



**UN-Nutrition input to the thematic review of the 2025
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on
“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its
Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”**

In 2025, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will review in depth: **SDG 3** (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), **SDG 5** (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), **SDG 8** (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), **SDG 14** (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources) and **SDG 17** (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

UN-Nutrition was invited to contribute to the 2025 HLPF thematic review. The UN-Nutrition Steering Committee members,¹ therefore, offer the following collective input, including a proposed key message to be included in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

The collective input does not preclude or supersede any other input provided by the individual agencies. It will be submitted online by 3 March 2025, according to instructions included in the invitation letter.

¹ Nutrition heads from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and the CGIAR System Organization.

(a) Assessment of the impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 from a UN-Nutrition perspective

In recent years, some progress has been made towards the nutrition-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) currently under review (SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17) (United Nations, 2023). For instance, preventable deaths among children under five years of age have been reduced to historical lows (fewer than 5 million preventable child deaths today) (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank and United Nations, 2024), with around half of the reduction attributable to improvements in nutrition (Black *et al.*, 2013). Consequently, there are record numbers of surviving children whose human capital development is critical to building prosperous societies and nations.

The world is facing multiple, persistent and interconnected emergencies, however. Economic instability, chronic poverty and inequality, mass urbanization, war and conflict, and the degradation of the natural environment are causing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, undermining good nutrition, particularly among vulnerable groups such as women and young children. Moreover, these multiple crises have synergistic effects, with climate change acting as a crisis amplifier, exacerbating all other threats through the impact of severe and extreme weather events. Economies, food systems and health systems are even more vulnerable, while the peace and security of societies everywhere are imperilled. One of the major outcomes of the multiple and synergistic crises is the unacceptably high number of people still suffering from hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, which compromises the achievement of not only SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17, but of all the SDGs.

The *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024* shows that global hunger, as measured by the prevalence of undernourishment, has persisted at nearly the same levels for three consecutive years since the sharp increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An estimated 713 million to 757 million people faced hunger in 2023 – 1 in 11 people around the world. The prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity (SDG 2, Target 2.1) has also remained unchanged. In 2023, an estimated 28.9 percent of the global population – 2.33 billion people – was moderately or severely food insecure. It is projected that 582 million people will be chronically undernourished by the end of the decade, more than half of them in Africa (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024).

Children are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, with long-term consequences for their survival, growth and development, and future economic prosperity. Despite progress on reducing stunting by one-third over the last few decades, today, around 150 million children continue to be affected by chronic malnutrition. More than 36 million children under five years of age are acutely malnourished, particularly among displaced populations and those affected by conflict (FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises, 2024). At the other end of the spectrum, there is a growing overweight and obesity epidemic, with concerning rises reported in the world's least developed countries. Obesity is rising in all age groups globally, posing a menace to good health and well-being. Projections suggest that one in five adults (more than 1.2 billion people) will be obese by 2030, with nearly all countries off track to achieve the 2030 global targets for adult obesity (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024).

Eating a healthy diet throughout life is critical to preventing all forms of malnutrition, but the lack of access (physical and financial) to nutritious, diverse and affordable foods remains a critical issue. About 2.8 billion people in the world (around 30 percent) were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022, with immense inequalities prevailing – 71.5 percent in low-income countries, 52.6 percent in lower-middle-income countries and 21.5 percent in upper-middle-income countries – hindering progress on the SDGs (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024).

(b) Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially with regard to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages between the Goals and targets

Effective delivery action area 1: Healthy, nutritious meals in schools

Healthy and nutritious school meals from sustainable food systems have the potential to impact multiple sectors (such as health, nutrition, education, social protection and local agriculture) and contribute directly to SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8, as well as indirectly to SDGs 1 and 10 (WFP, 2017). The school system is an effective platform for delivering health and nutrition services, such as deworming, micronutrient supplementation, and providing food and nutrition education to raise

awareness of healthy diets and eating habits (FAO, 2020). School meals contribute substantially to education by helping children get into school and stay there, while also helping cognitive development and learning so they can reach their full potential (UNSCN, 2018; FAO, 2019). When properly designed to prioritize homegrown and locally produced food purchases, school meals can create reliable and stable markets for smallholder farmers, which can strengthen local value chains, increase incomes and support local employment by creating jobs in the production, processing, distribution and preparation of food (FAO and WFP, 2018; WFP, 2017, 2024). Climate-smart action can be linked to school meals in a variety of ways, including by giving preference to public-sector purchases of food produced locally through sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring the reduction of food loss and waste. Importantly, school meals increase school enrolment and attendance, especially among girls, and boost children's ability to concentrate, participate and learn. Furthermore, they can support girls and children who are vulnerable to multiple forms of exclusion and discrimination – they improve girls' level of education, reducing the risk of early and forced marriage (WFP, 2017, 2024).

