly, plus two more targets on women's dietary diversity and nutrition budget indicators. Pérez pressed the importance of breastfeeding as a multi-purpose indicator: high impact, but low investment for food security and nutrition, and also benefits the SDG health target on ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age by 2030.

Hien Tran, Global Policy and Advocacy of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, challenged that the current targets of Goal 2 lack strength and ambition to truly improve nutritional impact for all people, not just those considered to be "low hanging fruit." The nutrition indicators above will not only pave way for improved nutrition for marginalized people, but will also behoove other areas of development (i.e. education, health and decreases in maternal morbidity). This allows for broader application, increased capacity in measuring across sectors and feasibility in their application at both the national and grassroots levels.

Nutrition is a driver of development, but also an outcome of development improvements. Ambassador Caleb Otto of the Mission of the Republic of Palau to the UN noted that achievements to improving nutrition can be hindered by a multitude of issues: addiction, poverty, breastmilk substitutes and poor policies supporting gender equality. He called for stronger political will to address the critical issues of poverty and women to enhance nutrition. While this will rely heavily on much needed data about ideal methodologies of implementation, it is nevertheless an example of needed policies for an enabling environment.

Attendees furthered the technical discussion by highlighting the linkages between agriculture and nutrition, stating that without good agricultural practices, access to land, women's labor rights and access to markets, nutrition will not be possible for all people. Additional attention was placed on linkages between WASH and nutrition and others discussed the impact of climate change on nutrition as it affects crop availability or composition.

Nutrition is not only a cross-sectoral issue, but also universal. Almost every country in the world faces longterm health risks attributed to some form of malnutrition. This is true across classes, ages and gender. Addressing malnutrition will not only save lives, but will also reduce inequalities and build resilience. If the development community intends to achieve sustainable development in a mere fifteen

year period, efficiency and effectiveness through nutrition initiatives as they are specified in the SDGs' indicators will be critical.

Priority indicators essential to ending malnutrition in all its forms:

Area	Indicator	Relevant Goal/Target Area
New 2030 targets ambitiously expanded on World Health Assembly (WHA) 2025 Global Nutrition Targets	Prevalence of stunting (low height-for-age) in children under 5	Goal 2, Target 2.2
	Prevalence of wasting (low weight-for-height) in children under 5	Goal 2, Target 2.2
	Percentage of children less than 6 months old who are fed breast milk alone (no other liquids or food)	Goal 2, Target 2.1 or Goal 3, 3.2
	Percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49) with anemia	Goal 2, Target 2.2 or Goal 3, 3.1
	Percentage of infants born low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds)	Goal 2, Target 2.2 or Goal 3, 3.2
	Proportion of overweight children under 5	Goal 2, Target 2.2 or Goal 3, 3.4
Dietary Diversity	The proportion of women, 15-49 years of age, who access and consume at least five out of 10 defined food groups	Goal 2, Target 2.1
Means of Implementation	Percentage of national budget allocated to nutrition	Goal 2, Target 2.2a