



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2023

Original: English

2023 session

25 July 2022–26 July 2023

Agenda item 11

**Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations
conferences and summits**

UN-Nutrition

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour of submitting to the Economic and Social Council the report of UN-Nutrition, pursuant to Council decision 2018/207.



Report of UN-Nutrition*

[in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I. The world's nutrition challenges

1. The world is moving backwards in its efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. With less than eight years to go to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the gap to achieving many of the SDG targets is growing wider each year. Globally, between 702 million and 828 million people were undernourished in 2021.

2. Malnutrition in all its forms is likely to be exacerbated by the persistence of COVID-19, wars and conflicts, and the worsening of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – all major threats that the world continued to face in 2022. The intensification of such major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition trends, combined with the high cost of nutritious foods and growing inequalities, will continue to weigh on nutrition, with the most vulnerable groups disproportionately affected.

3. As the United Nations coordination mechanism for nutrition, with global and country reach, UN-Nutrition plays a crucial role in helping to address and mitigate the negative nutritional impacts of such threats, by providing a platform for coherent and aligned United Nations action on nutrition, enabling the United Nations to deliver coordinated support to its Member States. Working as “One UN for nutrition” at all levels is essential to achieving the two interconnected UN-Nutrition goals of i) joint, consistent nutrition action and policy implementation at all levels and ii) coherent policies, approaches and positions on evolving nutrition challenges.

II. Facing nutrition challenges, leaving no one behind: collective actions undertaken by UN-Nutrition Members in 2022

4. To achieve its objectives, UN-Nutrition draws upon and consolidates the expertise of its Members, who continued to work as a collective in 2022, in line with the UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030¹ approved in 2022. Five priority workstreams were agreed for the 2022–2023 biennium and were the focus of this joint work throughout 2022:

- facilitating the coordination of United Nations agencies at country level;
- promoting healthy diets from sustainable food systems;
- fostering private-sector engagement for nutrition results;
- addressing hunger, malnutrition and its determinants in crisis and fragile contexts;
- accelerating coordinated work on the global nutrition targets adopted by the World Health Assembly.

5. The joint work of the UN-Nutrition Members is supported by a lean Secretariat, led by an Executive Secretary, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of

* The present report is being issued without formal editing.

¹ UN-Nutrition. 2022. *One UN for nutrition: UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030*. Rome. https://www.unnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Nutrition-Strategy-2022-2030_WEB_28Oct2022_EN.pdf.

the United Nations (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome. In 2022, it worked under the overall supervision of UN-Nutrition Chair Naoko Yamamoto, World Health Organization (WHO) Assistant Director General for Universal Health Coverage – Healthier Populations, and a seven-member Steering Committee. The Steering Committee comprised nutrition chiefs from FAO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and WHO. At global level, UN-Nutrition comprised 13 United Nations System Members, one associate member and two observers,² with more United Nations agencies joining at country level.

1. Facilitating United Nations agency coordination at country level

6. UN-Nutrition began 2022 with an assessment of countries’ nutrition coordination processes, using an online baseline survey developed by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, which it sent to United Nations nutrition focal points in 101 countries. Regional offices were asked to disseminate the survey to country focal points, which helped increase its reach, particularly to those countries outside the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. By the end of 2022, 44 countries had responded. The findings provided key insights into the state of United Nations coordination on nutrition at country level and the extent to which nutrition had been integrated into United Nations country portfolios³. Sixty-four percent of countries (28 out of 44) said they had improved nutrition coordination among United Nations entities. This was observed in all major regions (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Near East) and many countries (20) where the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) or Humanitarian Coordinator was engaged in the nutrition agenda.

7. Most of the countries that responded (40 out of 44) had a coordination structure in place through which United Nations actors collaborated on nutrition. Of those structures, 22 (55 percent) exclusively comprised United Nations Members. Furthermore, 18 (45 percent) of those coordination structures focused solely on nutrition. The findings also indicated that a United Nations representative had been identified to lead collective nutrition activity in a majority of countries (28 out of 44), most often from UNICEF. In addition, United Nations Resident Coordinators or Humanitarian Coordinators were engaged in nutrition in approximately 73 percent (32) of the countries surveyed, further attesting to the stewardship on nutrition at the highest level of the United Nations System. While FAO (36 countries), UNICEF (36 countries), WFP (30 countries) and WHO (29 countries) most frequently participated in such country-level collaboration platforms, 14 other agencies were involved in at least one country.⁴

² FAO, IAEA, IFAD, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNEP, UNICEF, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Women, WFP and WHO. CGIAR, through the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, is an associate member. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat and the Global Nutrition Cluster are observers.

³ Placeholder for link to the article at UN-Nutrition newsletter.

⁴ IFAD, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), UNHCR, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), OCHA, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), UN Women and the World Bank.

8. According to the baseline data, participation ranged from 2 to 16 United Nations entities, with approximately four agencies engaging on average in these country coordination platforms. The Republic of South Sudan was the country that reported having 16 United Nations agencies engaged in their nutrition coordination mechanism.

