Evaluation of UNICEF’s strategies and programmes to reduce stunting in children under 5 years of age. Management Response

Victor M. Aguayo. Associate Director, Nutrition.
Annual Meeting of the Executive Board. Informal Briefing, 22 May 2018
Stunting has been declining from 198 million children in 2000 to 151 million in 2017.

Acceleration is needed, if the world is to meet the global nutrition targets endorsed by SDGs.
Background

70% of the world’s stunted children live in 10 countries, in South and East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

Source: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group joint malnutrition estimates, 2018 edition. Note: *Eastern Asia excluding Japan; **Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand, ***The Northern America sub-regional average based on United States data; There is no estimate available for the More Developed Region or for sub-regions of Europe or Australia and New Zealand. Aggregates may not add up due to rounding.
Management Response

The recommendations of this evaluation will be used to:


2. Improve the quality of nutrition programming, with a **focus on the 10 countries** that are home to 70% of stunted children in the world.

3. Improve **intersectoral coordination** for stunting reduction, within and outside UNICEF.

4. **Generate, disseminate and use knowledge** on child stunting and other forms of malnutrition.
Theme 1: Global strategy and guidance
(Recommendations 1 and 4)

Theme 1: Global strategy and guidance

Develop UNICEF’s Strategy for Maternal and Child Nutrition, with a solid theory of change.

Actions

- Formulate UNICEF’s Strategy for Maternal and Child Nutrition 2030, aligned with the SDG agenda (ongoing).

- Develop a theory of change as part of UNICEF’s Strategy for 2030 that guides UNICEF programming to reduce stunting (ongoing).
Theme 2: Regional and country programming

(Recommendations 5, 6, 7 and 11)

**Theme 2: Regional and country programming**

Include focus on stunting in regional and country plans, assess capacity gaps, and support financial tracking.

**Actions**

- Develop a HQ-RO *plan of action with 10 countries* that are home to 70% of stunted children (ongoing).

- Conduct a *capacity gap analysis* in 10 countries that are home to 70% of stunted children (Q3-Q4 2018).

- Support countries to *track and mobilize domestic resources* for Nutrition with WB, SUN and PON (ongoing).
Theme 3: Intersectoral coordination
(Recommendations 2, 3 and 10)

**Theme 3: Intersectoral coordination**

Improve coordination and accountability for stunting reduction within and outside UNICEF.

**Actions**

- Enable **cross-sectoral approaches** for stunting reduction in the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 (completed).

- Provide technical leadership within the **Scaling Up Nutrition Movement** at global, regional and country level (ongoing).

- Lead biannual coordination meetings with the **5 UN agencies working in nutrition** (ongoing).
Theme 4: Knowledge generation and use
(Recommendations 8 and 9)

Actions

- Create a new programme unit on Knowledge and Partnerships for Nutrition (completed).
- Roll-out a Knowledge Generation and Dissemination Plan (ongoing).
- Finalize and disseminate a series of analyses of the determinants of stunting in South Asia (Q4-2018).
For every child, nutrition