



# A Collective Action Plan for Nutrition Data

SEPTEMBER 2026



**ACTION  
DATA**

COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR NUTRITION DATA



**Micronutrient  
FORUM**



**WORLD BANK GROUP**  
Health, Nutrition & Population

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## List of acronyms

|             |                                                                  |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACTION DATA | Collective Action Plan for Nutrition Data                        |
| AI          | artificial intelligence                                          |
| CFSVA       | Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment         |
| CMAM        | Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition                 |
| DHS         | Demographic and Health Survey                                    |
| HCES        | Household Consumption and Expenditure Survey                     |
| HMIS        | Health Management Information System                             |
| JME         | Joint Malnutrition Estimates                                     |
| LMIC        | low- and middle-income country                                   |
| LSMS        | Living Standards Measurement Study                               |
| MDD         | minimum dietary diversity                                        |
| MICS        | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey                                |
| NGO         | non-governmental organization                                    |
| ODA         | Official Development Assistance                                  |
| SDG         | Sustainable Development Goals                                    |
| SMART       | Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions |
| SUN         | Scaling Up Nutrition                                             |
| WHA         | World Health Assembly                                            |
| WHO         | World Health Organization                                        |

## Summary

Reliable nutrition data are fundamental to effective policy, programming, and investment. They enable governments and partners to understand the scale and distribution of malnutrition, identify vulnerable populations, allocate resources efficiently, and monitor progress toward national and global nutrition goals. Yet, nutrition information systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have long been fragile, fragmented, and heavily dependent on external financing. These systemic weaknesses are now compounded by a sharp contraction in development financing: preliminary estimates indicate that overall Official Development Assistance (ODA) declined by 23% between 2024 and 2025.

In response, ACTION DATA, a multi-stakeholder initiative, was convened to safeguard and strengthen the global nutrition data ecosystem. It provides a platform for priority setting, planning, communication, and coordination to support more sustainable national and global nutrition information systems. The initiative has developed a collective Plan that identifies critical challenges and priority actions to address them. The Plan was developed with a Core Working Group of experts from national governments, international agencies, technical and humanitarian organizations, donors, and academic institutions, and informed by literature reviews, a landscape analysis, and a stakeholder survey.

Information brought together through ACTION DATA points to a nutrition data ecosystem facing increasing challenges but also tremendous opportunities. Stakeholders reported that funding reductions are already affecting nutrition data work, with widespread cuts to the scope of data collection and monitoring frequency, dedicated personnel, and training. Critically, nearly one-third of country-level respondents reported that data previously generated in their country would no longer be collected. Data are widely available for some nutrition indicators, but their availability largely relies on a few externally funded sources—mainly the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). For other nutrition indicators, information gaps already existed, such as for micronutrient status and diet quality, and for certain population groups, such as adolescents. What's more, data flows are often designed for upward reporting rather than for community-level use by subnational implementers. Routine administrative data offer a potentially important source of information to help fill data gaps. However, to date, only one-third of child malnutrition estimates from administrative and surveillance systems have been validated against an independent population-based standard. Moreover, reliable estimates require credible population denominators, which are often lacking for these data.

The ACTION DATA Plan synthesizes ten interrelated problem statements spanning the nutrition data value chain, from data prioritization and collection to data curation, analysis, communication, and use. The Plan also sets out priority actions for each problem statement and are organized across the stages of the nutrition data value chain. [Table 1](#) provides the problem statements and describes the actions (in short).

The Plan is intended as a living framework for collective action rather than a prescriptive blueprint. It calls on countries to develop their own nutrition information system improvement plans tailored to national priorities and available resources, while identifying clear opportunities for global partners to provide financial support, technical assistance, professional training, and regional and global data synthesis. Implementation will depend on sustained coordination across governments, development partners, research institutions, donors, and civil society—and on ensuring that the data needed for better nutrition decisions remain available, accessible, and used.

**Table 1.** Problem statements and summarized versions of the priority actions

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Problem 1.</b> Changing political and financing environments, combined with continued dependence on external financial and technical support, undermine the autonomy and sustainability of national nutrition information systems.                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Actions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Design and complete assessments of national nutrition information system to diagnose sustainability risks.                                                                 |
| 1.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Establish government-led national nutrition information system working groups.                                                                                             |
| 1.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Develop and maintain written and costed national nutrition information system plans.                                                                                       |
| 1.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Document and disseminate lessons from both successful and failed institutionalization efforts to strengthen nutrition information systems.                                 |
| 1.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Advance models for formally embedding nutrition information systems within government institutions.                                                                        |
| 1.6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Advocate for the importance of global and national nutrition information systems.                                                                                          |
| <b>Problem 2.</b> National nutrition information system priorities require a balance between country decision-making needs and global monitoring and donor requirements, but these priorities are not always fully aligned, and this can result in a disconnect between data investments and policy and program priorities. |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Actions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Strengthen national agenda-setting processes to identify and coordinate priority nutrition information needs.                                                              |
| 2.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Advance global consensus on core nutrition indicators and validated measurement standards and best practices.                                                              |
| 2.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Develop guidance on anchoring indicator selection to national policy priorities.                                                                                           |
| 2.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Undertake national stocktakings to determine how priority nutrition information needs are being met and identify modalities that could be used for future data collection. |
| 2.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Conduct research to determine optimal data collection frequencies for nutrition indicators across contexts.                                                                |
| <b>Problem 3.</b> Funding constraints and shifting institutional priorities place critical nutrition surveys, surveillance systems, and other data platforms at risk of discontinuation, threatening the continuity of essential nutrition data at the national and global level.                                           |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Actions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Develop guidance on priority nutrition information that is most appropriate for multi-topic surveys.                                                                       |
| 3.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Develop and implement modular approaches that integrate nutrition with other topical areas in multi-topic data collection platforms.                                       |

3.3 Develop and validate more efficient approaches to household survey data collection.

3.4 Strengthen the viability of major data platforms that collect nutrition data.

**Problem 4.** Routine administrative systems represent a largely untapped source of nutrition information due to limitations in data quality, coverage, validation, and integration into national nutrition information systems.

**Actions**

4.1 Develop and disseminate operational guidance for defining and collecting indicators through routine administrative systems.

4.2 Conduct research and apply evidence on best practices of how to evaluate the quality of nutrition data from administrative systems.

4.3 Pilot sentinel-site approaches that build on existing administrative data systems.

4.4 Facilitate peer-to-peer learning on the collection, verification, quality assessment, validation, and use of routine nutrition data for decision-making.

4.5 Develop approaches for using routine administrative data to generate population-level inferences.

**Problem 5.** National nutrition information systems have gaps in data that jeopardize the ability to identify inequities and target interventions effectively.

**Actions**

5.1 Develop and disseminate guidance on methods to address nutrition data gaps among hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups.

5.2 Update and expand national sampling frames to include community-level registers, social protection beneficiary lists, and school enrollment data as supplementary frames.

**Problem 6.** Many nutrition data collection approaches remain complex, expensive, and resource-intensive, limiting their scalability, frequency, and sustainability, particularly in low-resource and fragile settings.

**Actions**

6.1 Develop and/or evaluate novel methods for nutritional assessment and disseminate findings on their reliability.

6.2 Use remote sensing to collect information on crop production, weather patterns, and population migration to assess the risk of impending food shortages and other emergency situations.

6.3 Develop and test community-based surveillance systems or crowdsourcing of data.

6.4 Embed priority nutrition data into existing national data collection modalities.

6.5 Conduct cost-benefit analyses on the use of different data collection modalities to inform decisions about generating high-priority nutrition information.

**Problem 7.** National nutrition information systems are often not designed to provide timely, integrated, and actionable information needed for real-time program improvement, preparedness, response, and course correction at national and subnational levels.

**Actions**

7.1 Redesign nutrition reporting systems to make data available faster by implementing modular reporting, decentralized digital data entry, and feedback mechanisms that return processed data to local collection sites.

7.2 Promote affordable digital channels for near real-time transmission of nutrition data, evaluate their suitability in each context, and integrate solutions into national digital health systems.

7.3 Establish structured review cycles at the subnational level to connect monitoring data with program adjustments and accountability.

**7.4** Develop a rapid-response nutrition surveillance system for emergencies, with clear procedures for data collection and processing that can be quickly implemented and integrated into national emergency preparedness plans.

**Problem 8.** Nutrition-related data remain fragmented across sectors, institutions, and platforms due to weak coordination, limited interoperability, restricted data sharing, and inconsistent access to microdata.

**Actions**

**8.1** Establish national nutrition data catalogs that document available datasets, their content, coverage, custodians, and access pathways, making nutrition data retrievable.

**8.2** Develop transparent data access protocols with clearly defined approval requirements, responsible authorities, timelines, and data security standards for obtaining anonymized microdata.

**8.3** Improve access to standardized, model-ready nutrition data from across countries and data types and develop approaches for assessing and communicating data quality and fitness for different modeling applications.

**8.4** Promote uniformity and interoperability across databases and systems by encouraging common or interoperable platforms.

**8.5** Strengthen institutional data curation practices to ensure nutrition datasets are preserved, documented, and reusable over time.

**Problem 9.** The value of existing nutrition data is often constrained by a lack of tools and processes to analyze, interpret, communicate, and apply evidence to impact policy and program decision-making.

**Actions**

**9.1** Landscape existing nutrition data analysis and communication tools and assess where additional tools are needed and how existing tools can be combined or linked.

**9.2** Develop guidance on selecting analytical and communication tools for different decision contexts and users, and maintain it as a shared resource.

**9.3** Develop metrics and qualitative methods for assessing whether and how nutrition data influence decisions, and apply them prospectively.

**9.4** Develop guidance and shared standards for nutrition modeling.

**9.5** Strengthen national and regional capacity to develop, adapt, interpret, communicate, and apply nutrition models and modeled evidence through training, peer-to-peer learning, partnerships, and shared technical resources.

**9.6** Strengthen structured processes that link analyses with national policy, planning, and budget cycles.

**9.7** Document and disseminate use cases of how nutrition data and/or modeled evidence have informed policy, program, and financing decisions.

**9.8** Work with civil society organizations and selected ministry personnel to present evidence-based advocacy to policymakers on behalf of nutrition programs.

**Problem 10.** Inadequate physical, clinical, and digital infrastructure and human resource capacity limit the effective functioning and long-term sustainability of national nutrition information systems.

**Actions**

**10.1** Assess digital infrastructure and related workplace conditions to determine current infrastructure conditions and needs.

**10.2** Provide funding for digital infrastructure requirements, consistent with the design of the overarching data collection and storage plans.

**10.3** Promote use of open-source and offline-capable digital platforms for nutrition data collection and management.

- 10.4 Review existing human resource capacity at both central and peripheral levels, considering all aspects of nutrition information systems.
- 10.5 Prepare a national data workforce plan and recruit personnel to fill gaps.
- 10.6 Review and strengthen pre-service and in-service training programs and curricula to determine their suitability for meeting the human resource needs of nutrition information systems.
- 10.7 Assess and strengthen national and regional laboratory capacity, quality assurance procedures, and infrastructure.
- 10.8 Provide technical assistance as an interim measure while strengthening national and regional capacity on national nutrition information systems.
- 10.9 Involve policymakers in professional conferences and workshops to review data from nutrition information systems and discuss possible options for responding to the issues identified.



## Introduction

### WHY THIS PLAN AND WHY NOW

Over the past year, stakeholders across governments, research institutions, development partners, and donors have raised growing concerns about the sustainability of nutrition information systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Recent reductions in development financing have placed additional pressure on already fragile systems, threatening the availability, quality, and use of nutrition data at a time when countries face increasing needs for evidence-based decision-making. These challenges are compounded in fragile humanitarian contexts, where information needs evolve rapidly and emergency data systems need to be better integrated with countries' existing information systems. ACTION DATA was initiated in response to these challenge, following broad stakeholder consensus that a coordinated, collective response was needed to safeguard and strengthen the global nutrition data ecosystem.

At the same time, recent analytical work has highlighted persistent structural weaknesses across the nutrition data value chain. Evidence points to fragmented nutrition information systems, a lack of consensus on core indicators and reporting approaches, underinvestment in data use, and limited integration of administrative, financial, and multisectoral data. While

innovations in approaches to data collection, storage, and access, including digital tools and artificial intelligence (AI), are creating opportunities for improvement, these advances remain unevenly adopted and insufficiently coordinated.

This Plan, therefore, seeks to move beyond identifying challenges toward prioritized collective actions. By bringing together diverse actors around a shared action plan, this document provides ideas on how to strengthen nutrition information systems so that they are responsive, country-owned, user-centered, resilient, and capable of supporting better decisions and better nutrition outcomes.

## WHY NUTRITION DATA ARE IMPORTANT

Strong nutrition information systems underpin effective nutrition policy, programming, and investment. They enable governments and partners to understand the magnitude and distribution of malnutrition, identify vulnerable populations, prioritize interventions, allocate resources efficiently, monitor progress, and ensure accountability toward achieving national and global nutrition goals. Without reliable and timely data, decision-makers are forced to act without a clear understanding of needs, gaps, or results.

Nutrition data support every stage of the policy and program cycle. They inform evidence-based dialogue and priority setting, guide the design of intervention packages, strengthen implementation and financing decisions, enable monitoring and evaluation, and facilitate learning and accountability. High-quality data helps ensure that limited resources are directed to the most impactful programs and policies and most affected populations and geographic areas where they can have the greatest impact, while also providing a basis for assessing whether investments are delivering results.

When transformed into accessible insights and embedded within decision-making processes, data becomes a strategic input enabling governments and partners to respond to emerging challenges, including in emergency situations, and initiate or adapt programs, improve efficiency, and accelerate progress toward improved nutrition outcomes. Strengthening nutrition information systems is therefore not only a technical priority but also a prerequisite for better governance, stronger accountability, and more effective investments in human capital.

*“Better nutrition outcomes depend on better decisions, and better decisions depend on better data.”*

## CURRENT DATA FUNDING LANDSCAPE

Countries and development partners are recommended to allocate 5% of total nutrition funding to nutrition information systems, yet investments have historically fallen below this

level.<sup>1</sup> A 2019 review of 58 Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) national nutrition plans found that only one-third included activities related to national nutrition information systems, and among those that did, most allocated less than the recommended 5% of their total nutrition program budget to these activities (median: 3.1%; range: 0.1% to 12.8%).<sup>2</sup> This underinvestment is now compounded by contractions in development and humanitarian financing. Preliminary estimates indicate that, overall, ODA declined by 23% between 2024 and 2025.<sup>3</sup> Health data in LMICs are especially vulnerable to these cuts because nearly two-thirds of ODA for health data is provided by just five donors.<sup>4</sup> In this constrained funding environment, maintaining existing approaches across the nutrition data-to-decision pathway, many of which were already not functioning optimally, may no longer be feasible in many LMICs. This context reinforces the need for action and is the impetus for ACTION DATA.

## SCOPE AND AUDIENCES

### OBJECTIVES

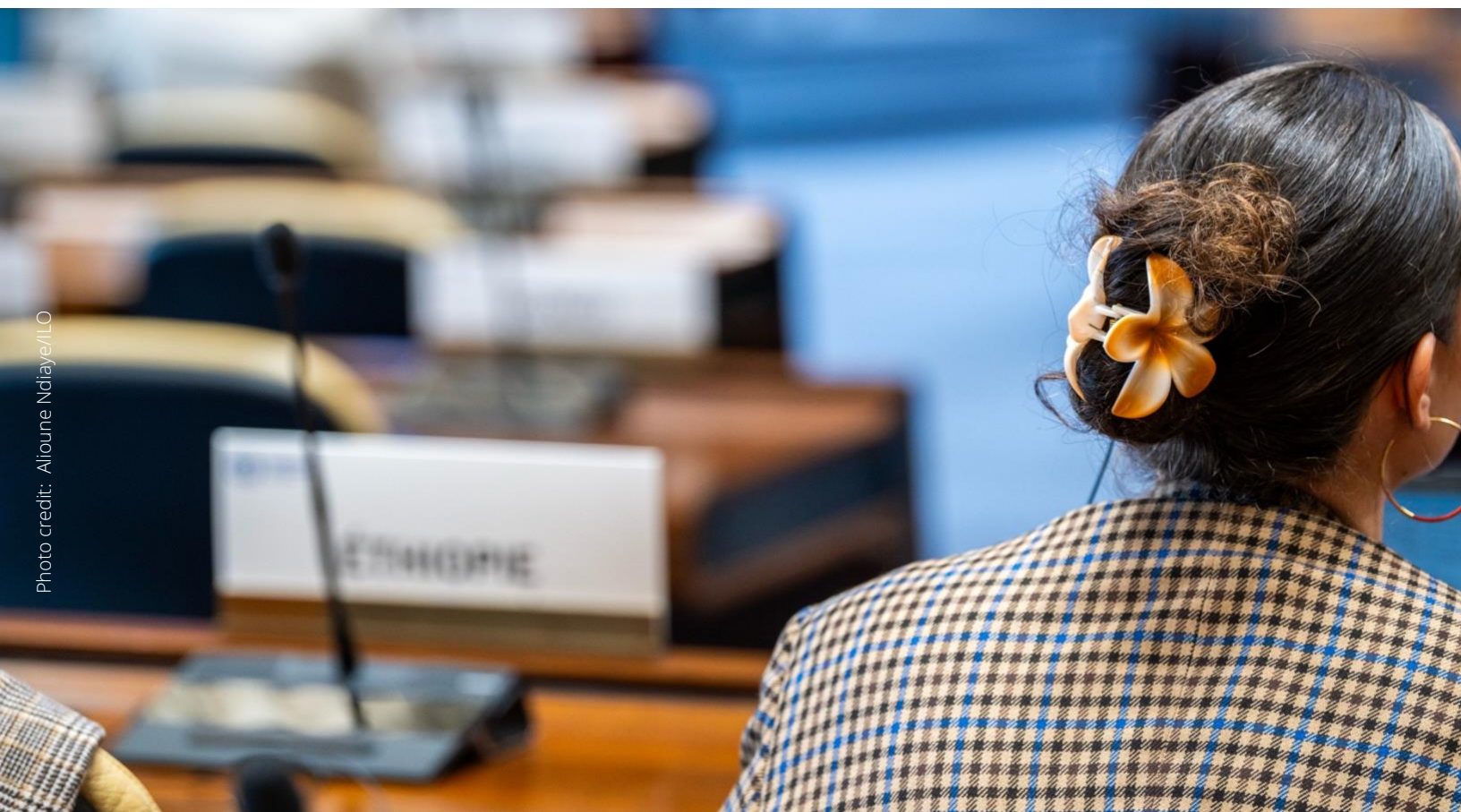
The overarching objectives of the ACTION DATA Plan are to:

1. Provide a brief overview of the components and functioning of nutrition information systems and characterize their strengths and weaknesses along with the potential impact of recent reductions in global development financing;
2. Catalog actions that could be initiated or strengthened to address the most critical problems facing nutrition information systems;
3. Foster communication on recent innovations and experiences of nutrition information systems and launch a clearinghouse for these ideas and information; and
4. Provide a platform for communication, planning, prioritization, and coordination that inspires collective action towards stronger, more sustainable nutrition information systems in LMICs.

### USING THE PLAN

The Plan is intended to serve as a resource for key stakeholders to assist with reappraisal of information needs and priorities for nutrition information systems; re-examination of existing systems; attaining greater reliability of data and expanded use in program planning and monitoring; and improving system efficiencies. Ultimately, countries will need to develop their own plans to improve and sustain their nutrition information systems, considering available financial, institutional, and professional resources and national conditions and priorities.

At the same time, the Plan identifies opportunities for partners working at the global level to support these activities by providing financial support, technical assistance, professional training, and regional and global data synthesis and related communication and advocacy. The Plan intentionally focuses on nutrition issues of potential public health importance rather than assessment and treatment of individual patients or wellness program clients.



## TARGET AUDIENCES

The primary audiences for this document are national health and nutrition sector policymakers and program managers, representatives of other sectors with overlapping responsibilities for nutrition, and personnel in national statistics offices. To support this effort, the document also addresses the interests, concerns, and potential contributions of development and humanitarian partners, technical assistance organizations, donor agencies, academic and research institutions, journalists and civil society organizations engaged in information dissemination and advocacy, and private sector companies involved in the responsible production or marketing of nutrition-related products, including nutritional supplements, fortification premixes and fortified products, agricultural commodities, and diagnostics.

## How the plan is organized

The ACTION DATA Plan is organized into four sections. The first presents the key principles that provide the framework for the Plan. The second describes the process used to develop the Plan and highlights key findings from literature reviews, analyses, and a stakeholder survey that helped inform the Plan. The third and main section outlines the challenges countries face in maintaining and strengthening their nutrition information systems. The challenges are framed

as problem statements and include background information on the problem. This is followed by recommended priority actions to address each problem statement. This section also includes examples of priority actions already underway.<sup>a</sup> The Plan concludes with next steps.

## ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES

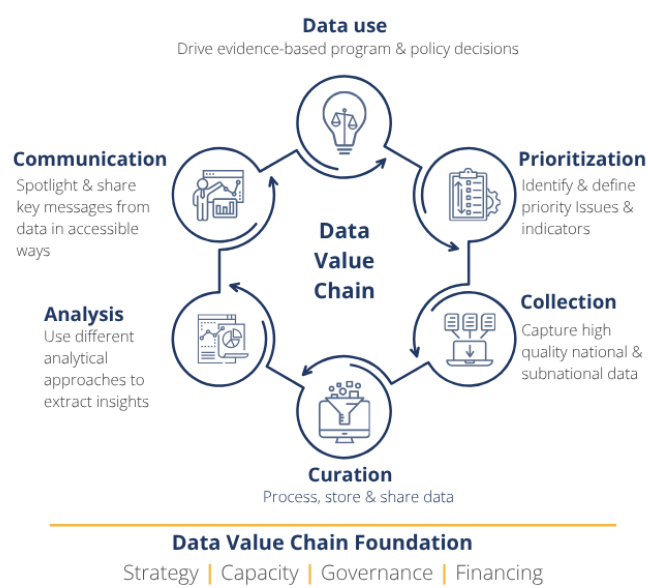
### Nutrition information system

UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) define a national nutrition information system as an integrated set of principles, practices, and processes that equip governments at national and subnational levels with the information needed to identify and respond to nutrition priorities.<sup>5</sup> A well-functioning nutrition information system includes four elements in all contexts: the data needed to inform decisions; the people and capacities required to design and operate the system and ensure data quality and use; the governance structures, processes, and procedures that guide and sustain the system; and the technology needed to collect, manage, store, and share data. Because nutrition cuts across multiple sectors, nutrition information systems must operate across multiple domains, requiring coordination and integration among sectors such as health, agriculture, education, social protection, water and sanitation, finance, and possibly other sectors.

### Nutrition data value chain

The nutrition data value chain provides a useful conceptual framework to illustrate how nutrition information systems transform data into actionable evidence for formulating nutrition policies and developing and managing nutrition programs (Figure 1).<sup>6,7</sup> The stages of the data value chain include data use, prioritization, collection, curation, analysis, and communication (Box 1). The framework is cyclical; use of data is both the culmination of earlier stages and needs of data users is what drives nutrition data priorities. The stages are also not always distinct or sequential and may overlap and interact in practice. The framework demonstrates that the individual components are interconnected and mutually influential, and it incorporates crosscutting enabling factors, including strategic leadership, governance, financing, and capacity strengthening.

Figure 1. Nutrition data value chain



<sup>a</sup> Note: case studies on national and global practical examples of how priority actions are being applied across stages of the nutrition data value chain in different contexts will be added post public comment period.

The framework can motivate and guide various stakeholders to think intentionally about how the systems can be strengthened to support decision-making, rather than relying just on information that is available in existing data repositories or generated from routine data collection platforms. The nutrition data value chain has been adopted widely, including by UNICEF and WHO in their policy and program guidance documents,<sup>5</sup> and it is being applied at both national and global levels to identify existing strengths and gaps in information systems.<sup>1,8-11</sup> The nutrition data value chain was selected as the organizing framework for the Plan because it provides a structured way to identify how nutrition information systems can be strengthened at each stage of the data value chain.

