

Positioning Nutrition in the Post-2015 Debate

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Outline

1. What have the MDGs done for nutrition?
2. Principles guiding post 2015 discussion
3. What can nutrition do for the next set of goals?
4. How do we want the new goals to help reduce malnutrition?
5. What are the options for nutrition and how to prioritise?
6. Recommendations
7. Final Reflections

What have the MDGs done for nutrition?

- Underweight: one (sub-optimal) indicator in one sub-goal of one MDG
- Nevertheless, probably important in allowing development agencies justify an increased investment in nutrition over the past
- Location in the MDG1 probably particularly helpful in supporting World Bank leadership

Which principles are guiding post 2015 discussion?

- Make goals global
- Get a better balance of outcomes, outputs and inputs
- Greater focus on resource use and environment
- Greater focus on equity
- More on transparency and accountability
- More on peace and security
- Keep number of goals small, achieve greater public recognition
- Put in place an M&E plan!

What can nutrition do for the next set of goals?

- Generate individual level poverty outcomes; help with equity
- Help give the MDGs a lifecycle and intergenerational perspective
- Help bridge the development and humanitarian space
- Make links/highlight tradeoffs between goals

What do we want the new goals to do for nutrition?

- Stimulate progress on reducing malnutrition priorities
 - Increasing pace of stunting reduction
 - Increasing pace of wasting reduction
 - Improving nutrition status of girls and women of reproductive age
 - Slow down and reverse increases in overweight and diet related risk factors
- Help identify the nutrition sensitive opportunities
- Make nutrition efforts more visible and accountable

Options for nutrition in post 2015 space

- Recent initiatives from UN and elsewhere
- Views of 26 email respondents (half nutrition, half development with a strong interest in nutrition)
- 3 sets of options
- Criteria for prioritising

Recent initiatives

- SUN: new nutrition goals need to support SUN
- WHA global targets on nutrition
 - 40% reduction in number of children < 5 years stunted
 - 50% reduction of anemia of in women of reproductive age
 - 50% reduction of low birth weight
 - No increase in childhood overweight
 - Increase rates of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months of life to at least 50%
 - Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to 5%
- Zero Hunger Initiative/Zero Hunger Challenge
 - 100 percent access to adequate food all year round
 - zero stunted children
 - make all food systems sustainable
 - increase smallholder productivity and income by 100 percent.
 - zero loss or waste of food
- Universal Health coverage

Views of 26 experts

- **Undernutrition**
 - Stunting: inclusion a minimum non negotiable (under 2s and under 5s)
 - Wasting: should be included for under 5s
 - Female BMI should feature strongly
- **Include overweight and obesity**
 - growing shared agenda around healthy diets
 - Child BMI is important to track—increasing rapidly, early predictor of high burdens of non communicable disease in later life
- **Include all countries**
 - global food system, double burden of malnutrition
- **Goal?**
 - Nutrition community: Separate nutrition goal
 - Broader development community: Strategic integration with other goals more realistic
 - All: replace underweight with stunting

Criteria for prioritising options?

