

news

What's New?

Did you know? You can now visit the recently updated *Sight and Life* website www.sightandlife.org on a regular basis to get the latest news about what is happening in the field of nutrition. Check out our new blog at www.sightandlife.org/blog.html! You can also follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter @sightandlife**.

#EVERYChild 2015



We must end the neglect and abuse of children

As the deadline date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaches, the discussion around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will replace them is well underway. There is much jostling for what will be included, and for those of us dedicated to the field of nutrition, how this vital component will be incorporated and recognized as central is the question on all our lips.

UNICEF has launched a manifesto that lays out actions necessary to ensure that the significant gains made for many children under the MDGs are not lost but built upon and extended to all children in the SDGs. The manifesto rightly states that “it is vital that every child is included – and that children everywhere are at the heart of the new global agenda.” While championing for nutrition to be more deeply embedded in the SDGs, we also need to carry the flame for the broader issues

that affect children, continually pointing out how nutrition impacts each one of them.

Here are the seven themes that UNICEF puts forward in its #EVERYChild 2015 manifesto to demand and drive change:

1. End violence, neglect, exploitation and abuse of children.
2. Put ending child poverty in all its dimensions at the heart of poverty eradication efforts.
3. Renew the global effort to end preventable child and maternal deaths.
4. Pay more attention to the “second decade of life” – adolescence.
5. Leverage the growing “Data Revolution” to support the rights of every child.
6. Improve investments in all children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized.
7. Break the cycle of chronic crises affecting children.

To read more, please visit <http://uni.cf/1E121K7>.

You can also look forward to the second 2015 edition of *Sight and Life* magazine to find out more about the SDGs.

The Difference Between a Child Surviving and a Child Thriving

The dictionary defines “survive” as “to continue to live or exist, especially in spite of danger or hardship”, and so – although the image this conjures is of some sort of success – it leaves one feeling somewhat unfulfilled. “Thrive” is, however, defined as “to grow or develop well or vigorously,” and there are numerous vivid synonyms including *flourish, prosper, blossom, advance* and *make strides*. These make one smile and evoke a sense of real achievement.

We doubt, then, that anyone would want anything less for the world’s children than for them to thrive and have a future that gives them the opportunity to live life to the full. Nelson Mandela once wrote: “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” A symposium on nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child’s life hosted by GAIN brought together a number of stakeholders that included WHO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and DFID to explore the challenges of scaling up infant and young child nutrition programs through innovation and new delivery models. Three key needs were highlighted:

1. The need for more evidence and data pertaining to infant and young child nutrition
2. The need for ensuring that, when developing solutions, we also focus on sustainability
3. The need for behavior change components to interventions and tracking behaviors to create change

There is no doubt that as we move forward from the MDGs to the SDGs we have to do more to ensure that children not only survive but that they also thrive.

To read more about the symposium go to

www.gainhealth.org/knowledge-centre/good-nutrition-difference-child-surviving-thriving/

Global Food Policy Report – Where We Are and Where We Are Headed

IFPRI is known for its excellent publications, and the fourth Global Food Policy Report (2014–2015) is no exception, making fascinating reading on major food policy developments and events. It is available in many novel and interactive formats, and the map and data widget allows the reader to instantly visualize the state of the world from the perspective of a range of indicators, such as global hunger or land productivity. Drawing on rigorous research, IFPRI researchers and other distinguished food policy experts consider a wide range of crucial questions. As well as looking back over 2014, they also look forward and offer analysis of the potential opportunities and challenges associated with achieving food and nutrition security in 2015.

The good news during 2014 included: reaching the MDG of halving poverty; world food prices falling to their lowest level

since 2010; ICN2; continued increased membership of the SUN Movement; significant commitments to combating climate change; continued efforts towards improving nutrition and food security; and the start of debate on the draft post-2015 SDGs. That said, there were also a number of setbacks, including: the Ebola outbreak; continued conflicts and civil war; and the stark reality that hundreds of thousands continue to suffer from hunger and malnutrition due to disruptions in food production, marketing, and trade.

Read more and be inspired to do more by going to

<http://bit.ly/1DI9f4c>

Worth Reading ... Worth Receiving ...

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

15 years on –
Bill & Melinda Gates
Annual Letter

In 2000, Bill and Melinda Gates started their foundation with the idea that by backing innovative work in health and education, they could help dramatically reduce inequity. Read (and listen to) how they believe they have succeeded, and their ambitious goals for what they believe is possible 15 years from now at <http://bit.ly/1y7W44k>. Follow @billgates and @melindagates on Twitter or like them on Facebook for more inspiration.



Keep updated on the Global Nutrition Report

To keep informed of the on-going developments following the launch of The Global Nutrition Report, sign up to their newsletter by going to <http://global-nutritionreport.org/>.