The government-led and partner-supported School Meals Coalition unites more than 100 countries and 130 partners with the shared goal of delivering healthy and nutritious school meals to every child by 2030. With a 99 percent domestic investment of around USD 48 billion, 418 million children receive school meals around the world, 30 million more than in 2020, surpassing pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels in a remarkable recovery from the daunting situation of school closures during the pandemic. This equates to about 41 percent of children enrolled in primary education, making school feeding one of the world's largest social safety nets (WFP, 2022).

Despite the effective delivery and significant progress made, these efforts must be maintained and enhanced to provide a school meal to every child by 2030. There are huge global disparities in school meal coverage, which remains lowest where it is most needed. In low-income countries, only 18 percent of children receive a daily, nutritious meal in school, despite a sizeable increase in domestic funding for school meals from 30 per cent in 2020 to 45 percent in 2022 (WFP, 2022).

Effective delivery action area 2: Exclusive breastfeeding up to six months

Undernutrition is associated with an estimated 45 percent of all child deaths (Rollins *et al.*, 2016). Ensuring access to the right nutrition during the first 1 000 days of life, from the start of a woman's pregnancy to the child's second birthday, is crucial. Infant and young child feeding is key to

improving child survival and promoting healthy growth and development. Breastfeeding is so critical that it could save the lives of more than 820 000 children under the age of five each year, according to the latest available data (UNICEF, 2023). Early initiation of breastfeeding, within one hour of birth, and exclusive breastfeeding for six months protects newborns from infection and reduces the risk of mortality due to diarrhoea and other infectious diseases (WHO, 2023a). Breast milk is also the first food and remains an important source of energy and nutrients in children aged 6–23 months. Children and adolescents who were breastfed as babies are less likely to be overweight or obese. In addition, they perform better on intelligence tests and have higher school attendance (WHO, 2023a). Breastfeeding is associated with higher income in adult life. Improving child development and reducing health costs brings economic gains for individual families, as well as at the national level (WHO, 2023a).

Breastfeeding practices are highly responsive to supportive interventions. There are several effective, evidence-based actions that help protect, promote and support breastfeeding. These include maternity-leave policies, adopting the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions implementing the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding set out in the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, providing supportive health services and organizing community support (WHO, 2023a).

Significant progress has been made on increasing the global exclusive breastfeeding rate among infants under six months of age. Based on the latest estimates, the global rate has risen steadily from 37.1 percent (25.7 million) in 2012 to 48 percent (31.3 million) in 2022 (UNICEF, 2023). Most regions, aside from North America, have seen a rising trend in exclusive breastfeeding (UNICEF, 2023), putting it within reach of the WHA target of 50 percent by 2025. Five countries have already met the target: Burundi, Peru, Rwanda, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka (Global Nutrition Target Collaborators, 2024).

The major reductions in the global burden of disease, injury and risk factors attributable to exclusive breastfeeding should be recognized as a huge scientific and policy success (Global Nutrition Target Collaborators, 2024). Yet, efforts must continue and be strengthened for the world to achieve the 2030 target of a 70 percent exclusive breastfeeding rate, or even the proposed recalibrated target of 60 percent (WHO, 2025a). The latter is likely to be endorsed by the WHA in May 2025, in line with the recent World Health Organization Executive Board decision proposed by 23 countries in February (WHO, 2025b).

Effective delivery action area 3: Reduction in child stunting

Stunted growth refers to the failure to reach one's full potential for growth. Children experience impaired growth and development due to poor nutrition, as well as repeated infection and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. Child stunting has consequences throughout a person's life, such as poor cognition and educational performance, low adult wages, lost productivity and, when accompanied by excessive weight gain later in childhood, increased risk of nutrition-related chronic disease in adult life. Globally, in 2022 (the latest year for which data are available), 149 million children under the age of five were estimated to be stunted (WHO, 2023a). However, the global prevalence of stunting has declined steadily from 26.3 percent (177.9 million) in 2012 to 22.3 percent (149 million) in 2022 (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024).

To reduce child stunting, there are various nutrition-sensitive and -specific interventions targeted at women who are pregnant or breastfeeding and children under the age of two, which generate positive synergies and outcomes when delivered by the health and other sectors (for example, agriculture, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and social protection) through a coherent multisectoral approach. These include improvements in maternal and paternal education, access to safe water and sanitation, access to maternal health and family planning services, social protection and improvements in household socioeconomic status (Vaivada *et al.*, 2020).

