

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. You can also follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter @sightandlife**.

WHO Guideline: Use of Multiple Micronutrient Powders for Point-Of-Use Fortification of Foods Consumed by Infants and Young Children Aged 6–23 Months and Children Aged 2–12 Years



This guideline supersedes and is an update of the 2011 WHO guideline “Use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by infants and children 6–23 months of age.”

Compared to the previous guidelines, this one uses the word “point-of-use” instead of “home” to reflect the variety of settings where this intervention may take place. The population groups covered have been expanded to include preschool and school-age children aged 2–12 years.

The guideline was developed to guide Member States and their partners in their efforts to make evidence-informed decisions on the appropriate nutrition actions to improve the nutritional status of infants and children aged 6 months

to 12 years. The guideline is intended for a wide audience, including governments, non-governmental organizations, healthcare workers, scientists and donors involved in the design and implementation of micronutrient programs and their integration into national and subnational public health strategies and programs. The use of multiple micronutrient powders (MNP) for point-of-use fortification of foods has been suggested as an alternative to mitigate or overcome the constraints associated with supplementation and mass fortification.

“The guideline is intended for a wide audience, including governments, non-governmental organizations, healthcare workers, scientists and donors involved in the design and implementation of micronutrient programs and their integration into national and subnational public health strategies and programs”

The two key recommendations are:

- In populations where anemia is a public health problem, point-of-use fortification of complementary foods with iron-containing MNP in infants and young children aged

6–23 months is recommended, to improve iron status and reduce anemia.

- > In populations where anemia is a public health problem, point-of-use fortification of foods with iron-containing MNPs in children aged 2–12 years is recommended, to improve iron status and reduce anemia.

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The executive summary of the report can be downloaded from: www.who.int/nutrition/publications/micronutrients/guidelines/mpowders-infant-children-executivesummary.pdf.

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Did You Know?

- > The Home Fortification Technical Advisory Group (HF-TAG) is a global network of stakeholders engaged in home fortification. Its mission is to provide leadership by advocating and supporting well-designed and effective home fortification interventions at scale for children and women, based on sound technical guidance and best practices. **Learn more about HF-TAG through their website:** bit.ly/2mCOjnh
- > HF-TAG has released a revision to its MNP Toolkit, which covers planning, policy development, program manage-

ment, procurement, supply and distribution, behavior change interventions and monitoring in respect of MNP programs, providing checklists, guidance, and resources.

The toolkit can be downloaded from: www.hftag.org/downloads.asp?s=hftag&c=Toolkit

- > As a co-founder and member of HF-TAG, *Sight and Life* has played an important role in the development of a 15-micronutrient formulation for MNPs and has supported HF-TAG with the quality manual for MNP and provided technical support to MNP programs.

Better Business, Better World



This leading report is a call to action for business leaders and makes a compelling case as to why businesses should pursue growth in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Although the report does not explicitly refer to nutrition, it does lay out the top market opportunity areas in the domain of food and agriculture, of which four out of ten are related to nutrition, namely: reducing food waste in the value chain; developing [healthy] food markets for the low-income consumer; reducing consumer food waste; and product reformulation. **The report recommends six actions that business leaders need to apply to appreciate these opportunities:**

01. Build support for the Global Goals as the right growth strategy in their companies and across the business community

- 02. Incorporate the Global Goals into company strategy
- 03. Drive the transformation to sustainable markets with sector peers
- 04. Work with policy-makers to pay the true cost of natural and human resources
- 05. Push for a financial system oriented towards longer-term sustainable investment and
- 06. Rebuild the Social Contract.

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“Achieving the Global Goals opens up market opportunities in food and agriculture, cities, energy and materials, as well as health and wellbeing”

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An excellent reference work for those seeking sustainable partnerships, this stimulating publication can be downloaded from: report.businesscommission.org/uploads/BetterBiz-BetterWorld.pdf

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Did You Know?