9. Concrete examples of progress achieved included the 41 countries that had developed or updated joint United Nations frameworks over the past two years to reflect a multisectoral approach to nutrition.⁵ Joint nutrition efforts were also reported in other areas, such as programming, assessment and advocacy. In as many as 39 countries (89 percent), two or more United Nations agencies were pursuing at least one of those areas of activity, often in both humanitarian and development settings. Nevertheless, participants identified inadequate coordination as both the most common challenge (20 countries) and among the top priorities (23 countries) in encouraging governments to improve nutrition outcomes.

10. Country support in 2022 also included providing guidance on integrating nutrition into key programming and policy work, as reflected, for example, in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) or the previous United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). To this end, UN-Nutrition updated its *Guidance Note on Nutrition for United Nations Country Teams, their government counterparts and other stakeholders*⁶ intended for United Nations Resident Coordinators, United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), government officials and other partners involved in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) development processes. The guidance note is complemented by a nutrition checklist, designed as a self-assessment tool for reviewing the level of integration of nutrition at each phase of the UNSDCF or UNDAF cycle. The guidance note was introduced to the UNCTs and piloted in Lesotho and Zimbabwe, providing valuable insights. The overall conclusion of the pilots was that further guidance on integrating nutrition into United Nations strategic frameworks remained crucial and that such a guidance note was useful and a good entry point for engaging UNCTs in nutrition-related discussions on joint programming. The guidance note is already being used by the UNCTs in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The launch and wider dissemination of the guidance note is planned for early 2023.

11. Importantly, in-depth support was provided to countries through the Irish Aid Partnership project “Fostering ‘One UN’ through UN-Nutrition Country Support”. The partnership helps to build enabling nutrition policy environments in Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. The UN-Nutrition Chair engaged with the UNRC offices in those countries. The Secretariat supported the countries with inception/scoping or backstopping missions, analytics and UNSDCF piloting (see above).

12. As a result, both the United Nations and government nutrition policy processes were strengthened accordingly in the countries engaged in the partnership. Irish Aid indicated an interest in continuing the partnership and financial support in 2023.

Support for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement as part of the Scaling Up Nutrition Global Support System

13. Throughout 2022, UN-Nutrition remained actively engaged in the SUN Movement in its capacity as the United Nations support network. WFP and FAO

⁵ For example, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

⁶ <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4357en>.

served on the SUN Movement Executive Committee as member and alternate, respectively, while the UNICEF Chair and WFP Executive Directors were members of the Lead Group. UN-Nutrition has been instrumental in implementing the first steps of the SUN 3.0 Strategy.⁷ This included efforts to connect UNCTs with the SUN Executive Committee to relay concerns from the field and steer high-level decisions towards more country-driven needs.

14. In addition, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat represented the United Nations in the SUN Global Support System by participating in retreats, working groups and webinars. A workplan was developed to capitalize on the contributions of the SUN Networks in a complementary manner in support of SUN 3.0. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat continued to engage in the advocacy, communications, knowledge management/monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning and technical assistance task teams, supporting the 2022 African Union Year of Nutrition, the advocacy efforts surrounding the global food and nutrition crisis, as well as efforts to embed nutrition in the climate change agenda of SUN countries.

15. UN-Nutrition also liaised with the newly established SUN Movement regional hubs, helping to direct technical assistance requests that could not be resolved at local level to the most appropriate UN-Nutrition Member. Those requests were identified through the Joint Annual Assessment, launched in December 2021, which provided an opportunity for SUN countries and stakeholders to reflect together on annual progress and ensure that multistakeholder and multisectoral efforts to defeat malnutrition were well aligned and coherent. Furthermore, UN-Nutrition closely supported country-level multistakeholder platforms to strengthen nutrition collaboration, including the successful completion of the nutrition stakeholder and action mapping exercise in three countries (Lesotho, Liberia and Senegal) in 2022. This mapping exercise generated aggregated intervention coverage data to help government-led nutrition coordination mechanisms identify gaps and better align efforts.

2. Promoting healthy diets from sustainable food systems

16. Healthy diets promote human health and prevent disease. However, looking at what foods are being produced, available and affordable for people's diets is not enough. How sustainably foods are being produced is equally important to people's well-being and the health of the planet.

17. May 2022 saw the launch of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS),⁸ bringing together Member States, United Nations agencies, civil-society organizations, academic institutions and social movements to position health, nutrition and environmental sustainability as core, cross-cutting foundations of food systems transformation. The HDSFS coalition workplan revolves around three key functions: i) to mobilize and coordinate existing expertise and stakeholders to align action across food systems for collective impact at country level; ii) to facilitate peer-to-peer learning between countries; and iii) to manage special projects on integrating nutrition, health and sustainability through food, based on country priorities. Several UN-Nutrition Members are part of the HDSFS coalition. Its secretariat consists of dedicated FAO and WHO staff, with the support of the UN-Nutrition Secretariat.

18. UN-Nutrition Members engaged in the HDSFS coalition and helped to develop its Principles of Engagement, while the UN-Nutrition Secretariat assisted to develop

⁷ https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SUN-Strategy3_draft_MAIN-DOCUMENT_ENG.pdf.

⁸ <https://www.who.int/initiatives/food-systems-for-health/the-coalition-of-action-on-healthy-diets-from-sustainable-food-systems-for-children-and-all>.

newsletters, publicize advocacy events and organize coalition meetings. It also participated in UNFSS Coordination Hub (the Hub) discussions on Members' behalf when requested.