**Box 1.** Description of the stages of the nutrition data value chain

The nutrition data value chain framework consists of six stages:

**Data use** occurs when information is used to inform policy development, resource allocation, program design and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Effective use requires not only relevant, timely, and credible information but also alignment between the availability and communication of evidence and the timing of policy, planning, and program decisions.

**Data prioritization** focuses on identifying the information and indicators most important for policy and program decisions. Rather than starting with the data that are already collected or available, prioritization starts with what data users need to know and uses these needs to determine what data should be collected, analyzed, and communicated. This helps governments and their partners focus limited resources on the information most important for decision-making.

**Data collection** is the process of generating data needed for the priority information and indicators identified. Data may come from multiple sources, including household surveys, surveillance systems, and administrative systems. Countries need to identify the combination of data sources best suited to their information needs, balancing the need for timely, reliable data with considerations of feasibility, efficiency, and cost.

**Data curation** involves cleaning, organizing, documenting, storing, and managing data so they can be accessed and used for analysis. Data may be made available as aggregated data (macrodata) or individual-level data (microdata), and data from different sources may be brought together. Effective data curation helps make data easier to find, share, combine, and use.

**Data analysis** transforms data into information that can address policy and program questions, including analytical methods that integrate multiple data sources. Depending on the need and available data, this can include calculating indicators, examining relationships and differences across population groups and systems, and assessing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of various interventions.

**Data communication** makes findings accessible and relevant to different users. Approaches such as dashboards, visualizations, policy briefs, and data stories can translate analytical findings into clear messages tailored to the decisions, needs, and technical expertise of different audiences.

### Categories of nutrition data

Developing effective nutrition policies and programs requires a range of information, including upstream socio-cultural, political, and environmental drivers of malnutrition to downstream markers of food availability, accessibility, and affordability, and dietary intake; and anthropometric, biochemical, and clinical markers of nutritional status. Data on the enabling environment, including on policy, financing, program performance, and costs are also essential to align programs with national priorities and resources, and to support accountability.

One of the most challenging tasks for building and sustaining a practical and efficient nutrition information system is to determine the types of information that are most critical for program design and monitoring without over-burdening the system or exceeding the capacity of end-users to apply the information. [Appendix 1](#) sets out examples of the types of data needed to support nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions across humanitarian and development contexts, the sectors typically responsible for generating them, and the modalities used to collect them.<sup>b</sup> To help ensure that the data needed for nutrition are available, it is important to identify the most essential nutrition data that require dedicated advocacy and investment from nutrition stakeholders, and data that are also prioritized by stakeholders in other sectors

### Project lifecycle

The Plan accounts for how information needs and appropriate data collection modalities vary across stages of the program lifecycle. Planning a new food fortification intervention, for example, may require specifically focused background data on micronutrient deficiencies; consumption of potentially fortifiable foods; food processing and distribution systems for those foods and related industry capacity; and consumption patterns of the fortifiable foods across population groups. On the other hand, some types of information, like program reach and coverage, only become relevant once a program is established, and then they may be incorporated into routine data collection modalities. Emergency response presents different needs, requiring simple, continuous data collection approaches that can provide information on acute changes and the need for a rapid response, as well as targeted rapid assessment methods following catastrophic climatic events, civil disturbances, and other shocks.

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<sup>b</sup> Data modalities are defined as the different types of methods through which data are collected and can include household surveys, facility-based surveys, routine data collected through Health Management Information Systems (HMIS), and civil registration and vital statistics systems. These data modalities can operate on either an intermittent or continuous basis.



## Information used to develop the plan

The Plan was informed by several evidence generating activities, including a scoping review of nutrition-relevant data sources and tools and their use across the data-to-decision pathway; a literature review on use of routine data to generate estimates of child malnutrition; a landscape analysis quantifying the availability of nutrition data and the contribution of major survey platforms to these data; and a stakeholder survey on the current state of nutrition information systems and the impacts of funding cuts on these systems. Together, the results from these efforts helped identify critical gaps, vulnerabilities, and opportunities for nutrition information systems. These findings, in turn, were used to define key challenges facing national governments and to develop priority actions to strengthen nutrition information systems.

### SCOPING REVIEW ON NUTRITION INFORMATION SYSTEMS

A scoping review of 227 relevant articles published between 2016 and 2026 identified nutrition data sources and tools, documented instances of data use, and examined challenges and promising approaches to strengthening data use.<sup>c</sup>

The main data source for nutrition-related data, defined as primary or secondary in origin, was population-level surveys. The majority of these data in LMICs was reported from two global multi-topic survey programs, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and Multiple Indicator

<sup>c</sup> Scoping review protocol is available [here](#).

Cluster Survey (MICS), although nutrition specific surveys also contributed. Data generated through service delivery and programs, mainly through health management information systems (HMIS), were the next most common source, followed by data aggregated or modeled from multiple primary sources.

The review also identified several tools used across the nutrition data value chain. Data collection and communication tools were documented most frequently, followed in order, by data curation and analysis, data management and integration systems, and data use tools. In contrast to data sources, there was a more diverse set of tools.

Documentation of data use for decision-making was only mentioned in 17% of the articles, and the examples were concentrated in India, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh. Reported uses in descending order of frequency include: monitoring and course correction; policy and program formulation; resource allocation and targeting; implementation and service delivery; advocacy; and accountability.

**Box 2** summarizes challenges identified across the data value chain. Data collection and analysis are the two stages with both a high challenge burden and rich responses in innovations and promising practices. Very few innovations and promising practices address challenges in capacity, resources, governance, data curation, and data literacy, and none directly address the impact of external influences on measurement priorities.

**Box 2.** Challenges identified across the data value chain

**Use:** Decision-makers often lacked the data literacy skills needed to interpret and apply nutrition data. Moreover, data typically flowed upward for national policy and resource decisions and frontline workers often lacked the tools and authority to act on the data they collect.

**Prioritization:** Selected indicators were sometimes poorly suited to the questions at hand, measurements did not always reflect local contexts or needs, and external funder requirements could take precedence over national data priorities.

**Collection:** Inadequate hardware and connectivity gaps; methods and tools poorly suited to their intended purpose; inaccurate or biased data; excessive demands on data collectors and respondents; and infrequent or poorly timed data collection.

**Curation:** Difficult to integrate data, limited access to usable data, processing delays result in incomplete, lost, or outdated information, and the absence of unique identifiers to link records over time or across systems.

**Analysis:** The choice of metrics can significantly change the conclusions and what actions are taken, and the exclusion of interventions or determinants that are difficult to measure may

bias results. Additionally, specialized or underdeveloped software can limit the analyses that can be performed.

**Communication:** Findings are packaged or framed in ways that limit their adoption.

## LITERATURE REVIEW ON ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FOR CHILD MALNUTRITION ESTIMATES

Nutrition administrative data are increasingly used to generate coverage and performance estimates, but evidence shows that the methods for producing estimates are more advanced than the methods for validating them. A rapid review, registered on PROSPERO (CRD420261362746), was undertaken to assess the extent to which administrative and surveillance systems, and surveys where the coverage is less than 80% of the population, can be used to generate estimates of child malnutrition.

The review examined evidence published since 2000, drawing on scientific literature as well as technical reports from organizations including WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Joint Malnutrition Estimates (JME) program. In total, 480 studies were identified and analyzed to understand the methods being used, the contexts in which they have been applied, and the data requirements associated with different estimation approaches. The evidence was assessed through a structured "fitness-for-use" framework to determine whether available data sources that are not representative at the population-level are adequate for producing reliable nutritional status estimates and to identify where the strongest evidence and the most important gaps exist.

The review found that only one-third of studies validated estimates against an independent population-based standard, with validation practices weakest in LMICs where representative surveys are least available. The review highlights that reporting completeness alone is not sufficient. The two critical requirements for producing reliable estimates are a credible population denominator and an independent survey against which estimates can be validated.

Based on the review, a practical five-step "fitness-for-use" framework was proposed that assesses administrative data against five criteria: representativeness, completeness, denominator quality, validation, and residual bias. Applied sequentially, these criteria classify data sources as usable now, usable after correction, or not yet usable. Findings from the review suggest that while many routine data systems provide valuable information for program management, important weaknesses remain in population coverage, denominator quality, and external validation. Together, these findings offer a transparent and consistent basis for determining when nutrition administrative data can support policy-relevant estimates and where investments are needed to strengthen these systems.

## AVAILABILITY AND SOURCES OF NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE NUTRITION DATA

Nutrition data availability and sources were quantified for 42 food-, nutrition-, and health-related indicators across food and diet, nutritional status, and program coverage and service delivery. Using global databases, the availability of nationally representative data was assessed and, for select global monitoring indicators, the major data providers were identified.

Data availability across the 42 indicators from 2000 to 2024 varied widely across indicators, geographies, and population groups (Figure 2; Appendix 2). Data were high for some indicators in select regions, such minimum dietary diversity (MDD), anthropometry, breastfeeding practices, and vitamin A supplementation. Data were particularly limited for indicators that are more complex or resource-intensive to collect, such as micronutrient status and dietary intake. Data were also limited for many indicators among school-aged children and adolescents and for newer indicators, such as consumption of unhealthy foods and sugar-sweetened beverages among children.

Major survey programs have been an important source of nutrition information in LMICs (Figure 3), and the landscape showed that indicators included in these programs generally had high data availability (Appendix 2). Reliance on survey programs for nutrition data was particularly high in Africa and was also notably high in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania. Some indicators relied primarily on only one data provider (anemia, DHS; MDD in women, Gallup®

World Poll). For child anthropometry, exclusive breastfeeding among children less than six months, and MDD in children, DHS and MICS were the primary data providers. Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) surveys, that provide standardized nutrition and mortality data for evaluation of humanitarian crisis situations, also made contributions in Africa, particularly child anthropometry, and smaller contributions in Asia as well.

**Figure 2.** Availability of data for 42 nutrition-related indicators

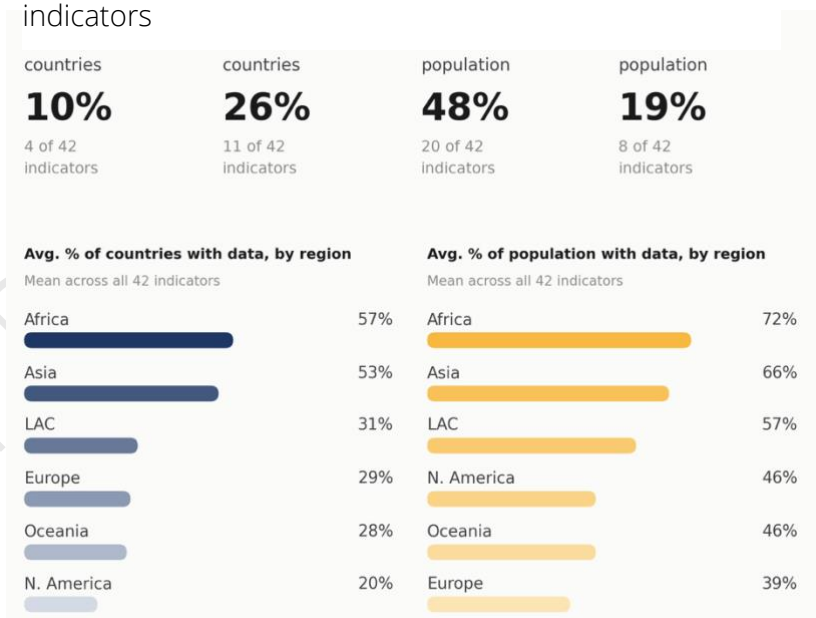
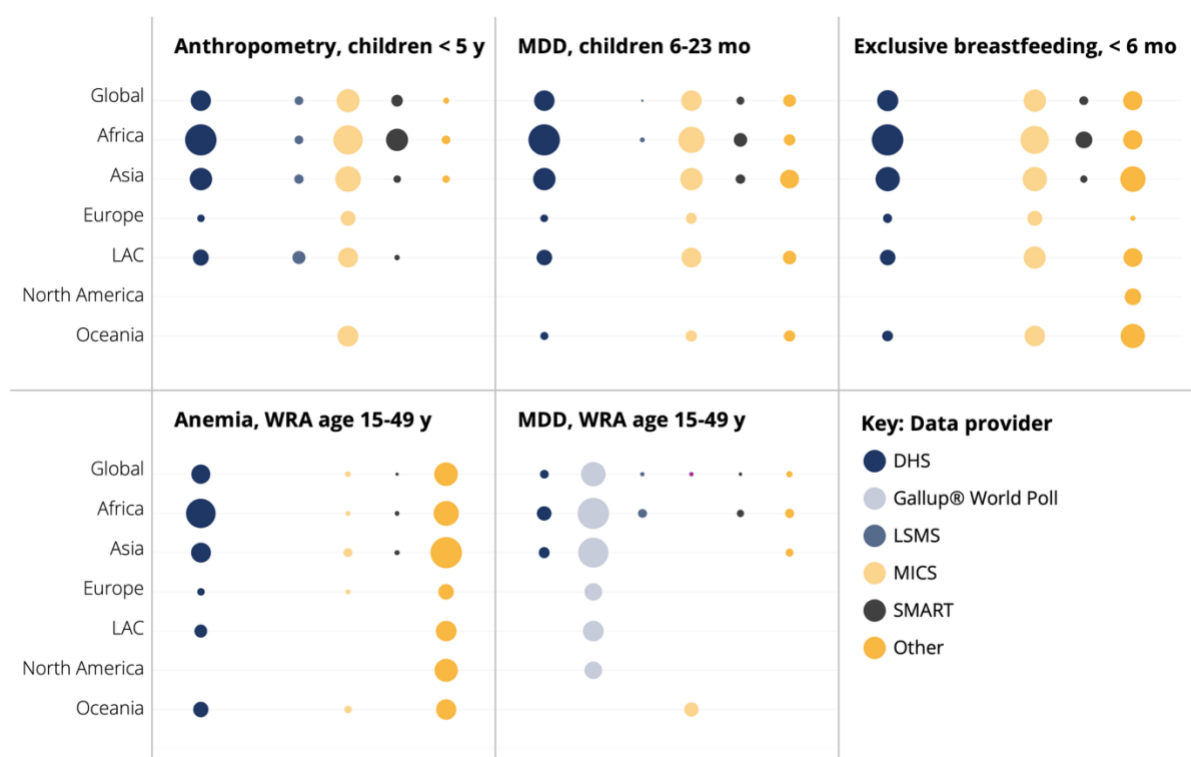


Figure 3. Countries with available data for SDG and WHA target indicators by data provider (%)<sup>d</sup>



These findings demonstrate the importance of major survey programs for maintaining the availability of several widely used nutrition indicators. The findings also highlighted persistent data gaps that already existed before recent funding cuts, especially for indicators that are not a standard part of major survey programs. Existing data gaps and the potential loss of future data from major survey programs create a significant risk to the availability of nutrition information for decision-making.

## STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Stakeholder experiences and perspectives on how changes in humanitarian and development financing have affected nutrition were gathered through an online survey conducted jointly by ACTION DATA and the Global Nutrition Report group in March and April 2026. The survey was available in English, French, and Spanish and was disseminated through nutrition and data networks, targeted outreach to organizations and individuals, and online communication channels. A total of 409 stakeholders responded: two-thirds (66%) worked in a specific country, 12% regionally, and 21% globally. Ninety-two percent (92%) of respondents worked in LMICs for civil society organizations and NGOs (33%), or research institutions (31%), and

<sup>d</sup> Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) in women was only recently added in DHS and anemia among women to MICS, so the contribution of these programs to these indicators would likely increase if surveys continued at previous levels.

approximately 20% worked in government, with the remainder in multilateral agencies, donor organizations, and the private sector.<sup>e</sup>

Respondents reported a range of challenges when using nutrition data for decisions. These included insufficient geographic disaggregation, data not being available or accessible, data being out of date, data quality concerns, and data not being communicated in ways that support decisions were most frequently rated as a major challenge. Asked whether there were other challenges not covered in the survey, respondents pointed to four main themes: ownership and political will, including governments not accepting or owning the data and donor priorities dictating what gets collected; gaps in topic coverage, particularly on multisectoral programming and determinants such as water, sanitation, education, and health service coverage; fragmentation and lack of coordination across overlapping systems; and the lack of consensus on methods and tools.

More than half of respondents (57%) reported that funding reductions had affected their nutrition data work. This was fairly evenly distributed across those working at the country (60%) and regional (64%) level, with somewhat fewer among those working globally (44%). Asked what kinds of funding changes they experienced, respondents indicated several at once, such as unpredictability or volatility (50%), complete or sudden termination (45%), and reprioritization within existing budgets (44%).

Organizations and institutions reported on ways they have been responding to funding cuts across five main areas:

- **Financing:** Seventy-six percent (76%) reported pursuing alternative financial support to replace funding that was lost and 39% reported reallocating work away from nutrition data altogether.
- **Scope of work:** Fifty-nine percent (59%) reported scaling back planned data collection activities and 58% narrowing coverage to fewer geographic areas or populations.
- **Staffing and expertise:** Sixty percent (60%) reported reduced personnel or technical capacity, 48% increased reliance on volunteers or health workers to carry out data tasks, and 46% cut training and professional development.
- **Partnerships:** Sixty percent (60%) reported forming new alliances to share resources and expertise, while 41% reported reduced receipt or provision of technical assistance.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Forty-seven percent (47%) reported using alternative or proxy information to maintain reporting and 46% reported collecting data less frequently.

Among respondents working at the country level, nearly one-third of respondents reported that data previously collected in their country would no longer be collected, and a further

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<sup>e</sup> Findings on how shifts in the humanitarian and development financing landscape have affected nutrition work will be presented in a forthcoming brief by the Global Nutrition Report. Additional findings specific to nutrition information systems will be detailed further in a forthcoming brief.

38% were unsure. Those reporting a loss were asked whether other ways of obtaining the data had been discussed; roughly two-thirds said yes, with a wide range of data collection modalities reported, such as MICS, nutrition-specific surveys, surveillance systems, administrative data, Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (HCES), and Living Standards Measurement Studies (LSMS).

Furthermore, findings indicate that planning for nutrition information systems is more advanced than financing for them. Sixty-three percent (63%) of country-level respondents reported the existence of a written plan for the system, but only 41% reported a costed plan, and 36% were uncertain whether one existed. Only 9% of respondents indicated that the system fully met their organization's data needs, whereas 78% reported that it did so moderately.



Photo credit: USAID

## Process for developing problem statements and actions

### CORE WORKING GROUP

The ACTION DATA Plan was guided by a Core Working Group with diverse expertise in nutrition and information systems. The Core Working Group is comprised of representatives from national governments, international agencies, technical and humanitarian organizations, donors and foundations, and academic institutions. Members have expertise in nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, and emergency nutrition policies and programs, as well as combined experience across all stages of the nutrition data value chain. The Working Group advised on the selection, methods, and interpretation of the information used to inform the plan, proposed and prioritized problem statements and priority actions, and supported engagement with external stakeholders, including organizational outreach.

### SELECTION OF PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS

Problem statements were prepared, which describe the core challenges to well-functioning national nutrition information systems, based on the evidence generated. The Core Working Group then reviewed these statements, revised their scope and wording, and proposed additional problem statements. Members then independently rated the importance of each problem on a five-point scale and ranked their five highest-priority problems. The 12 problem statements with the highest average importance ratings and the 12 most frequently ranked among members' top five were selected, resulting in 16 problem statements that were subsequently consolidated into the ten final problem statements included in this Plan. For each problem statement, priority actions were then identified that national actors and partners could implement to address the respective problem.

### MAPPING CURRENT AND PLANNED ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS

Current and planned organizational efforts to address the challenges described in the problem statements were also mapped through outreach to organizations working on nutrition and information systems, including global development partners and technical assistance organizations, donors, academic and research institutions, and civil society organizations. Individuals representing these organizations then reviewed the problem statements and provided information on relevant activities underway or planned ([Appendix 3](#)). They were asked to respond only to problem statements relevant to their own work and to coordinate internally to submit one consolidated response for their organization. For each activity, organizations provided a description and available information on status, geographic focus, partners, timeline, and intended impact.

## Problem statements and priority actions

This section presents ten critical problems currently confronting nutrition information systems together with priority actions to address them. National stakeholders have the primary responsibility for priority setting and implementation of nutrition information systems and are therefore central to these actions. Global partners can support these efforts. Regional organizations also play an important role often bridging national and global efforts and coordination between countries in their region. Each problem statement follows the same structure:

- **Description:** A summary of the problem statement and supporting background information.
- **Linkages with other problem statements:** Specific actions may be relevant for multiple problems; to avoid duplication each action is listed under the problem statement it most directly addresses. When an action(s) is relevant to another problem, that problem's linkage section points readers to the problem statement where that action(s) is listed. For example, actions on staff training and digital infrastructure, both of which cut across multiple problem statements, are presented just once under problem statement 10, and other problem statements refer to problem statement 10 where those actions are relevant or overlap.
- **Priority actions:** Set out what can be done to address the problem. Each action is tagged with the stakeholder level (national, global, or both, listed in order of priority). The relationships of each action to the stage or stages of the data value chain and cross-cutting elements are also indicated.

Information on activities that organizations identified as underway or planned that address the problem statements is provided in [Appendix 3](#) to support future coordination and collaboration.

**Problem 1.** Changing political and financing environments, combined with continued dependence on external financial and technical support, undermine the autonomy and sustainability of national nutrition information systems.

**Description:** National nutrition information systems in many LMICs continue to rely heavily on external financing, technical assistance, and partner-led initiatives for their design, operation, and maintenance. While external support has been instrumental in expanding the availability of nutrition data, it has also contributed to parallel systems that are often insufficiently institutionalized within national structures and vulnerable to shifts in donor priorities, development financing, and political commitments. Nutrition information systems

are often left out of national plans and budgets or receive very little domestic funding.<sup>2</sup> The ACTION DATA survey supports this: only 41% of country-level respondents reported a costed plan, and just 9% said their system fully met their organization's data needs. Sustainability challenges extend beyond funding alone, encompassing weaknesses in governance, long-term ownership, and professional and institutional capacity.<sup>12</sup> These constraints can limit countries' ability to maintain core data functions and ensure continuity during periods of fiscal or political change.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Funding and governance constraints, while contributing to this problem, are not the only cross-cutting element that impacts the functioning of nutrition information systems. Infrastructure and human resource and capacity constraints are also contributors, and they are discussed under problem statement 10.

### Actions

- 1.1 Design and complete assessments of national nutrition information systems to diagnose sustainability risks, including institutional embeddedness, governance arrangements, financing, and alignment with domestic mandates. The assessment tool can be used for early identification and mitigation actions to increase system resilience and prevent disruptions or loss of nutrition data. *(Stakeholder: national, global; Data value change: cross-cutting)*
- 1.2 Establish government-led national nutrition information system working groups that represent multiple stakeholders and sectors and include both national and subnational actors to coordinate overarching decision-making related to information systems. *(Stakeholder: national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*
- 1.3 Develop and maintain written, costed national nutrition information system plans that align with the country's nutrition priorities and relevant policies, strategies and plans. *(Stakeholder: national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*
- 1.4 Document and disseminate lessons from both successful and failed institutionalization efforts to strengthen nutrition information systems and the conditions under which government ownership translates into sustainable financing to support investment decisions and system design. Draw on experiences across sectors, regions and income levels. *(Stakeholder: global, national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*
- 1.5 Advance models for formally embedding nutrition information systems within government institutions—with legal backing, domestic mandates, and integration into national planning and budget cycles—rather than housing them in project units dependent on external management. *(Stakeholder: global, national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*
- 1.6 Advocate for the importance of global and national nutrition information systems - create tools and models showing the return on investment from robust nutrition information systems, and advocate for them at all levels. *(Stakeholder: global, national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*

**Problem 2.** National nutrition information system priorities require a balance between country decision-making needs and global monitoring and donor requirements, but these priorities are not always fully aligned, and this can result in a disconnect between data investments and policy and program priorities.

