

Second International Conference on Nutrition

19-21 November 2014



WHY ICN2?

WHAT

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) is jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to take place at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 19-21 November 2014. The first International Conference on Nutrition, organized by FAO and WHO, was held in 1992, and produced a World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition.

ICN2 will review the progress made in the years intervening, focusing specifically on country-level achievements and proven

interventions in scaling up nutrition. It will also identify new challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition policies and coordination across multiple sectors. **ICN2 will be the first global intergovernmental conference to address the world's nutrition problems in the 21st century.**

FAO and WHO, as the leading agencies dealing with nutrition issues and its interrelationships with agriculture and health, are calling international attention to a renewed effort to address the issue in a holistic way.

HOW

ICN2 will bring together senior national policymakers from agriculture, health and other relevant ministries and agencies, with leaders of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, researchers, the private sector and consumers. The immediate challenge is to reach a consensus on ways to ensure a high degree of policy coherence between food supply and public health to guarantee food and nutrition security for all. Together, participants will identify policy priorities for improving nutritional outcomes.



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KEY MESSAGES

Much progress has been made since the first ICN in 1992. Today, 805 million people are chronically undernourished, down more than 209 million since 1990-92. However, there is still considerable room for improvement. Malnutrition does not stop at hunger—it is a major impediment to development and the full realization of human potential. For children especially, the long-term effects of malnutrition include both physical and cognitive stunting, preventing them from reaching their full potential in school. This in turn affects future job and income opportunities, thus perpetuating a cycle of poverty and slowing the economic development of the community.

From any side you look at it, the price tag of malnutrition is too high. That is why we need ICN2 right now.

*José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General*

The responsibility for proper nutrition does not lie solely on the individual—malnutrition has serious effects on the whole population, both on national health systems and on the entire cultural, social and economic fabric of nations. It is a global problem that requires a global solution. Addressing the causes requires cooperation across sectors from a range of key actors and policy makers, including governments, researchers, UN bodies and the private sector.

Investing in nutrition, therefore, is not only a moral imperative, but an economic one, as it improves productivity and economic growth, reduces health care costs and promotes education, intellectual capacity and social development.

KEY OUTCOMES

There are two expected outcome documents from ICN2.

The first, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, is a political outcome document identifying public policy priorities in addressing malnutrition, and committing signatories to a list of concrete goals towards achieving the global nutrition targets by 2025. The second outcome document is a framework of

action for implementation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. More broadly, ICN2 will serve to reinvigorate the international community and key stakeholders by developing specific nutrition-

Nutrition is a public issue that Governments need to take responsibility for.

*José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General*

related targets and accountability mechanisms and committing resources to promote nutrition-enhancing food systems. It will also contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and reinforce the Secretary-General’s call to leaders to take up the “Zero Hunger Challenge”.



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KEY FACTS ON NUTRITION



805 million people suffer from chronic hunger[†]



162 million children under the age of five are stunted



99 million children are underweight*



51 million children are wasted due to acute malnutrition*



2 billion people suffer from one or more micronutrient deficiencies



1.4 billion people are overweight
500 million adults are obese



3.4 million people die each year due to overweight and obesity



About 45% of 6.9 million child deaths are linked to malnutrition*

Sources: [†]2014 SOFI report; *denotes info from WHO; all other figures from 2013 SOFA report ---- Updated on 23 September 2014