19. SUN, the Hub and the UN-Nutrition Secretariat worked together in 2022 to organize a virtual workshop for UNRCs and UNCTs on food systems transformation programming. Twelve UNCRs⁹ will participate in a pilot phase to take place at the beginning of 2023. The expected outcome of the workshops is a shared understanding of how effective policy and strategic food systems action can be used to deliver healthy and sustainable diets and good nutrition for all. This can be an entry point for the coalition to provide further support under its first key function.

20. To support its second key function, the coalition held two virtual peer-to-peer learning events supported by UN-Nutrition Members. The first event focused on food-based dietary guidelines as a means of delivering healthy diets from sustainable food systems, while the second event focused on public-private partnerships and the management of conflicts of interest, led by coalition member Denmark. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat lent organizational support and presented the concepts and highlights of its workstream on private-sector engagement for nutrition results.

21. The coalition's third key function is special projects identified by the members, including a workstream to incorporate nutrition considerations into nationally determined contributions.

22. At the end of 2022, in line with the third key function, and under the leadership of the Government of Egypt, WHO played a key role in developing and launching the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN)¹⁰ at the Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh. FAO and other UN-Nutrition Members, supported by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, and other partners were fully engaged in the development and launch of I-CAN. The initiative aims to support the integration of the global delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation policy action with nutrition and sustainable food systems to support bidirectional, mutually beneficial outcomes.

23. Though climate change is a key development priority that is putting huge pressure on humanity, the bidirectional linkages between healthy diets from sustainable food systems and the environment go beyond climate change to include biodiversity loss and pollution – known as the triple planetary crisis. Food systems are both key contributors to and victims of the triple planetary crisis. What we eat has significant effects on nutritional and environmental outcomes, but the accelerating environmental crisis makes it more difficult to produce and consume healthy diets from sustainable food systems. To shed light on this important issue, identified as an emerging nutrition issue by UN-Nutrition, UNEP led the development of a joint discussion paper, *Nutrition and the Environment: Nurturing People, Protecting the Planet*, with support from the UN-Nutrition Secretariat and input from UN-Nutrition Members.

24. This discussion paper aims to foster a cross-disciplinary dialogue between those working in nutrition, agriculture, the environment and other related fields to build a common understanding of the links between nutritional and environmental challenges and how to address them. By bringing together experts and practitioners from multiple fields, it is possible to identify potential synergies, trade-offs and joint policy options

⁹ Countries where the food systems pathways focal point is also the SUN country coordinator: Afghanistan, Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Mauritania, Somalia, Timor-Leste and Yemen.

¹⁰ <https://www.gainhealth.org/resources/reports-and-publications/initiative-climate-action-and-nutrition-i-can>.

that generate co-benefits for people and the planet. The discussion paper proposes policy approaches with the potential to provide co-benefits for nutrition and the environment while transitioning towards healthy diets from sustainable food systems. It focuses on approaches at each food systems stage – from agricultural production, food storage, distribution and processing to packaging, retail and marketing, from food environments and consumer behaviour to food loss and waste.

25. The paper was pre-launched at an official side event, entitled “Ensuring healthy diets for all in face of a Warming Planet: Challenges, Opportunities, and Solutions”, at COP27 (see III.2.2).

3. Fostering private-sector engagement for nutrition results

26. The private sector is a key player in the delivery of sustainably produced and safe foods for healthy diets, as well as many other products, practices and services which can prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms. At the same time, some private sector actors continue to engage in harmful practices. Consequently, engagement with the private sector is essential for nutrition results, but can be challenging for UN-Nutrition Members and Member States due to differing end goals, working cultures, expectations and understanding.

27. UN-Nutrition Members share the common vision of a world without malnutrition, where everyone everywhere enjoys the right to adequate food, interdependent on and indivisible from all human rights now and in future. Through their specific mandates, operational modalities and business models, together, they are a force that can realize this shared vision. However, operational differences pose a challenge when trying to reach common understanding and coherent practices for engaging with the private sector.

28. In 2022, FAO, IAEA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP and WHO formed the UN-Nutrition private sector engagement task team (PSTT) to work on developing a joint white paper on the principles of and recommended approaches to private sector engagement in nutrition-related action. The paper will include the categorization of types of/reasons for engagement with the private sector for nutrition, the identification of criteria that define best engagement practices, along with concrete examples, and risk assessment tools, acknowledging the different reasons for and types of engagement. The paper should also be helpful to the SUN Movement in identifying and managing conflicts of interest.

29. In 2022, with the support of the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, the PSTT compiled an inventory of agency principles, rules and tools for due diligence when engaging with private sector entities for nutrition, based on available documentation. The guidance and best practice criteria will be developed in early 2023.

4. Addressing hunger, malnutrition and its determinants in crises and fragile contexts

30. The UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 states that a coherent approach to nutrition must span disaster risk reduction, early warnings, humanitarian response, recovery, longer-term development efforts and resilience building, and include working with all relevant stakeholders across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

31. In 2022, UN-Nutrition Members came together to discuss ways of lending coherent support that empowered governments in addressing nutrition needs in fragile contexts, while not losing sight of the need to support food systems transformation and healthy diets. A technical group was established, with the participation of FAO, IAEA, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO and the Global Nutrition Cluster, to look at how this could be put into practice in such contexts.