**Description:** National nutrition information systems must respond to a wide range of information demands from users at different levels of decision-making. Global monitoring and external funder reporting obligations create a large burden on these systems and often influence where limited resources are directed.<sup>13,14</sup> The multisectoral nature of nutrition further complicates data prioritization, as different sectors, programs, and partners often have overlapping or competing information needs.<sup>15</sup> Recent changes in the global financing environment present an additional challenge, as domestic resources will need to be mobilized for data investments in many countries, potentially placing greater constraints on what can be measured.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Once priority information needs are identified, part of the planning phase includes matching these needs with appropriate data collection modalities, and actions to address this are provided within this problem statement. Actions to support the actual collection of information are provided in problem statements 3-7, issues of documentation and access in problem statement 8 and analysis, communication, and use in problem statement 9, and infrastructure and human resource and capacity constraints to support the prioritization and planning for nutrition information systems in problem statement 10.

### **Actions**

- 2.1 Strengthen national agenda-setting processes to identify and coordinate priority nutrition information needs across sectors and at both national and subnational levels, including often neglected areas such as overweight, obesity, diet quality, micronutrient status, and equity. This includes employing user-centered design so that what gets measured reflects the needs of frontline users and local decision-makers. (*Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: prioritization*)
- 2.2 Advance global consensus on core nutrition indicators and validated and standardized measurements to provide countries with an internationally endorsed basis for selecting nutrition metrics that countries can adopt on their own terms. (*Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: prioritization*)
- 2.3 Develop guidance for countries on anchoring indicator selection to national policy priorities, including tools for mapping existing indicators to domestic decision-making needs. (*Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: prioritization*)

- 2.4 Undertake national stocktakings to determine how identified priority nutrition information needs are currently being met across data collection modalities and identify potential alternative modalities that could be used for future data collection, taking into consideration frequency, feasibility, cost, and data quality. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: prioritization, collection)*
- 2.5 Conduct research to determine optimal data collection frequencies for nutrition indicators across contexts, considering expected changes and likelihood of programmatic responses, and use these findings to inform data collection modalities. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: prioritization, collection)*

**Problem 3.** Funding constraints and shifting institutional priorities place critical nutrition surveys, surveillance systems, and other data platforms at risk of discontinuation, threatening the continuity of essential nutrition data at the national and global level.

**Description:** Major survey programs and other platforms that operate across countries have long been central to the nutrition information systems in LMICs and have been among the largest sources of nationally representative and standardized nutrition data.<sup>16</sup> Over the past two decades, the DHS and MICS have been major sources of data for several nutrition indicators, including those used to monitor progress toward the SDGs and WHA nutrition targets. DHS has also been reported as the most accessed country-specific source of nutrition data for decision-making.<sup>17</sup> Other surveys, including the Gallup® World Poll and SMART surveys, have been important data sources for specific indicators and in humanitarian and other high-risk settings. Funding contractions are now affecting many data platforms, with the greatest disruptions to the DHS.<sup>18,19</sup> This could result in large and uneven gaps in nutrition data across countries and indicators and compromise the ability to monitor nutrition policies and programs.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Externally supported survey programs and other platforms remain important sources of nutrition data. However, there is a need to transition to more sustainable national nutrition information systems, and priority actions to support this are provided under problem statement 1. Innovative and more efficient approaches to data collection are addressed under problem statements 4-7, and the infrastructure and human capacity needed to support data collection through different modalities are addressed under problem statement 10.

#### Actions

- 3.1 Develop guidance on priority nutrition information that is most appropriate for multi-topic surveys and balances nutrition information needs with other sectoral priorities,

respondent burden, and the need to maintain data quality. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: prioritization)*

- 3.2 Develop and implement modular approaches that integrate nutrition with other topical areas in multi-topic data collection platforms to enable more efficient and flexible data collection. This includes coordination across sectors on the selection of content and module combinations, sampling approaches, field testing, and wide-scale implementation. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: prioritization, collection)*
- 3.3 Develop and validate more efficient approaches to household survey data collection, such as using telephone surveys for information that is amenable to self-reporting and leveraging new technologies for cleaning and processing data. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: collection)*
- 3.4 Strengthen the viability of major data platforms that collect nutrition data by securing more diversified financing, adapting operations to improve efficiency, and building on existing coordination across platforms to avoid duplication of efforts. Engage stakeholders beyond nutrition who also depend on these platforms in joint advocacy for their continued support. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: collection)*

**Note:** Multi-topic surveys collect information across sectors. Efforts to strengthen these systems for nutrition should therefore be developed with other sectors.

**Problem 4.** Routine administrative systems represent a largely untapped source of nutrition information due to limitations in data quality, coverage, validation, and integration into national nutrition information systems.

**Description:** Although administrative and program monitoring systems may offer data that is potentially useful for nutrition programs, problems with data quality, coverage, validation, and integration usually limit their usefulness. Data quality issues are widespread and include, for example, inconsistent measurement techniques, reporting bias from pressure to perform, and data loss due to connectivity failures.<sup>12</sup> Gaps in coverage often leave out people who do not use formal health services, and these are frequently the ones who are most at risk of malnutrition.<sup>12</sup> Validation remains a major challenge. A review of 480 studies found that only one-third of routine estimates were compared with an independent survey (as described earlier), with the gap largest in LMICs where representative surveys are less common. The fragmented nature of reporting systems obstructs integration, prevents cross-sectoral analysis, and forces frontline workers to enter the same data repeatedly. As a result, routine data are mostly used for upward reporting rather than for local decision-making, and the considerable effort spent collecting the data has had only a small effect on policy.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Strengthening the quality, coverage, and integration of routine data depends on adequate physical and digital infrastructure, and on sufficient human resource capacity for data collection, verification, and analysis, addressed under problem statement 10. Actions to improve the timeliness and local use of routine data are addressed under problem statement 6, and more efficient and innovative data collection approaches and methods that could improve the feasibility of routine systems are discussed under problem statement 7.

#### Actions

- 4.1 Develop and disseminate operational guidance for defining and collecting nutrition indicators through routine administrative and program monitoring information systems, including methods to improve the quality of data and detect data quality issues at the point of collection and data entry. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: collection)*
- 4.2 Conduct research and apply evidence on best practices of how to evaluate the quality of nutrition data from administrative systems, including methods to verify and adjust results for representativeness at local, regional, or national levels and to detect and correct systematic bias in routine data. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: curation)*
- 4.3 Pilot sentinel-site approaches that build on existing administrative data systems by selecting a small number of sites with dedicated, trained, and supervised staff responsible for data collection and processing and appropriate infrastructure support. These approaches have the potential to improve data quality and provide information that may not be feasible to collect as part of routine processes. Depending on system design, they could also capture information from people who do not access health services. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: collection, curation)*
- 4.4 Facilitate peer learning on the collection, verification, quality assessment, validation, and use of routine nutrition data for decision-making by supporting countries to share implementation experiences, document successful approaches, and adapt solutions to their contexts to complement the guidance above. *(Stakeholder level: global, national; Data value chain: collection, curation, analysis)*
- 4.5 Develop approaches for using routine administrative nutrition data to generate population-level inferences, including statistical modeling methods that account for known limitations and produce reliable estimates in settings where periodic surveys are unavailable or infrequent. *(Stakeholder level: global; data value chain: analysis)*

**Note:** Routine administrative systems collect information across multiple topical areas. Efforts to strengthen these systems for nutrition should therefore be developed with other sectors.

## **Problem 5.** National nutrition information systems have gaps in data that jeopardize the ability to identify inequities and target interventions effectively.

**Description:** Gaps in nutrition data across population groups, geographies, and indicators limit the detection of inequalities and the targeting of interventions. Most available data focus on children under five and pregnant women, often excluding adolescents, school-aged children, and those outside the formal system.<sup>12</sup> Coverage is especially limited in conflict-affected, remote, and urban informal areas, where nutritional vulnerability is greatest.<sup>12</sup> Consequently, unmeasured groups and outcomes are deprioritized, and resources are allocated based on available data rather than actual needs.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Addressing data gaps in population coverage, geography, and indicators relies on enabling conditions discussed in problem statement 1 and problem statement 10. Problem statements 6 and 7 explore innovative and less resource-intensive methods, including the potential use of community-based and crowd-sourced data collection programs that may be especially useful for reaching remote and conflict-affected areas.

### **Actions**

- 5.1 Develop and disseminate guidance on methods to address nutrition data gaps among hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups, including oversampling high-risk populations, sentinel monitoring in underserved areas, and integration with social protection data systems. This would include establishing minimum disaggregation standards for nutrition data, requiring reporting by age, sex, wealth quintile, geographic unit, and, where possible, disability status, to enable identification of inequities within population groups. *(Stakeholder level: global, national; Data value chain: prioritization, collection)*
- 5.2 Update and expand national sampling frames to include community-level registers, social protection beneficiary lists, and school enrollment data as supplementary frames. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: collection)*

**Problem 6.** Many nutrition data collection approaches remain complex, expensive, and resource-intensive, limiting their scalability, frequency, and sustainability, particularly in low-resource and fragile settings.

**Description:** A key challenge cited in the successful implementation of multisectoral nutrition plans has been the tendency towards complex and costly approaches to data collection in settings with minimal capacity and resources.<sup>20</sup> Much of the key information used to assess population nutritional status, risk factors for malnutrition, and program reach and coverage is generated from periodic, large-scale, household surveys, often completed with external financial and technical support because of the high cost and complexity of this data collection modality. With the recent reductions in development and humanitarian aid, support for these surveys will be needed from alternative sources or novel approaches will be required to obtain essential information using simpler, less expensive methods.<sup>21</sup>

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Several approaches can be taken to reduce reliance on large-scale, stand-alone, in-person household nutrition surveys and reduce costs of nutrition data collection. Those covered elsewhere include actions related to strengthening the financing and sustainability of nutrition information systems (problem statement 1); the use of multi-purpose data collection platforms and more efficient ways to collect household survey data (problem statement 3); and enhanced routine administrative data systems that are assessed and upgraded, as needed, to ensure the reliability and representativeness of the information (problem statement 4). Development of novel data collection methods and new approaches to data collection will impose training needs, which are discussed under problem statement 10.

#### Actions

- 6.1 Develop and/or evaluate novel methods for nutritional assessment, and disseminate findings on their reliability. Examples include self-reporting to mobile phones, imaging technologies, and AI-facilitated data analysis to assess dietary intake; imaging technologies for anthropometric assessments; estimating dietary intake and nutrient deficiency prevalence based on indirect (“proxy”) indicators and validated use of AI; and point-of-contact assessment methods and simplified multiplex assay technologies to measure micronutrient status and other biomarkers. (*Stakeholder level: global, national; Data value chain: collection*)
- 6.2 Use remote sensing to collect information on crop production, weather patterns, and population migration to assess the risk of impending food shortages and other emergency situations. (*Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: collection, analysis*)

- 6.3 Develop and test community-based surveillance systems or crowdsourcing of data, drawing on community health workers or other members of the community, to generate data, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas, and improve visibility into underserved groups. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: collection)*
- 6.4 Embed priority nutrition data into existing national data collection modalities, as appropriate, where nutrition information is not currently collected or measured. Prospectively, this can include adding nutrition indicators to existing household or facility-based surveys focused on other topics, such as LSMS and facility-based specimen collection among clinic attendees (with appropriate data adjustments to reflect population-based sampling results). This can also include identifying existing blood repositories and supporting regional resource laboratories to complete laboratory analyses of nutrition-related biomarkers. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: collection)*
- 6.5 Conduct cost-benefit analyses of different data collection modalities to inform decisions about the most appropriate approaches for generating high-priority nutrition information. *(Stakeholder level: global, national; Data value chain: collection)*

**Problem 7.** National nutrition information systems are often not designed to provide timely, integrated, and actionable information needed for real-time program improvement, preparedness, response, and course correction at national and subnational levels.

**Description:** Most national nutrition information systems, that draw on a number of data sources and systems, do not always provide timely, integrated, or actionable data to support program improvement at national and subnational levels. These systems are typically designed for central decision-makers, with data flowing upward for reporting. Frontline and subnational users, who collect the data, often lack the tools, authority, or organizational support to act on it.<sup>12</sup> Data collection, curation, and analysis cycles are usually too infrequent for timely monitoring or adjustments, forcing programs to rely on outdated information when current evidence is needed.<sup>22,23</sup> Even with digital systems, reporting is often monthly or quarterly, limiting the ability to identify and address emerging issues quickly. Sector integration is weak; health, agriculture, WASH, and social protection systems rarely share or analyze data locally.<sup>14</sup> Local program managers also lack decision-support tools to translate available data into concrete actions.<sup>24</sup> As a result, the significant effort invested in frontline data collection yields limited benefits for program managers and the communities they serve.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** The reporting system redesigns and digital transmission channels proposed here depend on adequate physical and digital infrastructure, including data entry devices and internet access, and on human resource capacity for system implementation, maintenance, and use as described under problem statement 10. Effective communication of data findings to support rapid programmatic responses is addressed under problem statement 9.

### Actions

- 7.1 Redesign reporting systems to make nutrition data available faster by implementing modular reporting, decentralized digital data entry, and feedback mechanisms that return processed data to local collection sites. *(Stakeholder level: global, national; Data value chain: prioritization, collection, curation)*
- 7.2 Promote affordable digital channels for near real-time transmission of nutrition data, evaluate their suitability in each context, and integrate solutions into national digital health systems instead of creating separate platforms. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: collection, curation)*
- 7.3 Establish structured review cycles at the subnational level to connect monitoring data with program adjustments and accountability. Ensure subnational bodies have the authority, tools, and institutional support to act on their data. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: use)*
- 7.4 Develop a rapid-response nutrition surveillance system for emergencies, with clear procedures for data collection and processing that can be quickly implemented and integrated into national emergency preparedness plans. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: collection)*

**Problem 8.** Nutrition-related data remain fragmented across sectors, institutions, and platforms due to weak coordination, limited interoperability, restricted data sharing, and inconsistent access to microdata.

**Description:** The challenge is not always the availability of data, but extends to the ability to discover, access, and reuse existing data.<sup>25</sup> Often there are not clearly documented pathways for obtaining anonymized microdata, while approval requirements, responsible authorities, and expected timelines are often unclear or unpublished.<sup>26</sup> In addition, nutrition data are frequently stored in organization-specific repositories, temporary project platforms, or national systems that are no longer actively maintained. As personnel change and platforms are discontinued, valuable data becomes difficult to locate or risks being permanently lost. Furthermore, fragmented data ecosystems, characterized by inconsistent

definitions, formats, and limited interoperability, prevent effective integration and use of nutrition data across systems and institutions.<sup>27</sup> This weak institutional curation reduces the long-term value of investments in data collection and limits the ability to maximize the use of existing data.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Interoperability issues for dashboards and other tools are provided in problem statement 9. The infrastructure and human resources with sufficient capacity to create, use, and maintain the systems and procedures proposed below are covered in problem statement 10.

### Actions

- 8.1 Establish national nutrition data catalogs that document available datasets, their content, coverage, custodians, and access pathways, making nutrition data retrievable by researchers, program partners, and decision-makers across sectors and institutions. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: curation)*
- 8.2 Develop transparent data access protocols with clearly defined approval requirements, responsible authorities, timelines, and data security standards for obtaining anonymized microdata, reducing barriers that slow evidence generation and limit reuse of existing data. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: curation)*
- 8.3 Improve access to standardized, model-ready nutrition data from across countries and data types and develop approaches for assessing and communicating data quality and fitness for different modeling applications. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: curation)*
- 8.4 Promote uniformity and interoperability across databases and systems by encouraging common or interoperable platforms, including cloud-based systems, standardizing definitions, formats, and classification systems, and establishing unified identifiers to enable integration across sectors and institutions. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: curation)*
- 8.5 Strengthen institutional data curation practices to ensure nutrition datasets are preserved, documented, and reusable over time, including establishing archiving standards, maintaining active repositories, and reducing dependence on temporary project platforms or systems that risk discontinuation as personnel change or funding ends. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: curation)*

**Problem 9.** The value of existing nutrition data is often constrained by a lack of tools and processes to analyze, interpret, communicate, and apply evidence to impact policy and program decision-making.

**Description:** Nutrition information systems often do not meet the full range of stakeholder needs, and data are not always translated into information that is useful for decision-making. Barriers include limitations in how available data are analyzed and communicated, and the competing priorities, political considerations, and other pressures policymakers face when applying evidence to decisions. Analyses are constrained by the availability of appropriate analytical tools that often require specific software and expertise, as well as a lack of harmonized and interoperable nutrition modeling tools to support the use of modeled evidence in decision-making.<sup>28,29</sup> Dashboards that consolidate data from multiple sources can help communicate available information, but are only as useful as the data that populate them, and their ability to respond to the questions users need answered.<sup>30</sup> Further, investment often goes into “one-size-fits all” dashboards that put data all in one place, when users often need smaller, focused dashboards built around their decision needs (e.g., sub-national planning).<sup>31,32</sup> Even well-designed tools depend on users having the capacity to interpret and apply the information.<sup>11,33</sup> Experience indicates that information provided that responds to questions formulated by government and is timed to national planning cycles is more likely to be acted on, yet the policy impact of data investment remains difficult to demonstrate because appropriate metrics do not exist.<sup>33</sup> Finally, policymakers face pressures from multiple stakeholders, political constituencies, and interest groups, and they may be unaccustomed to reviewing and interpreting empirical data, statistical analyses, and model simulations when taking decisions, and, in some cases, they may not trust the information.<sup>10</sup> Thus, data generated by nutrition information systems may not be applied to the full extent possible for policymaking and program-related decisions.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Indicator selection and alignment of data investments to national decision-making needs is addressed in problem statement 2; reducing the lag between data generation and availability for decision-making is addressed in problem statement 7; and interoperability infrastructure, data harmonization standards, and curation of integrated multi-sector data platforms is addressed in problem statement 8. Human resource capacity for data literacy, including data analysis, communication, and use, is addressed in problem statement 10 but referenced in the description above as evidence of why the value of existing data is constrained.

**Actions**

- 9.1 Landscape existing nutrition data analysis and communication tools, including dashboards, scorecards, country profiles, modeled evidence, documenting intended audience and evidence of use, and assess where additional tools are needed and how existing tools can be combined or linked. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: analysis, communication, use)*
- 9.2 Develop guidance on selecting analytical and communication tools for different decision contexts and users and maintain it as a shared resource. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: analysis, communication, use)*
- 9.3 Develop metrics and qualitative methods for assessing whether and how nutrition data influence decisions, and apply them prospectively within existing national platforms and data initiatives. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: prioritization, analysis, use)*
- 9.4 Develop guidance and shared standards for nutrition modeling, including model selection and use, data requirements, assumptions, validation, assessment of uncertainty, transparent comparison of model outputs, and greater harmonization and interoperability between modeling tools. *(Stakeholder level: global; Data value chain: analysis)*
- 9.5 Strengthen national and regional capacity to develop, adapt, interpret, communicate, and apply nutrition models and modeled evidence through training, peer learning, partnerships, and shared technical resources. *(Stakeholder level: global, national; Data value chain: analysis)*
- 9.6 Strengthen structured processes that link analysis to national policy, planning, and budget cycles, including government-led question formulation, evidence review points, and evidence products timed to decision windows. This should be led by national institutions with convening authority across sectors, drawing on documented models. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: cross-cutting, analysis, communication, use)*
- 9.7 Document and disseminate use cases of how nutrition data and/or modeled evidence have informed policy, program, and financing decisions, including lessons on when and why nutrition data and/or modeled evidence does or does not influence decision-making. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: use)*
- 9.8 Work with civil society organizations and selected ministry personnel to present evidence-based advocacy to policymakers on behalf of nutrition programs. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value change: use)*

**Problem 10.** Inadequate physical, clinical, and digital infrastructure and human resource capacity limit the effective functioning and long-term sustainability of national nutrition information systems.

**Description:** Stakeholders report that the lack of physical, clinical, and digital infrastructure, including anthropometric instruments,<sup>23</sup> reliable laboratories,<sup>34</sup> data entry devices,<sup>35</sup> internet reach and accessibility,<sup>36</sup> and data storage capacity, limits data collection, transfer, and primary and secondary data analysis of data collected through both surveys and routine administrative systems. In addition, well-functioning nutrition information systems require a wide range of personnel with expertise in nutrition, public health, survey design, data analysis, and management, as well as national institutional capacity to provide critical infrastructure and mentoring of junior staff members. Previous studies have found that essential skills are lacking among personnel in key positions in nutrition information systems<sup>37,38</sup> and several reviews have concluded that nutrition training programs at all levels from secondary school through post-graduate university programs are insufficient to meet personnel needs in LMICs.

**Linkages with other problem statements:** Possible responses to funding reductions, which could affect the physical and digital infrastructure and human capacity required for nutrition information systems, are presented under problem statement 1.

#### Actions

- 10.1 Assess digital infrastructure and related workplace conditions, including physical space for operators, at all central and peripheral data collection and storage sites and internet reach and accessibility to determine current infrastructure conditions and needs. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: data collection, analysis, curation)*
- 10.2 Provide funding for digital infrastructure requirements, consistent with the design of the overarching data collection and storage plans. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: collection, curation)*
- 10.3 Promote use of open-source and offline-capable digital platforms for nutrition data collection and management in settings with unreliable internet connectivity. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: collection, curation)*
- 10.4 Review existing human resource capacity at both central and peripheral levels, considering all aspects of nutrition information systems. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*
- 10.5 Prepare a national data workforce plan and recruit personnel, as needed, to fill gaps in existing capacity. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*

- 10.6 Review and strengthen pre-service and in-service training programs and curricula to determine their suitability for meeting the human resource needs of nutrition information systems. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*
- 10.7 Assess and strengthen national and regional laboratory capacity, quality assurance procedures, and infrastructure. This includes cross-national laboratory staff training and developing shared facilities and external quality assurance programs (potentially through a regional mechanism, as needed). *(Stakeholder level: national, regional, global; Data value chain: cross-cutting, collection)*
- 10.8 Provide technical assistance to countries as an interim measure while strengthening national and regional capacity on national nutrition information systems. *(Stakeholder level: national, global; Data value chain: cross-cutting)*
- 10.9 Involve policymakers in professional conferences and workshops to review data from nutrition information systems and discuss possible options for responding to the issues identified. *(Stakeholder level: national; Data value chain: use)*

## Conclusions

This Plan is a first step, and its value will depend on sustained momentum, on each actor identifying its role, and a coordinated, shared effort to take the priority actions forward. Collective progress will require aligning solutions and innovations with the challenges countries have identified. Above all, nutrition data must be recognized as fundamental to effective policy, programming, and investment, and changing that perception among those who fund and make decisions is essential to sustaining and strengthening nutrition information systems.

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## Appendices

### APPENDIX 1. CATEGORIES OF DATA NEEDED TO SUPPORT NUTRITION-SPECIFIC, NUTRITION-SENSITIVE, AND EMERGENCY NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Descriptive information concerning national and sub-national population groups is useful to determine the appropriate scale and targeting of nutrition programs and to facilitate related communication activities. Relevant information includes the population size and age and geographic distributions; the presence of different religious, ethnic, and language groups in the population; and their levels of education, types of employment, financial resources, food security, and physical infrastructure, such as access to safe water, sanitary facilities, housing quality, and utilities. This information is usually derived from national censuses and representative population-based household surveys, like the LSMS, which is typically managed by ministries of national statistics offices in collaboration with other ministries, often supported by the World Bank. Dedicated nutrition surveys and rapid assessments often include some of the same information to permit identification of the risk factors associated with different forms of malnutrition or risks of deterioration in population nutrition status in humanitarian crises.

A separate set of descriptive information on food systems is useful for assessing year-round food and nutrient availability, food distribution and processing systems (for example, to assess food preservation capacity, food safety, and potential suitability for fortification), food prices and accessibility, and food and nutrition security. The different types of food production, importation, and processing information are generally collected by ministries of agriculture, economy, and industry for their own planning and management purposes; but the information also feeds into national food balance sheets, which are useful for nutrition planning.

