

IMPROVING THE NUTRITION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Roadmap for
France's international action
2016-2020



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

KEY FIGURES

3.1 MILLION CHILDREN

under age 5 worldwide die every year from malnutrition-related causes.

50 MILLION CHILDREN

under age 5 suffer from wasting (acute malnutrition).

159 MILLION CHILDREN

under age 5 suffer from stunting.

2 BILLION PEOPLE

suffer from micronutrient malnutrition.

11%

the percentage of GDP that malnutrition-related economic losses in Africa and Asia represent.

16 USD

the returns on investment for every dollar spent in preventing malnutrition.

Source: 2016 Global Nutrition Report.

INTRODUCTION

Every year **more than 3.1 million children under age 5 worldwide die from malnutrition-related causes**. Some 159 million children under age 5 are stunted. Malnutrition, which compromises the physical and cognitive development of children, **has a lasting effect on young generations**. Malnourished children are more susceptible to illness and experience more learning difficulties. The social and economic cost of malnutrition weighs on societies and hinders their development.

In some geographic areas, undernutrition is chronic. This is the case of **sub-Saharan Africa**, which has recorded alarming rates of acute (wasting) and chronic (stunting) malnutrition. In Mali, Niger, the Central African Republic and Chad, stunting rates of children under age 5 have exceeded 35%.

Beyond these geographic disparities, malnutrition has become **a global problem**. It affects one in three people in the world. Changes in eating patterns and food systems have generated a new problem in that different types of malnutrition can be seen in a same country. Some countries are therefore having to deal with high rates of undernutrition, micronutrient-deficiency malnutrition and overnutrition (overweight, obesity).

Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development includes a goal to tackle this problem and a target to eradicate all forms of malnutrition. The situation is complex. It has arisen from many causes including poverty, food insecurity, insufficient care, poor hygiene and inadequate healthcare services. The response therefore should cover many sectors and enable access for all to basic services (health, safe drinking water and sanitation, healthful and varied food) in a stable and peaceful political environment. •

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2, TARGET 2.2 ON NUTRITION

“By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”

MALNUTRITION is caused by a poor quality or insufficient quantity of nutrient intake or the body's poor absorption of nutrients. It can result from deficiencies in any or all essential nutrients in one's diet (iodine, iron, vitamin A) leading to such problems as anaemia and stunting. Medical conditions such as overweight and obesity are caused by an unbalanced diet¹.

The causes of undernutrition and overnutrition are multiple and complex. The main ones include poverty, inadequate access to food, safe drinking water and basic hygiene and conflict situations.

1. Based on the definition in the Ministry's 2011 strategic policy paper (Document d'orientation stratégique).

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

The French act on the country's strategy for development and international solidarity of July 2014 recognizes the importance of eradicating undernutrition by making it a priority of our development policy.

France is engaged in the fight against malnutrition both at international and European levels, and through its nutrition actions. In 2011, France issued a **policy framework paper on nutrition in developing countries**. It set two priority objectives:

1. detect, prevent and treat malnutrition in women of childbearing age and children and;
2. increase the efficacy of international action to eradicate malnutrition. This paper remains relevant when it comes to France's current nutrition action.

AN EXAMPLE OF ACTION SUPPORTED BY FRANCE: THE NUTRITION FACILITY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

It is an instrument of the Agence française de développement (AFD) that aims to prevent and address the main causes of malnutrition with an integrated approach. With €2.5 million in funds for 2015-2016 and operated by the French Red Cross and the international NGO, Triangle Génération Humanitaire, the facility supported farmers' market gardening and the treatment of children and mothers suffering from malnutrition.

In 2016, a **multi-sector roadmap** on nutrition was developed to identify concrete areas of action to address the priority of nutrition set out in the act on France's strategy for development and international solidarity. It was drafted in collaboration with French stakeholders in this sector working in a sub-group within the Interministerial Group on Food Security (GISA), a multi-stakeholder and multi-sector platform on food security and nutrition.

The roadmap aims to improve by 2020 the way France is addressing nutrition in humanitarian programmes and development programmes and strategies. In order to be as effective as possible, it focuses on eight countries that are severely affected by malnutrition and vulnerable to climate change effects: **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Laos, Madagascar, Mali, and Niger**². The countries chosen have all joined the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and in doing so, have undertaken to develop a national multi-sector plan of action for nutrition. France also supports the participation of Francophone countries in the SUN Movement.

The roadmap targets the sectors of health, agriculture, water, hygiene and sanitation as well as emergency response actions such as food aid. Since women are key in fighting malnutrition, gender is a cross-cutting issue in the roadmap.

2. The eight target countries were chosen on the basis of several criteria: acute and chronic malnutrition rates, designation as a priority country suffering from poverty by the 2013 Interministerial International Cooperation and Development Committee, SUN Movement membership, enhanced cooperation opportunities and designation as a Muskoka Initiative country.

This paper was drafted in a multi-stakeholder working group made up of experts from organizations working in the area of French official development assistance focusing on nutrition: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development; the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, AFD, research institutes and NGOs.

In the implementation of this roadmap, France pursues five strategic areas of action:

- 1. integrating nutrition into programmes** implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and its agencies working in target countries;
- 2. helping target countries to address nutrition in policies;**
- 3. increasing international and European mobilization for nutrition;**
- 4. contributing to research and improving knowledge** about nutrition (causes, impacts and solutions);
- 5. helping to educate and raise awareness** about nutrition.

