At the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the overarching theme will be *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*. Additionally, *Goal 2 on achieving Zero Hunger and Improved Nutrition* is one of six goals being examined in depth. By focusing on children – including on their nutrition and overall health – governments can address poverty at its root, and build the foundation for stronger, more sustainable and inclusive development.

**EQUITY AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES**

*Progress in nutrition will lay the foundations for the achievement of many other SDG targets.* Without action on nutrition, not only will Goal 2 not be achieved, but all Goals will falter – from health, education and gender equality to poverty and peace.

Good nutrition sets nations on the path to development and will be critical to achieving the SDGs. UNICEF is uniquely placed to lead countries in this process given its focus on equity, its capacity for multi-sectoral action, and its commitments to children – whose health and welfare are the foundation of sustainable development.

UNICEF programmes focus on early childhood nutrition for growth and development, the prevention and treatment of malnutrition and addressing adolescent and women’s health and nutritional needs. The following SDG targets are most closely related to UNICEF’s core nutrition aims:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons</td>
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The SDGs provide an opportunity for countries to strengthen commitments to nutrition and implement an equity-based, integrated approach. There are also a number of global nutritional challenges facing the SDG era. In 2015, almost one-quarter of children under 5 were stunted, 7% were wasted and 6% were overweight. If the current global trajectory continues, 119 million children under 5 will be stunted in 2030. Poverty, conflict, climate change and population growth will prove a challenge in meeting SDG targets in countries with some of the highest burdens. Yet to truly leave no one behind and sustainably achieve zero hunger, national investments in countries with both large and low burdens will be necessary.

In addition to an equity approach, nutrition systems and service delivery must promote integrated, multi-sectoral policies, programmes and interventions beyond the nutrition sector. Multi-sectoral collaborations with WASH, ECD, Gender, Social Protection, Agriculture and Health, in particular, strengthens programme impact and help ensure that gains in nutrition and other sectors are sustained over the long-term. Given the links between stunting and poor hygiene and sanitation conditions, there is greater demand to strengthen Nutrition-WASH programming. UNICEF encourages countries to both *mainstream nutrition-specific interventions within other sectors and make other sectors more nutrition-sensitive*.

As countries continue to implement the SDGs, UNICEF is providing support to align regional and national priorities with the global targets; promote budget allocation; influence political commitment for nutrition; increase public awareness; and chart a sustainable way forward towards 2030.

**DISAGREGATED DATA COLLECTED FROM OFFICIAL STATISTICAL CHANNELS**

The availability of timely and relevant data will contribute towards more evidence-based policies and equity-focused programming on nutrition. Increasingly, countries are strengthening national information systems and collecting *disaggregated nutrition data*, which is critical to evaluating whether key interventions are achieving equity. National efforts are underway
in several countries to improve data monitoring and management, often through innovative solutions. Real-time data collection using mobile technology, for instance, have enabled improved, real-time child nutrition assessments and supply chain monitoring.

UNICEF supports countries to invest in and improve routine health and nutrition information systems by providing technical guidance on indicators and building capacity among partners to collect and use programme data for decision-making. National statistical systems responsible for reporting on malnutrition could provide support by ensuring that data on the three child malnutrition indicators, including key disaggregations, are available every three to five years:

- Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age (2.2.1)
- Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5, disaggregated by type (wasting and overweight) (2.2.2)

Additional indicators related to child nutrition that are important for global nutrition monitoring include the Global Targets 2025 endorsed by Member States at the 2012 World Health Assembly: exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months of life, low birthweight and anemia in women of reproductive age. In addition, including key indicators related to complementary foods and feeding, such as a minimum diet diversity of children aged 6-23 months, can help track progress towards improving child nutrition.

National processes of localizing the SDGs are an opportunity at the country level to include such key indicators, and help to raise the profile of nutrition, define programme actions and track progress towards national goals.

FINANCING STATISTICS, SOCIAL SPENDING AND PROGRESS ON RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

With the world’s attention turned to Agenda 2030, there has been greater recognition that investing in nutrition brings substantial economic and development gains. A number of countries developed nutrition investment cases in 2016, reflecting their SUN movement commitments. To improve public financing for nutrition, UNICEF advocates for greater national investments and offers guidance during the national budgeting process; supports governments to allocate public resources where the need is greatest; and pushes for improved monitoring and accountability.

AWARENESS-BUILDING & PARTICIPATION, ESPECIALLY AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Increasing people's awareness and participation is crucial for better nutrition policies, programmes and results. In 2017, the World Food Programme, Project Everyone and UNICEF partnered on the Healthy not Hungry campaign, designed to bring together diverse partners to galvanize action, awareness and accountability and maximize the opportunities to accelerate progress to Goal 2 – Zero Hunger – and Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being. As part of this, the World’s Largest Lesson, bringing the messages of the SDGs to children in schools across the world, will have a special focus in its learning materials on health and hunger over the course of 2017. Key lesson plans will focus on universal issues relating to food and will encourage students to participate in a data collection exercise where children and young people themselves will collect information on how health and hunger is reflected in their own lives and communities.

Further connecting these global advocacy efforts through other channels and means at the national and community levels will be crucial to reach individuals, raise awareness and inspire sustainable action towards reaching zero hunger and improved nutrition.

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2. [http://scalingupnutrition.org/](http://scalingupnutrition.org/)