

news

What's New?

Did you know? You can now visit the *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**.

01 Perspectives on Seizing the Opportunities for Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Issue 41 of the SCN News complements the articles in this edition of the magazine. Despite the fact that it was published in June, the content is still relevant and very worth reading and reflecting on.

The articles, written from a wide range of perspectives, include content (on subjects ranging from the state of our current food system, through harnessing social protection for nutrition, to critical nutrition indicators) that provides the evidence and support required to continue our advocacy to solve nutrition challenges in the context of embedding them within the SDGs. In his round-up, Ramiro De Silva of the WFP (who has now handed over the responsibility for hosting the SCN to the FAO) reminds us that: “while we must continue to make our voice heard at the global level... we must turn our attention to the effective operationalization of nutrition scale-up in countries.”

In an excellent editorial, Asma Lateef, of Bread for the World, refers to the need to be truly transformative as we move forward.

“In a world where there is enough food, ensuring that all people have access to a nutritious diet is no longer about charity, but about justice.”

Patrick Webb’s article includes a great table that adds supplementary information to the infographic included in this magazine as to the linkages between nutrition and the SDGs.

This information will be really useful, as we now need to talk to a wider audience to ensure more money for nutrition and more nutrition for the money invested.

The newsletter is available for download at

http://unscn.org/files/Publications/SCN_News/SCNNEWS41_web_low_res.pdf

Did You Know?

Every Sunday at noon in St. Peter’s Square, Rome, after praying and giving an inspirational message to the gathered crowd, His Holiness Pope Francis always concludes with the greeting “*Buon pranzo*” (“Have a good lunch”), a deliberate indication of his resolute commitment to promote good nutrition and his dedication to making it a reality at all levels of society and in every region of the world. He has also spoken out in support of breastfeeding, encouraging mothers to breastfeed in church if their children are hungry.

The Pope’s encyclical letter on “Care for Our Common Home” (“*Laudato Si*” – <http://bit.ly/1OhzCwP>) is a recommended read, as is a great article in *The Guardian* by Jason Hickel, an anthropologist at the London School of Economics, who contrasts “*Laudato Si*” with the SDGs that purport to tackle the same challenge (<http://bit.ly/1NKY9r8>).

New Panel on Sustainable Food Systems Launches First Report



The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), a new independent panel for food systems reform – which is co-chaired by Olivier De Schutter, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, and ex-UNICEF nutrition expert Olivia Yambi, together with 18 experts from various fields connected to food systems – has launched its first report.

Entitled “The New Science of Sustainable Food Systems: Overcoming Barriers to Food Systems Reform,” the report makes the case for reaching beyond the traditional bounds of the scientific community in discussing who holds the power to shape food systems, and who sets the terms of debate when it comes to reforming them. It is timely, as they rightly point out, that: “From persistent undernutrition to burgeoning obesity rates, from land evictions to agriculture’s soaring environmental footprint, from dwindling fish stocks to mounting food waste, there has rarely been so much attention on the problems within food systems.”

As with much in nutrition, it would seem the tendency has been to address the solutions as individual pieces of the puzzle, and to overlook the power relations that play a major role in shaping these systems. The conclusion is clear: “The voices of academic experts and social innovators will be all the more powerful for their ability to talk the same language, and to anchor themselves to common reference points and analytical toolkits.

To learn more about IPES-Food and download the report, please visit www.ipes-food.org

Did You Know?

The term “food system” refers to the web of actors, processes, and interactions involved in growing, processing, distributing, consuming, and disposing of foods, from the provision of inputs and farmer training, through product packaging and marketing, to waste recycling and how these processes interact with one another and with the environmental, social, political and economic context.

Look out for the next edition of the *Sight and Life* magazine, which will be dedicated to food systems and produced in a collaborative effort with the World Food Systems Center at ETH Zurich.

Health & Nutrition Knowledge in the Hands of Those Who Need it Most: Reaching Over 10 Million Girls and Women in India

Mobile technology is here to stay, and one of its growing applications is mHealth – an abbreviation for mobile health, a term that according to Wikipedia is used for the practice of medicine and public health supported by mobile devices. It is an exciting field, and has shown great potential to offer benefits for both nutrition-specific and for nutrition-sensitive interventions, as well as to link the two.

In June 2015, the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNICEF and with support from Vodafone, launched a nationwide HealthPhone program, becoming the world's largest digital nutrition program. It is expected that by 2018, HealthPhone will have educated over ten million 13–35-year-old girls and women and their families in India on the subject of better health and nutrition practices.