- > The Business and Sustainable Development Commission was launched in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2016. It brings together leaders from business, finance, civil society, labor, and international organizations, with the twin aims of mapping the economic prize that could be available to business if the UN Sustainable Development Goals are achieved, and describing how business can contribute to delivering these goals.
- > The new website www.InvestInNutrition.org, was launched by Results for Development (R4D) together with the World Bank and 1,000 Days. It provides financing scenarios for the required investment of US\$70 billion above current spending over the next ten years, and its data and images can be used as a powerful advocacy tool for financing in nutrition.
- > *Investing in nutrition* is a great resource with excellent visuals that summarizes the investments necessary for achieving World Health Assembly 2025 global targets to improve nutrition, and outlines how governments, donors, the private sector, foundations, and others can come together to finance nutrition actions at scale.
Read it here: bit.ly/2b8r1Ma

Compendium of Indicators for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture



health are long and differ significantly between regions, socioeconomic groups, and within households. As such, it is important to identify ways to measure what difference “nutrition-sensitive” interventions are making and how these can be improved. The compendium aims to support those responsible for designing nutrition-sensitive food and agricultural investments to select appropriate indicators to measure whether, and if so via which pathways, investments are contributing to improved nutrition. It features a list of indicators, including a description of what each indicator measures, when it is relevant and how data is collected and analyzed, along with related technical resources.

A PDF file of the publication can be downloaded at: www.fao.org/3/a-i6275e.pdf.

“There is no magic recipe for multisectoral action. Nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs, together with changes in the underlying determinants and the enabling environment, all have important roles to play. When they come together in a virtuous circle, they can lead to significant improvements in people’s nutrition status.”

Global Nutrition Report, 2014

Evidence suggests that the health sector will only make up 20% of the efforts needed to reduce the burden of malnutrition by means of nutrition-specific interventions. Reducing sustained rates of malnutrition requires joint action between the health, agriculture, social protection, and education sectors.

While these sectors clearly must collaborate, the impact pathways from production, social protection and natural resource management to dietary intake, care practices and

Did You Know?

- “Improving Nutrition through Agriculture and Food Systems” is a new e-course illustrating the linkages between agriculture, food systems and nutrition. It describes the benefits of, and opportunities for, integrating nutrition into food system policies, investments and programs. It also provides a series of examples of nutrition-sensitive policies and interventions, as well as an overview of the main initiatives and commitments on nutrition on which learners can build to integrate nutrition into their work.

Interested in taking the course?

Go to: www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/NFS

- Does agriculture improve nutrition? The factsheet on “The Role of Agriculture: Producing Food to Nourish People?” developed by Generation Nutrition looks beyond basic assumptions to examine ways in which agriculture affects nutritional status. It is part of a series exploring ways of preventing child undernutrition.

Look it up here: bit.ly/2iuWhbD

WASH' Nutrition: A Practical Guidebook on Increasing Nutritional Impact Through Integration of WASH and Nutrition Programs



“Addressing undernutrition and meeting the 2025 Global Nutrition Targets will require a multisectoral approach with a strengthened focus on improving WASH [...] No child ought to suffer from undernutrition, and through smart, targeted joint action on WASH and nutrition, millions of deaths can be prevented”

Zita Weise Prinzo, Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO, and Margaret Montgomery, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, WHO

WASH' Nutrition is an outstanding resource for implementers who are thirsty for practical guidance on the integration of WASH and nutrition at the field level. This comprehensive guidebook launched by *Action Contre la Faim* not only encourages the design of new integrated projects but also provides

support for reinforcing existing integrated interventions, and gives much room for context-based design and implementation.

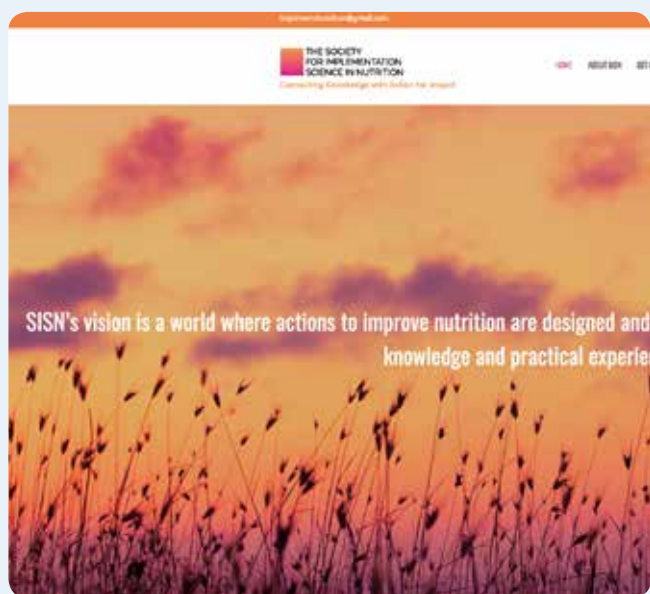
The report describes the practical implementation of integrated activities at different levels (household, community, national) and in different settings (schools, nutrition and health centers). It also puts forward a framework for monitoring and evaluation with related indicators, and covers advocacy for WASH and nutrition integration, capacity-building and communication. A collection of examples and practical tools extrapolated from case studies is available at the end of the report to help with integration efforts.