In addition to the foregoing information on risk factors for malnutrition, empirical evidence is needed on actual dietary intakes and dietary quality (including infant and young child feeding practices), both to identify dietary inadequacies and to guide emergency food security and nutrition programming priorities and dietary recommendations. Information on physical growth and status (based on anthropometry) is needed to determine the prevalence of low birth weight, stunting, wasting, underweight, and overweight and obesity. Biochemical data are needed to determine the prevalence of specific vitamin and mineral deficiencies, adjusting for the presence of inflammation where necessary; and clinical information on conditions like xerophthalmia, rickets, or neural tube defects that are associated with specific nutrient deficiencies is also useful to drive programmatic actions. Ministries of health are generally responsible for generating these categories of information. Other critical categories are markers of program performance and costs, which are generated by the responsible agencies, as well as general characterization of the enabling environment.

The following table presents categories of data needed to support nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, and emergency nutrition programs, along with the sectors that are generally responsible for generating the information and the different data modalities. These categories are meant to align with the most important needs of decision-makers, namely, to conduct situational analyses, target interventions, monitor program performance, and ensure accountability.

**Table 2.** Categories of nutrition-related information, programmatic applications of the information, and respective data collection modalities<sup>f</sup>

| Categories of nutrition data                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Responsible sector(s)                                                                                                             | Use for decision-making                                                                                                                                                                               | Data collection modalities                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size and age distribution</li> <li>• Birth &amp; mortality rates</li> <li>• Urban-rural distribution</li> <li>• Geographic distribution</li> <li>• Language, ethnicity</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Economic status</li> </ul> | Multiple                                                                                                                          | Inform program planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale of program</li> <li>• Targeting</li> <li>• Equity</li> <li>• Communication, design of behavior change interventions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census</li> <li>• Vital statistics registry</li> <li>• HH surveys</li> </ul>                                                                             |
| Food systems, climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural production</li> <li>• Food &amp; nutrient availability</li> <li>• Food processing, marketing &amp; prices</li> <li>• HH food security</li> <li>• Seasonal &amp; climatic factors</li> </ul>                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Private sector</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural planning</li> <li>• Import/export policies</li> <li>• Market interventions</li> <li>• Design of food-based programs</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture surveys</li> <li>• Food &amp; nutrient balance sheets</li> <li>• Market &amp; industry surveys</li> <li>• Meteorological services</li> </ul> |

<sup>f</sup> Most of the information included in this table are applicable to both humanitarian and development contexts.

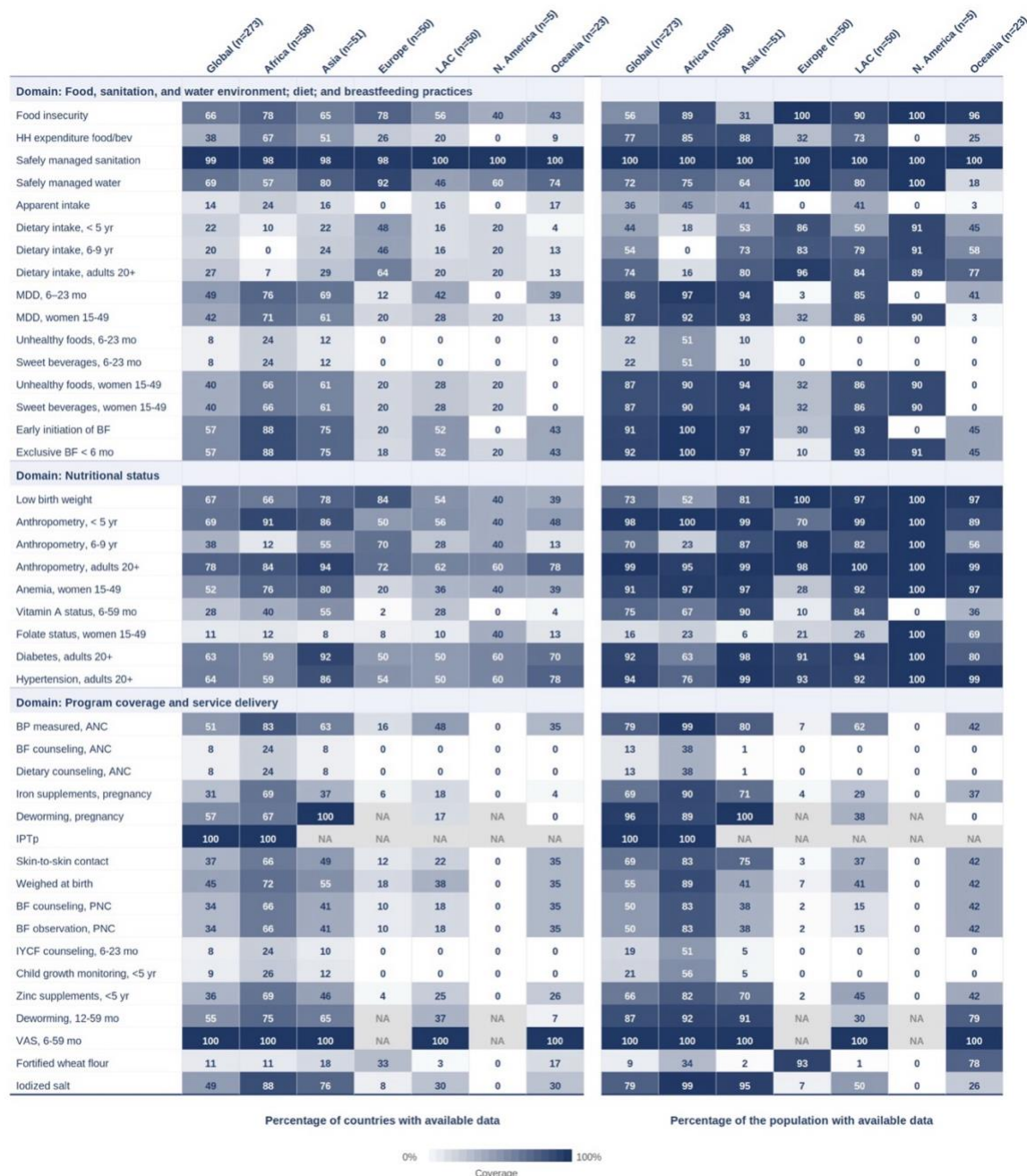
| Categories of nutrition data                                                                                                                                                                                                | Responsible sector(s)                                                           | Use for decision-making                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Data collection modalities                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| that influence the foregoing items                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Food & nutrient intake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietary patterns, quality, &amp; diversity</li> <li>• Infant &amp; child feeding practices</li> <li>• Dietary intake</li> <li>• Food composition</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Health</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietary guidelines</li> <li>• Diet counseling, Social Behavior Change (SBC)</li> <li>• Promotion/support of optimal breastfeeding &amp; complementary feeding</li> <li>• Selection of food vehicles and fortification level</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HH surveys</li> <li>• Health facility surveillance</li> <li>• Automated digital &amp; imaging tools (emerging)</li> </ul>                                         |
| Anthropometrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body weight</li> <li>• Length, stature</li> <li>• Body circumferences</li> <li>• Skinfold thicknesses</li> </ul>                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Health</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition support in pregnancy</li> <li>• Child growth monitoring</li> <li>• Screening and treatment of wasting</li> <li>• Overweight, obesity control</li> </ul>                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HH surveys</li> <li>• Community based screening</li> <li>• Health facility surveillance</li> <li>• Health facility administrative data</li> </ul>                 |
| Biochemical - concentrations of nutrients and functional markers of nutritional status in body compartments or excretions (blood, urine, breastmilk, others)                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Health</li> </ul> | Determine prevalence of MN deficiencies, other nutritional conditions, and inflammation in support of nutrient supplementation and fortification programs, dietary modification                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HH biomarker surveys</li> <li>• Health facility-based biomarker surveys and sentinel surveillance sites</li> <li>• Health facility administrative data</li> </ul> |
| Clinical                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine prevalence of diseases (e.g., rickets,</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialized HH surveys</li> <li>• Health facility-based surveys</li> </ul>                                                                                        |

| Categories of nutrition data                                                                                                                                  | Responsible sector(s)                                                                                                                                                                  | Use for decision-making                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Data collection modalities                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                        | xerophthalmia, anemia, etc.) closely associated with nutritional status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine prevalence of clinical conditions (e.g., diarrhea, malaria, etc.) that affect nutrition</li> </ul>                                                                                           | and sentinel sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health facility administrative data</li> </ul>                                                                                    |
| Program performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reach</li> <li>Coverage</li> <li>Quality, including client satisfaction</li> <li>Impact</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Industry &amp; commerce</li> <li>Private sector for food-based interventions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service delivery and program performance</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HH surveys</li> <li>Health facility-based surveys and sentinel sites</li> <li>Market surveys</li> <li>Health facility administrative data</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabling environment</li> <li>Policies</li> <li>Governance</li> <li>Regulations &amp; enforcement</li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Statistical offices</li> <li>Finance &amp; planning ministries</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the existence and functionality of a multi-stakeholder planning body</li> <li>Determine the existence and contents of a national nutrition strategy, plan, or results framework, including information systems</li> <li>Assess the regulatory environment</li> </ul> | Document reviews                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Finances                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition</li> <li>Health</li> </ul>                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine available nutrition,</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document review</li> </ul>                                                                                                                           |

| Categories of nutrition data | Responsible sector(s)                                                                                                          | Use for decision-making                                                                                                                        | Data collection modalities                                                                               |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Finance &amp; planning ministries</li> <li>• Donors</li> </ul> | health, agriculture financing and identify gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess adequacy/efficiency of expenditures</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget reviews</li> <li>• Budget tagging and tracing</li> </ul> |

Abbreviations: HH, household

## APPENDIX 2. HEATMAP OF FOOD, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH-RELATED DATA AVAILABILITY AS PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRIES AND POPULATION WITH DATA AVAILABILITY, FROM 2000–2024



Abbreviations: ANC, antenatal care; Bev, Beverages; Breastfeeding, BF; BP, blood pressure; HH, household; IYCF, infant and young child feeding; Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in pregnancy, IPTp; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MDD, minimum dietary diversity; Mo, months; N. America, Northern America; NA, not applicable; PNC, postnatal care; VAS, vitamin A supplementation; yr, years.

