



# ACCELERATING THE END OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

— A GLOBAL EVENT —

NOVEMBER  
28–30, 2018

BANGKOK,  
THAILAND

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

JULY 24, 2018

### Meeting objectives

- Receive advice on the program to ensure the event will be relevant and reach the right audience
- Define the success of the event

### Background

- At the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), UN agencies committed to a Decade of Action on Nutrition to speed progress in key nutrition indicators by the year 2025. The IFPRI-led initiative Compact2025 was established to support the Decade of Action and SDG2 to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030. There is an urgency to accelerate the progress as many indicators are not on track and ending hunger and malnutrition is a pre-condition for many other SDGs.

### Update

- An IFPRI-FAO working group was established to organize the event. The group has confirmed venues in Bangkok for the event, received input on and finalized the concept note, drafted the preliminary program, and received over a dozen requests for side events.
- Communications activities for the event include (1) building a website as a forum for engagement; (2) providing a platform for side events; (3) coordinating an Acceleration Fair – which will include a video contest, e-knowledge portal, and interactive quiz; and (4) developing media engagement plans.

### Key comments

#### *Incorporating key topics for acceleration*

- Agriculture and food security should feature more prominently in the event program.
- Youth engagement in smart and nutrition-sensitive farming is an important topic to consider.
- In Africa and Asia, addressing food loss and waste can help accelerate progress.
- Country experiences can describe how to accelerate progress, what is stopping progress, what are major data gaps, and what are key political barriers or enablers.

#### *Connecting cross-cutting themes*

- The connection between SDG2 and other SDGs should be made more visible.
- Urbanization, sustainability, climate change, gender, and data are cross-cutting themes that should emerge more strongly from the program story line.
- Cross-cutting issues of strengthening implementation, capacity for implementation, and implementation research are critical.

#### *Addressing governance and politics for nutrition*

- There is much happening at the global level; discussions need to focus on how to galvanize country-level nutrition movements.

- Event session on improving nutrition governance should be scaled up to focus on improving food system governance.
- There is a need to get buy-in and participation from high-level politicians. Linking nutrition to an aspirational agenda, rather than a poverty agenda, could be one way to get a broader and higher-level group of policymakers interested in nutrition.

#### *Focusing on vulnerable groups and untapped topics for acceleration*

- Targeting vulnerable populations – such as socially marginalized groups and the urban poor, low castes, minorities, who are often neglected by social protection programs – can help accelerate progress.
- Building the resilience of vulnerable groups, particularly in the face of food crises, is missing from the event program.
- City governments and public institutions, such as schools, play a critical role in accelerating progress; however, they are often overlooked as key players.

#### *Emphasizing importance of data and metrics*

- The program should give more attention to data and metrics – whether as a cross-cutting theme weaved throughout the program and/or via side events for more in-depth discussions (e.g. on Minimum Diet Diversity for Women [MDD-W] and FAO's undernourishment indicator).

#### *Elevating obesity and the double burden of malnutrition*

- The program does not give due attention to overnutrition and the double burden of malnutrition.
- Obesity and non-communicable diseases will likely be more prevalent than undernutrition and/or coexist with undernutrition, and few countries, both developing and developed, have a strategy for this.

#### *Establishing event theme and goals*

- The theme of acceleration is what sets this event apart from others. It will be important for the program to explore pathways for acceleration, particularly where there are tradeoffs.
- The event should be interactive for participants and delve into how to accelerate progress.
- An event outcome could include a guide to action on fighting obesity, wasting, and stunting.
- Suggest presenters include 3 action-oriented points in their presentations.
- Encourage participants to commit to share and/or apply what they learned and follow up with them 6-12 months after the event.
- Consider undertaking an impact evaluation of the event.

#### **Reflections from IFPRI and FAO**

- Acceleration is the key word for this event and the program will reinforce this theme.
- Implementation is critical component for acceleration and will be mainstreamed in the program.
- A data movement is needed, and this event will explore how we can use new technologies to accelerate data collection. The data groups such as CGIAR's Big-Data Platform and GODAN will be invited.
- Food crises, conflict, and climate change will be emphasized; and the event session on equity will focus on inclusion of women, urban poor, minorities, low caste groups, and other vulnerable groups.
- City mayors are invited to participate in the event in recognition of the importance of local policy coordination for accelerating progress.
- The event session on obesity will investigate the link between agriculture, food systems, and diets, with a focus on how agricultural and food policies help address the double burden.

**Next steps**

- IFPRI and FAO will schedule another virtual Advisory Council meeting as well as an in-person meeting in Bangkok at the time of the event. Compact2025 Leadership Council members as well as Technical Advisory Committee members will be invited to join this meeting.
- Advisory Council members are encouraged to send suggestions for key speakers by email and/or provide any other feedback at any time.

## Meeting Participants

### *Advisory Council*

- **Francesco Branca**, Director, World Health Organization (WHO)
- **Visith Chavasit**, Associate Professor, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University
- **Brenda Killen**, Director of SUN Movement Secretariat (on behalf of Edwyn Shiell, Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor, Advocacy and Communication, SUN Movement Secretariat)
- **Ferew Lemma**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Health of Ethiopia
- **Maria Paris-Ketting**, Senior Expert, European Commission
- **David Pelletier**, Associate Professor of Nutrition Policy Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University
- **Prabhu Pingali**, Professor and Director, Tata-Cornell Agriculture and Nutrition Initiative (TCi)
- **Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, Power & Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Bangladesh
- **Yang Yuexin**, President, Chinese Nutrition Society

**Sheryl Hendriks** (Director, Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Well Being, University of Pretoria) could not attend and sends her apologies

### *IFPRI-FAO*

- **Shenggen Fan**, Director General, IFPRI
- **Sridhar Dharmapuri**, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- **Jenna Ferguson**, Senior Program Manager, IFPRI
- **Rajul Pandya-Lorch**, Director of Communications and Public Affairs and Chief of Staff, IFPRI
- **Chris Rue**, Senior Program Manager, IFPRI
- **Teunis van Rheenen**, Head of Partnerships and Business Development, IFPRI
- **Klaus von Grebmer**, Research Fellow Emeritus, IFPRI