
NUTRITION MATTERS
NUTRITION AND THE YOUNG FACE OF NEPAD
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Dear WCAR colleagues;

UN Secretary-General said that **the world as a whole will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) unless they are achieved in Africa**. The Young Face of NEPAD lays out tangible steps so that Africa can practically and effectively move towards meeting the MDGs. The report acknowledges that substantial and **sustained nutrition programs are an essential investment** for the survival, growth and development of infants and young children, as well as for Africa's future development and economic growth. Short-term priority actions can bring rapid and large-scale improvements in the lives of Africa's children. By doing so, they will generate hope, skills and momentum for solving other challenges.

The report identifies **bringing malnutrition rapidly and decisively under control** as one of the short-term priority actions to make a difference for Africa's children. The report rates as priority nutrition actions with proven major benefits the following: 1) promotion of optimal breastfeeding, complementary feeding and related childcare practices; 2) community-led monitoring and promotion of the growth of young children; 3) regular vitamin A supplementation; 4) consumption of iodized salt; 5) regular deworming; 6) iron supplementation for women as a part of antenatal care; 7) staple food fortification with vitamins and minerals; and 8) nutritional care and support for children and women affected by HIV/AIDS and emergencies.

Three main elements of the strategy are: a) strengthening the capacity of families and communities in protecting and supporting the survival, growth and development of children; b) focusing on basic services and taking proven interventions to a comprehensive scale; and c) harnessing the power of mass communications and information technology. In this era of globalization and interdependence, the rights of Africa's children - including the right to food and nutrition - needs to be seen as a global public good and a matter of global concern

Attached (in English and French): The young face of NEPAD. Children and young people in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

ENJOY! (... and share with your colleagues and counterparts).

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