Dietary improvements, including higher rates of exclusive breastfeeding, also play an important role. Food-based approaches, including the diversification of agricultural production, are crucial to improving household diets by increasing access to a wider variety of nutritious foods essential to reducing child stunting and improving overall nutrition outcomes. The observed reduction in stunting is another policy success story (Global Nutrition Target Collaborators, 2024). Effectively delivering multisectoral actions can make a positive contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. Efforts, however, must continue and be strengthened. Despite considerable progress, the world is currently not on track to achieve the 2030 target of halving the number of stunted children under the age of five by 2030 (to 13.5 percent). If the current trend persists, by 2030, an estimated 19.5 percent of all children under five will still be stunted and suffer lifelong consequences (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024).

(c) Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards the SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress

Measure 1: Invest in nutrition

Good nutrition is a fundamental human right and the backbone of human and societal development. Improving nutrition is one of the most cost-effective investments in global development for the achievement of all SDGs. A full scale-up of interventions proven effective to address undernutrition would generate an estimated USD 2.4 trillion in economic benefits, with a cost-benefit ratio of 1:23 (Shekar *et al.*, eds., 2024; Herens *et al.*, 2023). This means that for every USD 1 invested, USD 23 would be returned. Furthermore, the negative economic and social costs of inaction are enormous, estimated at USD 41 trillion over 10 years, comprising USD 21 trillion in economic productivity losses due to undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies and USD 20 trillion in economic and social costs from overweight and obesity (Shekar *et al.*, eds, 2024).

Scaling up financing for food security and nutrition requires innovative, inclusive and equitable solutions. The Child Nutrition Fund, led by the United Nations Children's Fund, is prime example of innovative financing, bringing together public and private resources to improve maternal and child nutrition. The increases in coverage of interventions to combat child wasting over the last few years are directly attributable to greater investment in child wasting programmes.

Countries with limited or moderate ability to access financing flows show, on average, a higher prevalence of undernourishment and stunting in children under five years of age (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024). Moreover, fragile and crisis-affected settings have unique nutrition needs, but progress in addressing them has been limited, hindered by the persistent inadequacy of humanitarian funding in these contexts. Despite an increase in the volume of funding for nutrition in fragile contexts between 2016 and 2022, there is still a major gap between funding needs and actual allocations to the sector, the latter averaging only 55 percent of total funding needs during the 2016-2022 period (Global Nutrition Cluster, 2023).

Continuing to advocate for more traditional and non-traditional donor funding, particularly for fragile states, and garnering the necessary political attention is crucial. Top priority should be given to supporting countries facing constraints in accessing affordable, sufficient, long-term, predictable and flexible funding, with grants and concessional loans the most suitable options. Increases in domestic tax revenues, linking taxation to food security and nutrition outcomes, and blended finance approaches are other meaningful options to be explored. Donors and other international actors need to increase their risk tolerance, while governments must invest in public goods, reducing corruption and tax evasion (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024).

Measure 2: Transform food systems to enable everyone to consume a healthy diet from sustainable food systems

The multiple crises the world faces, coupled with the unequal distribution of power in food systems, are fuelling a transition to diets that are high in refined carbohydrates, added sugars, unhealthy fats and salt, in addition to highly processed foods. These diets tend to have low nutritional quality and a high environmental footprint, exacerbating both environmental and nutritional challenges, hindering progress on achieving all of the SDGs (UN-Nutrition, 2023). Furthermore, in many fragile contexts, access to a healthy diet is even further limited due to conflict, political instability, climate shocks, persistent inequalities, and disrupted health, food and social protection systems.² In such settings, targeted solutions are essential to help move the needle on current nutrient gaps while working to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups and systems to future crises in the longer term (FAO, 2021e). Ensuring that healthy diets from sustainable food systems are available, accessible, affordable, desirable and sustainably consumed will bring clear co-benefits for people and planet and act as a foundation for achieving all of the SDGs (UN-Nutrition, 2023; FAO, 2023). Transforming food systems to make them sustainable and deliver healthy diets is, therefore, essential and urgent (FAO, 2018, 2024; UN-Nutrition, 2023). Proven policy approaches exist that span the entire breadth of food systems (FAO, 2017a, 2021a, 2021b, 2021c, 2021d; UN-Nutrition, 2023). Leveraging the potential and vast diversity of aquatic foods through both supply- and demand-side measures can support dietary diversification