This roadmap is part of France's action to achieve the sustainable development goals that were adopted in New York in September 2015. It is in line with pre-existing commitments taken by France in the area of nutrition in international forums (Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action and the ICN Second International Conference on Nutrition, World Health Assembly and FAO resolutions, Nutrition for Growth Summit, G7 and G20 commitments).

The roadmap is intended to be implemented by everyone working in the area of French official development assistance (ministries, agencies, research institutes, local governments) through a stronger partnership with the main French, European and international stakeholders working to improve nutrition: non-governmental organizations, foundations, research institutes, United Nations institutions, SUN Movement partners and the interested private sector partners.

EXAMPLES OF NUTRITION-SENSITIVE ACTIONS AND NUTRITION-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

- Education about hygiene in projects in the "water, hygiene and sanitation" sector
- Promoting good infant and young child feeding practices
- Support for the diversification of agricultural production
- Improved access to nutritious foods throughout the food system

3. GISA Nutrition is a specialized sub-group within GISA, the French multi-stakeholder platform on food security created in 2008. It is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry and involves other relevant ministries (Economy, Environment and Research), the AFD, civil society, and research institutes.

IMPLEMENTATION

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

For France to improve the way it is addressing nutrition in humanitarian and development programmes and strategies by 2020 and to focus on eight target countries

INDICATORS

Increase in the number of projects financed by France including a nutritional objective by 2020 (indicator of the French act on development and international solidarity strategy)

Increase in the number of nutrition-sensitive programmes by 2020 (French ODA promoted in line with SUN methodology)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

ACTIVITIES

INDICATORS

1. For France to include nutrition in programmes implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and particularly its agencies working in target countries

1.1. Address nutrition better in programmes financed by France

1.2. Incorporate nutrition in new project instructions in the health and food security sectors

1.1.1. Percentage of France's new programmes in the sectors of health, agriculture and water, hygiene and sanitation incorporating at least one action focused on nutrition

1.1.2. Inclusion of the eradication of malnutrition in the sector-based framework for action of the AFD regarding the sectors of health, food security and water, hygiene and sanitation, in partnership framework papers and country frameworks for action for target countries and in Expertise France's contract of objectives and means

1.1.3. Percentage of planned food assistance projects with nutritional aspects as defined by SUN

1.1.4. Number of decentralized cooperation projects with nutrition as an objective

1.2.1. Number of project instructions that take the nutritional aspect into account when defining actions

2. For France to help target countries address nutrition in their policies

2.1. Help countries better address nutrition in their sector-specific policies

2.2. Promote the coordination of the different stakeholders in countries

2.3. Assist countries in the collection of nutrition data

2.1.1. More effective support for the SUN Movement Secretariat so as to address nutrition in national sector-specific policies

2.1.2. Number of events organized by France focusing on nutrition in target countries

2.2.1. Number of countries in which France is actively contributing to the SUN coordination platform

2.3.1. Number of countries assisted by France to improve the collection of nutrition data

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>3. For France to help scale up international and European mobilization to improve nutrition</p>	<p>3.1. Contribute to effective international governance furthering efforts to eradicate malnutrition</p> <p>3.2. Support an ambitious European policy to eradicate malnutrition</p> <p>3.3. Promote the inclusion of nutrition in multilateral financing</p>	<p>3.1.1. Review of advocacy actions working to better address and coordinate nutrition issues in multilateral bodies (WHO, FAO, UNGA, G7/G20)</p> <p>3.2.1. Participation in the monitoring of the European Union Action Plan on Nutrition</p> <p>3.2.2. Number of nutrition projects coordinated with the European Union in countries</p> <p>3.3.1. Inclusion of nutrition as a priority that is promoted among international health partners</p> <p>3.3.2. Earmarking of 20% of multilateral Muskoka financing for nutrition</p>
<p>4. For France to contribute to research and improving knowledge about nutrition (causes, impacts and solutions)</p>	<p>4.1. Support nutrition research on the causes, impacts and solutions for malnutrition</p> <p>4.2. Encourage the definition of relevant indicators to assess the impact of actions</p>	<p>4.1.1. Number of studies published on nutrition with France's support, particularly on key issues including causal pathways; high-impact actions, nutrition-sensitive food systems; nutritional transition; nutrition and climate; and gender and nutrition</p> <p>4.1.2. Number of research partnerships involving French and Francophone research bodies and their field partners regarding key topics</p> <p>4.2.1. Number of work projects conducted with nutrition specialists (FAO, WHO, European Commission, Gates Foundation, or others) to define impact indicators for nutrition-sensitive actions</p>
<p>5. For France to help to educate and raise awareness about nutrition</p>	<p>5.1. Include nutrition in education courses supported by France to develop expertise in the French language</p> <p>5.2. Educate French workers about nutrition issues</p>	<p>5.1.1. Number of initial or continued education courses supported by France that include a module on nutrition including with regard to building capacity for defining nutrition policies</p> <p>5.2.1. Number of Ministry staff and agencies trained to work on nutrition</p>

Actions that are conducted under the roadmap will be monitored every year within the framework of GISA. Every two years, a brief report will be published to explain how activities have progressed and what indicators have been completed.

France will draw up and implement an internal dissemination plan promoting ownership of the nutrition roadmap. •



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