ASSESS PROGRESS AGAINST GLOBAL TARGETS

1. Support more nutrition progress stories. Every country is an example of nutrition success, failure, or stagnation, but these stories need to be told. Countries that are on track to meet global goals can provide guidance and inspiration on how to reduce malnutrition; countries that are not on track also demand further understanding and analysis. Funders should encourage researchers to undertake these assessments, journals should publish these reports, and findings should be disseminated in mainstream media. The need for credible stories is particularly great wherever indicators are stagnating or worsening. Given the urgent need for progress stories, by 2018 a major multiyear, multicountry research program should be funded on why change does or does not happen.

2. Invest in more and better data to assess progress. The availability of internationally comparable data on nutrition outcomes is still weak, either because high-quality data are not collected at the country level or because they are not reported to the United Nations—but these data are essential to ensuring accountability.
   • Surveys on rates of under-age-5 stunting, wasting, and overweight, as well as exclusive breastfeeding, should be conducted at least every three to five years. More surveys need to assess anemia. The funders of Demographic Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, and other such surveys should be prepared to coordinate more among themselves and respond to government demand for surveys every three years. Countries with high burdens of malnutrition and with data more than five years old should be a priority for new data collection.
   • By 2020 all high-income countries should make their data compatible with UN databases.
   • Within the next 12 months, nutrition champions within the UN and multilateral agencies should strengthen nutrition’s presence in the ongoing “data revolution” discussion to ensure that nutrition is not left behind. This effort could start with the World Data Revolution for Sustainable Development Forum in the second half of 2016.
3. Start assessing national progress on nutrition every year. Countries should consider producing annual national reports on nutrition, linked to current processes, and use these data to assess progress and evidence on what works, adjust tactics and budgets, amend national nutrition plans, and be accountable for progress.

### MAKE SMART COMMITMENTS

1. Set more SMART targets. All national governments should establish SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) national targets for stunting, wasting, exclusive breastfeeding, low birthweight, anemia, childhood overweight, adult obesity, diabetes, and salt reduction by the end of 2017. These targets should be ambitious but achievable and aligned.

2. Establish more subnational targets. National nutrition plans should develop and incorporate nutrition outcome and input targets for major administrative regions.

3. Food and beverage companies should set and report against a larger number of SMART targets to improve nutrition. Key areas are adherence to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, significant reductions in advertising and marketing to children, and the reduction of sugar, salt, and fat across their entire product lines. Companies should also clearly publish these targets, as well as their performance against them. The next Access to Nutrition Index evaluation should report substantial progress in these areas from the 22 largest global food and beverage companies assessed.

4. Make all commitments SMART. Governments, agencies, parliaments, civil society organizations (CSOs), donors, and businesses: Make nutrition commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, and time bound. Our SMART guide can help you.

5. Make commitments that address all forms of malnutrition. UN member states and agencies, parliaments, CSOs, donors, and businesses: Ensure that future nutrition commitments address all forms (and combinations) of malnutrition according to their nutritional contexts—stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity, overweight, and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases.

6. Use all new opportunities to make SMART commitments. UN member states and agencies, parliaments, CSOs, and donors: Use the Decade of Action, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) process as an opportunity to raise your level of ambition for SMART nutrition commitments.

7. Agree upon one strong and independent global reporting mechanism for nutrition in all its forms. By the end of 2017, all nutrition stakeholders should engage in a process, as part of the Decade of Action, to agree on one inclusive, independent mechanism to monitor progress on outcomes, actions, and inputs relating to all forms of nutrition under the SDGs.

8. Report on commitments. UN member states and agencies, CSOs, donors, and businesses: Be accountable by reporting on your progress on nutrition annually. The Global Nutrition Report 2017 should be able to report a better than 90 percent response rate.

### ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION

1. Strengthen interministerial task forces across malnutrition in all its forms. By the end of 2018, all national governments should build interministerial task forces to implement nutrition policies, as well as national advisory councils or commissions. Such mechanisms should do the following:

   - Have a direct line to the office of the head of state
   - Include bottom-up, social participation (for example, academia and CSOs)
   - Oversee the development and/or implementation of policies and programs to address malnutrition in all its forms

   In addition, by 2018 the donor community should provide funding for at least 25 such mechanisms, to allow them to build capacity and ensure that they are working effectively.

2. Convert recommendations into legislation. Governments should implement and monitor widely recommended policies and programs that support breastfeeding. Specifically, governments should make SMART commitments to

   - implement all the provisions outlined in the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes by the time of the N4G Summit in 2020; and
   - also by 2020, ratify the International Labour Organization’s convention to provide maternity leave protection and other workplace support,
and monitor and report on workplace policies for continued breastfeeding and child care.

3. **Implement policies to support recommendations.** Governments should implement and monitor widely recommended policies and programs that promote healthy diets, such as salt/sodium reduction policies (including legislated targets); policies to replace saturated fats and trans fats with unsaturated fats; restrictions on marketing of foods high in fats, sugars, and salt to children; and taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages. To date, only 10 percent of countries report progress on three core policies (implementing the World Health Organization’s recommendations on marketing to children, salt reduction, and trans and saturated fat reduction): by 2030 all countries should be able to report significant progress on these three.

4. **Scale up the 13 proven nutrition-specific interventions.** Governments and international stakeholders should work to scale up coverage of proven nutrition-specific interventions—at both the global and national levels—with a focus on integrating nutrition actions into health system platforms. Of the 13 interventions we review, the median coverage rate ranges from 1 to 79 percent. By 2030 the median coverage rate for all 13 should be 90 percent.

