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Nutritionflash Newsletter

Knowledge and developments in nutrition and food security

A service by Capacity for Nutrition (C4N)

Dear readers,



You look at the first issue of Nutritionflash, a brief newsletter that will bring you news, recent developments, information about upcoming studies, and updates from projects on nutrition and food security. This is a joint project of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): our readers span nutrition-interested professionals from the European Commission, European Union delegations, development counsellors at German embassies, and GIZ employees in HQ and field offices. Nutrition is a multisectoral issue and we hope to reach also development professionals in other sectors. Nutritionflash? We know you are busy, so

we will be brief and we hope to lighten up the nutrition and food security landscape. We will test the newsletter for a couple of issues and then ask readers for feedback.

Helena Guarin (Head of Sector – Nutrition and One Health, European Commission Directorate-General International Partnerships), Christoph Langenkamp (GIZ K4N Programme Director), and Laura Barrington (C4N Coordinator).

Stay in touch! And if you have news please send us an email at nutritionflash@giz.de

From our circle of EC, EU, BMZ and GIZ

European Commission ready to finance National Information Platforms for Nutrition 2.0

National Information Plans for Nutrition (NIPN) is an initiative by the European Commission to establish multi-sectoral information platforms for policy advice on nutrition. A new phase will shortly be announced which will see Mali join existing NIPN countries Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lao PDR, Niger and Uganda. For more information, please contact perrine.geniez@giz.de.

Why investments in nutrition cannot wait

Forthcoming [publication](#) from [Standing Together for Nutrition](#) estimates that by 2022, COVID-19-related disruptions could result in an additional 9.3 million wasted and 2.6 million stunted children, 168 000 additional child deaths, 2.1 million maternal anaemia cases, 2.1 million children born to women with low BMI, and US\$ 29.7 billion in future productivity losses due to excess stunting and child mortality. The publication was presented at recent high level [webinar](#) on need for investments in nutrition.

Digital innovations: The GIZ programme Knowledge for Nutrition ([K4N](#)) has issued a review of ‘big data’ and use of artificial intelligence to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Among conclusions: Artificial intelligence can contribute significantly to enhance nutrition security but also entails risk of misuse and discrimination. For more information please contact boran.altincicek@giz.de.

State of evidence of gender transformative approaches (GTA) to improve nutrition outcomes

K4N has recently released a scoping study on GTA. The study draws mainly positive conclusions about the effectiveness of gender-transformative approaches but also highlights that social change is highly complex and requires expertise of local cultural and social contexts. The study is accompanied by a two-pager, and the research introduced [here](#). For more information please contact tina.koch@giz.de.

Food fortification and COVID-19: The GAIN [webinar](#) ‘Fortifying the supply chain – addressing premix challenges’ took place in early April 2021. The presentation by GAIN (at 35:03) include preliminary findings on “Effects of COVID-19 on global and national fortification supply chains: implications for programming”. The research has been contracted by the EU-financed [2FAS](#) project.

Food fortification in a regional perspective: The [seminar](#) ‘Thinking regionally about industrial food fortification’ looked at progress, challenges and opportunities for collaboration in strengthening food fortification programmes between countries in a region. Different fortification requirements between nations may create some practical challenges for trade in a region, and countries with similar nutrition problems and food cultures may benefit from developing a joint position on fortification policy and regulation.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS) guidelines: The CFS has now issued branded versions of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, in six languages. The guidelines are the only the global policy instrument negotiated among governments and other stakeholders on the connections between food systems and nutrition. Read the English version [here](#); a [two-pager](#) is also available.

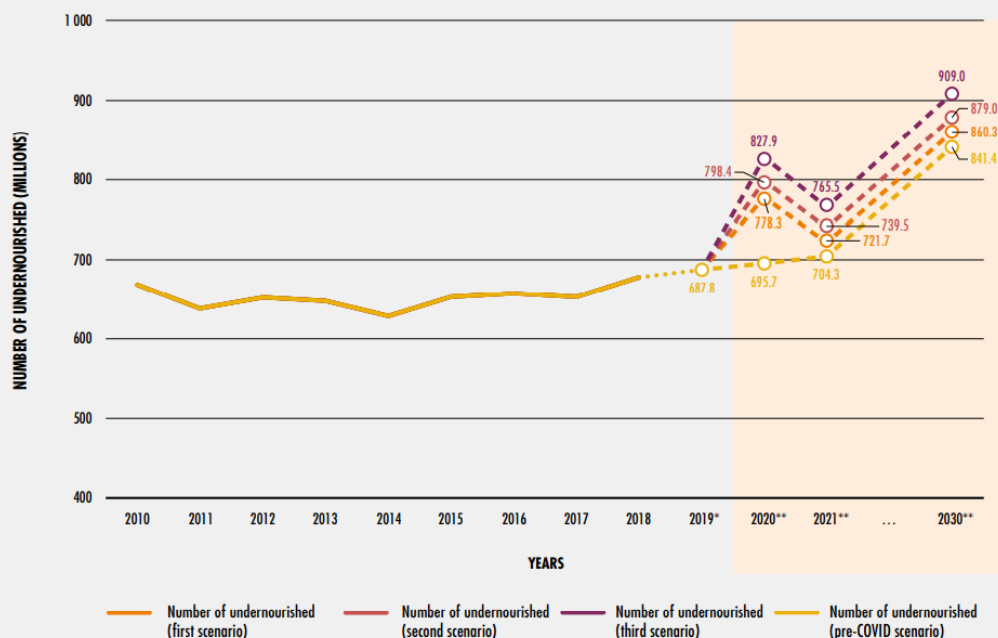
Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger is diving deep into the nexus of food systems, climate change, and nutrition in Ethiopia, Malawi and Nigeria. The research [project](#) intends to unpack how policy interventions can influence consumption patterns, leading to better environmental and nutritional outcomes – or in other words, how can we support adoption of sustainable and healthy diets that consumers prefer and can afford? The project is funded by the BMZ and EU, for more information contact rike.riesmeier@giz.de.