## APPENDIX 3. ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS ACROSS ALL PROBLEM STATEMENTS

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                           | Partners                                                                                                                                              | Timeline                                                                     | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <b>Problem 1: Changing political and financing environments, combined with continued dependence on external financial and technical support, undermine the autonomy and sustainability of national nutrition information systems.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                  |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Strengthen resource mobilization and diversified, sustainable financing for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems investments, including blended grant-loan financing, climate and biodiversity finance, and supplementary funds, to reduce dependence on any single funding source and support national ownership of nutrition programming embedded in IFAD-supported investments. <b>(IFAD)</b>                                                          | Planned          | Global, across IFAD-supported countries and investments      | National governments; supplementary-fund donors (e.g. Canada, Germany, Norway climate financing); IFAD's grants programme; private sector investments | Ongoing through 2031                                                         | A more diversified and sustainable financing base for nutrition-sensitive investments; reduced dependence on single funding sources; stronger government ownership and prioritization of financing for nutrition within national systems. |
| Proposal to the Global Alliance to End Hunger and Poverty to include national and sub-national systems strengthening for integrated nutrition financing in their policy basket. <b>(World Vision International)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing          | Global with country examples                                 | SUN SMS, SDG2 Hub, R4D                                                                                                                                | Estimated to have proposal included in policy basket by end of calendar year | Streamline systems strengthening for nutrition especially in finance and data systems and at the sub-national level.                                                                                                                      |
| Assess the vulnerability and resilience of food security and nutrition information systems under changing financing conditions through the VITAL Data Initiative. VITAL Data brings together analysis of system architecture, financing exposure, functional disruption, institutional capacity and workforce to identify critical functions at risk and options for more resilient financing, governance and institutional arrangements. <b>(IMPACT Initiatives)</b> | Ongoing          | Global, with in-depth country work in Somalia and Mozambique | EC JRC, IMPACT Initiatives, RF Catalytic Capital, LSHTM, SDC, national stakeholders and other technical partners                                      | 2026 -2027                                                                   | Provide governments, donors and technical partners with evidence on where funding contraction creates the greatest risks to essential information functions; identify systemic vulnerabilities                                            |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ongoing /planned  | Geographical focus                                                     | Partners                                                                                                                                         | Timeline                                                                                                                                 | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                          | and dependencies; support prioritization of scarce resources; and inform more sustainable financing, governance and reform pathways.                                                                                                         |
| Support country-led governance mechanisms for nutrition information systems that align donor investments with national priorities and strengthen long-term institutional ownership. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                      | Planned           | LMICs                                                                  | Governments, SUN Movement, UNICEF, donors, Action Against Hunger                                                                                 | 3-5 years                                                                                                                                | Increase sustainability and reduce dependence on externally driven data systems.                                                                                                                                                             |
| Support advocacy for increased LSFF financing at the national and sub-national level through development of budget advocacy tools (working with R4D to develop taxonomy on dedicated budget lines for LSFF financing, and future development of budget analysis and monitoring tools), development of strategies, and building capacity of local coalitions/partners. <b>(GAIN)</b> | Ongoing to 2028   | Bangladesh, Nigeria, India, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania                  | R4D, GF, LSFF partners                                                                                                                           | 3 years                                                                                                                                  | Improved sustainability of LSFF programmes through increased dedicated budget allocation and expenditure.                                                                                                                                    |
| The <a href="#">Finance Capacity Development Platform</a> works to support SUN countries to develop, validate, and institutionalize government-owned national and sub-national nutrition financing/resource mobilization plans that are embedded in core annual planning and budgeting processes rather than parallel, donor-driven plans. <b>(FCDP-R4D)</b>                        | Ongoing           | Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal (target of 30 SUN countries by 2028) | SUN Movement Secretariat Regional Hubs and country focal points, Ministries of Finance/Planning/Budget and Economic Planning, UNICEF, World Bank | 2026-2028; Nigeria's NMPFAN 2026-2030 targeted for validation Q1 2027; Ethiopia regional financing plan roll-out beginning Sept/Oct 2026 | Increased and more resilient government budget allocation for nutrition that persists across changes in political leadership and donor funding cycles; reduced dependence on short-term external financing for core nutrition interventions. |
| Institutionalise a Government-led financing and sustainability plan for Zimbabwe's national food and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing / planned | Zimbabwe – national, all                                               | FNC/OPC; Ministry of Finance; MoHCC;                                                                                                             | 2026–2030; annual review                                                                                                                 | Reduce vulnerability to external financing                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                         | Partners                                                                                                                                                     | Timeline                                                                                                                                              | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| nutrition security information system, with protected domestic budget lines for core ZimLAC assessments, routine nutrition monitoring, data management and dissemination. Use development-partner resources strategically for technical innovation and surge needs rather than for essential recurrent functions.<br><b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                 | provinces and districts                                    | ZIMSTAT; relevant line ministries; UNICEF, WFP, FAO and other ZimLAC partners                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       | shifts; protect continuity of essential food and nutrition information; strengthen national ownership, predictability and long-term sustainability.                                                                                    |
| Institutionalise a Government led financing and sustainability plan for Malawi's national food systems approach using a number of projects including the Malawi Food Systems Resilience Project (MFSRP) which is primarily meant to support medium- and long-term resilience building. The proposed interventions are designed to have short-term effects on sales through inclusive value chains, and long-term impacts on food system resilience through access to markets and diversification. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing / planned               | Malawi – national, three regions and all districts         | National Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance; National Statistics Office; relevant line ministries; EU, UNICEF, WFP, FAO and other development partners | 2026–2030; annual review                                                                                                                              | Reduce vulnerability and improve food and nutrition security; strengthen national ownership, predictability and long-term sustainability.                                                                                              |
| Strengthen the sustainability and institutionalisation of South Africa's existing food and nutrition information architecture by coordinating and maintaining established datasets rather than creating parallel systems. This includes the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey (NFNSS), General Household Survey (GHS), Living Conditions Survey (LCS), SANHANES and relevant routine health and sectoral information systems. The South African Vulnerability Assessment Committee (SAVAC) provides an existing multi-stakeholder mechanism for coordinating information on food insecurity and vulnerability, while the Department of Agriculture has a stated responsibility to establish and maintain national food security information management systems. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Ongoing / planned strengthening | South Africa – national, provincial and subnational levels | Department of Agriculture; SAVAC; Statistics South Africa; Department of Health; HSRC; DPME; relevant sector departments; research institutions              | No single confirmed timeline for an integrated national food and nutrition information system, linked to the current NFNSP review and implementation. | Strengthen national ownership and continuity of food and nutrition information; reduce fragmentation and duplication; and provide a more sustainable evidence base for identifying and responding to malnutrition and food insecurity. |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                                                                   | Partners                                                                                                           | Timeline                                                                                                                                               | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Problem 2: National nutrition information system priorities require a balance between country decision-making needs and global monitoring and donor requirements, but these priorities are not always fully aligned and this can result in a disconnect between data investments and policy and program priorities.</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Strengthen the integration and use of country-relevant nutrition evidence and indicators in the design, implementation and monitoring of IFAD-supported agriculture, rural development and food systems investments. IFAD works with government counterparts to identify context-specific nutrition priorities and translate them into project objectives, interventions, indicators and monitoring arrangements, aligning with national priorities and systems where feasible. <b>(IFAD)</b> | Ongoing          | Global, across IFAD-supported countries and investments                                                              | National governments and project implementation units; FAO, WFP and other UN and development partners, as relevant | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                | Strengthen country ownership and improve alignment between nutrition-related evidence generated and used through agricultural and rural investments and national policy and programme priorities, increasing the relevance of nutrition information for investment and implementation decisions. |
| This problem is also addressed in the proposal to the Alliance's policy basket (strengthen data systems for monitoring progress towards nutrition outcomes, align donor funding to national plans, policies, and priorities, and finance multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms) – see problem statement 1. <b>(World Vision International)</b>                                                                                                                                               |                  |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| World Vision is collaborating with the Kenya Ministry of Health (MOH) and WFP Kenya to pilot the contextualization and integration of World Vision's Positive Deviance/Hearth (PDH) digital application, database, and dashboard within Kenya's national health information system. World Vision is providing technical support to MOH and WFP to adapt the existing WV PDH digital tools, indicators, workflows, and reporting functions to the Kenyan context for the                       | Ongoing          | Kenya, initially in selected pilot implementation areas, with potential for broader adoption based on pilot findings | WVI, MOH Kenya, and WFP Kenya                                                                                      | 2026: Joint contextualization of the WV PDH application, database, indicators, workflows, and dashboard with WFP and MOH and preparation for piloting. | Develop and demonstrate a country-owned PDH information tool that is designed around Kenya's decision-making needs. By working directly with MOH and WFP to determine what                                                                                                                       |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus | Partners                                                                               | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                                | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| national information system needs. The pilot will emphasize country ownership and alignment with MOH priorities, ensuring that PDH programme, underweight, and wasting data are captured, analyzed, visualized, and used within existing national systems rather than through a parallel reporting platform driven by external reporting requirements. <a href="#">(World Vision International)</a> |                  | and MOH priorities |                                                                                        | 2027: Pilot implementation, integration with the national health information system, monitoring of data quality and use, and iterative refinement. 2028: Roll-out and scale-up of the app and database. | information is needed, by whom, and for which programme decisions, the pilot will ensure that the database and dashboard generate timely, relevant, and actionable information for national and subnational planning, programme management, monitoring, and resource allocation. Integration with the national health information system will further promote country ownership, reduce reliance on parallel reporting systems, and ensure that investments in PDH data directly support Kenya's nutrition policy and programme priorities. |
| Establish co-design processes that engage national and subnational decision-makers in defining nutrition information priorities, indicators and products based on operational needs. <a href="#">(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</a>                                                                                                                                            | Planned          | LMICs              | Governments, research institutions, civil society organizations, Action Against Hunger | 2-3 years                                                                                                                                                                                               | Improve alignment between investments in nutrition information systems and policy and programme decision-making needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                      | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Adapt the Food Systems Countdown Initiative and Food Systems Dashboard at the country level so that each reflects country decision-making needs. Country ownership is prioritized from the outset and at every stage. For both processes, country governments are the primary partners, and a government ministry or body is identified early on to lead and ultimately take ownership of the tool. The Country Countdown process uses country-led participatory workshops, focus groups, and discussions to adapt and validate the indicator framework. The Country Dashboard process is governed by a Stakeholder Advisory Group, spanning government, academia, civil society, and UN agencies, that steers indicator selection, data-source decisions, and long-term sustainability planning. In both cases, indicators are chosen against country-defined criteria such as relevance to national priorities, alignment with existing plans and policies, and confidence in the underlying data. <b>(GAIN)</b> | Ongoing          | Country Countdowns are in progress in Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, and Zambia; Country Dashboards have launched in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Pakistan; and are in development in Benin, Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mexico, Philippines, and Rwanda | GAIN, FAO, Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University, the Food Systems Countdown Initiative and Food Systems Dashboard teams, and governments, academia, and civil society in each country | <b>2023–2026 (rolling, by country)</b> The first Country Dashboards launched in 2023 and 2024, with those currently in development expected to launch by the end of 2026. The first Country Countdowns started in 2025, and work in current countries is expected to conclude by the end of 2026. New Country Countdowns and Dashboards are expected to begin as further country requests are taken up, pending available funding. | <p>These Countdown and Dashboard adaptations align country data frameworks and systems with the indicators and data sources that countries actually use and trust, and that map directly to national plans, strategies, and policies. The resulting Country Countdowns and Dashboards are tailored to country goals, making them genuinely useful for monitoring progress and prioritizing actions. Because there is government ownership from the start, the indicators can be built into existing planning and policy frameworks, strengthening institutionalization and sustained use.</p> <p>Early evidence bears this out. In Kenya, Dashboard data informed revisions to the National Food and</p> |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                           | Partners                                                                                                      | Timeline | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  |                                                                              |                                                                                                               |          | Nutrition Security Policy and supported evidence-based resource allocation, with counties such as Machakos and Kiambu using it to guide nutrition-sensitive policies and investment decisions. The data shaped both policy language and where resources actually go. In Mozambique, Dashboard data underpinned the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2024–2030) that has been approved nationally and is now being implemented at the provincial level, demonstrating the pathway from country-owned data to adopted and implemented policy. |
| Through the Systems and Data & Epidemiology Technical Working Groups (TWGs) the MNBI-SAB will assess and document country-level micronutrient data needs and identify outstanding, context-specific policy questions related to micronutrient programs. The assessment will also map country-level decision-making processes for micronutrient programs, identify | Planned          | LMICs<br>Uganda and Tanzania with scope expanding to include other countries | Central Public Health Laboratories, Uganda;<br>Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Makerere University | 1-2      | Countries will have a clear(er) picture of what MN data they actually need, and where/what the evidence gaps are. National investment priorities will be                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                            | Partners                                                                                                                                | Timeline                                                           | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| the key stakeholders and decision-makers involved, and document the potential outcomes and implications of these decisions. The findings will help clarify existing evidence gaps and inform future policy and programmatic priorities for improving micronutrient nutrition. <b>(Micronutrient Biomarker Initiative (MNBI))</b>                                                                                                                          |                                 |                                               | Emory University<br>MNBI-SAB<br>Gates Foundation                                                                                        |                                                                    | refined, and the alignment between data generation and program needs strengthened. Countries will be able to use biomarker data more confidently to improve nutrition policies.                            |
| Formalise a country-led national nutrition information agenda aligned to NDS2, Vision 2030 and the Food and Nutrition Security Policy. Each ZimLAC and nutrition assessment cycle should begin with Government and subnational decision-makers defining priority policy questions, followed by a review of indicators to retain only those that directly inform planning, targeting, budgeting and programme performance. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Zimbabwe - National, provincial and district  | FNC/OPC; ZimLAC; MoHCC; ZIMSTAT; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance; local authorities; academia; UN and development partners | 2026–2027 framework; annual refresh                                | Shift data investments toward Zimbabwe’s decision needs; reduce reporting burden and duplication; strengthen use of evidence for NDS2 implementation, resource allocation and programme course correction. |
| Formalise a country-led Malawi national nutrition information agenda aligned to Malawi Vision 2063 and First Ten Year Implementation Plan which defines government priorities and enablers and create national information systems led by National Statistics Office. MVAC also plays a major role in this aspect. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                        | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - National, regional and district      | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners  | Annual cycle, 2026–2030                                            | Institutionalized data management systems within government portfolio                                                                                                                                      |
| Align national FNS information priorities with South African policy and programme needs through the NFNSP review and implementation. Use NFNSS, GHS, routine health and other relevant datasets to define                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing / planned               | South Africa - National, provincial and local | Department of Agriculture; National Food and Nutrition Security Council / NFNSP governance                                              | Current NFNSP review and consultation/implementation processes; no | Improve policy-data alignment; reduce duplication; strengthen evidence-informed                                                                                                                            |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Ongoing /planned                                                                                        | Geographical focus                                                            | Partners                                                                                             | Timeline                                                     | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| priority questions and inform targeting, monitoring and evaluation. (Wellcome Trust grantee)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                         |                                                                               | structures; DPME; Department of Health; Stats SA; SAVAC; relevant departments; research institutions | separate confirmed national information-agenda timeline.     | planning, targeting and monitoring.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Problem 3: constraints and shifting institutional priorities place critical nutrition surveys, surveillance systems, and other data platforms at risk of discontinuation, threatening the continuity of essential nutrition data at national and global level.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                         |                                                                               |                                                                                                      |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mobilize and leverage climate, biodiversity and supplementary funding alongside core IFAD budget to sustain nutrition-sensitive monitoring and data collection embedded within IFAD-financed projects, and develop guidelines to strengthen long-term resource mobilization for nutrition data and monitoring functions. (IFAD)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Planned                                                                                                 | Global, across IFAD-supported countries                                       | National governments; project management units; supplementary-fund donors; UN Nutrition              | By 2028                                                      | Reduced risk of discontinuation of nutrition-related data collection embedded in IFAD-supported project monitoring systems; more predictable, diversified funding for nutrition data functions.                  |
| <p>Sustain annual global collection of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) on the Gallup World Poll. FAO developed the eight-question FIES through its Voices of the Hungry project and contracted Gallup in 2014 to field it worldwide. FIES data have been collected every year since in nationally representative samples of the adult population, creating the longest-running globally comparable series of experience-based food insecurity data.</p> <p>Where official national data are not available, FIES data collected through the World Poll are used to produce SDG indicator 2.1.2, the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity. The FIES global reference scale was calibrated on World Poll results from more than</p> | GE4FS completed (2018-2019). Individual level disaggregation is ongoing across all World Poll measures. | GE4FS: 17 countries. Disaggregation is available in every World Poll country. | World Food Programme (GE4FS); FAO (FIES).                                                            | GE4FS concluded; methodology available for new applications. | Equip policymakers to identify which population groups are food insecure or eating poorly, so programs can target women, young people, low-income groups, and rural or urban populations with the greatest need. |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                                      | Partners                                                                                    | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| 140 countries in 2014 to 2016, so the World Poll series anchors international comparability. FIES microdata are published through FAO's Microdata Catalog. The World Poll's multi-client model spreads platform costs across many sponsors, and Gallup has committed to running the World Poll for at least 100 years. This protects the continuity of an essential global food security/nutrition data series against shifts in any single funding source. <b>(GALLUP)</b>                                                                                                     |                  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                             |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| This problem is also addressed in the proposal to the Alliance's policy basket (improve sustainability of financing and political will for nutrition)- See problem statement 1. <b>(World Vision International)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                  |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                             |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| World Vision signed a Data Sharing Agreement with WHO to share World Vision's acute malnutrition, underweight, and mass nutrition screening data from multiple regions with the WHO Monitoring and Surveillance (MOS) Unit within the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS), as part of the CIFF-WHO Wasting Project. WV is making existing, routinely collected nutrition data available to WHO, helping diversify and strengthen the data sources available when conventional surveys and surveillance platforms are constrained. <b>(World Vision International)</b> | Ongoing          | Global/multi-country, drawing on World Vision programme and screening data across multiple regions, with particular relevance to humanitarian and data-scarce settings. | WVI and WHO's Monitoring and Surveillance Unit within the Dept of Nutrition and Food Safety | 2026-2028 | Strengthen the continuity and availability of essential nutrition evidence by leveraging routinely collected programme data as a complementary source to surveys and surveillance systems; reduce loss of valuable nutrition data by making existing datasets available for analysis and global use; strengthen approaches for generating undernutrition estimates in data-scarce settings; and |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing /planned          | Geographical focus                                                        | Partners                                                                                                                           | Timeline                                                        | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                 | contribute to the expansion and sustainability of global nutrition data resources, including the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition.                                                                                        |
| Develop a living landscape of food security, nutrition and related health information systems through VITAL Data and assess risks to continuity of their critical functions. The landscape maps systems and components across the data-to-decision pathway and documents institutional, operational and financing dependencies, including where disruptions could lead to loss of essential data, analytical capacity or decision-support functions. <b>(IMPACT Initiatives)</b> | Ongoing                   | Global, with detailed country mapping in Somalia and Mozambique           | EC JRC, IMPACT Initiatives, RF Catalytic Capital, LSHTM, SDC, national stakeholders and other technical partners                   | Initial global landscape in 2026; designed as a living resource | Increase visibility of which information functions are essential, how systems depend on one another, and where shocks could create cascading or irreversible losses; support prioritisation and protection of critical information functions. |
| Advocacy with private foundations to allocate a percentage of their budget to assessments <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing                   | Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan                                         | CIFF                                                                                                                               | 2 years                                                         | Improve the quantity and quality of data needed to improve programming.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| MNBI is strengthening national surveillance by expanding the range of viable and accessible biological sample sources beyond traditional nutrition surveys. This includes:<br>(i) Archived specimens from large infectious-disease surveys (e.g., HIV, malaria, TB)                                                                                                                                                                                                              | On-going for (i) and (ii) | LMICs Uganda and Tanzania with scope expanding to include other countries | Central Public Health Laboratories, Uganda (CPHL); Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Makerere University Emory University | 3-5 years                                                       | Reliable, lower-cost, and continuous source of biomarker data even when traditional surveys lapse. Harmonized protocols ensure quality and comparability, while                                                                               |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing /planned         | Geographical focus                                                           | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ii) Remnant clinical samples, with a deliberate focus on ANC / first-trimester specimen</li> <li>(iii) Blood bank samples, where appropriate and feasible</li> <li>(iv) School-based sample collection</li> <li>(v) Other routine health-system sample streams that can be leveraged without creating new, costly collection platforms</li> </ul> <p>The MNBI-SAB supports this effort by harmonizing protocols for accessing, processing, and interpreting these alternative sample sources and ensuring scientific rigor. <b>(Micronutrient Biomarker Initiative (MNBI))</b></p> | Planned for (iii) to (v) |                                                                              | Micronutrient Biomarkers Initiative Scientific Advisory Board (MNBI-SAB)<br>Gates Foundation                                                                                                                                         |           | MNBI-SAB guidance strengthens methodological rigor, ethical oversight, and country capacity to integrate these alternative specimen streams into sustainable national surveillance systems.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>MNBI is advancing in-country testing through low-cost multiplex platforms that can be deployed within national public health laboratories to reduce reliance on expensive international shipping and external laboratories. MNBI-SAB technical guidance supports countries to adopt, validate, and integrate these multiplex platforms into their national public health labs. <b>(Micronutrient Biomarker Initiative (MNBI))</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                   | On-going                 | LMICs<br>Uganda and Tanzania with scope expanding to include other countries | Central Public Health Laboratories, Uganda;<br>Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC),<br>Makerere University<br>Emory University<br>Micronutrient Biomarkers Initiative Scientific Advisory Board (MNBI-SAB)<br>Gates Foundation | 3-5 years | Deploying affordable multiplex assays in national laboratories enables in-country biomarker testing, reducing reliance on external labs, cutting shipping and processing costs, and accelerating turnaround time. This shift in continuity and laboratory autonomy and country-ownership of data, enhances data continuity, and supports routine micronutrient surveillance. MNBI-SAB provides technical oversight, validation |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing /planned              | Geographical focus                                                             | Partners                                                                                                                                                      | Timeline                                                                        | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                               |                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                 | guidance, and quality assurance frameworks to ensure multiplex platforms deliver credible, policy-relevant evidence to inform national and sub-national public health decisions.         |
| Protect and institutionalise the annual ZimLAC assessment cycle and periodic nutrition assessments through a multi-year survey calendar, minimum core indicator set, pre-agreed financing triggers and pooled technical support. Maintain rural, urban and nutrition modules while preserving trend comparability and the capacity for rapid assessments during shocks.<br><b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Ongoing                       | Zimbabwe - National, with district-level estimates where survey design permits | FNC/ZimLAC; ZIMSTAT; MoHCC; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare; UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners | Annual cycle, 2026–2030                                                         | Ensure uninterrupted time-series data for food security, nutrition, livelihoods and vulnerability; improve preparedness and enable timely targeting of Government and partner responses. |
| Institutionalise the Malawi annual vulnerability assessment cycle and periodic nutrition assessments through a number of surveys to monitor vulnerability and provide a minimum core indicator set, pre-agreed financing triggers and pooled technical support.<br><b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                         | Ongoing                       | Malawi - National, with district-level disaggregation                          | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners                        | Annual cycle, 2026–2030                                                         | Ensure annual data for food security, nutrition, livelihoods and vulnerability; improve preparedness and enable timely targeting of Government and partner responses.                    |
| Protect the continuity and usability of key national food and nutrition data sources by maintaining recurring systems such as the annual General Household Survey and routine health information, while retaining periodic surveys such as the NFSS and SANHANES as                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing/Planned strengthening | South Africa – national, provincial and subnational analysis where             | Statistics South Africa; Department of Health; Department of Agriculture; SAVAC;                                                                              | Annual GHS and routine health-information reporting continue according to their | Preserve continuity and comparability of nutrition-related evidence; improve the ability to monitor                                                                                      |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned                       | Geographical focus                                                   | Partners                                                                                               | Timeline                                                                                                            | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| complementary sources. Greater coordination of survey calendars, indicator definitions, data access and preservation of completed datasets would help maintain time-series evidence and avoid loss of institutional knowledge when individual surveys or projects end. <a href="#">(Wellcome Trust grantee)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        | supported by individual data systems                                 | HSRC; research institutions                                                                            | established cycles. NFNSS was conducted 2021–2023 and launched in 2024; no confirmed future NFNSS cycle identified. | changes in food insecurity and malnutrition; and support timely identification of vulnerable populations.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Problem 4: Routine administrative systems represent a largely untapped source of nutrition information due to limitations in data quality, coverage, validation, and integration into national nutrition information systems.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |                                                                      |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Strengthen the generation and operational use of nutrition-related information through IFAD financed project results management and monitoring systems. Nutrition-relevant core and project-specific indicators are integrated, as applicable, into project results frameworks and M&E systems and tracked throughout implementation, including through IFAD's Operational Results Management System (ORMS). Results are regularly reviewed through supervision and implementation support missions, mid-term reviews and project completion processes, enabling project teams and government counterparts to use routine programme data for implementation support, course correction and learning. Data quality is strengthened through guidance for data collection and analysis aligned with globally established methodologies, fostering use of reliable data for program decision making. <a href="#">(IFAD)</a> | Ongoing and being further strengthened | Global, across IFAD-supported nutrition-sensitive investments        | National governments, project implementation units, IFAD country teams and relevant technical partners | Ongoing                                                                                                             | Improve the availability, quality and operational use of nutrition-related programme data; strengthen accountability for nutrition-sensitive investments; and enable project teams and government counterparts to use routine evidence to improve implementation, course correction and investment performance. |
| Develop spatial statistical methods that model existing household survey and biomarker data with seasonal and subnational geographic resolution, so that data already collected can generate district-level (not just national) deficiency risk estimates. This substantially increases the analytical yield of existing datasets that                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ongoing                                | Demonstrated using HCES and/or biomarker data from Malawi, Ethiopia, | LSHTM; national statistics offices as data owners; national nutrition research institutes; World Food  | Ongoing, with continued methods development and country application through 2026 and beyond.                        | Enable identification of at-risk populations from data already collected, without the cost or lead-time of                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing /planned                                                                                                                                    | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                       | Partners                                                                                                                                                                        | Timeline                                                                                                                               | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| would otherwise remain under-used because of sample size and resolution limitations, and is an active area of continued methods innovation by LSHTM researchers. <a href="#">(LSHTM)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                     | Tanzania, Nigeria and India; methods have been further applied in multiple other countries with existing household consumption or biomarker survey data. | Programme (via MIMI), University of Nottingham, British Geological Survey, Addis Ababa University, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ibadan University. |                                                                                                                                        | new primary data collection.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| This problem is also addressed in the proposal to the Alliance's policy basket (strengthen data systems for monitoring progress towards nutrition outcomes) – see problem statement 1. <a href="#">(World Vision International)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Strengthen the quality and use of routine Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) data through World Vision's Grow GMP initiative, including improved measurement and growth assessment, interpretation of individual growth trajectories, supportive supervision, and use of aggregated GMP data for programme monitoring and local decision-making. Explore opportunities to strengthen linkage of community-level GMP data with national/subnational nutrition information systems. <a href="#">(World Vision International)</a> | On-going. Grow GMP will be part of World Vision's Private Funding programme targeting caregivers of 0-5 years old called "Future Ready Sponsorship" | Global                                                                                                                                                   | Ministry of Health of each country                                                                                                                                              | 2026: Online course for WV staff on Grow GMP<br>Oct 2026: Start the Grow GMP training for the field staff and Community Health Workers | Improve the quality and use of routinely collected child growth data for early identification of growth problems, programme improvement, targeting of nutrition actions, and subnational nutrition decision-making. |
