

# UNDP, WHO and UN-Nutrition Collaboration on Investment Case for all Forms of Malnutrition

## Introduction

If countries are to meet the World Health Assembly [nutrition targets](#) by 2025 and to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal Target 2.2), investments in cost-effective nutrition interventions must be scaled up. To have the strongest impact, ministries of health require robust evidence to inform budgetary decisions and to advocate other sectors, especially finance ministries and parliamentarians, to enhance their commitments to nutrition.

**Investment cases on all forms of malnutrition provide governments with evidence-based arguments to advocate for policy decisions that prioritize health and nutrition.**

The nutrition investment cases build on successful work and methodologies developed by UNDP, WHO, and the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs). The three entities have developed and launched 22 investment cases for NCDs globally. Governments have taken 55 policy and legislative measures since the initiation of these investment cases.

NCD investment cases model five packages of up to 40 WHO-recommended prevention and clinical interventions, including a package on unhealthy diets. This package features only the WHO SHAKE technical package for salt reduction, which consistently generates a positive ROI. The need to model high-impact nutrition investments that go beyond salt reduction is clear.

## About the Investment Case

Investment cases are national economic and situational analyses of current and potential interventions designed to address a specific issue, in this case all forms of malnutrition. The aim is to define the costs of inaction or the status quo response, identify priority areas of action, and quantify the benefits of these actions. Investment cases on all forms of malnutrition will support governments to identify, prioritize and scale up investments in nutrition.

There are two major components of the investment case: economic modelling component and a political economy component. The first component quantitatively evaluates the costs of inaction (baseline or 'business as usual' scenario), the investments needed for scaled-up action and the potential health and economic returns on implementing these country-specific priority interventions.

The economic component is complemented by an institutional and context analysis (ICA) to help understand the diverse range of institutions, actors and stakeholders that influence nutrition-related policy in a particular context. The ICA provides recommendations to help ensure that the numbers, narratives and policy options emerging from the economic modelling are heard, understood and acted upon. The economic and ICA components together make the case for a whole of government, multisectoral response, identifying roles and responsibilities for institutions beyond the health sector<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> WHO and UNDP (2019). Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control: A guidance Note for Investment Cases. Available at <https://www.undp.org/publications/non-communicable-disease-prevention-and-control-guidance-note-investment-cases>

## Objectives

The investment on all forms of malnutrition provides:

1. An estimate of the health and economic burden related to all forms of malnutrition,
2. A costing of nutrition interventions that address the breadth of malnutrition,
3. Returns-on-investment (ROI) over 5- and 15-years of country specific cost-effective nutrition interventions,
4. Tailored advocacy products, and
5. Engagement with key sectors of government and national stakeholders to sensitize them to the importance of nutrition-related investments and their roles in implementing them.

## Core partners

**About [UN Nutrition](#):** UN Nutrition is the UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration mechanism for nutrition at the global and country levels. Through UN Nutrition, UN agencies, programmes and funds leverage their collective strengths, build synergies, increase efficiencies and complementarities, and ultimately support governments and partners to deliver results on nutrition objectives and targets at all levels, from national to sub-national.

**About [UNDP](#):** UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It works on the ground in some 170 countries and territories, supporting their own solutions to development challenges and developing national and local capacities that will help them achieve human development and the Sustainable Developments Goals.

**About [WHO](#):** Dedicated to the well-being of all people and guided by science, the World Health Organization leads and champions global efforts to give everyone, everywhere an equal chance to live a healthy life. The [Nutrition and Food Safety \(NFS\) Department](#) is addressing the burden of disease from physical, chemical and microbial hazards in food and unhealthy diets, maternal and child malnutrition, overweight and obesity. The Department aims to ensure universal access to safe, sufficient nutritious food and effective nutrition actions, through setting science-based international food standards, promoting nutrition action in health systems, fostering sustainable food production and consumption, improving food environments and empowering consumers in all situations, monitoring nutrition status.

Please let us know if you are interested in engaging with us on this work:

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