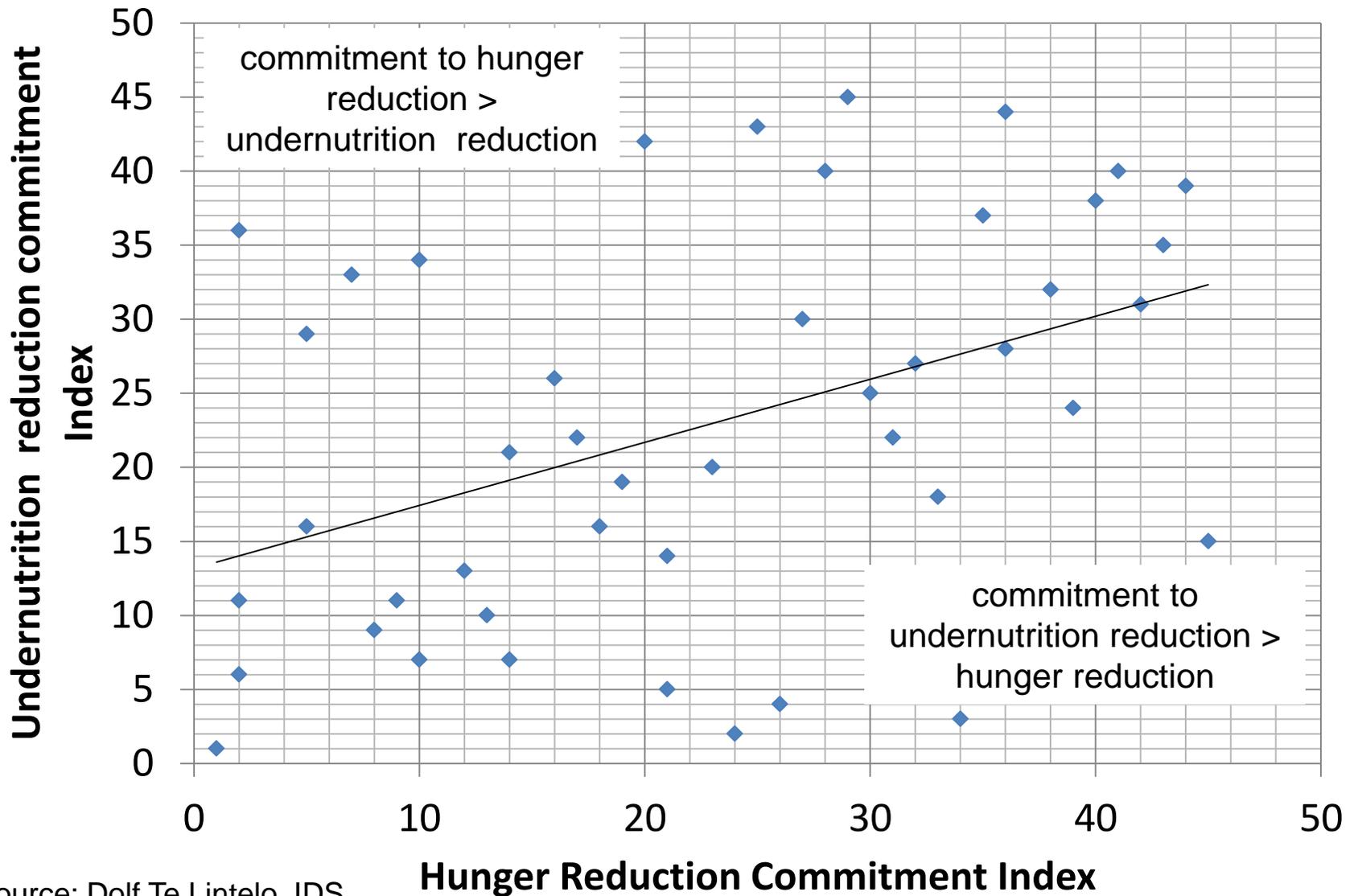
- Most likely to have a big impact on nutrition if adopted
 - Galvanise energy
 - nutrition community
 - wider development community
 - wider public
 - Guide action
 - nutrition specific
 - nutrition sensitive
- Likelihood of adoption
 - Political feasibility
 - among rich countries
 - among emerging/high burden countries
 - Ease of technical reporting

| Option | Advantages | Risks |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Separate nutrition goal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition harder to ignore by those who care about MDGs • Supports SUN directly • “Reducing malnutrition” is easy to communicate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk given the lack of political momentum & home for a nutrition goal • Nutrition easier to ignore by other sectors and other goals |
| <p>2. Incorporate nutrition indicators and targets into other goals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More feasible • New goal “buckets”, especially (1) separation of poverty and hunger and (2) clustering of health, may favour nutrition • Potential leveraging of larger resource flows & energy of other goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition remains invisible –no single champion • Fractures reporting on nutrition progress • Divides nutrition community |
| <p>3. Minimalist—only replace underweight with stunting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement on status quo • Feasible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too unambitious—too weak a negotiating position • No reason to think stunting will be more visible than underweight |

Recommendations

- A separate nutrition goal, while attractive to nutrition community, is a nonstarter
- Replacing underweight with stunting is a step forward, but not nearly enough
- Bracket hunger and nutrition together as equal--but different--partners
- Beyond this vertical “home” for nutrition, create a “horizontal” nutrition goal with nutrition indicators strategically placed throughout the different goals
- Number of nutrition specific indicators in new framework likely to be small, but worth pushing for 5-6
- Important to push for nutrition-sensitive indicators too

The commitment to reduce hunger is not the same as the commitment to reduce undernutrition: new results from HANCI



Source: Dolf Te Lintelo, IDS

| Goal | Indicator |
|------------------------------|---|
| Poverty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stunting |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social protection coverage rates |
| Hunger and water, sanitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wasting |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stunting |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult BMI < level |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to water |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to sanitation |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diet Quality |
| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning outcomes for girls at 12 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secondary school enrollment rates for girls |
| Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stunting, wasting |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exclusive breastfeeding coverage rates |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low birth weight rates (or some full term variant) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women Reproductive, age BMI < level |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women of reproductive age, anemia |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● % of children with diarrhea receiving ORT and feeding |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child BMI > level |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult BMI > level |
| Resilience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wasting (and stunting) |
| Governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commitment to malnutrition reduction |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women's legal, political and economic status |
| Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon and water intensity of agricultural systems |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emission levels of agricultural systems |

Example:
Horizontal Goal for
Nutrition

Final reflections

- Positioning nutrition smartly in the Post 2015 settlement is vital to lock in current momentum
- This is about politics and atmospherics. Technical considerations are important but one level down
- Need to unify nutrition community around one option and then rally potential allies in other goal buckets to support it
- There is time, but it is rapidly running out. MDG high level panel reports in May/June; open question on how much room for manoeuvre after Sept 2013