

## A CALL TO ACTION



The **Together for Nutrition: West African Data Forum**, held in Saly, Senegal in February 2020, convened 93 key actors from 15 ECOWAS countries to share experiences in the generation, analysis and use of data for policy and programming to improve nutrition outcomes in the region. Forum participants developed this common Call To Action to invest in the data value chain for nutrition in West Africa.



WAHO supports this Call To Action, which is consistent with the strategic aims of the ECOWAS Regional Nutrition Strategic Plan. We commend this initiative to strengthen the management of nutrition data along the value chain for more effective planning, monitoring and decision-making.

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**We call on ECOWAS Member States and regional institutions, working in collaboration with development partners, bilateral institutions, donors, NGOs, researchers, and civil society, to:**

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS
<b>Provide leadership</b>  for developing and implementing coordinated strategies for nutrition data across institutions, sectors, and partners that meet policy and program needs.	Require all strategic plans for nutrition to specifically address planning, financing, and coordination of nutrition data and multisectoral information systems.	Governments
	Give nutrition coordination bodies a specific mandate around ensuring collection, curation, and analysis of nutrition data, and their translation and dissemination through efficient and timely multisectoral information systems.	Governments
	Require evidence for use of available data in development of strategic plans and official reporting on nutrition programs at national and subnational level.	Governments and donors
<b>Increase and maintain funding</b>  for strengthening all elements of the data value chain for nutrition.	Mobilize and maintain domestic financing with budget line items specific to nutrition data and information systems.	Governments
	Allocate adequate funding for data value chain strengthening in all future nutrition investments.	Donors and development partners
	Make long-term investment in human and material resources for data collection and use.	Governments, donors and development partners

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS
<b>Institute measures to harmonize</b>	<p>Endorse a minimum set of standard indicators (of coverage, quality, and impact) by sector for common reporting across programs, donors, and partners that reflects national and sub-national strategic priorities for nutrition.</p>	<p>Governments, donors, and development partners</p>
 <p><b>nutrition data management systems across subnational, national, regional and global levels, improve data quality and make them more accessible to guide decision-making.</b></p>	<p>Develop and share operational guidance on standard indicator definitions across sectors and appropriate types of data sources to promote harmonization across subnational, national, regional and global levels.</p>	<p>UN-agencies, technical coordination agencies, donors and country partners, governments</p>
	<p>Harmonize frequency and content of national data collection and reporting systems with practical decision needs and policy making cycles to ensure data are timely and fit to purpose.</p>	<p>Governments and development partners</p>
	<p>Integrate priority nutrition indicators into existing data collection channels; avoid development of parallel systems.</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>
	<p>Prioritize regular collection of data on intervention performance (coverage and quality) as well as data on budget and spending to ensure “actionable” information is available for government, development partners and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Governments</p>
	<p>Adopt data policies which ensure data are publicly available, that different partners and systems can easily communicate and share information, and that data are comparable across time and source.</p>	<p>All Stakeholders</p>
	<p>Collect data electronically where feasible and make data, microdata, other related documentation, and outputs available online.</p>	<p>All Stakeholders</p>
<b>Invest in capacity strengthening</b>	<p>Promote on-the-job mentoring for data as part of routine supervisions and include data literacy training across all levels for implementing actors.</p>	<p>All Stakeholders</p>
 <p><b>around each stage in the data value chain.</b></p>	<p>Build capacity for consistent development of effective data visualizations and reporting formats that are tested and understandable to the target audiences including policy makers and programme planners.</p>	<p>Government and other stakeholders</p>
	<p>Identify, leverage and support national universities and training institutions as primary partners for capacity development, data collection and nutrition research</p>	<p>All Stakeholders</p>
	<p>Engage with and support regional bodies such as WAHO, CILSS, etc. to establish a West Africa regional platform for data harmonization.</p>	<p>Governments and all stakeholders</p>

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