| Developed the Real-time Monitoring Framework (RMF) to track nutrition trends between SMART surveys using routine data; triangulate routine and survey data for accuracy (sensitivity and validity); and create thresholds for early alerts and anticipatory action. <a href="#">(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ongoing                                                                                                                                             | Global, piloted in Yemen, South Sudan and Mozambique                                                                                                     | Global SMART Initiative and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention                                                                                                       | 2021 - present                                                                                                                         | The RMF enables real-time monitoring of nutrition and related indicators, providing decision-makers with timely information                                                                                         |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                     | Partners                                                                   | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |                                                                        |                                                                            |           | between traditional surveys. By supporting more responsive programming and earlier identification of deteriorating nutrition situations, RMF helps humanitarian actors allocate resources more efficiently and intervene before crises worsen. |
| Develop interoperable nutrition information architectures linking health, nutrition, food security, WASH, social protection and climate-related datasets to support integrated decision-making. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                    | Planned          | LMICs and fragile contexts                                             | Ministries, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, research institutions, Action Against Hunger | 3-5 years | Enable a more holistic understanding of drivers of malnutrition and improve multisectoral planning and targeting.                                                                                                                              |
| Support Ministries of Health to collect routine nutrition and health data at facility and community levels, strengthen data quality, and ensure timely reporting into national information systems (mainly DHIS2). <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b> | Ongoing          | All countries where ACF France have nutrition and health interventions | Ministry of Health, district health authorities                            | Ongoing   | Improve completeness, quality, and use of routine nutrition data for programme monitoring and decision-making                                                                                                                                  |
| Ongoing progressive deployment of an internal DHIS2 platform to improve nutrition and health data collection, analysis, and reporting (with possible linkage with national DHIS2 system) <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                           | Ongoing          | Selected countries                                                     | Ministry of Health, ACF partners                                           | Ongoing   | Strengthen data-driven decision-making and quality improvement.                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing          | Global                                                                 | Secretariat: Food and Agriculture                                          | 2024-2028 | Improve statistics on food security and                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus | Partners                                                                                                                                                                       | Timeline | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p>The 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission endorsed the establishment of a UN Expert Group on food security and nutrition (FSN) data and statistics (UN EG-FSN). The objectives of the Expert Group are to “improve statistics on food security and nutrition through: (a) advancing methodologies on collecting, compiling and using data and statistics relevant to food security and nutrition; (b) implementing activities that address data gaps and national needs for capacity development; and (c) enhancing the coordination of international and regional initiatives among countries and within countries.”</p> <p>A guidance document is in the process of being finalized with the objectives to: (i) establish an agreed definition of FSN data; (ii) identify a minimum set of core indicators (MSCI), necessary to inform the state of food security and nutrition at national, regional, and global level, with reference to recommended methodologies and data sources; and (iii) provide some recommendations to strengthen national FSN data systems and facilitate the collection, analysis and use of FSN data and the MSCI at national level.</p> <p>In addition, as part of its 2026–2028 Programme of Work, the Expert Group has launched several task forces, including one focused on the development of evidence to support countries in carrying out national nutrition surveys using digital dietary assessment. <a href="#">(FAO)</a></p> |                  |                    | <p>Organization of the United Nations (FAO);</p> <p>The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF);</p> <p>The World Health Organization (WHO).</p> <p>With technical experts</p> |          | <p>nutrition at national, regional, and global level, with reference to recommended methodologies and data sources, and strengthen national FSN data systems and facilitate the collection, analysis and use of FSN data and the MSCI.</p> |
| Develop an universal Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC) SOP for salt iodization. The SOP is complemented by a mobile application that allows                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Ongoing          | Global             |                                                                                                                                                                                | 2 years  | A comprehensive, practical SOP paired with a mobile                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                                    | Partners                                                                                                                                   | Timeline                                                                               | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| producers to set iodine dosing levels based on national regulations, production rate, and solution dilution, supports stock reconciliation and titration analysis, and can export records as needed. <a href="#">(Iodine Global Network)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                        | application will significantly enhance the effectiveness of universal salt iodization programs by improving both internal and external monitoring of the iodization process, while also documenting salt quality throughout production. |
| Develop a structured pathway for integrating validated routine administrative and programme-monitoring data into the national food and nutrition information system. Prioritise harmonised indicator definitions, data-quality assessments, completeness checks and triangulation of MoHCC/DHIS2 nutrition data, agriculture and market information, social protection, WASH and school nutrition data with ZimLAC survey evidence. <a href="#">(Wellcome Trust grantee)</a> | Planned / ongoing               | Zimbabwe - national; phased implementation in provinces and districts | FNC; MoHCC; ZIMSTAT; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Public Service; ZINWA/local authorities; UNICEF; WFP; FAO | 2026–2029                                                                              | Increase frequency and usefulness of nutrition intelligence between major surveys; improve data quality and validation; reduce parallel reporting and enable earlier detection of deteriorating conditions.                             |
| Malawi has prioritised harmonised indicator definitions, data-quality assessments, completeness checks and triangulation of MoHCC/DHIS2 nutrition data, agriculture and market information, social protection, WASH and school nutrition data with MVAC survey evidence. <a href="#">(Wellcome Trust grantee)</a>                                                                                                                                                            | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - National, regional and district                              | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners     | Annual cycle, 2026–2030                                                                | Increase frequency and usefulness of nutrition intelligence between major surveys; improve data quality and validation                                                                                                                  |
| Strengthen routine administrative and programme monitoring data alongside national surveys. Build on routine health information and sectoral systems covering social protection, school nutrition, agriculture                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing / planned strengthening | South Africa - national, provincial, district and                     | Department of Health; Department of Agriculture; Department of Social                                                                      | Routine reporting is ongoing; NFNSP M&E framework and related data processes are under | Improve between-survey monitoring, data quality and early identification of service                                                                                                                                                     |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned                                                          | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                                     | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Timeline                                                                                                      | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| and other programmes. The NFNSP proposes stronger M&E, reliable data sources and systematic reporting. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                           | facility/programme levels                                                                                                                                              | Development; Department of Basic Education; Stats SA; SAVAC; DPME; municipalities; programme departments; research institutions                                                                                   | development. No confirmed full integration timetable.                                                         | and implementation gaps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Problem 5: National nutrition information systems have gaps in data that jeopardize the ability to identify inequities and target interventions effectively.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Systematically integrate nutrition- and equity-sensitive indicators (including Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women and knowledge, attitudes and practices indicators) into COSOPs and project results frameworks, with particular attention to women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities, to strengthen identification of nutrition inequities and inform targeted interventions. <b>(IFAD)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing                                                                   | Global, across IFAD-supported countries and investments                                                                                                                | National governments; project implementation units; IFAD country teams                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing through 2031                                                                                          | Improved ability to identify nutrition inequities among vulnerable groups; more precisely targeted nutrition-sensitive interventions; a stronger disaggregated evidence base for policy and programme decisions.                                         |
| LSHTM researchers have led, and continue to lead, innovation in methods that use existing national household consumption and expenditure survey (HCES) data – combined with food composition data and, where available, biomarker data – to estimate risk of micronutrient inadequacy at national scale with subnational resolution, disaggregated by rural/urban residence, household wealth and season. This line of work began with the MAPS (Micronutrient Action Policy Support) project (now concluded) and continues through the ongoing MIMI (Modelling and Mapping Inadequate Micronutrient Intakes) initiative, filling a persistent gap in national information systems: the | Ongoing (MIMI); MAPS project concluded but tool and outputs remain in use | MAPS covered all Sub-Saharan African countries (national and subnational), with a supplementary application in India; MIMI has been applied to date in 15 countries in | World Food Programme (WFP, leads MIMI); University of Nottingham, British Geological Survey, Addis Ababa University, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ibadan University (MAPS); national | MAPS developed and delivered 2019–2024; MIMI ongoing, with integration into WFP's HungerMap LIVE in progress. | More effective geographic and demographic targeting of nutrition and food system interventions – including large-scale food fortification – toward the populations and locations at greatest risk of micronutrient inadequacy. More robust evaluation of |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                   | Partners                                                                                    | Timeline                                                                                                                    | Intended impact                                                                                                                 |
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| inability to see which population subgroups and locations carry the highest deficiency risk. In MIMI, WFP leads country engagement and platform integration; LSHTM provides technical and research expertise on methods development and application. <b>(LSHTM)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  | sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia                                    | statistics offices and ministries of health; LSHTM provides methods leadership across both. |                                                                                                                             | population health effects from interventions to alleviate micronutrient deficiencies.                                           |
| This problem is also addressed in the proposal to the Alliance's policy basket (strengthen data systems for monitoring progress towards nutrition outcomes) – see problem statement 1. <b>(World Vision International)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |                                                                      |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                 |
| Support the integration of routine nutrition programme data into national nutrition information systems through standardized digital reporting tools, interoperability with DHIS2 and strengthened quality assurance mechanisms. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing          | Sub-Saharan Africa, Sahel, East Africa and selected fragile settings | Ministries of Health, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, DHIS2 community, Action Against Hunger              | 3-5 years                                                                                                                   | Improve the availability, quality and use of routine nutrition data for programme monitoring, planning and resource allocation. |
| Implement nutrition surveys and assessments (inc. SMART, IYCF, SQUEAC) and support national surveillance system (inc. sentinel surveillance site) <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ongoing          | Selected countries                                                   | Ministry of Health, survey partners                                                         | Ongoing                                                                                                                     | Generate nutrition data and support increased national geographical coverage for surveillance system                            |
| As countries transition from IFA to MMS as the standard prenatal supplement during ANC, national data systems also need to be updated. ECF funded a landscaping of ANC monitoring systems in Nepal and 10 other LMICs to generate recommendations that can be used by governments and partners to inform strengthening of existing monitoring systems and integration of MMS indicators into the national data systems. <b>(Eleanor Crook Foundation)</b> | Ongoing          | Nepal and LMICs                                                      | ANWESHAN/ Johns Hopkins University                                                          | Findings available as two reports on <a href="#">DataDENT</a> website. A technical brief will be available by December 2026 | Country stakeholders include appropriate MMS indicators into national data systems.                                             |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing /planned          | Geographical focus                                                              | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Timeline    | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| Implemented the 50x2030 Initiative, which is a 10-year global initiative with the aim to bridge critical gaps in the availability and use of agricultural data in 50 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, by 2030. The Initiative supports countries to strengthen their data systems, specifically promoting availability and use of timely agriculture data to inform policies addressing food crises, climate vulnerability, improve rural livelihoods, create jobs and build resilience. The Initiative works across the full agricultural data cycle through three interdependent components: data production, methods and tools development, and data use. FAO leads data production through technical assistance and capacity development; the World Bank's Center for Development Data (C4D2) leads methodological research and the development of efficient, cost-effective measurement tools; and IFAD leads data-use activities, supporting countries to translate data and evidence into policy and decision-making. This integrated approach aims to ensure that countries not only generate high-quality, timely and relevant agricultural data, but also have the capacity and systems to use it effectively for national policy and development priorities. (FAO) | Ongoing                   | Across 50 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America by 2030. | Multi-agency initiative designed and implemented under partnership between the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) | 2019 – 2030 | To strengthen national agricultural data systems and the capacity of participating countries to generate, analyze, interpret and use high-quality, timely agricultural survey data to inform evidence-based policies and decisions, thereby contributing to increased agricultural productivity, sustainable food production, improved food security and progress towards the SDGs, particularly SDG 2. |
| MNBI advances diversification of specimen sources to complement traditional surveys which allows countries to generate larger, more granular, and more continuous biomarker datasets than is feasible through traditional nutrition surveys. By leveraging archived survey specimens, remnant clinical samples, blood bank materials, and school-based collections, MNBI enables surveillance systems to fill critical gaps in population                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | On-going for (i) and (ii) | LMICs Uganda and Tanzania with scope expanding to include other countries       | Central Public Health Laboratories, Uganda; Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Makerere University Emory University                                                                                         | 3-5 years   | Countries will gain stronger, more actionable evidence for targeting programs, allocating resources, and detecting inequities early. Routine generation of                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                                         | Partners                                                                                                                               | Timeline                | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| coverage, geographic resolution, and frequency of data collection. (Actions to address Problem #2 also apply here) <b>(Micronutrient Biomarker Initiative (MNBI))</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Planned for (iii) to (v)        |                                                                            | Micronutrient Biomarkers Initiative Scientific Advisory Board (MNBI-SAB)<br>Gates Foundation                                           |                         | granular sub-national micronutrient estimates will enable the identification and prioritization of areas and population groups with a high burden of deficiencies, supporting more responsive, data-driven policies and better-targeted interventions. |
| Strengthen equity-sensitive nutrition and food-security measurement by routinely disaggregating and mapping indicators by district, livelihood zone, sex, age, disability and other relevant vulnerability characteristics, and by strengthening nutrition modules for children, adolescents and women. Use ZimLAC's nationally representative platform and complementary nutrition surveys to identify geographic and population pockets masked by national averages. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Ongoing / planned expansion     | Zimbabwe - National with provincial, district and livelihood-zone analysis | FNC/ZimLAC; ZIMSTAT; MoHCC; Ministry of Public Service; Ministry of Women Affairs; UNICEF; WFP; academia                               | 2026–2028, then routine | Improve identification of inequities and vulnerable groups; support geographically precise targeting and more equitable nutrition, social protection, WASH and livelihood interventions.                                                               |
| MVAC has strengthened gender sensitive data for policy direction. NSO has also improved data collection mechanisms for DHS, Multicenter poverty studies and WASH to address the same in Malawi. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - National, regional and district                                   | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners | Annual cycle, 2026–2030 | Improve identification of inequities and vulnerable groups; support geographically precise targeting and more equitable nutrition, social protection, WASH and livelihood interventions.                                                               |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ongoing /planned                                       | Geographical focus                                                       | Partners                                                                                                                   | Timeline                                                                                                                                                      | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Use existing datasets to identify geographic and population inequalities. NFNSS provides district-level evidence, while GHS and other surveys provide household, socioeconomic, health and food-security information. Build on SAVAC vulnerability assessment functions and use the NFNSP review to identify priority populations and information gaps. (Wellcome Trust grantee)                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing / planned strengthening                        | South Africa - National, provincial and district level where data permit | Department of Agriculture; SAVAC; HSRC; Stats SA; Department of Health; provincial/local government; research institutions | NFNSS 2021–2023, launched 2024; GHS and routine systems ongoing; no separate integrated equity-monitoring timetable confirmed.                                | Identify inequalities, vulnerable populations and hotspots; improve targeting of interventions and resource allocation.                                                             |
| The new Global Dietary Database for Impact Assessments (GDD-IA) triangulate existing data sources to improve the biophysical plausibility of dietary estimates that can be used in consistent and regionally comparable nutrition assessments. The data and paper are available as a resource in <i>Nature Food</i> resource here: <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-026-01388-z">https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-026-01388-z</a> . (This project is also relevant to problem 6). (Wellcome Trust grantee) | First version done, updates for future years ongoing   | Global - All countries and sociodemographic groups within countries.     | UCL and University of Oxford                                                                                               | First version done, updates for future years planned at regular intervals, but dependent on updates of input data (e.g., from NCD-RisC, the FAO, and the GDD) | Consistent and comparable estimates of dietary intake that can be used in nutritional assessments by country and socio-demographic groups within countries.                         |
| <b>Problem 6: Many nutrition data collection approaches remain complex, expensive, and resource-intensive, limiting their scalability, frequency, and sustainability particularly in low-resource and fragile settings.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                        |                                                                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Develop a compendium of streamlined, voluntary project-level nutrition indicators and a user-friendly template for analysis and presentation of MDD-W results, alongside piloting cost-benefit analysis of nutrition-sensitive interventions (e.g. home gardens), to make nutrition data collection more affordable, scalable and sustainable, particularly in low-resource and fragile settings. (IFAD)                                                                                                                        | Planned                                                | Global, with attention to low-resource and fragile settings              | National governments; project management units; research partners                                                          | By 2028                                                                                                                                                       | More cost-effective and scalable nutrition data collection approaches; increased frequency and sustainability of nutrition monitoring in resource-constrained and fragile settings. |
| Use existing HCES data as a relatively cheap, scalable alternative to new primary micronutrient data collection, applying open-access statistical methods developed through MAPS and continued under MIMI to                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing (MIMI); building on the concluded MAPS project | Countries where MAPS/MIMI HCES analysis                                  | LSHTM; World Food Programme; University of Nottingham, British                                                             | Ongoing; further country scale-up planned through 2026 and beyond.                                                                                            | Make regular, affordable monitoring of micronutrient inadequacy feasible at                                                                                                         |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing /planned                                                                                 | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                          | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Timeline                                                                                   | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| derive national and subnational micronutrient inadequacy estimates from surveys governments already routinely conduct for other purposes. This avoids the cost, technical burden and long lead-times of dedicated biomarker surveys, particularly relevant in low-resource and fragile settings where new large-scale data collection is least feasible. <b>(LSHTM)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                  | has been or is being conducted, including multiple Sub-Saharan African and South Asian survey countries                                                     | Geological Survey, Addis Ababa University, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ibadan University (MAPS); national statistics offices and ministries of health                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                            | scale, including in settings where resource constraints currently prevent dedicated data collection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Launched in 2005, the Gallup World Poll is an ongoing global survey program that provides nationally representative, comparable data across more than 140 countries and areas. Its multi-client model offers an efficient and scalable platform for recurring data collection, including in LMICs where establishing a standalone measurement program may be more difficult. The World Poll also addresses other problems cited in this document such as Problem #2 (Risk of Continuity), since Gallup has made at least a 100-year commitment to the continuation of the World Poll, and Problem #11 (Limited Human Resource Capacity), because Gallup and its in-country partners provide the human resources to maintain the data collection information platform including questionnaire development, translation, sampling, interviewer training, fieldwork management, data collection in-person and via telephone, quality assurance, weighting and processing. Additionally, Gallup maintains its own Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the protection of respondents. <b>(GALLUP)</b> | Ongoing annually in 140 countries and ongoing quarterly measurement in a subset of 20 countries. | The World Poll has a global focus and uses a probability design such that results are projectable to the total national age 15+ population in each country. | Each year, a diverse range of partners use the World Poll for global data collection. FAO began using the World Poll in 2014 to support the global implementation of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) through its Voices of the Hungry project. Today, World Poll FIES data contribute to FAO's annual State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report and the measurement of UN Sustainable | Conducted globally on an annual basis, with quarterly data collection in select countries. | Through its methodologically rigorous and globally consistent measurement approach, the World Poll provides longstanding partners such as FAO with a trusted platform to track the prevalence of food insecurity and access to quality diets, understand the factors shaping these outcomes, and make confident trend comparisons across countries and over time. |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing /planned                            | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                                                         | Partners                                                                                                                        | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                               | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                            | Development Goal indicator 2.1.2 (see also Problem 2 above).                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The Diet Quality Questionnaire (DQQ), described under Problem 6 above, directly addresses this complexity challenge. The DQQ captures reliable population-level estimates in about five minutes of survey time, compared with dietary intake surveys that can run one to two hours. It can be administered by generalist enumerators without training in nutrition science, and open tools automate the calculation of all indicators. <b>(GALLUP)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | See Problem 6 above                         | See Problem 6 above                                                                                                                                                                        | See Problem 6 above                                                                                                             | See Problem 6 above                                                                                                                                                                                    | See Problem 6 above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| World Vision International (WVI) is collaborating with IGES, a technology partner, to design and validate an innovative laser-based device for measuring child height and length. The device is being developed to simplify and accelerate anthropometric measurement of height/length while maintaining the accuracy and reliability required for nutrition assessment and surveillance. Validation study was completed in Vietnam with a time savings of 30% and additional validation studies and its suitability for use in large nutrition surveys and routine health/nutrition services are planned in 2026-2028 in other regions. UNICEF is also engaged and is planning to pilot the device for an upcoming MICS once device is available on the market. <b>(World Vision International)</b> | Ongoing – device development and validation | Global, with potential application in low-resource, humanitarian, and fragile settings where conventional anthropometric data collection can be particularly time- and resource-intensive. | WVI, IGES, LSHTM, MOH Vietnam, CDC Vietnam, and other Ministries of Health (Honduras, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Bangladesh), UNICEF HQ | 2023-2026: Co-design and validate device in Vietnam<br>Dec. 2026: Laser device will be available on the market<br>2026-2028: Validate the device in other regions (Latin America, Africa, Middle East) | Develop and validate a simpler, lighter and transportable (fits into a backpack), faster, and potentially more cost-efficient method for collecting child height/length data, with a target of reducing measurement time by approximately 30% for height/length. By reducing the time and human resources required for anthropometric measurement, the technology has the potential to lower the operational costs of |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                                             | Partners                                                                 | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                  |                                                                                                |                                                                          |           | large-scale nutrition surveys, censuses, mass screenings, and routine monitoring, thereby making high-quality nutrition data collection more feasible, frequent, scalable, and sustainable, particularly in resource-constrained settings even with the use of community health workers and volunteers. |
| IMPACT together with the Global Nutrition Cluster and IPC AMN is investing in alternative and innovative data methodologies to contribute to nutrition data mostly in humanitarian contexts. Through our Multi-sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNA), IMPACT REACH includes MUAC measurements in the household assessments in hotspot regions to provide alternative nutrition data as the mainstream data collection approaches remain complex and expensive. <b>(IMPACT Initiatives)</b> | Ongoing          | Global with focus in Somalia, Ethiopia and others explored for Burkina Faso, Syria, Kenya etc. | IMPACT, Global Nutrition Cluster, IPC AMN                                | 2025-2029 | Provide national stakeholders, IPC analyses and Nutrition Clusters with critical nutrition information needed to understand severity and joint decision making by employing alternative and innovative methodologies for nutrition assessment.                                                          |
| Promote offline-first digital nutrition information systems capable of operating in low-connectivity environments while ensuring secure synchronization with national platforms once connectivity becomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Planned          | Fragile, remote and underserved settings                                                       | Governments, DHIS2 community, technology partners, Action Against Hunger | 2-4 years | Increase system functionality and sustainability in resource-constrained contexts and improve                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus              | Partners                                              | Timeline                                                                                      | Intended impact                                                                                                                                        |
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| available. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |                                 |                                                       |                                                                                               | continuity of data flows.                                                                                                                              |
| Promote the use of <a href="#">Rapid Nutrition Determinants Assessment</a> developed to increase understanding of local causes of malnutrition in low-resource settings. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing          | Global                          | Global Nutrition Cluster, Action Against Hunger, GOAL | 1-2 years                                                                                     | Allow for a greater consideration of nutrition determinants' information in programme design, intervention prioritization and policy change.           |
| As countries transition from IFA to MMS, nutrition stakeholders need reliable data on coverage and adherence to assess program performance. Household surveys—most commonly the Demographic and Health Surveys—have traditionally provided information on adherence. However, uncertainty around future DHS rounds underscores the need for alternative monitoring approaches. Mobile phone surveys are one promising option. In Nepal, a validation study, nested within a larger MMS adherence and acceptability trial (both funded by ECF), compared adherence measured through mobile phone interviews against pill count, the gold standard. <b>(Eleanor Crook Foundation)</b> | Ongoing          | Nepal                           | Johns Hopkins University                              | Externally facing knowledge products (technical briefs, manuscript) expected by December 2026 | Support the use of mobile phone interviews as an MMS adherence monitoring approach for nutrition stakeholders in LMICs considering the MMS transition. |
| The GFF's Frequent Assessment and Systems Tools for Resilience (FASTR) project implements mobile phone-based household and health facility surveys in GFF portfolio countries. The FASTR rapid-cycle analytics initiative aims to support countries with timely, rigorous, and low-cost approaches to monitoring primary health care while strengthening underlying country capacity and data systems. ECF is supporting the work of GFF and the expansion of FASTR's nutrition content and measurement approaches, including                                                                                                                                                       | Ongoing          | LMICs (GFF portfolio countries) | Johns Hopkins University                              | Expected by October 2026                                                                      | Development of FASTR modules/tools to support measurement of nutrition indicators delivered through facility and community approaches                  |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                  | Partners | Timeline | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| measuring the experience of care for nutrition services, adherence to nutrition interventions such as management of acute malnutrition and multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS). ( <a href="#">Eleanor Crook Foundation</a> )                                                                                                                 |                  |                                                                                                                                                     |          |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Implement the low-cost sentinel surveillance system developed by IGN to monitor iodine status, household coverage, and sodium intake. The system is designed to leverage existing health system infrastructure, enabling countries to collect and analyze relevant program data at minimal additional cost. ( <a href="#">Iodine Global Network</a> ) | Ongoing          | Sri Lanka, Armenia, Tanzania, Pakistan, Lebanon (discussions underway to extend to additional countries, including Nigeria, Honduras, and Pakistan) |          | 2 years  | Provide low-cost, reliable data to inform national iodine status, household coverage, and sodium intake; establish a methodology that can be integrated into national monitoring and surveillance systems for sustained, long-term use. Lessons learned from implementation will inform broader guidance as the system is extended to additional countries. Because it relies on existing government infrastructure rather than external funding, the approach offers a sustainable model for data collection that is not dependent on donor support. |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus | Partners | Timeline | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| Develop Sentinel Surveillance System guidance adaptable to any country context, providing a snapshot of the situation and enabling follow-up on progress over time. The system is designed to leverage existing health system infrastructure, enabling countries to collect and analyze relevant program data at minimal cost. <i>(also applicable to problem statements 5 and 1)</i> <b>(Iodine Global Network)</b> | Ongoing          | Global             |          | 2 years  | Provide a new, cost-effective method that can be integrated into national monitoring and surveillance systems in any country, enabling low-cost data collection and informed decision-making. This global guidance builds directly on lessons learned from country-level, ensuring the methodology is field-tested and adaptable before being scaled as a general guidance. As with the country-level system, its reliance on existing government infrastructure rather than external funding makes it a sustainable, non-donor-dependent approach to surveillance program performance. |
| Advocate for adding an iodine status module to the WHO STEPS survey, which already collects and analyzes urine samples for sodium intake. This approach leverages a well-established and well-financed surveillance system to extend coverage to iodine status monitoring at minimal additional cost, at                                                                                                             | Ongoing          | Global             | WHO      | 2 years  | Expand well-established national surveillance systems to include iodine status analysis, optimizing assessment efforts and reducing cost by on                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                           | Partners                                                                                                                                                                    | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| a time when funding for standalone iodine surveys is difficult to secure. <b>(Iodine Global Network)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                             |           | already-financed survey infrastructure. Expand well-established national surveillance systems to include iodine status analysis, building on existing, well-financed survey infrastructure to optimize assessment efforts and reduce cost. |