32. The technical group agreed that the thematic focus should be on i) wasting, stunting and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), ii) the development–humanitarian–peace nexus and building resilience, and iii) working together, coordination and a multisectoral approach. Key messages were then crafted around the current unprecedented crisis and how this required i) acceleration for immediate implementation, ii) a phased approach and iii) the United Nations working together and with partners.

33. The technical group is working on a reframed narrative to provide better coordination and support when transitioning from humanitarian to development scenarios and vice versa.

34. In the future, UN-Nutrition will advocate for the dissemination and use of the revised Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF)¹¹, a new method of analysing the multiple needs of populations in crisis. For the first time, the JIAF includes nutrition indicators on global acute malnutrition and under-five mortality to help raise the profile of nutrition in the humanitarian programme cycle.

5. Accelerating coordinated work on globally agreed malnutrition targets

35. Recognizing that accelerated global action is needed to address malnutrition in all its forms, more than 10 years ago, Member States adopted World Health Assembly resolution 65.6, endorsing a comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.¹² The plan sets out six global nutrition targets for 2025: i) a 40 percent reduction in the number of stunted children under the age of five; ii) a 50 percent reduction in anaemia in women of reproductive age; iii) a 30 percent reduction in low birth weight; iv) no increase in childhood overweight; v) an increase in the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months to at least 50 percent; and vi) a reduction in and maintenance of childhood wasting at less than 5 percent. Despite some progress, however, at the current rate of progress, the global nutrition targets will not be achieved by 2025.

36. Through this priority area of joint work, UN-Nutrition Members are identifying entry points and opportunities to support coordinated country implementation of actions related to the global nutrition targets, as well as to the nutrition commitments made at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in December 2021.

37. In support of its Members, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat participated in the Tokyo N4G outreach group, helped organize a webinar series in December 2022 and participated in Tokyo N4G one-year anniversary activities. On the latter, it liaised with United Nations agencies to collate and submit UN-Nutrition contributions on progress made on N4G commitments, including video statements by several Members, as well as the UN-Nutrition Executive Secretary.

38. This priority workstream underpins UN-Nutrition’s first priority to facilitate United Nations agency coordination at country level, as all support provided to countries – in particular, the UNSDCF guidance note and the actions undertaken under the Irish Aid Partnership project – includes discussions on the integration of global nutrition targets into country efforts.

¹¹ <https://www.jiaf.info/>.

¹² https://apps.who.int/nutrition/topics/WHA65.6_resolution_en.pdf.

III. Engagement of UN-Nutrition Members in key 2022 regional and global processes and events

39. UN-Nutrition Members jointly committed to accelerating progress on eliminating all forms of malnutrition, with joint advocacy, coordination and programming to improve nutrition across the United Nations System a key element in achieving policy coherence and consistent country-level impact.

1. Regional engagement: the African Union Year of Nutrition

40. The theme of the African Union Year of Nutrition 2022 was selected to secure greater political commitment to and investment in nutrition, and to address the ongoing nutrition challenges on the continent through increased implementation of both African Union and national legislative and financing instruments aimed at improving food security and nutrition.

41. With the support of the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, UN-Nutrition Members convened a technical task team, including global and regional representatives, to plan and implement joint actions. It developed joint messages, organized advocacy opportunities and offered consolidated contributions to the African Union action plan to be presented at the African Union Heads of State Summit in February 2023. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat also participated in associated technical work, in particular, nutrition investments and communication.

42. Noteworthy was the event organized during the fiftieth session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on “Healthy diets from sustainable food systems: The foundation for human, social and economic capital development in Africa”. The event was co-organized by the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Switzerland, UN-Nutrition Members FAO, WFP and WHO and other partners of the HDSFS coalition. The event spurred connections and elevated the discourse on the need for and potential of holistic food systems transformation for improved nutrition outcomes in Africa. In addition, a high-level meeting of the African Union was held in Côte d’Ivoire in December 2022, with a focus on nutrition and food security. It gathered together heads of state, ministers, nutrition champions and other stakeholders, including UN-Nutrition Members, to speak in one voice, advocating for nutrition not just as a one-year engagement, but as an issue that deserves and requires long-term investment and action. The outcome was the Abidjan Declaration,¹³ which also called for an extension of the African Year of Nutrition in view of the persistence of the multifaceted challenges facing the continent in the areas of nutrition and food security. Côte d’Ivoire presented the declaration to the February 2023 African Union Heads of State Summit for endorsement.

43. The UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 was launched on the margins of the Commemoration of the Thirteenth Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security in Addis Ababa on 31 October 2022. The launch event was titled “On the road to 2030: Putting the UN-Nutrition Strategy into practice during the age of intersecting crises”, suggesting the adoption of an operational focus.¹⁴ The United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council President gave statements prior to the event, while the launch event saw the participation of regional and global UN-Nutrition Members, in addition to the UNRC of Madagascar, the SUN Movement country convenors of Côte d’Ivoire and Kenya, and NEPAD representatives. The next

¹³ https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/news_documents/declaration_final_dabidjan-english.pdf.

¹⁴ <https://www.unnutrition.org/news/launch-of-the-un-nutrition-strategy-2022%E2%88%922030/>.

step, in 2023, is to organize regional webinars to roll out the UN-Nutrition Strategy beyond Africa.