The report can be accessed at bit.ly/2nU7to0

Did You Know?

- Studies in The Gambia have shown that > 40% of stunting can be attributed to environmental enteric dysfunction (EED) – i.e., chronic exposure to pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites due to poor hygiene, contaminated water and open defecation. EED can be avoided or reduced through a set of WASH interventions.
- Two relevant articles in *Sight and Life* 2/2013 and 1/2016 address this topic. Read the editorial on “The Stunting Enigma” and the commentary entitled “Making Stunting a Development Indicator” here via the following two links:
 - www.sightandlife.org/fileadmin/data/Magazine/2013/27_2_2013/Commentary_The_Stunting_Enigma.pdf
 - www.sightandlife.org/fileadmin/data/Magazine/2016/Mag1/Making_Stunting_a_Development_Indicator.pdf

The Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition (SISN): New website and open membership



We are delighted to inform you that SISN's new website is now live and open to membership.

You can apply through: www.implementnutrition.org/get-involved/#_howtoapply.

From now on, the site will be a key hub for SISN's communications activities. In addition to expanded information on the Society's vision, mission, goals and governance, it also includes a dedicated section for blogs.

Throughout 2017, SISN will be adding resources, such as frameworks, toolkits, webinars, papers and other key documents of interest, some of which will be available to members only. If you are not already a member, you can apply via the website.

“SISN's vision is a world where actions to improve nutrition are designed and implemented with the best available scientific knowledge and practical experience”

By joining SISN, you are becoming part of a global community dedicated to improving nutrition implementation worldwide. You will also benefit from being kept abreast of developments in the sector and from opportunities to enhance your professional profile and networks. We also have opportunities for members to become more directly involved in supporting the Society's goals.

To find out more, please visit:

www.implementnutrition.org/volunteer/.

Follow the Society on:

Twitter – @implementnutri

LinkedIn – The Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition

Did You Know?

- > The Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition was launched in 2016 to facilitate the vital collaboration needed between all stakeholders in nutrition implementation and to pool the collective knowledge, experience, resources and commitments of scientists and practitioners to take on the challenge of scaling up nutrition globally.
- > SISN's mission is to convene, advocate, disseminate and promote dialogue among scientists, policy leaders, government officials, funders and practitioners to advance the science and practice of nutrition implementation worldwide.
- > SISN openly invites membership from all implementation-related disciplines, including academia and research, government, implementers, donors, foundations and members of civil society and the private sector.

The 2017 Global Food Policy Report



“In 2017, the world must move forward with its commitments on the SDGs. Working to improve food systems and strengthening the ties between rural and urban areas offer great promise for meeting those goals and ending hunger and malnutrition.”

Shenggen Fan, Director General IFPRI

IFPRI's flagship report reviews the major food policy issues, developments, and decisions of 2016, and highlights challenges and opportunities for 2017 at the global and regional levels. The 2017 Global Food Policy Report provides a comprehensive overview of major food policy developments and events. In this sixth edition, leading researchers, practitioners and policy-makers look back at what happened regionally and globally in food policy in 2016 and why, and reflect on what to expect in the coming year. This year's report focuses on the challenges and opportunities brought about by rapid urbanization for nutrition and food security, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Drawing on recent research, IFPRI researchers and other distinguished food policy experts consider a range of timely questions:

- > What do we know about the impact of urbanization on hunger and nutrition?
- > What are our greatest research and data needs for better policy-making that will ensure food security and improve diets for growing urban populations?
- > How can we better connect rural smallholders to urban food consumers so as to ensure that smallholders benefit from expanding urban food markets?
- > Why do city environments drive a nutrition transition toward poorer diets, and what policies can improve the nutrition environment?
- > How are urban areas reshaping agricultural value chains for staple crops and benefiting small farmers?
- > What role do informal markets play in feeding cities, and how can they be better governed to increase urban food security?