| Support the development and validation of a new ELISA-based method to measure thyroglobulin (Tg) — a more sensitive biomarker of iodine status than neonatal TSH — using dried blood spots (DBS) collected from newborns. This approach adapts a commercially available Tg assay for use on DBS samples, offering a practical alternative to plasma-based testing. Because DBS collection is already used for newborn screening of inherited metabolic diseases, this method opens the possibility of integrating iodine status monitoring directly into existing newborn screening programs. <b>(Iodine Global Network)</b> | Ongoing          | Europe                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                             | 2 years   | Provide an additional method to assess population-level iodine status that could be integrated into routine maternity procedures, enabling early identification of iodine deficiency trends and supporting timely corrective action.       |
| Through the diversification of specimen sources (Problem 2) and the adoption of low-cost, in-country multiplex testing (Problem 4), MNBI reduces the complexity and cost barriers that limit traditional collection of MN biomarker data, enabling more frequent and sustainable biomarker surveillance. <b>(Micronutrient Biomarker Initiative (MNBI))</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ongoing          | LMICs<br>Uganda and Tanzania with scope expanding to include other countries | Central Public Health Laboratories, Uganda;<br>Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC),<br>Makerere University<br>Emory University<br>Micronutrient Biomarkers Initiative | 3-5 years | By simplifying specimen collection and shifting testing to affordable, in-country platforms, MN biomarker data collection can become feasible at scale: countries can generate biomarker data more                                         |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                                       | Partners                                                                                                                               | Timeline                                                                                                                    | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |                                                                          | Scientific Advisory Board (MNBI-SAB)<br>Gates Foundation                                                                               |                                                                                                                             | frequently, at lower cost, and with greater geographic reach. This leads to more reliable, timely evidence for program decisions and overall a more responsive system.                                 |
| Reduce the cost and complexity of nutrition data collection by expanding digital, modular and risk-based approaches: retain a stable ZimLAC core questionnaire, rotate lower-priority modules, use electronic data capture with built-in validation, optimise sample designs for required decision levels, and deploy rapid sentinel/phone follow-up only where scientifically appropriate between comprehensive rounds. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Planned / ongoing optimisation  | Zimbabwe - National; sentinel components in selected high-risk districts | FNC/ZimLAC; ZIMSTAT; MoHCC; universities; UNICEF; WFP; FAO and survey-methodology partners                                             | 2026–2029                                                                                                                   | Lower recurrent data-collection costs and respondent burden while protecting data quality and trend comparability; enable more frequent monitoring in high-risk settings and rapid response to shocks. |
| Reduce the cost and complexity of nutrition data collection by expanding digital, modular and risk-based approaches: retain a stable core questionnaire for national data collection using digitization and improved data analysis methods. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                              | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - National, regional and district                                 | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners | Malawi First Ten Year Implementation Plan 1 (MIP1), 2026–2030                                                               | Low recurrent data collection                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Use the NFNSP data/M&E readiness assessment to map existing collection approaches, indicators, sources and gaps, and to identify opportunities to reduce duplication. Build on recurring GHS and routine systems with periodic specialised surveys rather than parallel data systems. Include the proposed                                                                                                                                               | Planned / under development     | South Africa - National, with provincial, district and local application | Department of Agriculture; Stats SA; DPME; Department of Health; SAVAC; relevant sector departments; research institutions             | Current NFNSP review and proposed data/M&E readiness audit; no separate confirmed implementation timeline for optimisation. | Reduce duplication and collection burden; improve efficiency and sustainability; align data requirements with policy and programme needs.                                                              |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                  | Partners                                                                                        | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| technological/digital systems needs assessment.<br>(Wellcome Trust grantee)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                  |                                                     |                                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Problem 7: National nutrition information systems are often not designed to provide timely, integrated, and actionable information needed for real-time program improvement, preparedness, response, and course correction at national and subnational levels.</b>                                                   |                  |                                                     |                                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Strengthen nutrition-sensitive monitoring within IFAD's Operational Results Management System (ORMS) and update guidance for supervision and midterm reviews, including in fragile situations, to improve the timeliness and operational use of nutrition data for course correction, preparedness and response. (IFAD) | Planned          | Global, with priority attention to fragile contexts | National governments; project management units; WFP (in fragile situations); IFAD country teams | By 2027   | More timely and actionable nutrition data available to project teams and governments; improved capacity for real-time course correction and response, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected settings. |
| This problem is also addressed in the proposal to the Alliance's policy basket (strengthen data systems for monitoring progress towards nutrition outcomes) – see problem statement 1. (World Vision International)                                                                                                     |                  |                                                     |                                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Develop decision-support dashboards and evidence translation products that transform complex nutrition datasets into actionable insights for policymakers and programme managers at national and subnational levels. (Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)                                                | Ongoing          | Global with country adaptation                      | Governments, SUN Movement, UNICEF, academic institutions, Action Against Hunger                 | 2-3 years | Strengthen evidence-informed decision-making and increase the use of nutrition data in policy and programming.                                                                                              |
| Develop a predictive model fed by available data, incl. DHIS 2, to estimate treatment coverage of wasting management programmes. (Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)                                                                                                                                    | Planned          | Global, first pilot planned in Ethiopia             | Ministry of Health Ethiopia, Oxford University, Action Against Hunger                           | 2-3 years | Strengthen accessibility and usability of treatment coverage estimates for programme improvement                                                                                                            |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                                          | Partners                                                                                                                               | Timeline                                                                                                                                | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| Implementation of rapid multisectoral, including nutrition and health, needs assessments. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing                         | All countries where ACF France have nutrition and health interventions      | Ministry of Health, other NGOS, clusters                                                                                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                 | Assure availability of timely information for emergency response and programme adjustment                                                                                                                    |
| Build an integrated, tiered food and nutrition early-warning and decision-support mechanism that combines ZimLAC evidence with routine nutrition, rainfall, crop, market, WASH, health and social-protection indicators. Produce concise national and subnational trigger dashboards and periodic situation briefs linked to agreed thresholds for anticipatory action and programme course correction. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Ongoing / planned enhancement   | Zimbabwe - National, provincial and district; priority to shock-prone areas | FNC/ZimLAC; DCP; Meteorological Services Department; MoHCC; Ministry of Agriculture; ZIMSTAT; WFP; FAO; UNICEF; FEWS NET               | 2026–2028; continuous thereafter                                                                                                        | Provide faster, integrated and actionable intelligence for preparedness and response; improve anticipatory action and reduce the lag between emerging nutrition/food-security risks and programme decisions. |
| Build an integrated, tiered food and nutrition early-warning and decision-support mechanism that combines MVAC evidence with routine nutrition, rainfall, crop, market, WASH, health and social-protection indicators. Produce concise national and subnational trigger dashboards and periodic situation briefs linked to agreed thresholds for anticipatory action and programme course correction. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>   | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - National, regional and district                                    | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners | Malawi First Ten Year Implementation Plan 1 (MIP1), 2026–2030                                                                           | Improved early warning preparedness and resilience building across all sectors                                                                                                                               |
| Build on existing vulnerability-assessment and food-security information mechanisms to improve the timeliness of information available for preparedness, response and programme course correction. SAVAC's mandate includes monitoring and forecasting food insecurity and vulnerability, while the NFSS provides a detailed baseline and routine data sources provide                                                                  | Ongoing / planned strengthening | South Africa - National, provincial, district and municipal                 | SAVAC; Department of Agriculture; Stats SA; Department of Health; DPME; relevant sector departments; provincial/local                  | SAVAC and routine monitoring are ongoing; no confirmed national timetable for a fully integrated real-time FSN decision-support system. | Improve timeliness of intelligence, preparedness and response; reduce delays between identification of food insecurity and action.                                                                           |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing /planned                                                            | Geographical focus                 | Partners                                                    | Timeline                                                          | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| more frequent information. Linking these complementary sources could support more timely identification of emerging food and nutrition risks and better targeting of responses.. The NFNSP proposes routine monitoring and an early-warning function, including attention to rural and underserved communities. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                             |                                    | government; research institutions                           |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| The Dietary Impact Assessment (DIA) model is an open and interactive modelling tool that allows users to specify dietary scenarios and, in real time, assess the associated health, environmental, nutritional, and cost implications. The model was hosted by <i>WHO Europe</i> at: <a href="https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2023-8349-48121-71370">https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2023-8349-48121-71370</a> . (This project is also relevant to problem 8) <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | First version completed, second version with updated data is in preparation | Global - with country level detail | WHO Europe, UCL, University of Oxford                       | The second model will be launched later this year/early next year | Ability to provide timely impact assessments of dietary changes on a range of outcome measures, including nutritional changes                                                              |
| <b>Problem 8: Nutrition-related data remain fragmented across sectors, institutions, and platforms due to weak coordination, limited interoperability, restricted data sharing, and inconsistent access to microdata.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                    |                                                             |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Develop and maintain an integrated digital knowledge hub and repository for nutrition-related knowledge, tools and evidence, in partnership with UN Nutrition, to improve cross-sectoral coordination, data-sharing and interoperability of nutrition-related information. <b>(IFAD)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Planned                                                                     | Global                             | UN Nutrition; other UN agencies; FAO; research institutions | By 2026                                                           | Improved coordination and sharing of nutrition-related knowledge and evidence across sectors and institutions; reduced fragmentation; stronger collective advocacy and knowledge products. |
| Work directly with national statistics offices to improve the value of HCES for nutrition-related analyses, for example by modifying questionnaire modules to                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing                                                                     | Countries where MAPS/MIMI          | National statistics offices; World Food Programme; LSHTM;   | Ongoing                                                           | Improve the nutrition-relevance and cross-sectoral usability of                                                                                                                            |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing /planned                                                                                                               | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                            | Partners                                                                                                                                                                               | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                       | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| capture more granular, disaggregated data on foods consumed. This addresses a structural coordination gap between the institutions that collect nutrition-relevant data for economic and agricultural purposes (statistics offices) and those that need it for nutrition and health analysis, and is paired with open-access statistical tools and code so that methods and outputs remain interoperable and reusable across institutions. (LSHTM)                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                | HCES analysis has been or is being conducted, including multiple Sub-Saharan African and South Asian survey countries.                                        | Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre.                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                | routinely collected household survey data, reducing duplication and improving coordination between statistics offices and nutrition/health data users.                                                                                        |
| Through the ANH Academy's water security workstream, develop and maintain harmonised, validated experience-based metrics of household and individual water insecurity (the HWISE and IWISE scales, including brief 4-item versions), enabling water insecurity to be measured consistently across contexts and linked systematically with food security and nutrition data – sectors that are otherwise rarely integrated within national information systems. (LSHTM)                                                                                                        | Ongoing                                                                                                                        | Scales adopted by 100+ organisations in over 60 countries globally.                                                                                           | ANH Academy; Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research (WISE Scales platform); IMMANA (funder).                                                                            | Ongoing since initial HWISE development, with continued refinement (e.g. IWISE-4) and expanding use.                                                                           | Enable systematic, comparable measurement of water insecurity alongside food security and nutrition indicators, closing a cross-sectoral data gap and supporting integrated WASH–nutrition programme design and monitoring.                   |
| In 2016 Gallup helped initiate the Global Diet Quality Project, a collaboration between Gallup, the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). The project created the Diet Quality Questionnaire (DQQ), a standardized module of 29 yes/no questions on the food groups a respondent consumed during the previous day or night. Food items are adapted to each country while the food groups and question structure stay constant, so results are comparable across | Planned. The World Poll provides a proven platform for future global DQQ waves (see Problem 9), and Gallup is actively seeking | key informants, and the module is translated into over 10 languages. <a href="#">Adaptation of the Diet Quality Questionnaire as a Global Public Good for</a> | Global Diet Quality Project Partners: Gallup; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Dr. Anna W. Herforth, now at Wageningen University and Research); GAIN. Dr. Terri Ballard co- | DQQ tools are freely available now for inclusion in national surveys. No funded global World Poll wave is currently scheduled; the next multi-country wave depends on funding. | Diversity as <a href="#">SDG indicator 2.2.4</a> , measured for women aged 15 to 49 (MDD-W, with FAO as custodian agency) and children aged 6 to 23 months (MDD-C, with UNICEF as custodian agency). The DQQ is the most widely used low-cost |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing /planned                                                                                   | Geographical focus                          | Partners                                                                                                                                                                             | Timeline | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p>countries. The DQQ is low cost and feasible to administer within existing large-scale surveys, overcoming the barriers that previously precluded routine monitoring of diet quality. A single DQQ administration produces a full suite of validated diet quality indicators. It collects exactly the data required to calculate Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W): the proportion of women aged 15 to 49 who consumed at least five of ten defined food groups, a validated population-level proxy for micronutrient adequacy. The same data yield indicators of healthy diets, including All-5 (consumption of all five food groups recommended for daily consumption: at least one vegetable, one fruit, one pulse, nut, or seed, one animal-source food, and one starchy staple), the Dietary Diversity Score, and the NCD-Protect score, and indicators of unhealthy diets, including the NCD-Risk score and measures of soft drink, sugary food, salty ultra-processed food, and processed meat consumption. NCD Protect and NCD-Risk together form the Global Dietary Recommendations (GDR) score, which tracks alignment with WHO global dietary recommendations. Full definitions: <a href="#">Global Diet Quality Project indicator definitions</a>. The data is also integrated into other platforms such as the food systems dashboard. The DQQ has been implemented in more than 100 nationally representative surveys since 2021, including Gallup World Poll data collection. (GALLUP)</p> | <p>funding to extend coverage to additional countries and establish a recurring global series.</p> | <p><a href="#">Use in 140 Countries</a></p> | <p>created the DQQ items. Donors to date: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, European Union, German Cooperation (GIZ), The Rockefeller Foundation, USAID, and Canada.</p> |          | <p>method of gathering MDD data for both groups. It monitors diet quality in the general population (women and men of all ages), is feasible within multitopic surveys, is low burden for enumerators and respondents, and is valid at the population level. Because one module captures both healthy and unhealthy dietary patterns, it supports monitoring of the double burden of malnutrition: micronutrient adequacy on one side, dietary risk factors for noncommunicable diseases on the other. Comparable data across countries close a gap that previously prevented tracking progress toward ending malnutrition under SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and the broader 2030 Agenda.</p> |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned                                | Geographical focus                                                                                            | Partners                                                                                                                             | Timeline                                           | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| GNR serves as a global platform that integrates diverse nutrition datasets from sources such as WHO, UNICEF, FAO, and the World Bank into a single, accessible reference point through the Country Nutrition Profiles (CNPs). <a href="#">(GNR)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing                                         | Global; national-level profiles                                                                               | PATH, WHO, UNICEF, FAO, and the World Bank                                                                                           | Ongoing                                            | Provide a single, accessible reference point for diverse nutrition datasets                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| The Nutrition Accountability Framework (NAF) brings coherence to commitments and progress tracking, reducing duplication and enabling comparability across countries and stakeholders. Looking ahead, and when resources allow, we intend to better integrate the CNPs and NAF so stakeholders can directly compare nutrition indicators with the commitments and actions designed to tackle malnutrition. <a href="#">(GNR)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing, with planned integration and expansion | Global; potential subnational expansion                                                                       |                                                                                                                                      | Planned; timing dependent on resource availability | Reduce duplication and enable comparability of commitments and progress across countries and stakeholders; support more granular planning and accountability at national and subnational levels.                                                                                   |
| This problem is also addressed in the proposal to the Alliance's policy basket (strengthen data systems for monitoring progress towards nutrition outcomes) – see problem statement 1. <a href="#">(World Vision International)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                      |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Contribute to greater coherence across nutrition, food security and humanitarian data initiatives by linking complementary communities, platforms and analytical efforts. JRC helps connect related initiatives including VITAL-DATA, ACTION DATA, the Intentional Data Community and other food security, nutrition and humanitarian data efforts, bringing together work on information-system vulnerability, financing, data-to-decision pathways and the humanitarian-development nexus. Through participation in these initiatives, strategic dialogue and technical convening, JRC supports identification of complementarities and gaps, opportunities for collaboration and alignment, and joint advocacy for sustained political and financial | Ongoing                                         | Global, with particular relevance to fragile and crisis-affected settings and country-led information systems | EC-JRC, VITAL-DATA partners, ACTION DATA, Intentional Data Community and other food security, nutrition and humanitarian data actors | 2025 onward                                        | Reduce fragmentation and duplication across initiatives; strengthen connections between nutrition, food security, humanitarian and development data agendas; improve alignment of complementary analytical and investment efforts; and reinforce collective advocacy for sustained |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned                   | Geographical focus                                 | Partners                                                                | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| investment in nutrition and related data systems. <b>(IMPACT Initiatives)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                    |                                                    |                                                                         |           | investment in resilient, decision-relevant data systems.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Support two complementary global consortia led by IOM/DTM and ACTED/IMPACT to strengthen humanitarian needs assessments through displacement tracking and multisectoral needs assessments, including nutrition-related data. The programmes will address information fragmentation, interoperability, localisation, data analysis and links to decision-making, public availability of data, and data safety. A shared governance architecture will improve coordination, coherence and complementarity while reducing duplication. Nutrition will be covered through IPC and Cadre Harmonisé in the IOM-led consortium and through MSNA in the ACTED/IMPACT-led consortium. EU (DG ECHO) support for 2026–2027 amounts to EUR 42.98 million. <b>(European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO))</b> | Planned (currently in negotiation) | Global                                             | Two consortia, led respectively by IOM/DTM and ACTED/IMPACT             | 2026-2027 | Strengthen global humanitarian needs assessments through better coordination, interoperability, localisation and data use, reducing duplication and providing more coherent, accessible evidence to support effective humanitarian decision-making. |
| Establish near real-time nutrition surveillance platforms combining routine programme data, sentinel surveillance, climate indicators, market information and early warning systems to support anticipatory action and operational decision-making. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ongoing / Planned                  | Sahel, Horn of Africa and other high-risk contexts | Governments, UNICEF, WFP, FEWS NET, IPC partners, Action Against Hunger | 2-4 years | Improve preparedness, early detection of nutrition deterioration and timely response.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Participate in assessment and information management coordination groups including the Global Nutrition Cluster Nutrition Information Systems Working Group. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing                            | Selected countries                                 | Ministry of Health, UN agencies, NGOs. GNC                              | Ongoing   | to align methodologies and improve collaboration                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing /planned                                                                                                    | Geographical focus                                                     | Partners                                                                                                            | Timeline                                                                                                                                 | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Support Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) processes through participation in IPC High Level Executive Committee, global Steering Committees, Technical Advisory Group, and Food security and Nutrition Working Groups. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing                                                                                                             | Global and selected countries                                          | UN, NGOs                                                                                                            | Ongoing                                                                                                                                  | contributing to strengthening food security and nutrition analysis for decision-making                                                                                    |
| Efficient resource use is essential for sustaining integrated management of acute malnutrition programs in Nepal's decentralized health system. ECF is funding comprehensive budget mapping and analysis across federal, provincial, and municipal levels, reviewing historical data of past years, utilization patterns, and forecasting methods to identify gaps and inefficiencies for improved decision-making and programming. <b>(Eleanor Crook Foundation)</b> | Ongoing                                                                                                             | Nepal                                                                  | ACF                                                                                                                 | Findings expected by August 2026                                                                                                         | Guide transparent, optimized resource allocation, ensuring limited funds are used effectively to maximize impact on child nutrition.                                      |
| Support the Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) Joint Technical Assistance Facility to strengthen nutrition data management and MEAL systems in Ethiopia — establishing baselines, formulating nutrition-sensitive indicators, and designing M&E frameworks — with a specific focus on aligning M&E workflows between the Yelemat Tirufat Plus programme and the Seqota Declaration. (A secondary fit would be Problem 3) <b>(SUN Secretariat)</b>                           | Planned (currently pipeline — in discussion with a technical assistance provider; may require additional resources) | Ethiopia                                                               | European Commission, GIZ (C4N Project), SUN Movement Secretariat, Seqota Declaration, Yelemat Tirufat Plus          | To be confirmed (pipeline stage)                                                                                                         | Stronger, better-aligned M&E systems for nutrition programming in Ethiopia; improved interoperability between Yelemat Tirufat Plus and Seqota Declaration data workflows. |
| The <a href="#">Finance Capacity Development Platform</a> works to support SUN countries to develop, validate, and institutionalize government-owned national and sub-national nutrition financing/resource mobilization plans that are embedded in core annual planning and budgeting processes rather than parallel, donor-driven plans. <b>(FCDP-R4D)</b>                                                                                                          | Ongoing                                                                                                             | Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal (target of 30 SUN countries by 2028) | SUN Movement Secretariat Regional Hubs and country focal points, Ministries of Finance/Planning/Budget and Economic | 2026-2028; Nigeria's NMPFAN 2026-2030 targeted for validation Q1 2027; Ethiopia regional financing plan roll-out beginning Sept/Oct 2026 | Increased and more resilient government budget allocation for nutrition that persists across changes in political leadership and donor funding cycles; reduced dependence |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                               | Partners                                                                                                                                         | Timeline                                                                                                                                                  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                              |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                 |                                                                  | Planning, UNICEF, World Bank                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                           | on short-term external financing for core nutrition interventions.                                                                                                                           |
| Establish a national food and nutrition data-governance and interoperability framework under FNC coordination, including a common indicator dictionary, metadata standards, data-sharing protocols, secure microdata-access procedures and interoperable exchange between ZimLAC, health, agriculture, social protection, WASH, education and early-warning platforms. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Planned                         | Zimbabwe - National, with provincial and district implementation | FNC/OPC; ZIMSTAT; MoHCC; relevant line ministries; Data Protection Authority/POTRAZ as appropriate; academia; UN technical partners              | Framework 2026–2027; phased implementation 2027–2030                                                                                                      | Reduce fragmentation and duplication; enable secure cross-sector analysis; improve consistency of indicators and expand legitimate access to data for policy, research and programme design. |
| Establish a Malawi national food and nutrition data-governance and interoperability framework under MVAC coordination, including a common indicator dictionary, metadata standards, data-sharing protocols, secure microdata-access procedures and interoperable exchange across sectors. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                              | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - National, regional and district                         | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners           | Malawi First Ten Year Implementation Plan 1 (MIP1), 2026–2030                                                                                             | Reduce fragmentation and duplication; enable secure cross-sector analysis; improve consistency of indicators and expand legitimate access to data for policy, research and programme design. |
| Strengthen coordination and interoperability across existing food, nutrition, health, socioeconomic, agricultural and vulnerability information systems. . Build on SAVAC, NFNSS and other established datasets. The NFNSP proposes a multisectoral information-management system, improved interoperability, common indicators and ethical/legal data use. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>            | Ongoing / planned strengthening | South Africa - National, provincial, district and municipal      | Department of Agriculture; SAVAC; Stats SA; Department of Health; HSRC; relevant sector departments; research institutions; development partners | No confirmed public timetable for a fully interoperable national FSN information system; revised NFNSP provides an opportunity to clarify implementation. | Reduce fragmentation and duplication; improve legitimate data access and use; enable comparable indicators and integrated analysis.                                                          |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing /planned                                                                                                                 | Geographical focus                                                                                                                              | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Timeline                                                                        | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <b>Problem 9: The value of existing nutrition data is often constrained by a lack of tools and processes to analyze, interpret, communicate, and apply evidence to impact policy and program decision-making.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Strengthen the translation of nutrition and food systems evidence into agricultural and rural investment design and implementation. IFAD develops and applies operational guidance, tools, portfolio evidence and capacity development to help country teams, governments and project teams interpret available nutrition evidence, identify context-specific nutrition challenges, and translate findings into practical investment choices, including targeting, value-chain selection, nutrition-sensitive interventions and implementation priorities. (IFAD) | ONgoing and planned                                                                                                              | Global, with application at country and investment level                                                                                        | National governments; FAO, WFP and other UN agencies; research and technical partners; development partners                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing                                                                         | Increase the systematic use of nutrition and food systems evidence in agricultural investment decisions; improve the targeting and nutrition sensitivity of IFAD-supported investments; and strengthen their contribution to improved diets and nutrition outcomes. |
| Package HCES-based micronutrient inadequacy analysis into open-access statistical tools and code (including the MAPS web-based platform), accompanied by user manuals and guidance materials, with substantial investment in hands-on training so that findings can be interpreted and applied by in-country teams rather than remaining outputs understandable only to specialist modellers. Analyses are co-designed with policy stakeholders from the outset to maximise the relevance and timeliness of findings for policy and programme decisions. (LSHTM)  | Ongoing (MIMI); MAPS concluded but tools, code and manuals remain openly available and used by other initiatives, including MIMI | Countries where MAPS/MIMI HCES analysis has been or is being conducted, including multiple Sub-Saharan African and South Asian survey countries | LSHTM; World Food Programme; University of Nottingham, British Geological Survey, Addis Ababa University, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ibadan University (MAPS); national statistics offices and ministries of health | Training and co-design activities ongoing, continuing through 2026.             | Increase the extent to which existing micronutrient data is actually analysed, interpreted and used to inform nutrition and food system policy and programme decisions, rather than remaining uninterpreted or under-utilised.                                      |
| Support the translation of the Cost and Affordability of a Healthy Diet (CoAHD) indicator into locally usable analysis, and visualisations for policy engagement, through the ANH Academy's Fellowship programme,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing                                                                                                                          | Global; CoAHD indicator data available for 174 countries,                                                                                       | ANH Academy; FAO; World Bank (Food Prices for Nutrition                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing; Learning Labs delivered at recent ANH Academy Weeks; Fellowships using | Increase the practical use of diet-cost and affordability evidence by policymakers to                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                                | Partners                                   | Timeline                                               | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                          |
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| trainings and workshops, and online resources. Early innovation and development of the CoAHD indicator was supported by the ANH Academy through an <a href="#">IMMANA grant</a> . An FAO-led project now leads scaling and institutionalising use of the indicator by national governments. A sister project at Tufts University supports research and methodological improvements. The ANH Academy's ongoing role is building the capacity of LMIC researchers and policy stakeholders to calculate, interpret and apply the metric. <a href="#">(LSHTM)</a> |                  | with ANH Academy capacity-building targeted at LMIC researchers and policymakers. | Data Hub); Tufts University; IFPRI.        | methodology and developing evidence for policy impact. | inform food system, social protection and nutrition policy decisions.                                                                                                    |
| Translate evidence, building on the tools and evidence developed during the project life cycle of IMMANA. The ANH Academy Science-Policy Platform translates evidence applying it to policy applications through global, national, and sub-national science-policy engagements. These engagements are executed through provision of grants, fellowships, and working groups that are positioned to build capacity while developing policy relevant evidence and materials. <a href="#">(LSHTM)</a>                                                            | Ongoing          | Global with a particular focus in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia               | ANH Academy, Africa Regional Collaborative | Ongoing                                                | Increase the capabilities of researchers through skills building, financing, and cross-regional working in order to develop data that is usable for policy applications. |
| GNR provides interactive CNPs that synthesize complex global and national indicators into actionable insights. These tools are designed for policymakers, advocates, and investors to support evidence-based decision-making and foster policy dialogues. Future iterations will continue to enhance usability, build stronger linkages with commitments tracking where feasible, and explore opportunities for expansion—ensuring that nutrition data is clear, interpretable, and relevant to real-world priorities. <a href="#">(GNR)</a>                  | Ongoing          | Global; national-level profiles                                                   |                                            |                                                        | Ensure nutrition data are clear, interpretable, and relevant to real-world policy and investment priorities                                                              |