The program will achieve its objectives by widely promoting and distributing through mobile phones four videos on the status of women; the care of pregnant women and children

under two; the importance of breastfeeding and good nutrition; and simple changes in diet and caring practices that can significantly enhance nutrition status. The videos will be available for download for free – and, as a bonus, those that view all four will receive a limited amount of free talk-time. Vodafone will also send out approximately 300 million text messages every year to its 184 million subscribers to encourage viewing of the four videos, and is supporting a comprehensive print and social media communication campaign to promote the program.

It is envisaged that the project will benefit the health of tens of millions of children in India in the years to come and will be truly transformative in educating mothers at the front-line of India's fight against malnutrition.

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Watch the videos and learn more at www.healthphone.org.

Did You Know?

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GSMA, an association that represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, uniting nearly 800 operators, is a member of the SUN Business Network and has committed to invest US\$ 3 million in the next five years in mobile nutrition and agriculture advisory services.

Notices



Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Report

The full report, including the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action, is now available online in all six official FAO languages.

Please go to: www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/50ec9968-742f-4fee-a35f-e6f413130a72/

Nutrition Exchange

Nutrition Exchange is an ENN publication that contains short, easy-to-read articles on nutrition program experiences and learning, from countries with a high burden of malnutrition and those that are prone to crisis. It also summarizes research and provides information on guidance, tools and upcoming training courses in nutrition and related sectors.

You can subscribe to the publication or view it on-line at www.ennonline.net/nex.

Society of Implementation Science in Nutrition (SISN) announces Inaugural Board

We are pleased to announce the Inaugural Board (2015–2017) of the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition. The Board members will lead the Society during the crucial start-up phase, ensuring that the Society delivers on its mission to convene and promote dialogue among scientists, policy leaders, government officials, donors and practitioners. They will act as advocates for the science of implementation, the advancement of research methods, and innovation in knowledge dissemination aimed at improving the design and implementation of nutrition interventions, programs, and policies world-wide.

The Board members serve the Society as volunteers. We recognize their commitment and leadership and wish them every success as they take on the important task of raising the profile of implementation research in the nutrition field.

- > President – **David Pelletier**
- > Vice-President – **Mandana Arabi**
- > Secretary/Treasurer – **Eva Monterrosa**
- > Chief Information Officer & Fundraising – **Luz Maria De-Regil**
- > Councilor: Recruitment, Engagement, Outreach – **Karin Lapping**
- > Councilor: Research Agenda Support – **Marie Ruel**
- > Councilor: Conferences and Policy Discussions – **Rebecca Stoltzfus**
- > Councilor: Continuing Education/Dissemination – **Giles Bergeron**
- > Councilor: At-Large – **Gretel Pelto**

To learn more about SISN, please visit www.implementnutrition.org/

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs welcomes Rajiv Shah

Rajiv Shah, former head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), has joined The Chicago Council on Global Affairs as a senior advisor to the Council's work in Global Agriculture, Global Cities, and the Global Economy. Raj made seminal progress in reforming the agency during his five-year tenure at USAID, developing signature initiatives to help alleviate hunger and poverty, and advancing the overall effectiveness of US civilian aid around the world, including creating "Feed the Future" and "Power Africa." As the Council aims to address a wide range of global issues, we are sure Raj will make an important contribution, and we wish him well.

For more on the work of the Chicago Council, please visit www.thechicagocouncil.org.



Announcing the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy

The Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH), Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA) and CGIAR's A4NH program have launched an academy intended to act as a platform for learning and sharing, as well as training and capacity building, in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health. The new academy has four objectives: to share innovative research in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health; to stimulate the development and harmonization of new research; to help strengthen the capacity of the research community to undertake inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research; and to facilitate the uptake of robust evidence in policies and programming in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health. Any researcher working at the intersection of agriculture and food systems, nutrition or health is invited to register to become a member.

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For more information or to join, please visit

www.a4nh.cgiar.org/2015/06/19/membership-now-open-anh-academy

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Food Fortification Initiative (FFI)

With the world's attention once again focused on food fortification thanks to #FutureFortified, The Food Fortification Initiative has a website that offers numerous resources, including facts and figures, toolkits and latest research. They have recently highlighted the first systematic review of flour fortification on iron and anemia outcomes. Published in Nutrition Reviews, this study makes three recommendations for improving national fortification programs:

1. Design or revise fortification programs so that nutrient levels used in wheat and maize flour fortification are consistent with WHO recommendations;
2. Monitor fortification programs for compliance and coverage; and
3. Use biomarkers specific to the nutrients included in fortification rather than making sole use of anemia to assess the impact of fortification.

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You can also sign up to receive their regular newsletters to ensure that you never miss anything important in the field of fortification. Just visit www.ffinetwork.org.