2. Engagement in key global events and processes

44. From a global perspective, the year 2022 presented opportunities for awareness-raising on current global environmental challenges and their interlinkages with food, nutrition and health. Some key events were successful in advocating for intergenerational responsibilities and the need for urgent action on improving the relationship between humans and nature to protect and promote a sustainable future.

2.1 Stockholm+50

45. In June 2022, Sweden and Kenya hosted “Stockholm+50: A Healthy Planet for the Prosperity of All – Our Responsibility, Our Opportunity”. The event took place five decades after the 1972 United Nations Conference in Stockholm, at which the links between the environment and poverty were included on the global agenda for the first time.

46. UN-Nutrition was present at the Stockholm+50 meeting, underscoring the importance of ensuring that healthy diets from sustainable food systems are part of the solution. UN-Nutrition Members agreed on a set of key messages and gave voice to them at various opportunities throughout the meeting. The UN-Nutrition Chair participated in Leadership Dialogue 1, “Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all”, and reinforced the common messages. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat co-organized a “nutrition and diets” session as part of a full-day event, “Appetites for Change: The power of food”,¹⁵ organized by the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme with other partners. Speakers from champion countries, such as Costa Rica and Denmark, showcased examples of successful system-based solutions to connect nutrition and diets to other global goals, such as biodiversity, land use and climate, to benefit human health, planetary health and livelihoods.

2.2 The Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27)

47. COP27 was convened in Sharm El Sheikh in 2022 under the presidency of the Government of Egypt. UN-Nutrition (Members and Secretariat) took an active role in the proceedings, amplifying jointly crafted key messages for greater awareness of the interlinkages between food, nutrition and climate change.

48. WHO, FAO and other UN-Nutrition Members, supported by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, were closely engaged in I-CAN, a multistakeholder, multisectoral initiative developed and launched under the leadership of the Government of Egypt (see II.2). I-CAN will be implemented with the support of UN-Nutrition Members on pillars of action spanning implementation, action and support, capacity building, data and knowledge transfer, policy and strategy, and investment.

49. With the support of the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, UNEP took a leading role in the organization of the official COP27 side event entitled “Ensuring healthy diets for all in face of a Warming Planet: Challenges, Opportunities, and Solutions: Enhancing knowledge, inclusion & enablers for action”.¹⁶ The event was held in partnership with Costa Rica, Switzerland, Chatham House, The Natural Step Israel, Life and Environment, United Cities and Local Governments, and ICLEI – Local Governments

¹⁵ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/opnforum2022/agenda/eat>.

¹⁶ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/ensuring-healthy-diets-all-face-warming-planet-challenges-opportunities-and>.

for Sustainability.¹⁷ During the event, the discussion paper *Nutrition and the Environment: Nurturing People, Protecting the Planet* was pre-launched.⁶

50. Another COP 27 side event co-organized by UN-Nutrition, held at the WHO Health Pavilion, was “Integrating nutrition and food security in nationally determined contributions (NDCs)”, with the International Food Policy Research Institute as keynote speaker and representatives of IFAD, WHO, the Institute for Environment and Human Security – United Nations University and the Israeli Ministry of Health as panellists. In addition, UN-Nutrition representatives spoke at important side events organized by partners including the business sector: “Climate-smart gender equitable initiatives in small-scale aquatic food systems for sustainable healthy diets” at the FAO Pavilion;¹⁸ “Quality, not just quantity: Addressing “hidden hunger” on a warming planet” at the Business Pavilion;¹⁹ and “Measuring progress on adaptation and mitigation of women in agriculture: What does it take?”, co-organized by the Gender, Climate and Nutrition Integration Initiative and CGIAR.

51. The year 2022 ended with the Fifteenth Meeting of the United Nations Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15 – part 2) in Montreal, Canada. It agreed and adopted the biodiversity framework, a new set of goals through 2030 to guide global action to halt and reverse nature loss. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat holds observer status at the Convention through its Chair. UN-Nutrition Members, in particular, UNEP, FAO and IFAD, were actively engaged in COP15, their jointly crafted key messages on nutrition and the environment underpinning coherent statements on nutrition.

IV. Other key actions undertaken by UN-Nutrition Members in 2022

52. In addition to working as a collective, in 2022, UN-Nutrition Members continued to make substantial individual contributions to food and nutrition improvements within their mandates and capacities. Presented below are key highlights of the nutrition-related contributions of six of the UN-Nutrition Steering Committee Members. The contributions of UNEP, the seventh Steering Committee Member, have been recounted in previous sections of this report.

FAO

53. In 2022, FAO continued to support Member States in tackling malnutrition in all its forms by accelerating impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems to enable healthy diets for all, guided by the Member-endorsed corporate Vision and Strategy for FAO’s Work in Nutrition (2021–2025).²⁰

54. In 110 countries, FAO contributed to the generation, collation, understanding and use of data and metrics on diets, food composition, food safety, food security and agrifood systems. Its support for 103 countries directly ensured the integration of dietary and nutrition-related data and analysis into United Nations Common Country Analyses. As of the end of 2022, the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool was successfully sharing quantitative individual food consumption data from 241 surveys, 36 of them with complete, downloadable datasets.