² The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization recently launched a joint statement on “What are healthy diets”, outlining the four principles of healthy diets – adequate, balanced, diverse and moderate (FAO and WHO, 2024).

while protecting planetary and human health. For example, promoting the consumption of underutilized aquatic foods (such as sea cucumbers and mussels), small pelagic fish and aquatic plants, and encouraging people to opt for the “catch of the day” or by-catch are some ways of shifting consumer behaviour that can support mutually reinforcing nutrition and environmental goals. It is crucially important for these strategies to be complemented with sustainable supply-side actions, such as the promotion of polyculture, small-scale fisheries and the production of innovative aquatic food products (FAO, 2017b; UN-Nutrition, 2021). Comprehensive approaches also exist to improve the food environments within which consumers make their food choices (FAO, 2016b). They include nutrition education or consumer awareness through front-of-pack labelling, restricting the marketing to children of foods high in fats, sugars and salt, compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and implementing sugar taxes. Moreover, policies promoting innovative initiatives and partnerships between governments, farmers and businesses to reduce food loss and waste are key components of the solutions package (FAO, 2016a; UNSCN, 2016a, 2016b; UN-Nutrition, 2023).

Measure 3: Increase multisector policymaking, collaboration and implementation at all levels for indivisible food security, nutrition, socioeconomic and environmental outcomes

Combining the efforts of multiple sectors and actors is the only way to fully implement the 2030 SDG agenda. Multisectoral policymaking and systems thinking at the national and subnational level, as well as in collaboration with non-governmental partners, must be encouraged and supported in sectors including health, agriculture, environment, water, energy, trade, finance, labour, education, social protection, and women, youth and children. Such multisectoral initiatives should focus on fostering equity, empowering women and supporting vulnerable populations with a view to achieving indivisible food security, nutrition, socioeconomic and environmental outcomes. Greater investment is also needed in generating evidence to explore in greater depth the impact of climate on diet quality (food composition, nutrient concentration and bioavailability), dietary diversity, and the consequent links to nutrition and health outcomes. Furthermore, it is important to broaden awareness and capacity to use tools and apply methodologies that help decision-makers weigh trade-offs and make informed decisions (such as diet modelling tools, true

cost accounting and life-cycle assessments), given the interlinkages between nutrition, food security and the environment, particularly against the backdrop of the triple planetary crisis (UN-Nutrition, 2023). Coordination platforms such as UN-Nutrition and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, as well as multistakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security, play a crucial role in ensuring that relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, act as one to underpin effective national and subnational leadership capable of managing power imbalances and building consensus.

(d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UN-Nutrition is not an intergovernmental body, but the interagency mechanism that brings together United Nations agencies, programmes and funds at global, regional and country level to optimize collective efforts to support increased positive impact on nutrition on the ground (UN-Nutrition, 2022). For UN-Nutrition members, acting as one, speaking as one and learning as one are indispensable actions and measures being undertaken for delivering more impactful and efficient support to Members with a view to implementing the commitments of the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit and the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, and achieving all of the SDGs and building peaceful and secure societies that leave no one behind.

(e) Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF

We strongly recommend the inclusion of one fundamental message in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF:

We recognize and affirm that investments in nutrition must be increased. as they are at the heart of achieving the SDGs.

Nutrition is a maker and marker of sustainable development. All SDGs, including the five SDGs under review (SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 SDG 17), need to be explicit about their relationship to nutrition. Investments in preventing and reducing malnutrition in all its forms must be increased to achieve the 2030 Agenda as a whole. With respect to the thematic review of the 2025 HLPF, improvements in nutrition can drive down maternal, infant and child deaths, foster gender equality and partnerships, boost productivity and support the sustainable use of oceans and inland waters.

Good nutrition is fundamental to good health and well-being, with inextricable links to both infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and some cancers. Severe wasting, the deadliest (yet preventable) form of undernutrition, is directly linked to child mortality (Target 3.2.1). Severely wasted children have a 12 times higher risk of dying than their well-nourished counterparts (WHO, 2023b). While considerable progress has been made on meeting the SDG 3 target on under-five mortality (146 out of 200 countries have met or are on track to meet it), stepping up efforts to address child wasting is crucial for further progress in the final five years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Efforts to reduce maternal mortality (Target 3.1.1) are well off track. Likewise, progress on anaemia among women of reproductive age (SDG 2) is lagging, with figures going in the wrong direction (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2024). A complex issue with multifactorial causes, anaemia necessitates a multi-pronged approach spanning multiple systems (food, education, health, sanitation and social protection). Known associations between anaemia and maternal mortality indicate that addressing anaemia among women of reproductive age is central to driving down maternal mortality rates (WHO, 2025c). Anaemia also hinders economic growth (SDG 8), causing fatigue and reducing productivity (WHO, 2025c), underscoring the need to accelerate coordinated action against anaemia. Research shows that there is a USD 12 return for every USD 1 invested in reducing anaemia in women (WHO, 2023c). Furthermore, it will not be possible to achieve a one-third reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2030 (SDG 3.4 target) without addressing obesity (WHO, 2023d).