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04 World Hunger Falls to Under 800 Million: Eradication is Next Goal

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015 Report once again takes stock of progress made towards achieving MDG1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and World Food Summit hunger targets – globally, by region, and by country. The report points out that progress toward ending hunger is assessed not only by measuring undernourishment, or hunger, but also by a second indicator: the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age. Progress for the two indicators across regions and over time is compared, providing insights into the complexity of food security. The report estimates progress to date, defines key success factors, and identifies remaining problems. It also provides guidance on policies that need to be emphasized as we now strive towards SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition) – also known as the “Zero Hunger SDG.”

- > Global hunger has declined. The decline is more pronounced in developing regions, despite significant population growth, and is hindered by countries with slower and less inclusive economic growth.
- > A total of 72 developing countries out of 129 have reached the hunger reduction target. Most have experienced stable political conditions and economic growth, often accompanied by social protection policies targeted at vulnerable population groups.
- > In many countries that have failed to reach the international hunger reduction targets, natural and human-induced disasters or political instability have resulted in protracted crises that have exposed large parts of the population to increased food insecurity.
- > There is a need to improve the quality of diets, hygiene conditions, and access to clean water, particularly for poorer population groups.
- > Social protection directly contributes to the reduction of poverty, hunger and malnutrition by promoting income security and access to better nutrition, health care and education.

“We can look at it as the glass half full or half empty. Seventy-two countries have halved the proportion of hungry people”

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, FAO

The overriding message is that we have made great progress under the MDGs but that there is still much work to be done under the SDGs, which now move us on from addressing food security to addressing nutrition security.

Did You Know?

- > SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition – is also being referred to as #ZeroHunger.
- > The number of hungry people in the world has dropped to 795 million, or around one person in nine, according to the latest edition of the annual UN Hunger Report. This is 216 million fewer than in 1990–92.

Global Nutrition Report 2015



This report has undoubtedly become one of the most important annual nutrition publications. It serves as a report card on the world's nutrition (globally, regionally, and country by country), and outlines efforts to improve it. It assesses countries' progress in meeting global nutrition targets established by the World Health Assembly, and it documents how well countries, aid donors, NGOs, businesses, and others are meeting the commitments they made at the major Nutrition for Growth summit in 2013.

The 2015 report:

- > makes it clear that global progress to reduce malnutrition has been slow and uneven;
- > highlights the critical relationship between climate change and nutrition;
- > highlights the pivotal role business can play in advancing nutrition;
- > considers how countries can build food systems that are more nutrition-friendly and sustainable.

The report also states that nearly half of all countries face multiple serious burdens of malnutrition, and that no country is on track to achieve the global nutrition targets.

To download the report and access a wide range of great information and videos, please go to

<http://globalnutritionreport.org>

Nutritional Health Together with Planetary Health: The Need for Joint Actions



The time has come to recognize the need to also consider planetary health when we discuss human health. This is the message of a thought-provoking report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on Planetary Health. Planetary health is defined by the Commission as “the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, well-being, and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems – political, economic, and social – that shape the future of humanity and the Earth’s natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish. Simply put, planetary health is the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which it depends.”

The reality is that by almost any measure, human health is better now than at any time in history. Global life expectancy is now 69 years, whereas in the 1950s it was 47 years, and under-5 mortality has also decreased substantially. But, according to the report, these gains in human health have come at a high price: the degradation of nature’s ecological systems on a scale never previously seen in human history.

“The health of humanity is intrinsically linked to the health of the environment – but humanity now threatens to destabilize the Earth’s key life-support systems”

The Commission concludes that the continuing degradation of natural systems threatens to reverse the health gains seen over the last century and proposes that we have mortgaged the health of future generations to realize economic and development gains in the present.

This report comes at an important time, when there is unanimous recognition that to solve the world’s nutrition problems, we need a multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary approach. There is now a new urgency to collaborate with an even wider group of players not just to solve nutrition’s challenges but also ensure that in so doing, we don’t add to the Earth’s fragility: “Cooperation will be indispensable for our survival.”

The full report is available at

[www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60901-1.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(15)60901-1.pdf)

Global Panel Releases New Policy Brief: “Climate-Smart Food Systems for Enhanced Nutrition”



Vegetable stall at a food market in the state of Karnataka, India.

