



GANN
Global Adolescent
Nutrition Network

2024 In Review

Summarising key outputs for 2024 from ENN, the Global Adolescent Nutrition Network (GANN), and friends, pertaining to nutrition of adolescents and school-age children (5-19 years).

1. N4G advocacy brief

In summary, the [N4G advocacy brief](#) calls on governments and donors to prioritise the future of all adolescents as the next generation, by making pledges specific to this age group at N4G Paris. It is aimed at national policymaker, donors, NGOs, youth advocate, civil society group, researcher, or other allied supporter of adolescent nutrition.

The document asks for:

- **COMMITMENTS:** More commitments relating specifically to adolescent nutrition (age 10-19 years, both boys and girls).
- **FUNDING:** More funding committed to improving adolescent nutrition, for services, monitoring data, and evidence generation.
- **STRONG POLICY AND REGULATION:** Governments to strengthen their policy frameworks and enabling environments around adolescent nutrition, ensure policy and interventions are free from commercial conflicts of interest, and include adolescent voice in their national nutrition plans.
- **TARGETS:** National targets on reducing adolescent anaemia, underweight, and overweight/obesity, and improving diets; and advocacy efforts to ensure that WHO undertake the groundwork needed for an adolescent nutrition target when the World Health Assembly targets are renewed in 2030.
- **INDICATORS:** Indicators of adolescent nutrition included in national data collection systems.
- **DATA FOR DECISION-MAKING:** Fill the current data gaps on adolescent nutrition that prohibit governments, donors, NGOs and communities from understanding the needs of adolescents and taking responsive actions. These data need to be sex-disaggregated to guide gender-responsive actions and address inequities.

Figure 1: Proportion of nutrition commitments aimed at adolescents during N4G 2021



Let's get more commitments for adolescent nutrition than the 6% we got in 2021!



2. Community-based platforms for delivering nutrition interventions to adolescents

[This report](#) reviews community-based platforms for delivering nutrition interventions to school-aged children and adolescents beyond schools. Following a review of the literature and interviews with the GANN core group members, it highlights a selection of innovative approaches via diverse case studies. Namely:

- Technology- and media-based platforms: [The Bhalo Khabo Bhalo Thakbo – BKBT \('Eat Well, Live Well'\) campaign in Bangladesh](#)
- Community workers: Community resource persons and [the Swabhimaan Programme in India](#)
- Facilities and spaces (health and non-health): [Strong for the Future project in Senegal](#)
- Groups and organisations: [Girl Scouts of the Philippines](#)
- Peer educators: [The Heroínas game in Mozambique](#)

The report is intended to guide others who are looking for inspiration in how to reach children and adolescents with interventions besides using schools as the only platform.

3. Guiding principles of youth partnership

There is growing recognition of young people's role in achieving the Agenda for Sustainable Development and promising momentum toward youth-centred global health. Yet, the voices of young people remain absent in spaces where decisions are made about their nutrition and health needs and how to address them.

Based on insights and active co-collaboration with young people and nutrition experts from the GANN, we propose [7 guiding principles for youth partnership](#): Empowerment, transparency, recognition, respect, inclusion, intentionality, and consistency.

4. Our Network

In the last year, the GANN has grown from 291 subscribers in 2023 to 1,164 members in December 2024.

We have hosted our 4 quarterly GANN webinars this year:

- The January call featured a presentation from Dr Mubarek Abera, Associate Professor at Jimma University in Ethiopia, about the MRC-funded "Transforming adolescent lives through nutrition (TALENT)" initiative.
- The April call included a panel discussion around the debate "Should we be promoting plant-based diets for adolescents and school-aged children for the benefit of themselves and the climate?" with presentations from Silvia Pastorino (LSHTM) and Flaminia Orteni (GAIN)
- The July call featured several presentations around "Nutrition programming for school-age children and adolescents in humanitarian contexts", with presentations from Dr Jai Das (Aga Khan University), Dr Natasha Lelijveld (ENN) and Dr Mija Ververs (Johns Hopkins University, on behalf of the GNC working group). We also had case study examples from UNICEF country offices in Ukraine, Gaza and Venezuela.
- The October call featured a presentation on "Adolescent growth and nutrition- findings from Y-Check health and well-being check-ups in Zimbabwe" from Dr's Aoife Doyle and



Farirai Nzvere, who are from LSHTM and The Health Research Unit (THRU ZIM) at Biomedical Research and Training Institute in Zimbabwe, and from Chj Chikanda at Zimbabwe MoH.

In 2025, you can expect four more exciting webinars, and next year they will also be recorded, making the content even more accessible. Please get in touch if you would like to share something in the newsletter or in a webinar natasha@enonline.net

Other 2024 highlights from around the world:

- The ASEAN Secretariat (2024) published [Minimum standards and guidelines for the ASEAN school nutrition package](#). These new guidelines were presented at a regional UN workshop on school nutrition in Bangkok in March.
- Hossain et al., 2024 published [Understanding the socio-demographic and programmatic factors associated with adolescent motherhood and its associations with child undernutrition in Bangladesh](#).
- The [WHO report Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents \(AA-HA!\) - Second edition](#) was published, which includes a table of 'priority indicators (short names) for measurement of adolescent health' proposed by the GAMA Advisory Group. Full list of indicators was launched by GAMA in May 2024.
- The Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition published their [White Paper on School Meals and Food Systems: Rethinking the consequences for climate, environment, biodiversity and food sovereignty](#).
- The WHO published [Improving the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents: guidance on scheduled child and adolescent well-care visits](#).
- Ji et al., 2024 published [Prevalence and correlates of double and triple burden of malnutrition among children and adolescents in India: the comprehensive national nutrition survey](#)
- The Child Health Task Force (2024) developed a self-paced e-learning course where learners can embark on a comprehensive journey through the multi-sectoral landscape of school health and nutrition: [The school health and nutrition micro-learning tool kit](#)
- [Field Exchange 73](#) includes several articles related to school-age children and adolescent:
 - [Characteristics of global data on adolescent's dietary intake](#)
 - [Adolescent pregnancy and child undernutrition: a meta-analysis](#)
 - [Navigating school health amidst covid19: a scoping review](#)
- The DASH [Conference of Adolescent Health in Sub-Saharan Africa \(CAH-SSA\)](#) took place in Addis Ababa on 25th June. The event included lots of presentations and posters as well as ARISE Network training on adolescent health and nutrition, and the launch of [Africa Think-tank on adolescents and youth health \(ATTAYH\)](#).