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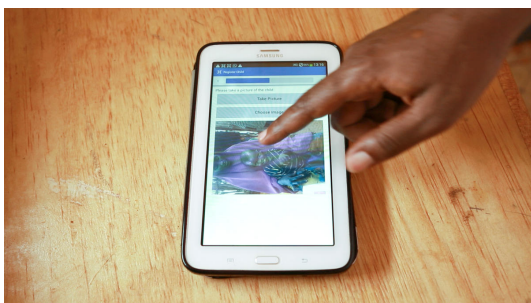
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Issue 4 July 2019

In this fourth issue of our regular update, we bring you a roundup of relevant news, upcoming events, and the most up-to-date nutrition evidence relevant to the West Africa region. Please feel free to share any feedback, news, or events with S.Reddin@ids.ac.uk

NEWS from Transform Nutrition West Africa

Assessment of nutrition data in West Africa



To facilitate better use of nutrition data in West Africa, we have brought together all of our outputs on this research in a useful [landing page](#). This includes links to a data visualisation, full database of primary sources and data profiles for 16 West African countries.

Final call for 'Leading Change in Nutrition' short course registrations

The African Nutrition Leadership Programme, the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are offering a leadership development course '[Leading Change in nutrition](#)', which will be offered in French in Dakar, Senegal 21-25 October 2019. **Deadline for applications is 12h00 CAT on 24 July 2019.**



Countdown to 2030 regional workshop

Transform Nutrition West Africa collaborated with



Nutrition Policy in Nigeria

This new [Evidence Brief](#) summarizes nutrition-relevant policies in Nigeria, examining nutrition context, key beneficiaries, monitoring, and whether current policies are aligned with the World Health Assembly global targets.

[WAHO](#)) aimed to enhance the evidence for nutrition-related issues for women, children and adolescents in West Africa, and strengthen the capacity for analysis of nutrition data from household surveys and other sources.



Better data for use, and better use of data



To turn a commitment to scale up nutrition into reality, we need high-quality actionable data – in the right places at the right times. [This blog](#) from Stuart Gillespie argues that a value chain approach is key for progress, highlighting findings from a recent BMJ Global Health paper.

Nutrition Policy in Burkina Faso

To strengthen and widen understanding of the current direction of nutrition-relevant policy in Burkina Faso and its implications a [new Evidence Brief](#) has been developed in response to a request from partners.



Nigeria Stories of Change in Nutrition

[Stakeholder consultation and stakeholder network mapping events](#) for the Nigeria Stories of Change in Nutrition study were held in Abuja on 14-15 May. The study aims to understand nutrition changes in Nigeria since 2008, as well as anticipated future changes and challenges.



ECOWAS Nutrition Forum



which will be held in Liberia on 18-22 November 2019.

NEWS from partners and the region

A WHO Level 1 certificate course in developing a Data Improvement Plan (DIP) will be starting 16 September 2019 and a course information briefing for all potential applicants was held on 12 July. You can listen to a recorded version through [this link](#).

A [UNICEF article](#) highlights the fact that children in **Mali** bear the heaviest brunt of conflict as the security situation worsens there.

WHO and UNICEF have jointly released their “[Recommendations for data collection, analysis and reporting on anthropometric indicators in children under 5 years old](#)”

[Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) report](#) that national food and nutrition investment in **Mali** is to get a boost with a commitment to ensure the next food security investment plan is more sensitive to agriculture and nutrition.

A partnership between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of **Côte d'Ivoire** has led to the opening of a [Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition \(CERFAM\)](#) in Abidjan.

An [International research hub](#) led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the London International Development Centre has been launched to tackle stunting in children. **Senegal** will be a country of focus.

The [World Bank has approved an International Development Association \(IDA\) grant](#) of USD 50 million to support the government of **Benin**'s efforts to reduce stunting and improve early childhood development outcomes in children under five years of age.

[Nine new SUN Movement countries](#) (Chad, **Ghana**, **Mauritania**, **Niger**, Pakistan, Somalia, Tajikistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe) will now join the Global Financing Facility.

An [Action Against Hunger initiative](#) aims to break the cultural barriers that stand in the way of the fight against malnutrition in **Nigeria**'s Yobe State with fathers making a pledge to improve nutrition and sanitation in their households.

Obesity is on the rise in West Africa says [a report by the FAO](#) following an ECOWAS meeting in **Accra**.

A UN briefing is now available on [Simplified approaches for the treatment of child wasting](#).

The following six peer-reviewed studies have been selected, as they demonstrate rigor in their methods, highlight areas of concern, and identify new knowledge for future action in the West Africa region:

- [An mHealth voice messaging intervention to improve infant and young child feeding practices in Senegal.](#) Maternal & Child Nutrition
- [Coordinating Nigeria's micronutrient deficiency control programs is necessary to prevent deficiencies and toxicity risks.](#) Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences
- [A School Meals Program Implemented at Scale in Ghana Increases Height-for-Age during Mid-childhood in Girls and in Children from Poor Households: A Cluster Randomized Trial.](#) The Journal of Nutrition
- [Trends in cardiovascular diseases and associated risks in sub-Saharan Africa: a review of the evidence for Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan and Tanzania.](#) The Aging Male
- [Is women's empowerment a pathway to improving child nutrition outcomes in a nutrition-sensitive agriculture program?: Evidence from a randomized controlled trial in Burkina Faso.](#) Social Science & Medicine
- [How ready are communities to implement actions to improve diets of adolescent girls and women in urban Ghana?](#) BMC Public Health

We have also highlighted a number of insightful recent reports and web articles, including:

A number of reports by The Emergency Nutrition Network:

- [Nutritional response in north-eastern Nigeria: Approaches to increase service availability in Borno and Yobe States.](#)
- [Impact evaluation of WASH in nutrition intervention on morbidity and acute malnutrition in Niger.](#)
- [OptiMA study in Burkina Faso: Emerging findings and additional insights.](#)
- A Pre-print series in The Lancet on the [Effects of Economic Inequality on Obesity](#), concludes that different policies should be targeted at the poor and rich segments of the society when formulating policies that aim to reduce obesity.
- A 2 day course by the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health on [Severe acute malnutrition training: addressing a skills deficit in northern Sierra Leone.](#)
- A paper in Nature reports that [Rising rural body-mass index is the main driver of the global obesity epidemic in adults.](#)

About Transform Nutrition West Africa

Transform Nutrition West Africa is a regional platform to enable effective policy and programmatic action on nutrition, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation from 2017–2021 and led by the International Food Policy Research Institute. We want you to join us and be part of a network of people and organisations in West Africa using evidence to generate change.

About this update

other organizations/institutions. The presented studies were selected as they demonstrated rigor in their methods and analysis, and relevance to the region and target audience of Transform Nutrition West Africa. There are two main sections: peer-reviewed article summaries and grey literature summaries (from websites and google scholar). This publication has been prepared by Transform Nutrition West Africa and has not been peer-reviewed. Any opinions stated herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the International Food Policy Research Institute.



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