The online version of the report also provides a very helpful tool to compare performance across multiple indicators and countries across the globe. The tool includes a variety of data sets, including data on investments in agricultural research; public spending in agriculture; food policy research capacity; international model for policy analysis of agricultural commodities and trade; and agricultural total factor productivity, as well as a hunger index at the country level. [Have a look at the widget here: www.tellmaps.com/ifpri/embed2.jsp](http://www.tellmaps.com/ifpri/embed2.jsp).

The report can be downloaded here: ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/131085/filename/131296.pdf

Did You Know?

- > Look for the hashtag #GFPR2017 on Facebook and Twitter to stay abreast of the latest news regarding the report.

HarvestPlus Semi-Finalist – Eliminating Hidden Hunger in Africa by Fortifying Staple Crops

“The process of innovation has been most successful when driven by public health need. Whether in reference to new technologies, transformative methods of cultivation, or simple system processes, innovations that are grounded firmly in the contextual realities of the populations which they aim to serve stand the greatest chance of successful scale-up.”

The Road to Good Nutrition, Karger, 2013

HarvestPlus is one of eight semi-finalists proposing bold solutions to critical social problems in 100 & Change, a global competition for a single US\$100 million grant from MacArthur. The proposed solutions address challenges ranging from educating children displaced by conflict to eliminating needless blindness across various countries of the globe. The five finalists, who will be selected in September by MacArthur’s Board, will present their proposals during a live event on December 11, 2017. The winner will then be selected and receive US\$100 million over up to six years.

HarvestPlus’s proposed solution will expand on “biofortification”, an innovation developed by the organization’s founder, Howarth Bouis. With 20 million people already growing crops biofortified with vitamin A, iron, and zinc, HarvestPlus intends to scale up the introduction of these varieties in Africa through three existing “hub countries”, namely Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. The expansion is expected to reach one billion people by 2030, allowing numerous African countries to become nutritionally self-sufficient and paving the way to further develop and extend this work at a global scale.

Did You Know?

- > Along with colleagues from the International Potato Center (CIP), Howarth Bouis was awarded the 2016 World Food Prize for his pioneering work in ending global hidden hunger through biofortification. Their work with sweet potato has already improved the health of over 15 million people by reducing hidden hunger.
- > The first systematic review of randomized biofortification efficacy trials was published in April 2017. The article reviews the current evidence on the nutritional impact of iron-biofortified staple crops and reinforces the findings and strength of the existing research. **To download the publication, click here:** www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S095816691730006X
- > You can read an interesting article in *Sight and Life* 1/2013 on biofortification, entitled “Using Plant Foods Rich in β -Carotene to Combat Vitamin A Deficiency”, **here:** www.sightandlife.org/fileadmin/data/Magazine/2013/27_1_2013/using_plant_foods_rich_in_beta_carotene_to_combat_VAD.pdf

Juan Rivera Dommarco, new Director of the National Institute of Public Health (INSP)



On February 16, Dr Juan Rivera Dommarco was elected as the new Director of the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) for the next five years, thereby replacing Dr Mauricio Hernández-Ávila. During his appointment ceremony, Dr Rivera Dommarco stated that he would seek to preserve the legacy of the INSP and face the many challenges of public health. He further invited the entire community to unite and support the interests of health above all else, highlighting that the mission of the institute and the health of Mexicans requires “union, cordiality and collaboration.”

Dr Rivera Dommarco concluded his message by outlining his goals for the duration of his mandate:

- › To put the interests of population health first
- › To create an atmosphere of respect, dialogue, transparency and cordiality within the institution’s community
- › To ensure that dialogue with researchers, practitioners and students becomes a common practice
- › To position the INSP as a think-tank of the health system
- › To strengthen the excellence and relevance of research, teaching and service
- › To ensure the generation of economic resources and their transparent and efficient management
- › To support the generational change by supporting the growth trajectory of young researchers and researchers
- › To conduct gender equity management

Sight and Life sends its best wishes and warm congratulations to Dr Rivera Dommarco.

Did You Know?

