

A close-up photograph of a woman with short dark hair, looking down at a baby she is holding. The baby is wrapped in a vibrant red cloth with a white and blue plaid pattern and is wearing a blue knit hat with a pom-pom. The woman is wearing a colorful patterned scarf. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

# Vision and Roadmap

April 2021

TOKYO  
**NUTRITION  
FOR GROWTH**  
SUMMIT 2021

Food, Health, & Prosperity for All

# Good nutrition

is a basic need for everyone, everywhere.

Imagine a world where all women and children have the nutrition they need to live healthy, productive lives, nurturing families and communities and putting the world on a path toward greater economic prosperity. Nutrition fuels our health—providing the foundation for our well-being and that of future generations. Nutrition fuels our ambitions—for children to go to school ready to learn, stay in school, and go on to better jobs. Nutrition fuels our progress—investing in our collective brainpower means a more productive workforce and thriving economies. Nutrition fuels the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—averting malnutrition will help achieve at least 12 of the 17 SDGs and foster a healthy, prosperous, and stable world in which no one is left behind. Investing in nutrition is also one of the best buys in global health and development: for every \$1 invested in nutrition, \$16 is returned to the local economy.

COVID-19's disruptions to regional, national, and global health, food, and economic systems are already significantly impacting global poverty. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that extreme poverty has increased by 7 percent in just a few months because of COVID-19, ending a 20-year streak of progress. 37 million people have been pushed below the extreme poverty line.

The pandemic has triggered an unparalleled global health crisis, but the compounding food security and nutrition crisis could ultimately have even more severe consequences than the immediate health impacts of COVID-19 itself. The impact on malnutrition threatens to especially affect low- and middle-income countries and women and girls, who already represent 60% of the world's food insecure. Each percentage point drop in global GDP is expected to result in an additional 0.7 million stunted children. Standing Together for Nutrition (STfN) predicts that without timely action, an additional 9.3 million children will be wasted and 2.6 million children will be stunted, an additional 2.1 million maternal anemia cases and 3 million children will be born to low BMI women, and 168,000 additional children under five will die by 2022.\* These impacts augment an already high burden of stunting and wasting with limited progress in Africa in particular.

COVID-19 has compounded a long-standing problem that needs long-term investment and commitment in addition to an immediate response. The time for action is now.

## Launching a Nutrition for Growth Year of Action

COVID-19 has forced the postponement or cancellation of events that were planned for 2020 to mobilize additional investment to tackle malnutrition, including the Summit hosted by the Government of Japan in December 2020. The Government of Japan has committed to hosting the Summit in December 2021, yet a rapidly evolving global context is adding urgency to mobilizing resources for nutrition, and to integrate nutrition throughout the major events preceding the Summit.

The Year of Action kicked off with the December launch event in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the UN Call to Action on malnutrition. Major action-taking moments include the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021 which will build up to the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan in December 2021. Three likely key pledging moments have been identified, as illustrated in the following table, and more will be identified as the year progresses. Together, each key pledging moment will deliver a complementary set of nutrition commitments and will deliver a mutually reinforcing narrative about what is needed to deliver on our ambitions for nutrition—both in response to COVID-19 and as a long-term development priority.

\* Data under consideration by *Nature Food*. The paper is currently available in pre-print.

## Key Pledging Moments

Date	N4G Event	Host	Theme (tentative)
December 2020	N4G Year of Action Launch Event	Government of Canada and Government of Bangladesh	Launching a year of action on nutrition to address effects of COVID-19, support greater gender equity, and improve the health of women and children
July 2021	UN Food Systems Pre-Summit	UN and Government of Italy	Generating momentum for the upcoming UNFSS
September 2021	UN Food Systems Summit	UN	Strengthening food systems to deliver safe, affordable nutrition for all
December 2021	Tokyo N4G Summit 2021	Government of Japan	Food, health and prosperity for all: Culminating a year of action on nutrition

The N4G Year of Action signals the beginning of a new race toward a healthier, better-nourished future—a race toward ending malnutrition in all its forms in all countries. More than ever, this requires ensuring that everyone, including the most vulnerable, have access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food by 2030, as called for by the SDGs.

### Growing Progress: Maintaining Momentum in the Final Decade of the SDGs

Over the last decade, world leaders and the global community have recognized the power of better nutrition:

- In 2012, at the World Health Assembly, 194 countries agreed to the first-ever set of global nutrition targets.
- In 2013, at the first N4G Summit in London, 110 stakeholders agreed to prevent at least 20 million children from being stunted and save at least 1.7 million lives by 2020. Donors secured new commitments of over \$4 billion to tackle undernutrition and \$19 billion in complementary nutrition-sensitive investments between 2013 and 2020.
- In 2015, world leaders committed to end “all forms of malnutrition” by 2030 as part of the SDGs.
- In 2016, at the UN General Assembly, the Decade of Action on Nutrition was launched as a tool for all actors to set, track, and achieve commitments to end all forms of malnutrition. In addition, the Government of Brazil hosted a follow-on event to mark the second N4G moment.
- In 2017, at the Global Nutrition Summit in Milan, governments, civil society organizations, private philanthropies, and the private sector made financial and policy commitments totalling \$3.4 billion.
- Today, 62 countries lead the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement to end malnutrition in all its forms.