¹⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/live/RdOIVN1CAwY?feature=share&t=14124>.

¹⁸ <https://cop27foodpavilion.cgiar.org/programme/climate-smart-initiatives-in-small-scale-aquatic-food-systems-for-sustainable-healthy-diets/>.

¹⁹ <https://vimeo.com/showcase/9931881/video/770181399>.

²⁰ <https://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1415836/>.

55. FAO convened more than 520 national dialogues in 101 countries to address policy coherence and trade-offs between food systems policies and actions to enable healthy diets. At the global level, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF and with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, FAO co-convened the Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative to enable country and global monitoring of the healthfulness of diets to inform policies and programmes across a wide range of sectors.

56. FAO provided legal, normative, policy and technical assistance to 106 countries. For example, in 56 countries, FAO supported the development and implementation of dietary guidelines while also advancing a methodology for updating dietary guidelines using a food systems approach and including sustainability considerations. FAO, together with Agreenium, offered a massive open online course on nutrition and food systems²¹ and continued to strengthen the capacity of professionals around the world, with a particular focus on effective nutrition education in Sub-Saharan Africa.

57. In line with the 2019 UN Joint Global Action Plan on Child Wasting and 2023 Call to Action, the FAO launched the child wasting prevention action plan (2023–2024)²² to enhance the availability, access and affordability of healthy diets and strengthen household resilience.

IAEA

58. IAEA is a specialized technical agency supporting the use of nuclear techniques in nutritional assessment. In 2022, it continued to support activities related to protein quality assessment. FAO and IAEA jointly organized a technical meeting in Vienna in October 2022, at which participants agreed on a framework for the “Development of a Protein Database and the Way Forward for Reviewing Protein Requirements”. Given the dearth of protein quality data in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), the technical meeting recommended that resources be mobilized to collect more data to diversify the database, to include data from climate-smart foods. A new IAEA technical cooperation programme regional project is supporting stable isotope techniques to assess the protein quality of sustainable food sources in 16 Asian countries.

59. IAEA further developed a first-of-its-kind, regionally harmonized Master of Science in Applied Human Nutrition and Nuclear Techniques for Africa, which has now been approved by North-West University, South Africa and the International University of Rabat, Morocco. Approval processes are underway in Ghana and Senegal.

60. Two new coordinated research projects were initiated to generate new data on energy balance in adolescents and the elderly and to assess the influence of inflammation on long-term iron absorption and loss in relation to dietary iron requirements, respectively.

61. IAEA also launched a new database on the breastmilk intake of breastfed infants in 2022. It will help to answer globally relevant questions on breastmilk intake, exclusive breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices more generally.

²¹ <https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/massive-open-online-course-mooc-nutrition-and-food-systems-learn-about-pathways>.

²² <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3050en>.

IFAD

62. In 2022, IFAD met its corporate commitment for 100 percent of its country strategic opportunities programmes to be nutrition sensitive, approving nine new nutrition-sensitive projects.²³ The new projects added to its 106 ongoing nutrition-sensitive projects in 61 countries, with collective outreach of 1.4 million people receiving nutrition support.

63. COP27 proved an important platform for IFAD to promote the role of small-scale producers in climate change adaptation and mitigation and creating resilient food systems. IFAD had a strong presence at COP15, too, hosting two side events and providing inputs and support to the Abidjan Legacy Program.²⁴ IFAD continued its engagement with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, hosting three side events²⁵ on Indigenous Peoples' food systems. It also announced a sixth call for proposals for the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility on the launch of an innovative tool on sustainable and resilient Indigenous Peoples' food systems for enhanced nutrition.

64. IFAD and the World Bank continued to co-lead the financing agenda for food systems transformation in support of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub and of coalitions under its leadership.

65. In 2022, IFAD engaged in a research study on overweight and obesity in LMICs to identify opportunities for IFAD investments to stop obesity. In addition, it published a series of reports on its work and climate-related investments with co-benefits for nutrition, poverty reduction and the environment.

UNICEF

66. In 2022, UNICEF continued to lead global action for improved policies, strategies and programmes to end all forms of malnutrition in children, adolescents and women, guided by its Nutrition Strategy 2020–2030. Globally, it reached 477.5 million children, adolescents and women with services for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. In addition, an estimated 182.5 million children were screened for wasting; 175.2 million of them received protection and prevention services, while 7.3 million received life-saving treatment and care for severe wasting, including in humanitarian settings and fragile contexts.

67. Furthermore, as the combined effects of poverty, conflict and climate change pushed the world into a global food and nutrition crisis, UNICEF mounted an unprecedented mitigation response – the No Time to Waste Acceleration Plan 2022–2033²⁶ – to mobilize USD 1.2 billion and reach more than 26 million children and women with a package of essential maternal and child nutrition and social protection actions for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting in the 15 worst-affected countries.

68. An important milestone in UNICEF's thought leadership on maternal and child nutrition in 2022 was the publication of *Child Food Poverty: A Nutrition Crisis in Early Childhood*, which sounded the alarm on the poverty of children's diets in

²³ IFAD's 12th replenishment (2022–2024) target of 60 percent of new projects to be nutrition sensitive is well on track.

²⁴ A five-year multi-partner initiative aimed at ensuring the environmental sustainability of food value chains to deal with desertification and its consequences.

