

NUTRITION

IN THE WHO AFRICAN REGION

World Health Assembly commitments by WHO Member States:



Objectives of the Report

- Profile countries' status in relation to the six global targets they committed to achieve by 2025
- Explore sources of data to be used for progress monitoring and reporting at regional and global forums
- Trigger reflection by governments and development partners on the investments needed to improve data collection and utilization

What the Report Found

- Periodic surveys are the primary source of data for nutrition monitoring ✓
- Most countries' "current" nutrition status is based on data more than 5y old ✓
- Malnutrition persists in the Region, for example:
 - majority of countries have above 30% stunting prevalence, the number of stunted under-fives is increasing ✓
 - only 17 countries have "acceptable" levels of wasting (below 5%) ✓
 - childhood overweight is increasing in prevalence and the number of children affected ✓
- Nutrition data are collected in primary health care visits but their utilization to inform programme planning and interventions or surveillance and monitoring is extremely limited ✓

? The Big Questions

- If we do not know where we are today, how can we plan for where to be in 2025
- How will African countries report on their progress towards 2025 at the World Health Assembly and other accountability forums?
- Are governments and their partners willing to invest in nutrition monitoring?

Recommended actions:

The Decade of Action on Nutrition is an opportunity for countries to make specific and measurable commitments to nutrition and track these alongside progress on the targets for 2025 (an interactive tracking tool for the targets is available at <http://www.who.int/nutrition/trackingtool/en/>)

Countries should invest in the use of routine nutrition data from primary health facilities to inform responsive nutrition programming, surveillance and monitoring

<http://www.afro.who.int/publications/nutrition-who-african-region>

