

1. Context and Background

Winning the race to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 requires transforming health, food, and social protection systems to deliver better health, nutrition, and diets¹. Structural and systemic changes in food systems are needed to achieve this aim at both the global and country-level by ensuring adequate public expenditures and investment policies and coordination with civil society and private sector efforts, acknowledging countries’ unique contexts.

Recent analyses² emphasize that healthy diets – diets that reflect global dietary guidelines and include foods from several groups and have greater diversity within food groups – are unaffordable for more than 3 billion people. Healthy diets cost almost 5 times as much as diets that meet only the dietary energy needs through a starchy staple. The high cost and unaffordability of healthy diets are associated with increased food insecurity and different forms of malnutrition and constitute a significant obstacle for good nutrition and optimal human development. To increase the affordability of healthy diets, the cost of nutritious foods must come down. The cost drivers of these diets are found throughout the food supply chain, within the food environment, and in the political economy that shapes trade, public expenditure, and investment policies. Tackling these cost drivers will require massive transformations in food systems with no one-size-fits-all solution and different trade-offs and synergies for countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed more than ever the critical role to be played by the SUN Movement in keeping country-led nutrition on the global agenda. Meaningful impact is only possible by making health, food, and social protection systems work better for nutrition and prioritizing evidence-informed actions for enhanced nutrition investments. Rebuilding the food systems and establishing a more vital link with social protection programs to protect the most vulnerable will also enable SUN countries to “build back and forward better” from COVID-19. Food systems are all-encompassing – we are all a part of it, and we must all come together to make this change happen.

The 2021 Nutrition for Growth and UN Food Systems Summits will serve as turning points in the world’s journey to achieve all the SDGs, with only four years left for achieving the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets. This is an unprecedented opportunity to recommit to the momentum around nutrition by bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders to identify the most powerful ways to make food systems more robust and equitable in varying contexts. It is only by connecting many stakeholders – from youth activists to indigenous leaders, smallholder farmers to scientists and CEOs – that we can concretely improve access to healthy, nutritious diets and ultimately driving progress on all the SDGs.

2. Objectives of the webinar

The webinar, “*Non-affordability of healthy, nutritious diets – transforming food and social protection systems to better protect the most vulnerable,*” is jointly organized by the SUN Movement Secretariat and the World Food Programme (WFP). The webinar aims to discuss the required changes in food systems and the link to social protection systems to improve access to affordable healthy diets, especially for the most vulnerable populations during the third phase of the SUN Movement. This virtual meeting will set the stage for effective food systems transformation with the following specific objectives:

¹ [Nutrition for Growth Commitment Guide \(2020\)](#)

² The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report 2020

- Enhance participants' knowledge of the cost of nutritious foods and non-affordability of healthy, nutritious diets in SUN countries and how this has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Review examples of how countries can monitor cost and affordability of nutritious diets at the sub-national level;
- Increase understanding that there are different drivers of non-affordability of a healthy, nutritious diet across contexts;
- Discuss the changes that are required across systems at both the country and global level to enhance the affordability of healthy diets and share specific examples of positive food and social protection systems adaptations.

All relevant materials will be shared ahead of the webinar. The notes and presentations (in French, English, and Spanish) will also be disseminated following the webinar for those unable to attend.

3. Organizers:

- Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat.
- World Food Programme, Systems Analysis for Nutrition team (responsible for conducting the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) situation analyses www.wfp.org/fillthenutrientgap)

4. Date/time (tentative):

- 9th of December 2020 10:00 am - 11:30 am (CET)
- 9th of December 2020 3:00 pm – 4.30 pm (CET)

5. Participants:

This teleconference will be conducted in English. The list below is not exhaustive:

- SUN Focal points and SUN Movement Networks.
- SUN Movement partners (IFNA, NEPAD, SICA, African Leaders for Nutrition/African Development Bank, civil society, private sectors, World Bank, etc.).

6. Background information

Ahead of this meeting, we encourage you to have a look at the following documents and blogposts:

- [Somalia's FNG report](#)
- [Timor Leste's FNG report](#)

WFP relevant blogpost, briefs on FNG and social protection

- [A video on the 'Fill the Nutrient Gap' analysis](#)
- [A brief on social protection](#)
- [A brief on food systems in fragile settings](#)
- <https://youtu.be/3hBRuJIT7vw>
- <https://insight.wfp.org/overcoming-the-food-security-and-nutrition-roadblocks-to-social-protection-responses-to-covid-19-7554f460ab79>