Each decade through to 2050, agricultural output is projected to fall by 2%, while food demand will rise by 14%. By 2100, meanwhile, up to 40% of the world's land surface will have to adapt to altered climates. With statistics like these, it is clear that urgent policy action is needed to link food-system resilience with higher quality diets and nutrition. It is therefore welcome that The Global Panel, an independent group of influential experts with a commitment to tackling global challenges in food and nutrition security, has released a new policy brief entitled “Climate-Smart Food Systems for Enhanced Nutrition.” The policy brief urges decision-makers to adopt a pro-nutrition lens while protecting and promoting agriculture in the face of climate change.

“Climate-Smart Food Systems for Enhanced Nutrition” highlights three key issues. Firstly, we must become more resilient to climate change or better able to address the world's need for improved diets. Secondly, nutrient-rich foods are particularly susceptible to droughts, pests, diseases, and temperature fluctuations. Finally, there is growing evidence that higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may reduce the nutrient content and/or quality of various staple crops. This means that climate-smart actions which support nutrition must focus on diverse, high-quality, healthy diets.

The brief recommends six policy actions:

1. Include diet quality goals within adaptation targets proposed for climate action
2. Diversify agricultural investments, factoring in the local realities of ecological suitability and comparative advantage
3. Support greater food system efficiency, so that outputs per unit of water, energy, land and other inputs are optimized and the footprint of agriculture and non-farm activities are better managed to meet both food demand and higher quality diets
4. Integrate measures to improve climate change resilience and nutritional value of crop and livestock products along the value chain, from production to marketing
5. Protect the diet quality of the poor in the face of supply shocks and growing food demand, and
6. Promote the generation and use of rigorous evidence on appropriate investments along food value chains which are resilient to climate change and also deliver positive dietary outcomes and support improved nutrition.

To download the full brief, please go to

www.glopan.org/climate-change

How Food Value Chains Support Nutrition



The panel (from left to right): Gordon Bacon, CEO of Pulse Canada; Charlotte Hebebrand, Director General of the International Fertilizer Industry Association; Klaus Kraemer, Director of *Sight and Life*; Birgit Schleifenbaum, Director Natural & Sustainable Discovery at Firmenich; Martin Bloem, Senior Nutrition Advisor of WFP, Marc Van Ameringen, Executive Director of GAIN and Liz Buckingham, Nutrition and Gender Advisor at the Secretary's Office of Global Food Security, US Department of State.

The SUN Business Network, WFP and GAIN hosted a side event at the 42nd session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome, Italy, in October 2015. The event, entitled “Engaging private sector in nutrition: A look at food value chains and the SUN Business Network,” showcased different value-chain approaches that businesses and their partners are using to support healthier, more nutritious food systems. Panelists discussed utilizing the genetic diversity of germplasm to produce nutritious varieties of pulse crops; micronutrient-enhanced fertilizers to improve yields and combat micronutrient deficiencies; reformulations of food products and fortification during processing; and consumer-based approaches around flavor and taste preferences, nutrition education and social marketing.

“The event highlighted the need to position improved health outcomes for consumers at the center of any agriculture or value-chain-based approach”

The event highlighted the need to position improved health outcomes for consumers at the center of any agriculture or value-chain-based approach, whether it is to combat un-

dernutrition or to reduce overweight and non-communicable diseases. The importance of an enabling environment that fosters innovation, while ensuring affordability and access to nutritious foods among the poor, was also a common theme. At the global level, private-sector investment was also recognized as a significant contribution to financial flows, especially in the face of dwindling official development assistance.

Lastly, building trust was recognized as a prerequisite for working in multi-stakeholder partnerships along the value chain and for finding solutions to the challenges and complexities that arise. Strong partnerships with governments in particular are needed, also acknowledging the important role of the public sector in establishing rules and accountability mechanisms.

Multi-stakeholder platforms like SUN and CFS will provide essential forums for building this trust and increasing awareness of success stories along the value chain moving forward.

Marc Van Ameringen, Executive Director of GAIN, made the welcoming remarks, and the panel was moderated by Martin Bloem, Senior Nutrition Advisor of WFP. It included: Gordon Bacon, CEO of Pulse Canada; Charlotte Hebebrand, Director General of the International Fertilizer Industry Association; Klaus Kraemer, Director of *Sight and Life*; Birgit Schleifenbaum, Director Natural & Sustainable Discovery at Firmenich; and Liz Buckingham, Nutrition and Gender Advisor at the Secretary's Office of Global Food Security, US Department of State.

American Society for Nutrition (ASN) Partners with African Nutrition Graduate Students Network (AGSNet)



ASN and AGSNet are working together to combat malnutrition on the African continent.

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) has signed a strategic partnership agreement with African Nutrition Graduate Students Network (AGSNet) to work together to combat malnutrition on the African continent. “As a global leader, ASN is ideally positioned to help AGSNet in our joint vision of improved nutrition through education of aspiring health professionals,” said Executive Officer John Courtney.