- › The mission of the INSP is to contribute to social equity and the full realization of the right to health protection through the generation and dissemination of knowledge, state-of-the-art training of human resources, and innovation in multidisciplinary research to design evidence-based public policies. INSP is a leader in public health research and teaching. The Institute INSP strives to generate precise and relevant reference knowledge for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of health research policy for Mexico and in the Latin America Region.

The *Obaasima* Seal – a Trademark for Quality Fortified Food Products for Ghanaian Women



© Marshall Entertainment Group

From left to right: Professor Agyeman Badu Akosa from the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Otiko Afisa Djaba, Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, and Verena Wiesner, representative of the German Embassy in Ghana, at the launch of the *Obaasima* campaign at the grand ceremony at the Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel in Accra on February 17, 2017

In February 2017, the *Obaasima* Seal and Campaign was launched in the Brong Ahafo and Northern Region in Ghana, as part of Affordable Nutritious Foods for Women (ANF4W). ANF4W is a development partnership with the private sector that seeks to improve micronutrient intakes of women of reproductive age, particularly during pregnancy and lactation, by increasing the availability of, and access to, new and affordable fortified food products.

As the steering and principal technical partner of ANF4W (implemented by the German Development Cooperation), *Sight and Life* supported the development of the *Obaasima* seal, which was developed as a private-public partnership between the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) and the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI). The quality seal serves as a certification that the products meet voluntary fortification standards and other nutrition criteria, and most importantly that they encourage women to choose fortified products.

The seal indicates that the product to which it is attached is fortified and has 18 vitamins and minerals that meet the nutritional needs of women.

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For more information, read the following article – which appeared initially in News Ghana and reports on the launch of the branded marketing campaign – at: www.newsghana.com.gh/obaasima-seal-develop-affordable-foods-for-women/

Did You Know?

- *Sight and Life* supported a focused ethnographic study to serve as the foundation for the ANF4W project. The study assessed women's eating habits and beliefs around food. Using these insights, we shortlisted four product concepts and identified why these products would find high acceptability among women. We presented these data, as well as a business case, to local food processing businesses in order to generate interest in a voluntary fortification scheme.
- Need a recap on ANF4W? The previous edition of *Sight and Life* provides one in the article entitled "Improving the Nutritional Status of Women of Reproductive Age", an overview of the project and how this public-private partnership looked at establishing a market-based solution to improve the nutritional status of women of reproductive age with fortified food products. You can download the article here: www.sightandlife.org/file-admin/data/Magazine/2016/Mag2/Improving_the_Nutritional_Status_of_Women_of_Reproductive_Age.pdf.

Expert Consultation Report on the Framework and Specifications for the Nutritional Composition of a Food Supplement for Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) in Undernourished and Low-Income Settings



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation organized an expert consultation for the purpose of developing nutrient content targets for affordable, nutritional supplements for use by PLW in low-income and food-insecure contexts. The consultation brought together experts from academia, the public sector, the private sector and the donor community.

The objective of the consultation was to:

- > share lessons from the field from varying contexts on the development of a daily nutritious food supplement for PLW;
- > reach a consensus on nutrient content targets and possible types and forms for a daily nutritious food supplement for PLW in low-income and food-insecure settings; and
- > discuss the “use-case” for such products.

The report on this expert consultation captures consensus and considerations on the specifications and framework for macro- and micronutrient composition, form and type, and

use-case for nutritious, ready-to-use food supplements for PLWs who are inadequately nourished, and/or at risk of suboptimal nutrient intake related to food insecurity in low- and middle-income country settings.

You can read the report here:

www.sightandlife.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Expert_Consultation_on_PLW_Foods_Final_formatted.pdf

Did You Know?

- > Dr Klaus Kraemer, *Sight and Life's* Managing Director, was appointed to the expert panel to discuss these pressing topics surrounding women's nutrition. He comments: “This important and timely document provides a blueprint to develop nutritious foods for women of reproductive age in countries with the highest needs.”
- > This consultation is timely in view of the recent WHO antenatal care recommendations, which appeared in 2016. [For a refresher on the guidelines, click here:](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/250800/1/WHO-RHR-16.12-eng.pdf?ua=1)

World Health Statistics 2017: Monitoring health for the SDGs



successful efforts by countries to improve and protect the health of their populations through one or more of the six lines of action.