Also, like 'Global Nutrition Report Roundtable Events' on Facebook or follow them via @ifpri on Twitter.



Alive & Thrive

The Alive & Thrive initiative has released endline survey results showing significant improvements in infant and young child feeding prac-

tices in Bangladesh and Viet Nam as a result of its comprehensive behavior change programs. In Bangladesh, from 2010 to 2014, the percentage of infants under six months who were exclusively breastfed increased from 49 to 86 percent in areas that received the comprehensive intervention package, and the proportion of children who consumed a diverse diet increased by 30 percentage points. In Viet Nam, the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding (initially lower than 20 percent) nearly tripled. To keep updated on the initiative's results, and to access their excellent resources, sign on to receive their newsletter and visit their website <http://aliveandthrive.org/>. Follow them on Facebook or @aliveandthrive on Twitter.

Gearing Up for Nutrition Targets and Indicators for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As we head towards the new SDGs, The United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) has released both a policy brief and a full technical report outlining recommended nutrition indicators and mapping them to proposed SDG goals and targets. At a minimum, the brief urges that the SDG framework needs to include the indicators that measure all six global nutrition targets. These are based on evidence as to what is needed to comprehensively address malnutrition and were endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2012. The document highlights the centrality of nutrition in development and the need for it to be given a prominent role in the Sustainable Development Framework Explicit.

To download the brief and technical report, please go to <http://bit.ly/1Q1374E>.

The Nutrition and Agriculture Link



A rice farmer in India

Getting Nutritious Foods to People through Biofortification

Seven different biofortified crops have been released in 27 countries, where they are being cultivated and consumed by over 1.3 million farm families, and a number of countries at the ICN2 highlighted biofortification amongst their strategies towards ending global hunger and malnutrition by 2025. Now available is the report of the 2nd Conference on Biofortification held last year in Kigali, Rwanda, which includes an excellent infographic, which can be downloaded at www.harvestplus.org/content/nutritious-staple-food-crops-who-growing-what, showing what crops have been released where, and where testing and evaluation is currently under way. The “Kigali Declaration on Biofortified Nutritious Foods” was also signed at the end of the conference. It states that “*now is the time to scale up these crops and ensure that those who suffer most from micronutrient deficiencies have consistent access to them,*” and it outlines a call to action to achieve this goal. The full declaration can be found at <http://bit.ly/1GCR754>.

Cultivating Nutritious Food Systems

GAIN has released a publication that follows nutrition along the agricultural value chain – from seed to harvest and on to storage, transport, wholesale, retail and, ultimately, the plate – highlighting the successes and challenges where agriculture and nutrition are working together. In the introduction, the author, Bonnie McClafferty, writes that “*Despite the sensibility that the agriculture and nutrition sectors must work together, the practitioners of those two camps scarcely wave at one another as they pass on opposite sides of the street.*” This snapshot report, as it is referred to, is a thought-provoking read that everyone working in nutrition should look at. Why? Because, as the report rightly says, “*few of us have any idea about what it takes to grow a successful crop, much less how agriculture affects the nutritional quality of foods.*” If we are to address our nutrition challenges in a world increasingly affected by climate change and ensure sustainable interventions, we need to know about these things!

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To start your journey, please go to <http://bit.ly/1aBju81>.

The Ever Expanding Rays of the SUN



ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

The third in the series of Scaling Up Nutrition in Practice briefings has been published. It deals with the all-important topic of social mobilization, advocacy and communication.

It is amazing to read how 33 countries have established SUN civil society alliances; 28 have organized nutrition events involving high-level government officials; 16 have engaged parliamentarians in actively advocating for nutrition; 15 have developed country-specific advocacy tools to raise awareness about nutrition at a high level; and 11 have comprehensive government or joint social mobilization, advocacy and communication strategies in place.

“Looking back on the battle against malnutrition, it has become clear what a key role advocacy has played. When backed by a solid evidence base, and presented in a clear and powerful way, advocacy can bring about tangible and lasting change.”

Tom Arnold, SUN Movement Coordinator ad interim

This is the start of what success looks like. But bringing people together around a common agenda, putting the necessary policies and laws in place, implementing and aligning programs, and mobilizing resources takes a great deal of concentrated effort and commitment. So learning from other countries, which are all at different stages, helps generate ideas and potentially prevents repetition of the same mistakes.

In the words of Roxana Quader, SUN Focal Point for Bangladesh: *“Raising a common voice for nutrition, in partnership with Bangladesh’s many stakeholders, is essential for effective mobilization of leaders from all walks of life. With a shared vision, we can make nutrition everyone’s business and strive for a healthy, progressive, sustainable Bangladesh.”*

To download the briefing and read more news from SUN, please go to <http://scalingupnutrition.org/>

UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Olivier De Schutter’s term of office as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to food has ended, and in his parting remarks he noted that a number of significant changes regarding the understanding of hunger and malnutrition and the interventions required to address them have taken place. *“We now recognize that poor, food-deficit countries should be supported not by trade and aid alone, but first and foremost by supporting them in their ability to feed themselves,”* said De Schutter. He went on to emphasize the recognized need to shift to more sustainable modes of production and consumption and the broadening of the discussion to include topics such as agroecology and how to reduce waste.