AGSNet is a network of more than 400 African graduate students and young professionals from more than 30 countries across four continents: Africa, Europe, North America and Asia. It was created by students of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 2002. AGSNet’s mission is to create a forum to promote relations and networks, build appropriate attitudes and values among its members, nurture leadership capacities, and present a unified front to improve nutrition on the African continent. ASN’s more than 5,000 members work in diverse areas of nutrition and are located in more than 65 countries. Through the highest-rated nutrition research and practice, ASN’s members enhance scientific knowledge, promote science-based messages, and ultimately seek to enhance quality of life.

“AGSNet is undergoing a transformation to meet the network’s objectives within current global circumstances,” says Joseph Ashong, AGSNet Coordinator. At the core of the transformation is the opportunity to bring to the forefront the critical role of African graduate students and young professional in the “fight” against malnutrition on the African continent. “The partnership between ASN and AGSNet is a key part of the transformation,” notes Brenda Ariba Zarhari Abu, AGSNet Steering Committee.

Under this strategic partnership, ASN and AGSNet will collaborate in five focal areas:

- > **Leadership and mentorship:** AGSNet leadership will benefit from a strong relationship with ASN and their Global Nutrition Council and learn from ASN experience in providing strong organizational leadership
- > **Improved Networking Opportunities:** AGSNet will work closely with Cornell, Wageningen and ASN to plan, raise funds and implement conferences and other programs to meet, network and discuss issues important to AGSNet and African nutrition matters
- > **Access to publications and journals:** AGSNet and ASN will encourage publications and improved research output from AGSNet and collaborate to provide access to ASN articles and journals and build the capacity of AGSNet members to publish in the highest global impact nutrition journals
- > **Website Hosting:** ASN will host AGSNet website and provide technical assistance on the management of the website
- > **Financial Management and Fund Raising:** AGSNet will benefit from ASN’s experience in managing accounts and sourcing for funds, and from its network of funding agencies and sponsors.

“ASN enters this partnership with the goal of improving health and nutrition in Africa and beyond through the expertise and training of our members and leaders,” comments ASN President Patrick J Stover. “As founding institutions, Cornell and Wageningen Universities will continue to have an important role in mentoring and guiding AGSNet leadership,” adds Fré Pepping of Wageningen University.

For further information on the activities of AGSNet, please contact *Joseph Ashong* (joashong@gmail.com; twitter handle: [@joashong](https://twitter.com/joashong)) or *Brenda Ariba Zarhari Abu* (abubrenda@yahoo.com).

For further information on ASN, please contact *Mary Pat Cornett* (mpcornett@nutrition.org).

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Gathering 2015



Tom Arnold, interim coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN Movement): “The nutrition community has really come together in the past few years to agree core agendas.”

The three-day annual SUN Global Gathering is an event that has become more like an ever-expanding family reunion than a meeting. With 56 countries and the Indian State of Maharashtra having joined in just five years and the Executive Committee now established, this is without doubt the biggest forward shift in nutrition we have yet seen. These are the countries that are taking nutrition seriously. They recognize that nutrition has to be at the center of their development plans across government sectors, with multi-sectoral actions right down to the lowest district/community level, where true implementation happens and statistics have names and faces. These are countries that are prepared to be scrutinized, having to show their progress in the SUN Annual Report each year. The progress in the 2015 Report (available on the SUN website) shows that with the right level of commitment and investment, significant reductions in malnutrition can, and are, being achieved.

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“Defeating malnutrition is no longer an abstract aspiration: it is the new normal”

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The global gathering offers a wonderful opportunity to share experiences (positive and negative), and there is an amazing energy and passion that makes one optimistic that the movement will continue to grow



and deliver real results. The main sessions addressed progress and achievements; more nutrition for the money and more money for nutrition; empowering women and girls across the movement; making accountability relevant for people's nutrition; and looking ahead – ambitions for the future of the SUN Movement. **Most of the main sessions are available as webcasts on the SUN website**

(<http://scalingupnutrition.org/about/annual-global-gathering/global-gathering-2015>).

Plenaries were combined with workshop sessions that enabled deeper analysis and included time for good discussion, and Twitter was abuzz with sharing comments and thoughts. There was a loud call to leverage parliamentarians for nutrition, as they can create the noise to bring about change. But the challenges they face involve breaking down the messages into “What does it mean for me?”; having the right information and data at the right time and in the right format; and receiving training on what they should be advocating. In the words of one vocal parliamentarian, “You must give us fire for our passion, but as clear messages in a language we understand.”