Similarly, it will be impossible to tackle malnutrition without gender equality, recognizing that women's empowerment supports nutrition gains and that women have physiological and social vulnerabilities to malnutrition. In addition, many nutrition programmes are targeted at women in view of these physiological and social vulnerabilities and the importance of addressing malnutrition during the first 1 000 days to avoid irreversible consequences later in life. Nutrition programmes, therefore, provide an entry point for addressing sensitive gender issues and fostering women's empowerment. With progress on track for a mere 15.4 percent of SDG 5 indicators, nutrition programmes present opportunities to accelerate progress on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Within the context of SDG 14, aquatic foods are crucial to building resilient sustainable food systems that can deliver healthy diets for all. Aquatic foods – particularly small fish and seafood – are a valuable source of protein, omega-3 essential fatty acids and a variety of vitamins and minerals. They also tend to be lower in calories than other animal-source foods, with scope to address the triple burden of malnutrition (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity), as well as being more affordable than other animal-source foods, helping to fill nutrient gaps in low-resource settings. Similarly, some aquatic foods have a lower environmental footprint (UN-Nutrition, 2021). Conserving oceans and inland waters and promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns of aquatic foods is instrumental to safeguarding good nutrition now and in future. Moreover, environmental conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources has vast potential to support women's empowerment, seeing as about half of all people employed in the primary and secondary fisheries and aquaculture sectors are women (UN-Nutrition, 2021). Efforts to integrate sustainability considerations into national food systems-based dietary guidelines provide a means of enhancing progress towards SDG 14 targets such as 14.2, 14.4 and 14.6. Lastly, because of the multidimensional nature of nutrition, partnerships (including the UN-Nutrition platform) and coordinated action across sectors are intrinsic to the fight against malnutrition. Stepping up holistic action to address malnutrition will inherently have positive spillover effects on partnerships for sustainable development more broadly.

Nutrition investments have unparalleled potential to build human capital, drive economic growth and prosperity and, when carefully designed, provide additional climate co-benefits. Every USD 1

invested in addressing undernutrition generates a return of USD 23, and a full scale-up of interventions proven effective in addressing undernutrition would generate an estimated an estimated USD 2.4 trillion of economic benefits (Shekar *et al.*, eds., 2024). Domestic and development assistance resources must rise to this challenge. Given their economic constraints, however, it will be imperative to explore innovative financing sources, including from the private sector. The costs of inaction are far too high, equating to trillions of dollars' worth of lost human capital that will impinge on future economic productivity, as well as the ability to shape a more prosperous and equitable world on a liveable planet for all.

Annex

Background information on nutrition and the SDGs

The relationship between nutrition and all of the SDGs is very clear. SDG 2 focuses on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. When a community is adequately nourished, it can reach its full developmental (SDG 4) and economic (SDG 8) potential. This helps to reduce poverty (SDG 1) and, when properly targeted, reduce inequalities (SDG 10) and ensure that no one is left behind. Healthy diets from sustainable food systems (SDG 2) are the tie that binds environmental sustainability to human health, economic prosperity, equity and well-being (SDG 3). Better nutrition is associated with enhanced knowledge and behaviours linked to food hygiene and sanitation, while the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all affects nutrition outcomes (SDG 6). Access to affordable energy (SDG 7) is essential to producing food, so has an impact on nutrition. It also reduces the time that women must spend searching for firewood and cuts indoor pollution – both related to sickness-mediated nutritional compromise. At the same time, improved nutrition fuels demand for better infrastructure (transport, irrigation, energy, and information and communications technology), supporting innovation, industrialization and productivity through greater working capacity and increased demand across food systems (SDG 9). Innovations in food systems, meanwhile, can make sustainable healthy diets more available and affordable. Healthy diets from sustainable food systems are also linked to responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) by cities and communities (SDG 11). Applying territorial approaches to sustainable food systems and improving life on land (SDG 15) leads to more diverse food consumption and production patterns, contributing to greater biodiversity. Partnerships between all sectors and stakeholder groups (SDG 17) are needed, as nutrition requires a multisectoral and multistakeholder approach to mobilizing action that generates such synergies (UNSCN, 2014).

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