



# Building the case for nutrition

A pilot methodology and approach to mobilize investments for tackling malnutrition in all its forms

UNDP, WHO and UN-Nutrition Secretariat



# Background

- The **aim** of this work is to develop an approach for investment cases that address **malnutrition in all its forms**. Nutrition investment cases often focus on undernutrition in mothers and children. This approach aims to expand coverage to **reach individuals at various stages throughout the life cycle**, in addition to undernutrition in mothers and children.
- The **impact** of this work includes evidence-informed investment cases to support governments to make a compelling case for investments in nutrition interventions that address the growing prevalence of undernutrition, overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs.
- The **methodology** is built upon established NCD investment case methodology by UNDP, WHO, and the United Nations Interagency Task Force on NCDs (UNIATF) with Zimbabwe used as a pilot country.



# Methodology

## Situational Analysis

Understand the status and context of nutrition in the country

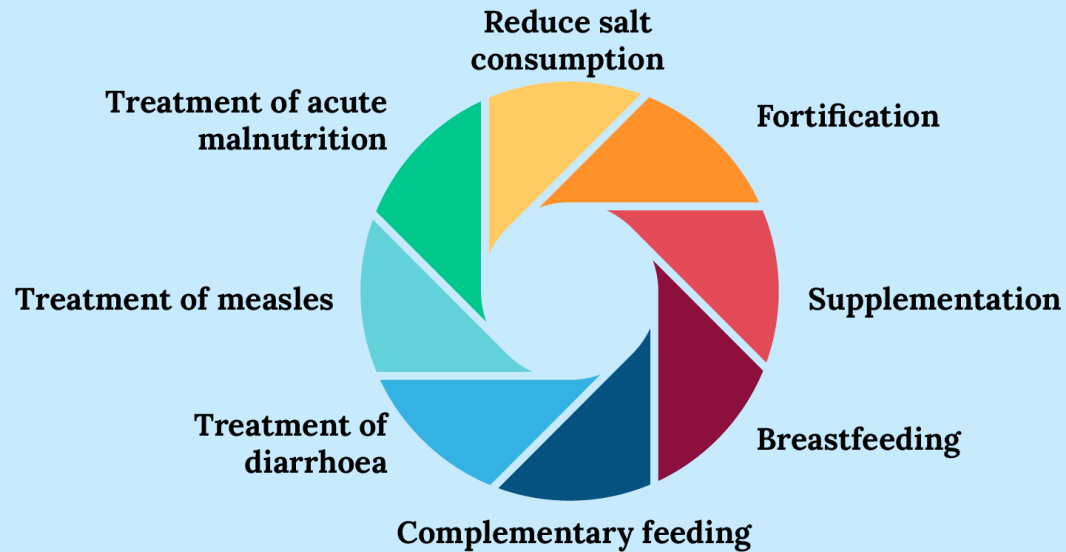
- Prevalence of and risk factors for malnutrition
- Key nutrition-related legislation, policies and strategies
- Governance and financing of nutrition
- Status of **essential nutrition actions** modeled in investment case

## Economic Analysis

1. Estimate the current economic burden of malnutrition (wasting, stunting, obesity, micronutrient deficiencies)
2. Analyse the costs and benefits of scaling up a **set of essential nutrition actions** in a country over:
  - short-run (5 years)
  - long-run (15 years)



# Essential Nutrition Actions



# Essential Nutrition Actions

- Model five nutrition intervention packages to analyse the essential nutrition actions

## Nutrition intervention packages

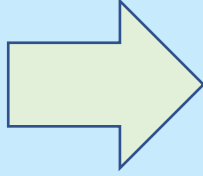
Package	Interventions
Periconceptual	Folic acid fortification; iron fortification
Pregnancy	Iron - folic acid supplementation; calcium supplementation; balanced energy-protein supplementation
Preventative	Breastfeeding promotion; complementary feeding (education only); complementary feeding (education & supplementation); vitamin A supplementation; zinc supplementation
Curative	Zinc treatment (treatment of diarrhoea); oral rehydration solution (treatment of diarrhoea); vitamin A (treatment of measles); treatment of moderate wasting; treatment of severe wasting
Salt reduction	SHAKE technical package: surveillance; harness industry; adopt standards for labelling and marketing; knowledge; environment



# Methodology

## 1. Estimate the economic burden of malnutrition

- Direct healthcare costs
- Non-direct medical costs
- Future loss of earnings due to unfulfilled education potential
- Foregone labour output due to premature deaths
- Loss of productivity due to absenteeism and presenteeism



## 2. Estimation of the return on investment of scaling up essential nutrition actions

- Scaling-Up Pattern
- Costs of Interventions
- Health Benefits
- Economic Benefits
- Return on Investment



# Conclusion

- This work can build upon established methodologies to expand the accessibility and reach of nutrition investment cases in countries where they are needed most.





# Next steps

- Build upon the methodologies to move from a health system approach to a multisector approach, to make investments work for nutrition and for food system transformation.
- Continue research to also include other sectors (beyond) health in the investment studies