²⁵ <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/ifad-at-the-2022-united-nations-permanent-forum-on-indigenous-issues>.

²⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/documents/NTTW-acceleration-plan-2022>.

LMICs, highlighting that 202 million children live in severe food poverty in early childhood. UNICEF issued programmatic guidance on maternal nutrition, including the scale-up of multiple micronutrient supplements in pregnancy and the prevention of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents.

69. For the African Union Year of Nutrition, UNICEF issued a report entitled *Good Nutrition, Bright Futures: Towards an Africa without Malnutrition by 2030*, documenting the nutrition situation of children in Africa, with a pressing call for national and international leaders to accelerate progress towards the 2030 nutrition targets for children and women in Africa.

WFP

70. WFP further scaled up its global reach in 2022²⁷, reaching nearly 28 million people across 49 countries: 13.6 million beneficiaries through malnutrition prevention programmes and 14.3 million through malnutrition treatment programmes, around a 19 percent increase from the previous year.²⁸

71. In 2022, WFP distributed fortified staple foods such as maize meal, wheat flour, rice, oil and iodized salt in 64 countries.²⁹ It also supported 14 countries in ensuring food systems delivered healthier diets and improved nutrition through Fill the Nutrient Gap analyses.³⁰ These achievements represent good progress towards the nutrition commitments announced at the 2021 Tokyo N4G Summit.³¹

72. Furthermore, WFP actively supported several coalitions created in the context of UNFSS, including the School Meals Coalition and the HDSFS coalition. WFP also lent significant support to the roll-out of the African Year of Nutrition 2022, helping to boost momentum for nutrition, particularly in relation to coordination, impact and accountability across the continent.

WHO

73. In 2022, WHO formally launched the updated WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety to guide and support Member States in their efforts to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases.

74. Adult obesity continues to rise worldwide. The Global Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity was developed and approved by the seventy-fifth World Health Assembly.³² Already, 28 Member States have committed to advancing it.

75. Meanwhile, WHO noted an encouraging 10 percentage-point increase in exclusive breastfeeding rates between 2012 and 2022. In 2022, it drew attention to

²⁷ In 2021, in a 36 percent increase on 2020, 23.5 million people in 51 countries – primarily children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls – benefited from WFP programmes for the treatment or prevention of malnutrition.

²⁸ These figures are estimated from quarterly output data (November 2022 data available on the [WFP Dashboard](#)). Final and validated figures on WFP reach will be available in the WFP Annual Performance Report 2022.

²⁹ Final and validated figures on WFP commodity distribution will be available in the WFP Annual Performance Report 2022.

³⁰ In 2022, WFP completed Fill the Nutrient Gap analyses with the eight country governments. Analyses have also been initiated in six more countries, which are expected to be finalized in 2023.

³¹ <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/tracker/org/united-nations-world-food-programme-wfp/>.

³² https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75_10Add6-en.pdf.

abusive commercial formula milk marketing in several reports, accompanied by social media activity and webinars.

76. WHO also developed a Nutrition Data Portal integrating the global databases on child malnutrition and micronutrients and the Nutrition Landscape Information System, which is now available online.³³

77. WHO promotes access to good nutrition through the development of recommendations on healthy diets and healthy food environments, including recent guidelines on carbohydrates, dietary fat intake,³⁴ policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing and fiscal policies to promote healthy diets. All of these guidelines are in the final stages of development, with most having been approved by the WHO Guidelines Review Committee.

78. WHO was a key partner of the Egyptian presidency in launching I-CAN and, together with stakeholders, supported the launch of the HDSFS, two important initiatives already outlined in this report.

V. Stewardship actions undertaken by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat

79. The UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 set three main functions for the UN-Nutrition Secretariat: (1) support an enabling environment for improved United Nations coordination of nutrition at country level; (2) coordinate global engagement and joined-up discussion with United Nations agencies; and (3) facilitate progress across UN-Nutrition strategic priorities.

80. Throughout 2022, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat fulfilled these functions by playing a stewardship role, facilitating the assembly of Members every three months, the engagement of Members in different workstreams and the organization monthly Steering Committee meetings. It also shared information, facilitated knowledge flows and exchange, and conducted advocacy activities on several occasions and at various events.

81. The stewardship work also included maintaining strategic dialogues for improved nutrition through engagement in several key fora, in particular, CFS, the World Health Assembly, the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP) and the Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (UNIATF).

82. In the latter, UN-Nutrition Members and the Secretariat participated in the nutrition technical working group³⁵ and highlighted how improved nutrition helps to counter the onset of NCDs at the eighteenth and nineteenth plenary sessions of UNIATF in March and November 2022. To help bridge funding gaps, UN-Nutrition Members UNDP and WHO, supported by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, developed a framework for country-specific investment cases on NCDs, including nutrition outcomes in a cost–benefit analysis. A preliminary report on the methodology and the pilot case for Zimbabwe were disseminated in various ways, including at the Twenty-second International Union of Nutrition Sciences Congress in Tokyo in December 2022.

83. The Secretariat’s engagement in CFS continued throughout 2022. It attended the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition core group meetings, as well as joint meetings of the CFS Bureau and advisory group. In October 2022, CFS held its

³³ <https://platform.who.int/nutrition/nutrition-portals>.