We identified six key needs during the meeting that are critical for acceleration and action.

1. We must consolidate what works best from what we have learnt to date, and we must continually innovate – business as usual will not work!
2. Issues of justice and equity must be addressed, especially when it comes to women and their access to essential health services and information.
3. There is a need to provide more and better-quality data, from more sectors (e.g., agriculture, social protection), but already existing data should also be better used and communicated.
4. It is time for the scientists to learn to speak to other audiences and provide them with appropriate information to empower them to champion change.
5. Financial tracking is essential, but it must be recorded, updated and transparent.
6. The move must be to implementation, supported by functional and leadership capacity development.

In closing, Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, gave a rousing address and urged the group that: “We cannot take our foot off the pedal ... There can be no peace and security without food and nutrition security ... We must give nutrition a voice at every level ... We must have patience ... We have been inspirational and yet we have to have even greater aspirations and set ourselves stretch targets ... We cannot give up, and we must not fail.”

SUN 2015 Global Gathering take-away messages from David Nabarro, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition

- > We can't get anywhere without nutrition champions at all levels.
- > We can't get anywhere without local action.
- > Resources (human and financial) are essential.
- > Civil society is key for action and accountability.
- > Results must be measured against a framework.
- > We have to be inclusive.
- > Business must be engaged but within the bounds of the principles SUN has agreed to.
- > The support of academia is definitely needed.
- > Women must be at the center, but men have to help make it happen.
- > There are clouds on the horizon that could undo the progress being made – war, natural disasters, climate change.
- > Nutrition must be institutionalized and not be a political trend.
- > Resilience is key, but must be rooted in mutual accountability.
- > We cannot fail. We will not fail, as success is in our collective hands.

Celebrating Dedicated Leadership in Nutrition: Shawn Baker Wins 2015 *Sight and Life* Nutrition Leadership Award



Shawn Baker (right) receives the 2015 *Sight and Life* Nutrition Leadership Award from Klaus Kraemer.

It has become a tradition that *Sight and Life* hosts an event during the SUN Global Gathering to celebrate and acknowledge an individual who, during the course of his or her career and current work, promotes both implementation science and change leadership in moving nutrition forward. The 2015 award winner is Shawn Baker from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In presenting the award, *Sight and Life's* Klaus Kraemer said: "As Director of Nutrition at BMGF, Shawn has guided the development of the foundation's comprehensive nutrition strategy and has become a powerful and eloquent voice for nutrition."

Before joining the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Shawn was for many years with Helen Keller International, where he shaped programs that provided more than 50 million children with life-saving vitamin A supplements. He is also a champion of food fortification, recently saying: "We have an invisible problem (hidden hunger) that has an invisible solution (food fortification) that we now have to put center stage and make the proven benefits very visible."

Shawn is a highly deserving recipient of the 2015 *Sight and Life* Nutrition Leadership Award.

We offer him our warm congratulations!

**"We urgently need the voice of
Shawn Baker as we ensure that
SDG 2 is given the attention required
to change the world in our lifetime"**

#FutureFortified Global Summit on Food Fortification – Arusha, Tanzania, September 9–11, 2015

Food fortification has long been recognized as an evidence-based and highly effective means to deliver sustainable impact to improve micronutrient status and therefore public health. As countries continue to sign up to the SUN Movement, and grow their commitment to nutrition through initiating proven interventions, it was appropriate to once again place food fortification in the spotlight.

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the Government of Tanzania hosted a summit that was co-convened by BMGF, USAID, UNICEF, WFP, the AUC, and SUN and was supported by a Technical Advisory Group made up of members of organizations that have been involved in the field of fortification for numerous years and included *Sight and Life*, Micronutrient Initiative, Helen Keller International, FFI, IGN, FHI360/FANTA, Micronutrient Forum, PATH, PHC, Smarter Futures, CDC Impact and ETH.

Unique was that the summit also had a media partner in the form of Devex, a platform for the global development community. An impressive 450 delegates from 57 countries, including 29 developing country delegations, as well as leaders from business, academia and international organizations attended.

The summit was an excellent platform for networking and achieved its three goals.

1. Review achievements, challenges and lessons learnt:

The Summit examined contextual factors which drive reach, impact and sustainability, with eleven countries presenting their fortification stories.

2. Understand current evidence: The event looked at the latest evidence-informed guidelines as well as systematic reviews on health and nutrition impact and their implications for improving programming.

3. Align on the way forward: The Summit culminated in the Arusha Statement on Food Fortification which outlines the major priorities moving forward. This makes five recommendations to ensure that food fortification programs are expanded, improved and sustained in low- and middle-income countries.