De Schutter will now be involved with establishing the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems

(IPES-Food), which works to build bridges between the scientific community and public and private decision-makers and also ensures a permanent dialogue with civil society. He is succeeded by Hilal Elver, Research Professor and Co-Director of the Project of Global Climate Change, Human Security and Democracy based at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Hilal Elver is a specialist on environmental issues.

For more on the Special Rapporteur and her first official visit to the Philippines, please go to <http://bit.ly/1FEI42d>.

Did You Know?

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to food is an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, and presents an annual report to the UN Human Rights Council. For the Special Rapporteur, the right to food is the right to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensure a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life free of fear.

Specific functions include:

- > Monitoring the situation of the right to food throughout the world
- > Identifying general trends related to the right to food and undertaking country visits
- > Communicating with states and other concerned parties with regard to alleged cases of violations of the right to food
- > Promoting the full realization of the right to food through dialogue with relevant actors

What the World Eats, Where our Food comes from and the Cost of Living



The Guardian developed a great knowledge test for World Food Day last year to see if you know where different foods come from, can rank countries by rates of undernutrition, and negotiate a tricky picture round. It's really interesting and tricky as well, so give it a go and see how well you do!

<http://bit.ly/1gxGEg9>

Business Insider has an excellent infographic depicting the cost of living in every part of the world. The top three countries for the cost of living are Switzerland, Norway and Venezuela, and the bottom three are India, Nepal and Pakistan. See where your country ranks ...

<http://read.bi/1xd65Y4>

We have discovered three wonderful interactive websites that will get you thinking ...

National Geographic has a fascinating interactive website that shows how diets around the world vary and the changes in dietary intake over the last 50 years. Did you know that in the United States the average individual daily food consumption amounts to 3,641 calories, with 37% coming from sugar and fat, while in Sudan it is almost half of that of the USA, at 1,695 calories, with 35% coming from grains rather than sugar and fat? Makes one think!

www.nationalgeographic.com/what-the-world-eats/

Sight and Life Project Partner Receives Honor



Henny Stege with his wife Trees, proudly wearing the Order of Orange-Nassau

Every year, the head of the Dutch royal family – currently King Willem-Alexander – bestows the Order of Orange-Nassau on Dutch citizens who deserve recognition from society for the special way in which they have carried out their activities. We at *Sight and Life* are delighted to report that Henny Stege, one of the founders of the NGO Tshwaranang, with which we have worked closely for a number of years in South Africa, was awarded this honor at an event at the Dutch Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, at the end of April.

When Henny and his wife Trees (who has received the same honor) first visited South Africa, the plight of many of its people pulled at their hearts – so much so that they left the comfort of their home country and moved to South Africa, embracing an uncertain future there. Since then, Henny has become much loved and greatly respected, and together with Trees has expanded their outreach from one humble project to an organization known as “Tshwaranang” that is responsible for advancing the quality of life of thousands of South Africans.

Joining hands

The very name Tshwaranang – joining hands – aptly describes Henny. He not only offers his own hands (Henny will take on any task required to get a job done). He also has an amazing ability to join hands with others across races, cultures and divides to reach out above all to the marginalized, orphaned, children and the elderly, and to get others involved, committed and passionate about the work of the foundation. Henny has an energy that many people half his age can only dream of: his smile comes from deep in his heart, and his dedication to helping the most vulnerable is unwavering, even in the face of exceptional odds.

Sight and Life's support for the work of Tshwaranang has grown over the years. Initially it supported the eye clinic Ke A Bona and supplied fortified biscuits for grandmothers at the community center in Ivory Park. (At a time when they themselves start to need care, grannies are often left to care for children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS). Later, *Sight and Life* supplied MixMe™ micronutrient powder for some 150 children at Sedimo-sang crèche. *Sight and Life's* help expanded again to assist with building an equipped kitchen and supplying MixMe™ for 2500 pre-school children at Ebomeni School. Then came feeding 1200 children at the Drake Koka School. Now *Sight and Life* is working with other projects in a more remote area of the country. Often the meals these children are fed at their crèche or school are the only ones they receive in a day other than, perhaps, a slice of bread and a cup of tea.

We love our visits to these projects, not only to see how our support creates brighter futures for the children but also because the *Sight and Life* team always departs with the feeling that we have received more than we have given! We salute both Henny and Trees and the amazing work that they do.