³⁴ That is, total fat, saturated fatty acids and trans-fatty acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids.

³⁵ The nutrition technical working group is convened by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat.

fiftieth session. UN-Nutrition Members and the Secretariat participated, including through the organization of the successful Africa-focused side event (see III.1).

84. UN-Nutrition Members FAO, IFAD and UNEP took part in the SFSP multistakeholder advisory committee, while the UN-Nutrition Secretariat took an observer role. UN-Nutrition Members and the Secretariat also participated in the coordinating committee of the Fourth Global Conference of the SFSP to be held in April 2023 in Hanoi, which aims to contribute to the 2023 Stocktaking Moment of the 2021 UNFSS. To support the conference, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat designed an online questionnaire to facilitate self-reflection by UNFSS coalitions and the mapping of planned activities against a sustainable food systems framework. The findings will be presented by the coalitions at a session on strengthening the ecosystem of support, with the participation of UN-Nutrition Members.

85. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat also conducted various knowledge management, advocacy and communication activities throughout 2022 as a key component of its stewardship function. Such activities form the foundation and building blocks of UN-Nutrition's five priority workstreams.

Knowledge management

86. To help tackle strategic and emerging nutrition issues, the inaugural edition of the *UN-Nutrition Journal* focused on transforming nutrition and was launched in November 2022.³⁶

87. Like all UN-Nutrition knowledge products, the *UN-Nutrition Journal* benefited from the individual strengths and comparative advantages of its Members, which form part of its editorial board.

88. The theme of “transforming nutrition” sits at the crossroads of the areas of collaboration set out in the UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030. Researchers, policymakers, programme implementers and United Nations staff shared original research, new global and country-based tools, innovative ideas and mechanisms, and global and country-based insights into what it takes to transform nutrition. Addressing nutrition and environmental interlinkages is highlighted as a core transformative approach.

89. The first issue of the *UN-Nutrition Journal* makes a strong call for “One UN for nutrition”, to help countries effectively transform nutrition for the better.

90. In addition, throughout 2022, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat maintained its support for two time-bound communities of practice: on school nutrition and on nutrition, human rights and law. Both are valuable peer-to-peer platforms for keeping nutrition on these important topical agendas.

91. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat was also active in the School Meals Coalition, lending support to the launch of the school food global hub and speaking at a side event on “Nutrition guidelines and standards for supporting healthy diets and the right to food in schoolchildren and adolescents” during Schools Meals Coalition Week in October.

92. Furthermore, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat was present at the United Nations Transforming Education pre-summit held in Paris in June, to advocate for the importance of school food and nutrition activities, particularly sustainable school meals, to attaining the SDGs.

³⁶ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2805en>.

Advocacy and communications

93. In 2022, a key communication activity was the launch of the UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 in Addis Ababa (see II.7). The UN-Nutrition Strategy is available in all of the official United Nations languages and was included in the November issue of the SUN Movement Bulletin.

94. The first *UN-Nutrition Newsletter* of 2022 was disseminated in September,³⁷ while UN-Nutrition’s website development also advanced. Its launch is planned for early 2023.

95. The Secretariat seized several advocacy, convening and capacity-strengthening opportunities. These included: i) the Asian Development Bank Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum, in January 2022, Session 4.2 on “The Consumer: Enhancing the Benefits of Blue Aquatic Foods to Healthy and Nutritious Diets”; ii) “Working together in 2022 towards realizing food and nutrition commitments”, a special side event at the Sixtieth Session of the Commission for Social Development; iii) Consumers International Food Member Connect in February; iv) the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy June fireside chat: “Commercial determinants of nutrition: what can we learn from the Latin American Experience?”; v) the Twenty-third annual meeting of the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Benin in October; and vi) various sessions of the Twenty-second International Union of Nutrition Sciences International Congress of Nutrition held in Tokyo in December.

VI. Conclusions

96. In 2022, UN-Nutrition continued to engage as the United Nations mechanism for bringing together the collective forces and thought leadership of its Member Agencies in support of the nutrition-related activities of Member States.

97. In line with the stated objectives of its 2022–2030 Strategy, biennial workplan and annual budget, UN-Nutrition worked with flexibility and promptness to respond to the constantly evolving political, environmental and economic landscape impacting people’s nutrition and the planet.

98. With three more years of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) to go, the UN-Nutrition Members will continue to work together in 2023, focusing on the five priorities highlighted in this report, with a particular emphasis on two objectives: (1) jointly advancing the food and nutrition agenda at COP28 and (2) jointly supporting the follow-up activities of the UFSS, starting with the First Stocktaking Moment on 24–26 July. The Stocktaking Moment will be a key opportunity to review the commitments to action that were made during the UNFSS, identify early signs of food systems transformation and strengthen joint United Nations action to ensure healthy diets from sustainable food systems are available, affordable and desired by all.

99. Countries will not realize their 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals and targets by pursuing business as usual. Transformative action is needed now to deliver healthy diets from sustainable and resilient food systems to generate co-benefits for people and planet. In 2023 and beyond, UN-Nutrition Members stand ready to maintain their collective support for Member States to achieve positive results across all of the SDGs.

³⁷ <https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=29563f1fe06cff1ab8137ee56&id=2ac1c19793>.