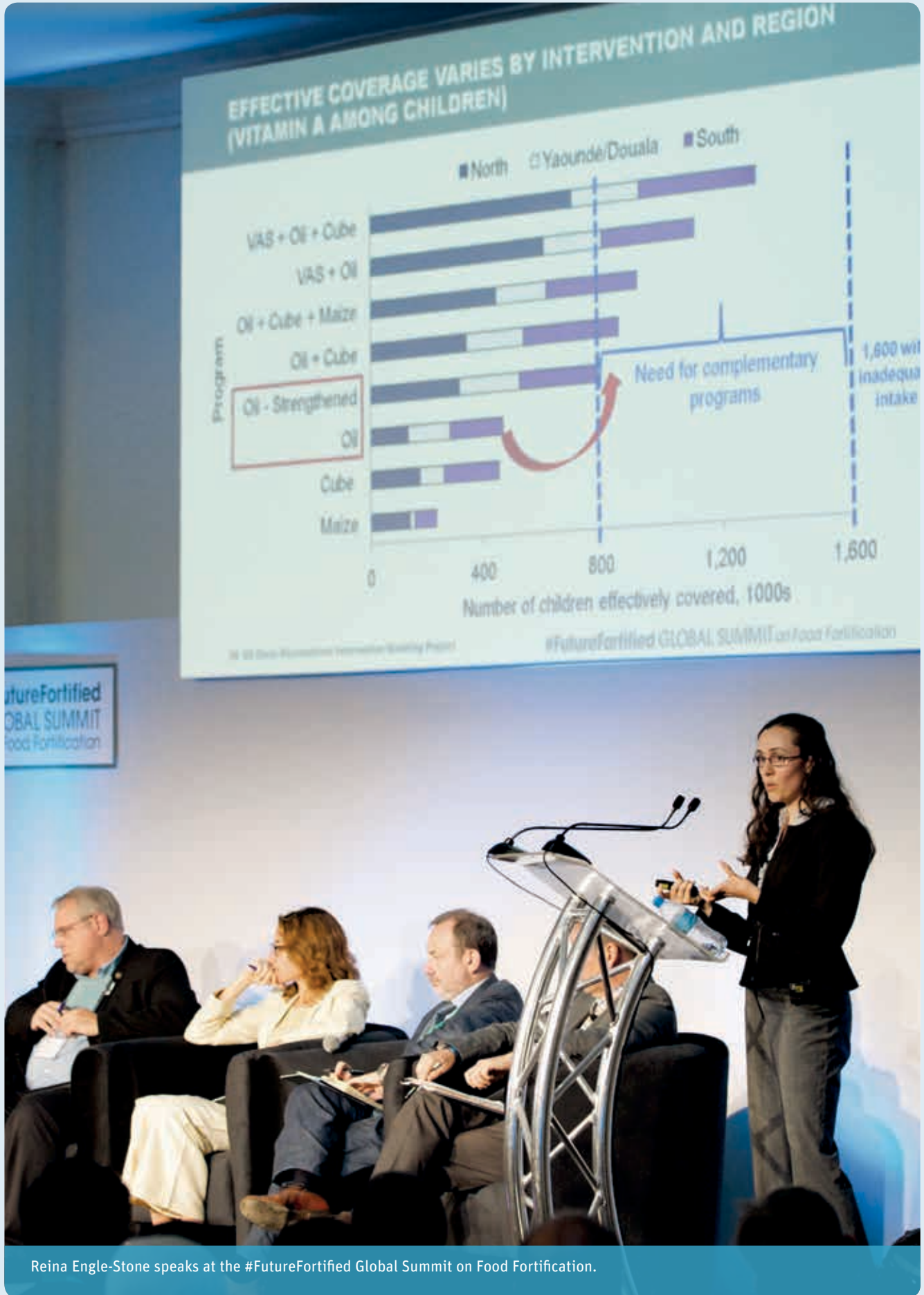
There were over 70 presentations during the summit. Most of these were designed to educate newcomers to the fortification discussion, update those who have not kept abreast of the scientific developments in fortification, and inspire politicians that fortification is the right intervention in which to invest.

Some valuable videos are available at <https://pages.devex.com/future-fortified.html>.

A major part of the #FutureFortified campaign was, and continues to be, an extensive communications strategy that began four months before the event and included a social media thunderclap that reached an audience of 826,333. There were also more than 1,300 tweets using #FutureFortified during the 3 days of the summit, with a total 2.4 million impressions. If you are on Twitter, make sure to follow @FutureFortified to keep up to date with developments. This was not intended to be a one-off event, but the start of concerted actions to keep food fortification moving forward toward addressing hidden hunger – after all, 2 billion people still do not receive the nutrition they need for optimal growth and health.