The progress we’ve made over the past decade reflects commitments we must keep—and momentum that must be maintained—as we enter the final decade of the SDGs.

### Growing Urgency: Delivering on an Unfinished Agenda and Preparing for New Challenges

Despite significant progress, there is an urgent need to accelerate action. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing all regions and has complex interlinkages with both obesity and undernutrition. Diets are changing, while the food system continues to be the contributor to greenhouse gases. The connection between nutrition, the global food system, and climate change cannot be ignored by the international community.

With growing demands on our food system and on our planet, the world is off track to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly nutrition targets and the target set by the SDGs to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. As the 2025 deadline approaches, nearly half of all child deaths are still due to malnutrition. Hunger is on the rise and healthy diets are still out of reach for far too many. Poor diet is now the leading risk factor for death worldwide, responsible for one in every five deaths globally—more than tobacco, high blood pressure, or any other health risk.

One in three people around the world struggle with at least one form of malnutrition—undernutrition, obesity, overweight, or micronutrient deficiencies—and current trends project that one in two people will be malnourished by 2025. Malnutrition costs the global economy \$3.5 trillion annually in lost productivity and health care costs—and most of these losses are preventable.

As the financial commitments made in London in 2013 expired in 2020, a new influx of resources and bold actions are urgently needed to change the course of malnutrition and build human capital to achieve economic prosperity for all. Investing in nutrition now will have an immediate payoff in terms of lives saved and stunting and wasting averted—as well as significant long-term impacts on health and economic development.

### **Growing Partnership: Harmonizing Sectors and Stakeholders to Deliver Impact**

The N4G Year of Action comes at a critical time, with only four years left to achieve the World Health Assembly targets on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, and nine years to reach the SDGs. Reaching these targets will require a massive scale up in global investment in nutrition. Countries, donors, the private sector, and civil society are stepping up to find innovative ways to drive progress.

Winning the race toward ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 requires a transformation of health systems and food systems to deliver better health, nutrition, and diets for the most vulnerable. A targeted focus on tackling undernutrition and reversing the global epidemics of obesity and diet-related disease are urgently needed since both fuel human capital. Above all, winning the race requires that the world prioritize the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable.

The N4G Year of Action kicked off with a launch event hosted by the Government of Canada on December 14th, 2020 to spur action towards the Tokyo N4G Summit. The outcomes of the Year of Action will be enshrined in a 2021 Compact designed to accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the SDGs.

The commitments to be made at the Summit will focus on three core areas (described in further detail on page 6):

**1. Health: Making nutrition integral to Universal Health Coverage UHC** because we know that investing in nutrition services in health systems can lead to greater well-being and more equitable development.

**2. Food: Building food systems that promote healthy diets and nutrition**, ensure livelihoods of producers, and are climate-smart because we know that the food the world produces and consumes impacts both people and planet.

**3. Resilience: Addressing malnutrition effectively in fragile and conflict-affected contexts** because we know that people impacted by violence and instability are especially vulnerable to malnutrition and young children in these settings need special attention.

**Promoting data-driven accountability and securing new investment and driving innovation in nutrition financing** cut across the above core areas.

Good nutrition lies at the heart of economic and social development and is the key to reducing inequality and eliminating poverty, for everyone, everywhere. The Year of Action is our opportunity to drive greater action toward a collective vision for 2030 in which no woman or child is held back from reaching their full potential because they did not have access to a healthy diet. Together we can save lives, change lives, unlock human potential, and create a lasting and transformational legacy for this generation and many more to come.

### **Securing Meaningful Commitments: Core Areas**

Considering the broad nature of the nutrition agenda, the Government of Japan would like to focus in on core areas scoped to create a lasting and transformational legacy in support of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the SDGs, and where the Government of Japan can provide global leadership. Global experts—spanning implementing agencies, UN agencies, donors, philanthropies, multilaterals, businesses, academia research communications, and civil society—were brought together to identify SMART commitments across core areas in five Working Groups. Broad recommendations from each of the five Working Groups have been outlined in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Commitment areas.



## Governance

An Advisory Group to the Government of Japan will serve as the primary forum for consultation and communication within the nutrition and development communities ahead of the summit. Advisory Group membership will include representatives of key constituency groups: donors, civil society, governments, academia, and business. Each constituency will have two representatives. The Advisory Group will also comprise current co-chairs of the five thematic Working Groups and build on the recommendations made by them. Advisory Group members will have the role of cascading information into their constituencies and compiling input to support the commitment-making process, as well as advising the Government of Japan at key decision points.

Alongside the Advisory Group, engagement with governments will take many forms and leverage existing political processes for consultations, for example the mid-term review of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and SUN country processes. Business action on nutrition will be encouraged through nutrition champions, business coalitions and industry alliances. International moments, such as the World Economic Forum, will be used to position the Summit as a historic moment for businesses to commit to nutrition and to the future sustainability and prosperity of the planet.

# TOKYO NUTRITION FOR GROWTH SUMMIT 2021 — ROADMAP

