The Sustainable Development Goals: where does nutrition fit in?

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Millennium Development Goals

What was achieved?

- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Global partnership for development
Proportion of countries and territories in the developing regions with at least two data points for 22 selected MDG indicators, 2003, 2006 and 2014 (percentage)

"What gets measured gets done"
On the whole, there has been enormous progress. But, there is still a long way to go.
How are the SDGs different from the MDGs?

• Broader in scope
  • SDGs: 17 goals, 169 targets
  • MDGs: 8 goals, 22 targets

• Cover additional dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection

• Apply to all countries

• Newer focus on means of implementation and mobilization of financial resources as well as data and institutions

• Addressing climate change is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication
Where does nutrition fit in?

Nutrition is a vital pre-condition for achieving these goals. Addressing these goals supports nutrition.
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Nutrition targets**

- By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 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
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Food security & agriculture targets**

- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

- By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

- By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

- Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.

- Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

- Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.
## Dietary diversity: a missing global target

### Infants and young children:
- % consuming ≥4 out of 7 food groups
  - Grains, roots and tubers
  - Legumes and nuts
  - Dairy (milk, yoghurt, cheese)
  - Meat, fish, poultry, liver & organ meats
  - Eggs
  - Vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables
  - Other fruits and vegetables

(WHO 2008)

### Women:
- % consuming ≥5 out of 10 food groups
  - Starchy staple foods
  - Beans and peas
  - Nuts and seeds
  - Dairy
  - Meat, fish, poultry, liver & organ meats
  - Eggs
  - Vitamin A rich dark green leafy vegetables
  - Other vitamin A rich vegetables and fruits
  - Other vegetables
  - Other fruits

(FANTA III 2014)
Adult obesity: a missing global target
Critique of the SDGs from a nutritionist’s perspective

• Malnutrition and hunger are not the same thing. Despite lessons learned over the past 15 yrs in nutrition, the SDGs seem to focus more on ending hunger, rather than improving nutrition.

• There needs to be more specificity—“what gets measured gets done.”
  • Settling on the specific targets is a work in progress. Comments were received through end of 2015 and are under review currently.

• Only 2 of the WHA nutrition indicators have been adopted so far. Obesity, anemia, LBW, and breastfeeding are not included.
  • Current proposal for additional indicators includes:
    • Prevalence of undernourishment (FAO indicator)
    • Prevalence of population with moderate or severe food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

• Improving nutrition sustainably will require consideration of how to produce, deliver, and ensure access to healthy diets and essential nutrients, not just in greater quantities.

• The continued and enhanced focus on partnerships is essential to achieve nutrition goals.

• Strong momentum is essential to improving nutrition. We have to ensure that it is maintained with the release of the new SDGs.