GAIN is now leading a process with over 20 fortification partners from the #FutureFortified Technical Advisory Group to elaborate on the Summit recommendations by the end of January 2016. This will include a final report laying out a multi-partner strategy for continued global advocacy; a roadmap for establishing an annual report and/or an observatory for fortification and a related global fortification meeting; and specific guidance on each of the five recommendations of the Summit Statement.

Sight and Life was proud to be one the partners for this event – which, for the first time, created a sector-wide analytical framework and consensus on evidence gaps, delivery models and pathways for fortification. #FutureFortified has undoubtedly reinvigorated interest and awareness and as a result hopefully also investment and innovation in food fortification. In the words of Chris Elias, President of the Global Development Program of the BMGF, “*Innovation will be part of driving our success over the next 15 years, but a good place to start is with scaling up what we already have.*”



Reina Engle-Stone speaks at the #FutureFortified Global Summit on Food Fortification.

Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) Congress



Jane Badham (Session Chair), Philip James (Speaker), Parul Christian (Speaker), Klaus Kraemer (*Sight and Life* Co-host and Speaker), Sara Wuehler (Micronutrient Initiative Co-host).

While some 159 million under-five-year-olds remain stunted, 42 million were overweight in 2013, and the last 30 years has seen a doubling of obesity amongst adults. Is there a link? What might be at the core of these global challenges?

A poor start to life is associated with an increased risk of a number of disorders, especially non-communicable diseases (including cardiovascular disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes and metabolic disturbances, osteoporosis, chronic obstructive lung disease, some forms of cancer, and mental illnesses) in later life. The DOHaD concept describes how during early life (conception, pregnancy, infancy and childhood) the interplay between maternal and environmental factors program fetal and child growth and development that have long-term consequences on later health and disease risks. Timely interventions may reduce such risk exposure in individuals and also limit the transmission of non-communicable diseases to the next generation. DOHaD research has substantial implications for many transitioning African societies, as well as for global health policy.

The 9th DOHaD meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa from November 8–11, 2015 and brought together a

wonderfully diverse group of over 830 scientists, clinical researchers, obstetricians, pediatricians, public health professionals and policy leaders from around the world. The attendance illustrates that DOHaD is becoming increasingly important. The program for the meeting was designed to address, head-on, the many challenges that currently impact the health of mothers, babies in the womb, infants, children and adolescents, as well as to explore solutions, interventions and policies to optimize health across the life course.

The over 130 presentations and almost 400 posters shared fascinating research findings across a wide range of DOHaD topics and showcased the number of projects that are being undertaken in this field of research. Yet it is complex: what you measure, when you measure it, and what you compare it against are all critical, and could still result in different messages. It was also clear that, while much of the research being done holds promise, there is a need to test with actual interventions – the move from efficacy and effectiveness to implementation research.

Key themes are emerging, including the growing concern and possible early-life links around ever-increasing obesity

levels and the recognition that, although the first 1,000 days is critical, childhood, adolescence and pre-conception must not be neglected. Neither must the role of men be forgotten.

Sight and Life, together with the Micronutrient Initiative, hosted a session entitled “DOHaD and nutrition: Are we doing enough to improve birth and long-term outcomes through maternal nutrition?” There were three presenters: Parul Christian from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health on “Maternal nutritional status and micronutrient deficiencies – Impact of interventions on birth outcomes and long term consequences”; Philip James from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on “Can what a mother eats at the time of conception influence the epigenome of her child? A review of potential nutrition-epigenetic pathways and latest studies from The Gambia”; Klaus Kraemer from *Sight and Life* on “Policy and program implications for multiple micronutrients in pregnancy – Where do we stand and where should we be going?”

The presentations were followed by an interactive discussion with the presenters and the attendees. The session highlighted the importance of considering interventions in combination, rather than as independent of one another, as multiple nutrient deficiencies are generally found in undernourished settings. By doing so, we may begin to see the additive effects of providing a comprehensive package of interventions to vulnerable pregnant women, rather than the beneficial, but perhaps limited, effects of isolated interventions. Of relevance for DOHaD is that in order to gain a greater understanding of the associations between pregnancy, nutrition, and health risks across the life course, preconception and antenatal interventions need more and longer-term follow-up, particularly in low- and middle-income undernourished and transitioning populations.

If you would like to explore some of the discussions that took place, a fabulous feature of the congress was a daily newsletter that gave insight into the previous day’s sessions.

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The daily newsletters are available on the website at

<http://dohad2015.org>.

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