- Finally, Annexes A and B present country-level estimates for selected health-related SDG indicators.

Although the quality of health data has significantly improved over the past few years, many countries still do not routinely collect high-quality data to monitor health-related SDG indicators.

Progress towards the nutrition-related SDG target is outlined below:

Target 2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons:

- 22.9% of children under five were stunted, ranging from 6.1% in the European region to 33.8% in the Southeast Asian region.
- 6.0% of children under five were overweight, ranging from 4.1% in the African region to 12.8% in the European region.

“If countries don’t know what makes people get sick and die, it’s a lot harder to know what to do about it”

Dr Marie-Paule Kieny

Produced by the WHO Department of Information, Evidence and Research, of the Health Systems and Innovation Cluster, in collaboration with all relevant WHO technical departments, the *World Health Statistics* report is one of WHO’s annual flagship publications and compiles health statistics for its 194 Member States. This year’s edition brings together a wide range of indicators that are relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provides a snapshot of both gains for, and threats to, the health of the world’s population.

The report is organized in three parts:

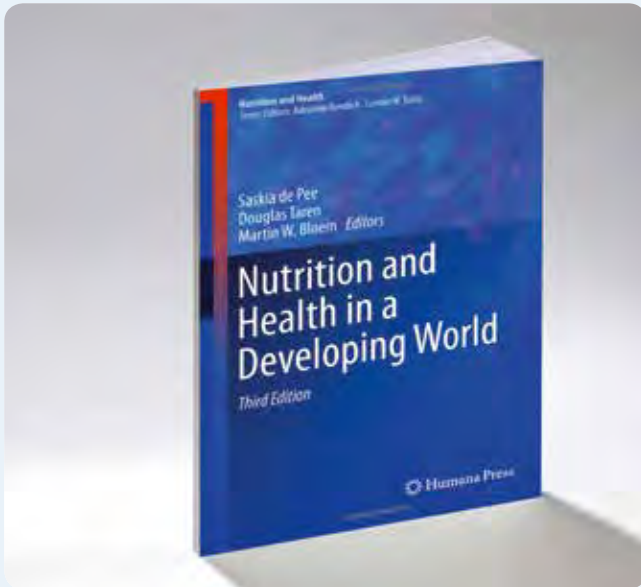
- Part 1 describes six lines of action which WHO is now promoting to help build better systems for health and to achieve the health and health-related SDGs.
- Part 2 summarizes the status of selected health-related SDG indicators at both global and regional level, based on data available as at early 2017.
- Part 3 presents a selection of stories that highlight recent

You can read the report here: apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/255336/1/9789241565486-eng.pdf?ua=1

Did You Know?

- The World Health Statistics report has been published annually since 2005.
- In February, the world lost a unique statistician – Dr Hans Rosling, a well-known public educator and professor of global health from Sweden who was known for his ability to make statistics come alive.

3rd Edition of Nutrition and Health in a Developing World



“The third edition of *Nutrition and Health in Developing Countries* takes on a new context whereby the word ‘developing’ is now a verb and not an adjective”

This 827-page book with 36 chapters provides policy makers, nutritionists, students, scientists, and professionals with the most up-to-date knowledge regarding key nutritional and health problems in developing countries. Unlike its two previous editions, this third edition was written against the backdrop of the Sustainable Development Goals and therefore includes new chapters with various topics which well reflect the interconnectedness and complexity of our world. This requires a new approach to public health which includes, but is not limited to: food value chains, challenges to achieving sustainable food systems, urbanization, food insecurity, climate change and political instability.

This third edition reviews the epidemiology, outcome indicators, policies and programs that are used to determine improvements in nutrition and health that lead to development. Programs and policies that address the social and economic determinants of nutrition and health are increasingly gaining in importance as methods to improve the status of the most vulnerable people in the world. This volume is a great resource that policy-makers, nutritionists, students, scientists, and professionals can use to advance methods for improving the health of the world’s population and the development of nations, and to equip themselves to approach health and nutritional problems in a holistic and integrative way.

Did You Know?

- › *Sight and Life* authored the chapter on ‘The Role of Foundations and Initiatives by the Private Sector for Improving Health and Nutrition’ (pp.771–790).
- › You can order your own copy of the book, or specific chapters from it, here: www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319437378