Evidence gap map on nutrition and food systems: A [3ie](#) evidence gap map study on food systems reviewed more than 1,800 impact evaluations. It found that women’s decision-making or outcomes regarding women’s empowerment are relatively less studied; that the larger interventions, which impact more people, are less studied; that mixed-methods approaches and those considering cost evidence are severely underrepresented. The research is available [here](#).

In a graph

Potential impact of COVID-19 on undernutrition: three scenarios

HOW THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC MAY AFFECT HUNGER IN THE WORLD: THREE SCENARIOS



NOTES: The shaded area represents the projections for the longer period from 2019 to the 2030 target year.
SOURCE: FAO.

Graph from [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020](#)

In more detail

Briefly introducing K4N, E4N, C4N, 2FAS and NRF

The **K4N** programme consists of two areas of action: Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) and Evidence for Nutrition (E4N):

Evidence for Nutrition (E4N) focuses on increasing the effectiveness of nutrition-relevant programmes and policies, and is mainly geared towards the needs of the BMZ. E4N uses evidence-based statements on the effectiveness of programmes and policies to develop policy and programme recommendations, and to develop standards for generating impact statements.

Capacity for Nutrition (**C4N**) is a global level technical facility that provides support to the European Commission and the EU Delegations, to government departments in partner countries, and to regional and global institutions and initiatives.

C4N supports capacity development to improve the quality and analysis of nutrition related data and strengthen evidence-based nutrition policies and programmes, by developing capacity assessments and tools, by supporting implementation, and by strengthening nutrition governance and accountability.

Food Fortification Advisory Services (**2FAS**) provides technical support and guidance on micronutrient deficiencies and food fortification programmes. It has the main priorities to support countries to implement and strengthen food fortification programmes, to share knowledge and best practices on the role of food fortification in micronutrient deficiencies, and to increase action and political commitment to food fortification. 2FAS is funded by the EU and implemented by Landell Mills and the Global Alliance for Nutrition.

The Nutrition Research Facility (NRF) offers TA from the planning stage to M&E implementation and learning in nutrition and healthy diets, with the objective to provide evidence-based research and robust M&E expertise that can enhance the progress and better measure performance of nutrition

interventions. The NRF also offers support to ongoing programmes in terms of designing and conducting evaluative research and nutrition research to fill evidence-gaps.

For more information about NRF, C4N or 2FAS please contact INTPA/F.3 secretariat: intpa-f3@ec.europa.eu

New literature

IFPRI 2021 Global Food Policy Report: Transforming Food Systems after COVID-19

COVID-19 has put the world further behind in reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), says the IFPRI 2021 [report](#), but some food systems and sectors were more resilient than others, depending on their structure, governance, and roles of the public and private sector. The year 2020 offered lessons, innovations, and opportunities that can help make food systems more resilient to future shocks and more inclusive, efficient, sustainable, and healthy.

The Lancet: Maternal and Child Undernutrition Progress

Despite modest progress in some areas, maternal and child undernutrition remains a major global health concern, particularly as recent gains may be offset by the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest series from the Lancet includes new papers that build on findings from the 2008 and 2013 series, which established an evidence-based global agenda for tackling undernutrition over the past decade. The series include the following publications:

[Revisiting maternal and child undernutrition](#) in low-income and middle-income countries: variable progress towards an unfinished agenda.

[Mobilising evidence](#), data, and resources to achieve global maternal and child undernutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals: an agenda for action.

[Maternal and child undernutrition](#): progress hinges on supporting women and more implementation research.

Nutritionflash is developed by Capacity for Nutrition (C4N), part of the GIZ programme Knowledge for Nutrition (K4N), in cooperation with the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Unit for Sustainable Agri-Food systems and Fisheries (INTPA.F.3).

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