| GNR regularly publishes thematic reports that provide in-depth analysis on selected priority areas, offering                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ongoing (annual) | Global                                                                            |                                            | 2026 report published; annual thereafter               | Provide actionable, in-depth insights to inform                                                                                                                          |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing /planned                                                                                                                                     | Geographical focus                                                                           | Partners                                                                                    | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| actionable recommendations to complement our global reporting and tools. This year's thematic focus—the intersection between food systems and health systems, and the critical role data play in strengthening that linkage—is explored in the 2026 Global Nutrition Report, which presents key insights to inform policy and investment decisions. <b>(GNR)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | policy and investment decisions at the food systems–health systems interface                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Maintain a <a href="#">resource database</a> for philanthropic funders to navigate the latest available data, evidence and programmatic guidance. <b>(Stronger Foundations for Nutrition)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ongoing                                                                                                                                              | Global, with focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia                           | Stronger Foundations philanthropic network                                                  | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Streamline access and improve the use of nutrition data and evidence to improve philanthropic investments and attract new philanthropic partners to fund priority nutrition programs and policies.                                                                                                               |
| World Vision signed a Data Sharing Agreement with WHO to share World Vision's acute malnutrition, underweight, and mass nutrition screening data from multiple regions with the WHO Monitoring and Surveillance (MOS) Unit within the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS), as part of the CIFF-WHO Wasting Project. The collaboration will support the development and testing of tools, guidance, and standards to improve national and subnational estimates of undernutrition for programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, particularly in humanitarian and emergency contexts. <b>(World Vision International)</b> | Ongoing – Data sharing and collaboration initiated in 2026. Planned – Joint analytical outputs, tools, guidance and dissemination through 2026–2028. | Global, with data contribution from 30+ countries and all the way down to sub-national level | WVI and WHO's Monitoring and Surveillance Unit within the Dept of Nutrition and Food Safety | 2026: Landscape exercise assessing the availability of nutrition data sources in humanitarian contexts. 2027: Development of a toolkit, including templates and analytical tools, to calculate the incidence correction k-factor using prevalence estimates from household surveys and other data sources. 2028: Publication of a peer-reviewed manuscript | Strengthen the availability and use of nutrition data for evidence-based decision-making by improving methods for estimating the incidence and burden of wasting, particularly where routine data and household surveys are limited; strengthen nutrition surveillance and inform programme planning, monitoring |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ongoing /planned                                                                                                                                    | Geographical focus                                            | Partners                                                                                                          | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                               |                                                                                                                   | detailing the methodology proposed and tested for calculating the incidence correction k-factor in humanitarian contexts; report or peer-reviewed manuscript evaluating alternative approaches for estimating wasting incidence beyond the traditional k-factor; and expansion of the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition. | and evaluation at national and subnational levels; and contribute to improved global standards and guidance for nutrition data analysis and interpretation.                                                      |
| Strengthen the “promotion” and data-use components of GMP through Grow GMP, enabling frontline health workers and community volunteers to interpret child growth patterns, communicate results effectively with caregivers, identify appropriate actions or referrals, and use routine growth data for timely programme improvement at community and subnational levels.<br><b>(World Vision International)</b>                                                 | On-going. Grow GMP will be part of World Vision’s Private Funding programme targeting caregivers of 0-5 years old called “Future Ready Sponsorship” | Global                                                        | Ministry of Health of each country                                                                                | 2026: Online course for WV staff on Grow GMP<br>Oct 2026: Start the Grow GMP training for the field staff and Community Health Workers                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Transform GMP from primarily a measurement/reporting activity into an action-oriented system, where growth data inform caregiver counselling, early response, referral, follow-up and local programme decisions. |
| Strengthen the evidence base and methodological framework for predictive analytics for acute malnutrition through the ANH Academy Working Group on Predicting Malnutrition and the related Task Force. JRC leads work to systematically map and assess empirical and predictive approaches, prediction targets, indicators and data inputs, validation practices and model performance, alongside complementary work on mechanistic modelling, alternative data | Ongoing / planned                                                                                                                                   | Global, with emphasis on fragile and crisis-affected settings | EC-JRC, ANH Academy Task Force members, IMPACT, LSHTM, WFP and wider research, technical and operational partners | 2026 onward                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Improve transparency, comparability and validation of predictive approaches; establish what can currently be predicted reliably and under which conditions; identify evidence and data                           |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                     | Partners                                                                       | Timeline                           | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                    |
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| sources and operational use cases. <b>(IMPACT Initiatives)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |                                                                        |                                                                                |                                    | gaps; and support responsible use of predictive information for early warning, anticipatory action, preparedness and resource allocation.                          |
| Scale innovative digital tools, including AI-assisted approaches for nutrition screening and diagnosis, to reduce the cost, complexity and frequency limitations of traditional nutrition data collection methods. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing          | Africa, Asia and Latin America                                         | Ministries of Health, technology partners, universities, Action Against Hunger | 3-5 years                          | Increase coverage, frequency and affordability of nutrition data collection while maintaining quality and accuracy.                                                |
| Train / continuous supervision of Ministry of Health staff to analyse and use routine nutrition and health data. <b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing          | All countries where ACF France have nutrition and health interventions | Ministry of Health, district health authorities                                | Ongoing                            | Increase use of data for planning, monitoring, and improving services / quality improvement                                                                        |
| Global reductions in foreign assistance for undernutrition are resulting in the suspension of wasting treatment services. Several groups have attempted to model the consequences of untreated severe acute malnutrition, but their estimates vary widely due to methodological differences. ECF is funding evidence mapping exercise to document, compare, and interpret all existing approaches used to estimate mortality due to untreated severe acute malnutrition. This exercise will clarify what evidence exists, how it has been used, which assumptions have been used, and where major uncertainties remain. <b>(Eleanor Crook Foundation)</b> | Ongoing          | LMICs                                                                  | International Medical Corps                                                    | Findings expected by December 2026 | Generate transparent, trusted, and consensus-driven estimates of the impact of losing access to severe wasting treatment services on mortality and other outcomes. |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ongoing /planned                         | Geographical focus                                                          | Partners                                                                                                                          | Timeline                                                                                                                                                | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Launch redesigned <a href="#">Food Systems Dashboard</a> country profiles that translate the Food Systems Countdown Initiative's (FSCI) country performance assessment into a clear, interactive, and interpretable view. The profiles will synthesize performance across the food system, highlight relative strengths and challenges, enable comparison with relevant benchmarks, and provide access to underlying indicator data and metadata. After launch, the team will conduct a structured six-month consultation with the five thematic FSCI working groups and incorporate agreed refinements. (GAIN) | Ongoing (launch planned for August 2026) | Global; national profiles for countries and territories with available data | GAIN, Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University, FAO, Friends of the Web, and FSCI experts across five thematic working groups | Launch with the new FSCI country performance paper in September 2026; consultation and refinement over the following six months (through February 2027) | Make complex food systems performance data faster and easier for decision-makers to interpret and use; help identify national strengths and priority challenges; support cross-sectoral dialogue and evidence-informed policy, program, and investment decisions; and strengthen the profiles' scientific validity and usability through cross-disciplinary review. |
| Strengthen <a href="#">methods and tools</a> and monitoring processes to inform key LSFF indicators, including use of food supply and distribution and fortification quality data integration to generate timely estimates of population exposure, fortified food coverage and micronutrient delivery. Strengthen method alignment for LSFF indicators across LSFF partners. (GAIN)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing to 2028                          | Global; Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya and India, Benin     | GAIN, GFDx, LSFF partners                                                                                                         | 3 years                                                                                                                                                 | Increase the reporting frequency of fortification cascade indicators (supply, population exposure and population coverage and MN delivery).                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Develop and support stakeholders in the use of technology (Data <a href="#">collection</a> and <a href="#">traceability systems</a> ) to improve efficiencies of LSFF monitoring processes and the LSFF data value chain (data collection, curation, analysis and reporting). (GAIN)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing to 2028                          | Global; Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania,                            | GAIN                                                                                                                              | 3 years                                                                                                                                                 | Improved efficiencies of the LSFF data value chain and increased use of technology and reporting frequency of fortification cascade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned                                 | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                                       | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Timeline                                            | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                  | Kenya and India, Benin                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                     | indicators (supply, population exposure and population coverage and MN delivery).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Build the capacity of government, regional, civil society, private-sector, financing, and academic stakeholders to use agrifood systems diagnostic tools and underlying data to identify priorities, design evidence-informed and investible actions, and apply evidence in policy, programme, and investment decisions. The initiative will combine practical short courses, peer-learning communities, technical support, accessible learning materials, and institutional integration of tools, including within AUDA-NEPAD learning modules and university curricula. <b>(GAIN)</b> | Planned; funding pending                         | Africa: intensive support in 5 countries; learning and peer exchange in at least 15 additional countries; materials and tools accessible across all 54 African countries | AUDA-NEPAD and GAIN (co-leads), with Akademiya2063, African Nutrition Leadership Programme, African Food Fellowship, governments, universities, civil society, private sector, and financing institutions | Phase 1: 2027-2030; longer-term vision through 2034 | Increase the capacity and confidence of analysts and decision-makers to interpret and apply agrifood systems evidence; embed tool use in organizational processes; improve the quality and financing readiness of country actions and proposals; strengthen AUDA-NEPAD's capacity to support evidence-informed agrifood systems transformation across AU Member States. |
| Mainstream use of the Diet Quality Questionnaire (DQQ) and its indicators in national and global monitoring and policy processes. The proposed continuation of the Global Diet Quality Project would maintain and update the central DQQ data repository, dietquality.org, and related global databases; support analysis, reporting, policy briefs, and advocacy; train country teams and provide technical support for integrating the DQQ into household surveys and food                                                                                                            | Proposed; no dedicated funding currently secured | Global, with proposed country support through Nourishing Food Pathways in Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia,                                                                   | GAIN; national statistics offices and ministries of health and agriculture; Wageningen University; Food Systems Dashboard; Food Systems Countdown                                                         | Proposed 3-year programme; start subject to funding | Sustain accessible, standardized diet quality data and tools; strengthen national capacity to collect, analyze, interpret, and use DQQ data; integrate diet quality indicators into national                                                                                                                                                                            |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                           | Partners                                                                                                      | Timeline                                                                                    | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| system policy processes; and coordinate with global agencies to strengthen standardized use of diet quality evidence. <b>(GAIN)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  | India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, and Tanzania | Initiative; WHO, UNICEF, FAO, and WFP                                                                         |                                                                                             | policy and global monitoring frameworks; and improve evidence-informed food system and nutrition decision-making.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Maintain and expand the <a href="#">IAEA Doubly Labelled Water (DLW) Database</a> , a global repository of energy expenditure measurements obtained using the doubly labelled water stable isotope technique. The database compiles individual-level data contributed by researchers worldwide, applying standardized calculations and quality control procedures to maximize comparability. Data are freely accessible upon request. The database supports research on energy expenditure, metabolism, physical activity, energy balance, and nutrition across the life course. Findings are helping countries devise better health policies to combat a growing obesity epidemic worldwide. <b>(International Atomic Energy Agency)</b> | Ongoing          | Global                                                                       | IAEA, DLW management group, research institutions, universities, national and international research partners | Launched in 2018; ongoing data collection, harmonization, and access for research requests. | Improve understanding of human energy requirements across populations and throughout the life course by providing the world's largest harmonized repository of total energy expenditure measurements. Generate evidence to refine estimates of energy needs, advance research on energy metabolism and physical activity, support the development of nutrition recommendations and global reference values, and foster international collaboration on energy balance research. |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus | Partners                                                                      | Timeline                                                                                                                    | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Established and maintained the <a href="#">IAEA Body Composition (BC) Database</a> , a global repository of body composition measurements contributed by researchers worldwide. The database primarily includes assessments obtained using the stable isotope deuterium dilution technique, alongside DXA and other body composition methods. Data are harmonized and curated to support analyses of nutritional status, growth, obesity, and body composition outcomes across populations and life stages. Data are freely accessible upon request, and findings from secondary data analyses can be made available to support research, programme design, and policy development addressing the double burden of malnutrition. <b>(International Atomic Energy Agency)</b> | Ongoing          | Global             | IAEA, BC management group, research institutions, universities, LMIC partners | Launched in 2024; ongoing data collection and harmonization; the database will be open for data requests from January 2027. | Strengthen the assessment and monitoring of malnutrition and obesity by improving access to harmonized body composition data from diverse populations. Inform the design and evaluation of nutrition and health interventions, increase the representation of LMIC populations in global evidence, and contribute to a better understanding of body composition across different stages of life and foster international collaboration and data sharing. |
| Established and maintained the <a href="#">IAEA Global Human Milk Intake (DTM) Database</a> , the largest harmonized repository of human milk intake data measured using the deuterium oxide dose-to-mother technique. The database compiles data from studies worldwide, with strong representation from LMICs, and applies standardized procedures for data harmonization, quality assurance, and biological plausibility assessment. Data are freely accessible upon request, and findings from secondary analyses at global and regional levels can be made available to support research, programme design, and policy development                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing          | Global             | IAEA, DTM management group, research institutions, LMIC partners              | Launched in 2022; ongoing data collection and harmonization; the database will be open for data requests from October 2026. | Improve the availability, accessibility, and comparability of high-quality human milk intake data globally; strengthen the evidence base for breastfeeding and infant nutrition policies and programmes; enable global and regional analyses of                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus          | Partners | Timeline | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| in infant and young child nutrition. ( <a href="#">International Atomic Energy Agency</a> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                  |                             |          |          | human milk intake; increase the visibility and use of data from LMICs in research and decision-making; and foster international collaboration on infant and young child nutrition.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Implement the Program Assessment Tool, which evaluates all domains of a country's iodine program (performance, design, and implementation). It has been designed for use at the country level by program managers, and serves as an advocacy and discussion support tool among iodine program stakeholders to help countries understand their situation and identify corrective actions. ( <a href="#">Iodine Global Network</a> ) | Ongoing          | All regions                 |          | 2 years  | By bringing together program performance, design, and implementation data in one place, the tool strengthens country capacity to self-assess and respond to gaps. Its use in multistakeholder discussions helps translate scattered program data into a shared understanding of the situation, enabling more coordinated and timely corrective action at the country level. |
| Apply Box-Cox transformation methods to iodine status data to enable robust statistical analysis. This method allows identification of predictors of iodine status (e.g., region, wealth quintile, use of iodized salt) and revealing inequities. IGN is now applying this method to reanalyze various country survey datasets to better                                                                                           | Ongoing          | Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia |          | 2 years  | This method improves interpretation of survey data by identifying the key predictors of iodine status and revealing inequities that would                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                  | Partners                                                                                                                                  | Timeline                                                      | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| understand the drivers of iodine status. <b>(Iodine Global Network)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                                     |                                                                                                                                           |                                                               | otherwise remain hidden, informing decision-makers on where and how to target corrective action.                                                                                                                           |
| Restructure WHO's Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition Information System (VMNIS) data to make it more useful for countries. Currently, the database contains such a large volume of data points that it is nearly impossible for a country to identify its national iodine status for a given population group from the database alone. IGN is developing an Excel-based tool that extracts information from the WHO database and presents it in a usable format — allowing national users to see trends over time and across population groups, identify equity and inequity trends, view regional data, and compare their situation with other countries. <b>(Iodine Global Network)</b> | Ongoing                         | Global                              | UNICEF, WHO                                                                                                                               | 1 years                                                       | Make WHO iodine status data accessible for interpretation and genuinely useful at the country level, informing decision-makers, supporting national advocacy efforts, and helping countries identify iodine status issues. |
| Strengthen the translation of ZimLAC and nutrition data into decision-ready products through standard analytical pipelines, reproducible statistical code, district/provincial profiles, policy briefs, visual dashboards and structured post-assessment interpretation workshops. Prioritise analysis of dietary diversity, food consumption, child feeding, shocks, social protection and programme reach, with explicit links to NDS2 targets and priority actions. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing / planned enhancement   | Zimbabwe - National and subnational | FNC Knowledge Management and Assessment/Research/M&E functions; ZimLAC technical partners; ZIMSTAT; universities; MoHCC; UNICEF; WFP; FAO | Each assessment cycle; enhanced platform 2026–2027            | Make complex evidence easier and faster to interpret; strengthen evidence-to-policy uptake; improve accountability and enable Government and partners to target investments to identified nutrition and livelihood gaps.   |
| Integration of nutrition, food security, production, WASH and poverty data within national data systems to                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - National,                  | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of                                                                                        | Malawi First Ten Year Implementation Plan 1 (MIP1), 2026–2030 | Improved policy uptake of evidence and informed decision                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                                                            | Partners                                                                                                                                                 | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| improve policy uptake in Malawi. (Wellcome Trust grantee)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                 | regional and district                                                                         | Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | making across all sectors                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Improve the translation of existing South African food and nutrition data into decision-ready evidence through standardised analysis, spatial profiling, visualisation, synthesis and policy engagement. Priority datasets include the NFNSS, GHS, routine health information and other relevant socioeconomic and food-system sources. This should include clearer processes for moving from data and analysis to identification of priority populations, policy questions, intervention options and monitoring of results. (Wellcome Trust grantee) | Ongoing / planned strengthening | South Africa - National, provincial, district and local levels as supported by available data | Department of Agriculture; SAVAC; Statistics South Africa; Department of Health; HSRC; DPME; universities and research institutions; policy stakeholders | Ongoing use of existing data; no confirmed national timetable identified for a comprehensive national evidence-to-decision mechanism. The revised NFNSP process provides an opportunity to define such mechanisms. | Increase the practical value of existing nutrition data; strengthen evidence-to-policy translation; improve identification of malnutrition and food-insecurity hotspots; and support targeted, evidence-informed interventions. |
| <b>Problem 10: Inadequate physical, clinical, and digital infrastructure and human resource capacity limit the effective functioning and long-term sustainability of national Nutrition Information Systems.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                 |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Leverage IFAD's rural infrastructure investments, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and digital knowledge platforms, to strengthen the physical and digital infrastructure underpinning nutrition-sensitive agriculture and nutrition information systems, including development of a single digital knowledge hub and e-learning collection. (IFAD)                                                                                                                                                                                     | Ongoing                         | Global, across IFAD-supported rural infrastructure investments                                | National governments; WASH and infrastructure partners; other UN agencies                                                                                | Ongoing through 2031                                                                                                                                                                                               | Strengthened physical and digital infrastructure supporting nutrition information systems; improved data availability and quality linked to improved WASH and rural infrastructure.                                             |
| Created the SMART+ digital infrastructure to modernize the traditional SMART survey process through digital tools that improve survey quality,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                 |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus | Partners | Timeline | Intended impact |
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| <p>efficiency, standardization, and real-time data management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SMARTCollect:</b> Rather than filling out extensive paperwork, survey teams can now record data on nutrition, food security, WASH and other indicators with a few clicks on a mobile device, directly from the field.</li> <li>• <b>Platform:</b> This centralized survey management tool allows survey coordinators to plan, monitor and administer nutrition surveys and share the results. The data collected in the field via the mobile app is automatically uploaded to the platform, so survey coordinators can continuously supervise their teams and track results in real-time.</li> <li>• <b>Aggregator:</b> The aggregator is a central, web-based repository that stores global SMART survey data. The aggregator pulls together different datasets so results can be displayed by geographical area on the dashboard. It also contributes timely data for situation analysis mechanisms such as Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Humanitarian Nutrition Overview (HNO), and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and can contribute to AI algorithms that use standardized multisectoral data for famine prediction.</li> <li>• <b>Dashboard:</b> The dashboard provides a live visualization of global SMART survey results that can be viewed down to the subnational level. The dashboard will provide a clear picture of the nutrition situation and improve the decision-making process so funding can be</li> </ul> |                  |                    |          |          |                 |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ongoing /planned | Geographical focus                                                 | Partners                                                                                                   | Timeline  | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| properly allocated and prioritized and policies and programs can be designed accordingly.<br><br><b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |                                                                    |                                                                                                            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Strengthen national and subnational capacities in data management, analytics, visualization, AI-enabled decision support and data governance through embedded mentorship and institutional partnerships.<br><b>(Action Against Hunger - UK, Spain, Canada, France)</b>                                                                                                                | Ongoing          | LMICs                                                              | National governments, universities, research institutions, Action Against Hunger                           | 3-5 years | Improve local ownership, analytical capacity and long-term sustainability of nutrition information systems.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Develop a universal Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC) SOP for salt iodization. The SOP is complemented by a mobile application that allows producers to set iodine dosing levels based on national regulations, production rate, and solution dilution, supports stock reconciliation and titration analysis, and can export records as needed. <b>(Iodine Global Network)</b> | Ongoing          | Global                                                             |                                                                                                            | 2 years   | A comprehensive, practical SOP paired with a mobile application will significantly enhance the effectiveness of universal salt iodization programs by improving both internal and external monitoring of the iodization process, while also documenting salt quality throughout production. |
| Invest in resilient digital infrastructure for the national food and nutrition information system, including secure central data repositories, automated backups, role-based access, offline-capable field data collection, reliable devices, connectivity support and power/solar backup for priority national and subnational data-management points. Adopt cybersecurity and       | Planned / phased | Zimbabwe - National, provincial and district data-management nodes | FNC/OPC; Government ICT structures; ZIMSTAT; MoHCC; relevant line ministries; POTRAZ; development partners | 2026–2030 | Improve reliability, security and continuity of data collection, storage, analysis and dissemination; reduce data loss and operational downtime,                                                                                                                                            |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                          | Partners                                                                                                                                              | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                 | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| personal-data-protection standards throughout the data lifecycle. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                          | particularly in low-connectivity settings.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Invest in remote sensing and real data technologies to improve monitoring and efficiency and sustainability in Malawi. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - national, regional and district                    | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners                | Malawi First Ten Year Implementation Plan 1 (MIP1), 2026–2030                                                                                                            | Reduction of data loss and operational downtime                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Strengthen digital and information-management infrastructure for an integrated FSN information system. The NFNSP proposes interoperability, multisectoral information management, routine monitoring, a technological/digital systems needs assessment and ethical/legal data use, including POPIA compliance. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Planned / phased strengthening  | South Africa - National, provincial, district and municipal | Department of Agriculture; Stats SA; DPME; Department of Health; government ICT structures; SAVAC; relevant sector departments; research institutions | NFNSP framework provides progressive milestones for indicator-data submission and cleaning in 2029, 2033 and 2037; no separate infrastructure completion date specified. | Improve reliability, interoperability, security and continuity of data; reduce information silos; strengthen efficient collection, storage, analysis and sharing.                                                           |
| Continue expanding IFAD's nutrition technical capacity at headquarters and regional levels, maintain and update a regional roster of vetted nutrition consultants, and deliver regular knowledge-sharing, training and nutrition clinics for staff, project management units and government partners. <b>(IFAD)</b>                            | Ongoing                         | Global, across IFAD regions                                 | National governments; project management units; regional nutrition consultants roster; IFAD regional teams                                            | Ongoing through 2031                                                                                                                                                     | Strengthened technical capacity of IFAD staff, government counterparts and implementing partners to design, implement and use nutrition information; improved sustainability of nutrition-sensitive project implementation. |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ongoing /planned                        | Geographical focus                                                                                                                                                    | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Timeline                                                                                                          | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| Invest substantially in capacity sharing alongside methods development: open-access statistical software, step-by-step manuals and training materials for the MAPS/MIMI approach are designed explicitly to enable research groups and government analysts in LMICs to take ownership of the analysis process themselves, rather than depending on external technical support. This is reinforced through the ANH Academy, a network that runs an annual Academy Week, Learning Labs and Science-Policy Fellowships to build sustained in-country research and analytical capacity across the agriculture-nutrition-health nexus. (LSHTM)                                                                                                                                          | Ongoing                                 | LMICs broadly, with concentrated activity in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (MAPS/MIMI); ANH Academy membership and training reach across Africa, Asia and beyond. | LSHTM; World Food Programme; University of Nottingham, British Geological Survey, Addis Ababa University, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ibadan University (MAPS), ANH Academy; national statistics offices and ministries of health | Ongoing; training delivered annually (e.g. ANH Academy Week; MIMI in-country workshops), continuing through 2026. | Build durable human resource capacity for nutrition data analysis within LMIC institutions, reducing long-term dependence on external technical assistance and supporting the sustainability of national nutrition information systems. |
| Conducted a peer-to-peer learning visit between Burundi and Burkina Faso (15–21 April 2026) to strengthen Burkina Faso's multi-stakeholder platform (NIPN supported Burkina Faso in strengthening its national information system) — using high-level engagement with the Prime Minister and Minister of Health to advocate for operationalizing a proposed inter-ministerial food and nutrition committee — while establishing ongoing technical exchange between the two countries' statistical institutes to support development of Burundi's nutrition information platform. Follow-up includes monthly coordination meetings between the Francophone and Convergence Hubs and documentation of lessons learned for dissemination across Francophone Africa. (SUN Secretariat) | Ongoing (follow-up actions in progress) | Burundi and Burkina Faso, with dissemination planned across Francophone Africa SUN countries                                                                          | SUN Movement (Francophone and Convergence Hubs), national statistical institutes of Burundi and Burkina Faso, Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Health (Burkina Faso)                                                                                | Visit completed April 2026; monthly coordination meetings and technical exchange ongoing                          | Strengthened multisectoral coordination through Burkina Faso's MSP; accelerated development of Burundi's nutrition information platform; lessons learned documented and shared across Francophone Africa SUN countries.                 |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                           | Partners                                                                                                                               | Timeline                                                      | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Capacity development, especially at the regional/sub-national level, for planning and budgeting officers, often through a 'cascade and scale' training-of-trainers approach and by embedding long-term technical expertise within government. This is complemented by the FCDP Expert Group, a group of national and regional experts available to assist government counterparts. <b>(FCDP-R4D)</b>                                                                                                                                          | Ongoing                         | Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, others             | HSDF, FCDP Expert Group                                                                                                                | 2026-2028                                                     | Institutionalized, locally-owned capacity to plan, budget, and mobilize resources for nutrition that persists beyond any single program; expanded pool of trained government officers and TA partners on nutrition financing information and PFM systems |
| Implement a national capacity-development programme for nutrition information-system functions, covering survey design and sampling, anthropometry, digital data collection, data quality assurance, GIS, statistical analysis, data science, interpretation, visualisation, policy communication and data governance. Use a training-of-trainers model and maintain a roster of certified national, provincial and district analysts/enumerators to preserve institutional memory between assessment rounds. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b> | Ongoing / planned expansion     | Zimbabwe - National, provincial and district | FNC/ZimLAC; ZIMSTAT; MoHCC; universities and research institutions; relevant ministries; UNICEF; WFP; FAO and other technical partners | 2026–2030; annual competency refresh                          | Create a sustainable national skills base for the full data-to-decision cycle; improve data quality and analytical depth; reduce dependence on external technical assistance and strengthen institutional continuity.                                    |
| Malawi vision 2063 has Human Capital Development as one of its enablers to improve capacity of the general population in the country's priorities. <b>(Wellcome Trust grantee)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Planned / ongoing strengthening | Malawi - national, regional and district     | Malawi Vulnerability Committee (MVAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance, UNICEF; WFP; FAO; FEWS NET and technical partners | Malawi First Ten Year Implementation Plan 1 (MIP1), 2026–2030 | Sustainable national skills and capacity for informed decision making                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Action Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ongoing /planned                | Geographical focus                                                     | Partners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Timeline                                                                                                                                                | Intended impact                                                                                                                                                       |
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| Strengthen human and institutional capacity for FNS information management, M&E and evidence use. The NFNSP proposes a capacity-building needs assessment, workforce-readiness assessment, training materials/curricula and capacity development across state agencies, local government and community structures. <a href="#">(Wellcome Trust grantee)</a> | Planned / phased implementation | South Africa - national, provincial, district, municipal and community | Department of Agriculture; Department of Higher Education and Training; Department of Science, Technology and Innovation; Department of Health; Department of Basic Education; Department of Social Development; COGTA; municipalities; relevant agriculture/enterprise departments; Treasury; training and research institutions | NFNSP framework provides progressive milestones for 2029, 2033 and 2037; no separate start/completion date for the capacity needs assessment specified. | Strengthen capacity for data collection, management, analysis, interpretation, M&E and evidence use, improving the overall data-to-decision and implementation cycle. |