



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION OUTCOMES

OVERVIEW

Today's food systems are broken, undermining nutrition, and greatly contributing to climate change. Understanding the links between food systems, climate change, and malnutrition is vital for devising effective strategies to mitigate these interconnected challenges and to deliver nutritious, safe, affordable, and sustainable diets. Siloed thinking remains amongst the food systems, nutrition, and climate communities. There is a lack of a common understanding of food systems in the nutrition community and a need to raise awareness on nutrition as an outcome of sustainable food systems. Gaps in evidence include a need for country-specific examples of effective strategies at country and community levels to influence wider policymaking, gaps in evidence around nutrition impacts of changing food environments for the urban poor, the role of gender in climate change and women and adolescent girl's nutrition, the role of sustainable food systems in the prevention and treatment of wasting and stunting and how individual factors including barriers to decision-making and agency, in particular for women, impact nutrition.

FOCUS AREAS

ENN will generate, curate, and share knowledge to positively influence policy and programming for sustainable food systems contributing to nutrition security. Our focus will be on examining and filling knowledge gaps around sustainable food systems within fragile and conflict-affected environments and how food systems can be better orientated for the prevention of malnutrition, including through a dietary approach.

Sustainable food systems in fragile settings:

People living in fragile contexts are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in stable environments and many of the causes of undernutrition in these contexts are due to direct or indirect disruptions in the food system. In fragile settings the discourse is primarily limited to food security without much recognition of the importance of creating holistic sustainable food systems that deliver healthy diets both today and tomorrow. We will focus on understanding the unique nature of strengthening food systems in diverse fragile settings, leading to identifying context-appropriate initiatives needed to fast-track actions to bridge into development settings.

Sustainable food systems for the prevention of malnutrition:

Climate change and food systems are becoming more central to conversations on nutrition. Identifying climate-smart, innovative solutions across the food system to mitigate impacts and to prevent malnutrition is essential. Our focus will be on how climate adaptation and mitigation actions can be applied within the food and nutrition system to effectively prevent malnutrition (including wasting) and address underlying causes.

POPULATIONS OF INTEREST

ENN focuses on specific populations where there are limited evidence available or perceived gaps where we believe we can add value. Our rich portfolio of projects explores nutrition throughout various stages of the lifecycle, in particular infancy, childhood and adolescence and our food systems work will build on these strengths. Additionally, with predictions that more than two-thirds of the global population will live in cities by 2050, ENN will explore access to, and utilisation of, sustainable healthy diets for urban populations. Moreover, as women are significant actors within the food system, ENN will contribute to evidencing the importance of this role.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

ENN will foster a common understanding of food systems in the nutrition community. Furthermore, we will broker collaboration and joint action across the food systems, nutrition, and climate communities.

Learning and Knowledge Translation:



ENN will build a common understanding of sustainable food systems within the nutrition community facilitating collaboration between the different food and nutrition communities. We will do this by working with our networks to fill gaps as well as to synthesise existing experience and information within the above focus areas and populations of interest. We will translate knowledge and learning into accessible information relevant to a nutrition audience, including leveraging ENN's flagship publication, Field Exchange.

Knowledge Generation:



ENN will collaborate with partners to understand national-level challenges, partnering with them to document country-specific evidence to inform effective adaptations and influence broader policymaking. We will broker and collaborate in new knowledge generation around how specialised food supplements and food aid interplay with building a sustainable food system.

Networking and Partnership Building:



ENN will continue engaging with groups who are aligned with our priorities such as the Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems (HDSFS) Working Group on Fragile systems and the SUN Civil Society Food Systems Community of Practice. We will actively participate in forums that foster connections between climate, nutrition, and food/agriculture organisations. We will utilise entry points in our networks focussed on small and at-risk infants under six months and their mothers ([MAMI Global Network](#)), infant feeding in emergencies ([IFE Core Group](#)), the relationship between wasting and stunting ([WaSt Technical Interest Group](#)) and for addressing our priority population of adolescents ([Global Adolescent Nutrition Network \(GANN\)](#))

OUR ADDED VALUE

ENN's unique strengths and expertise guide us in driving forward our priorities in creating sustainable food systems for nutrition outcomes. ENN has a strong reputation in exploring and championing an area and making it a new norm. Working with our extensive network to document and showcase programming experiences and learning and bringing that learning into policy and practice discussions and forums. We are independent, able to work without getting entangled in politics, and are good at breaking down silos, fostering collaboration and synergy between a broad range of actors. We are also recognised for demystifying and translating knowledge, making information accessible and understandable to a wide audience.

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