5. **Deepen understanding of scale-up and quality implementation of all proven nutrition interventions.** Researchers should explore the technical, political, and economic enablers and barriers to the uptake, implementation, and enforcement of nutrition interventions. Areas where more research is needed include

- lessons learned from successful task forces and councils;
- why some countries achieve better coverage than others for a given nutrition-specific intervention, and why some nutrition-specific interventions are more scalable than others, even within the same country; and
- how incorporating proven nutrition-specific interventions into health systems affects nutrition and broader health outcomes.

By the end of 2018, research funders should have announced at least two major multicountry-funded research programs on the enablers and barriers to uptake, implementation, and enforcement of proven nutrition policies and programs.

ACCELERATE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNDERLYING DRIVERS

1. **Set targets for underlying driver outcomes.** During the next revision of their national nutrition and noncommunicable disease plans, country governments and CSOs should identify the primary underlying drivers of their unique nutrition contexts and establish targets to accelerate improvement in them.

2. **Set targets for nutrition-sensitive spending.** Governments, UN agencies, CSOs, donors, and businesses should make more ambitious commitments about the percentages of their investments in food systems; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); education; gender equity; and social protection programs that are explicitly designed to help address all forms of malnutrition.

3. **Deepen understanding of common drivers of poor nutrition.** Researchers need to create a unified, conceptual framework for understanding the underlying drivers of overweight/obesity, micronutrient deficiency, stunting, and wasting—and identify common drivers of all forms of malnutrition. This will help guide specific commitments by governments, donors, the UN, and businesses at the underlying level. This should be published in a Lancet nutrition series and supported by funders and governments.

4. **Strengthen nutrition action for those affected by conflict and emergencies.** Leading national and international humanitarian stakeholders must ensure that their actions are more nutrition oriented, and they need to do a better job of

- monitoring access of vulnerable groups to humanitarian interventions that tackle malnutrition and bridge the gap between humanitarian and development interventions;
- meeting Sphere standards on the implementation of humanitarian response in food and nutrition as a way to strengthen accountability to vulnerable groups; and
- systematically using climate science, social protection mechanisms, and new data technologies to improve the ability of underlying drivers to improve preparedness for and response to shocks.

These stakeholders should be encouraged to make SMART commitments in the aforementioned areas as part of the 2016 N4G process, and as they set country-level SDG targets.
**FINANCE THE GLOBAL TARGETS**

1. **Increase budgetary allocations to nutrition-specific programs.** In line with analyses reported in Chapter 7, governments and donors must triple their allocations to high-impact interventions that address stunting, wasting, anemia, and exclusive breastfeeding over the 2016–2025 period to meet global targets.

2. **Increase budgetary allocations to obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases.** The funding of obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable disease policy and interventions represents a small fraction of spending of government budgets and international aid. Governments should cost their national noncommunicable disease plans as they develop them, and funders should support these plans.

3. **Expand the share of sectoral budgets that aim to improve nutritional status.** Governments, civil society, and development agencies need to step up their efforts to make a larger percentage of budgets in agriculture, education, the food system, health systems, social protection, and WASH work more directly for all forms of nutrition. These budgets are large, yet a small fraction of them factor nutrition explicitly into their aims. An essential first step is to set a baseline and a SMART spending target in each sector. Countries that have led the way on nutrition budgeting could set the example again by reporting on such targets in the 2017 Global Nutrition Report.

4. **All actors must track their complete nutrition spending more consistently.** Donors, given their catalytic role and relatively strong capacity, need to report commitments to—and disbursements of—nutrition-specific financing. They should also report nutrition-sensitive commitments and disbursements—from the broader development and social sectors that affect nutrition—every year, using the same methodology, starting with the 2017 Global Nutrition Report.

5. **Make the Creditor Reporting System codes work better for nutrition accountability.** By the 2020 N4G Summit, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee’s database should develop codes for aid spending on nutrition-sensitive undernutrition projects and on nutrition-related noncommunicable disease projects.

**MEASURE PROGRESS AT THE NATIONAL AND SUBNATIONAL LEVELS**

1. **SDG 2 is just the start of nutrition accountability, not the end.** Country governments should look well beyond SDG 2 when tracking progress in nutrition, and develop inclusive annual national and subnational reporting mechanisms to assess progress in nutrition outcomes and actions.

2. **Align Demographic and Health Surveys (DHSs) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICSs) with the SDG indicators for nutrition.** In the next 12 months, the implementing and funding partners behind the DHSs and MICSs should work together to identify which SDG indicators can be added to surveys.

3. **Incentivize innovation in nutrition data collection.** More creative ways to use and collect subnational data are needed. Research funders should stimulate this through innovation prizes. By the end of 2018, a multiyear, multicountry research program on this subject should be announced.

4. **Measure inequalities and honor the SDG commitment to leave no one behind.** Governments, donors, and civil society should do more to identify and address inequalities in nutrition outcomes and access to nutrition services. At a minimum, all new DHS and MICS reports should report on the set of stratifiers we have reported on in Chapter 8.

5. **Strengthen nutrition accountability for those affected by conflicts and emergencies.** UN agencies and governments should do more to assess the nutrition status of displaced people and their access to food, care, and health services, and to address gaps therein. Countries vulnerable to emergencies need to do more to incorporate emergency planning into their national nutrition plans. By the end of 2017, as part of the Decade of Action, country governments should consider doing a review of the emergency preparedness within their current national nutrition plans.