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Fill the Nutrient Gap

Analysis for Decision-Making Towards Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Human Capital

What is the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis?

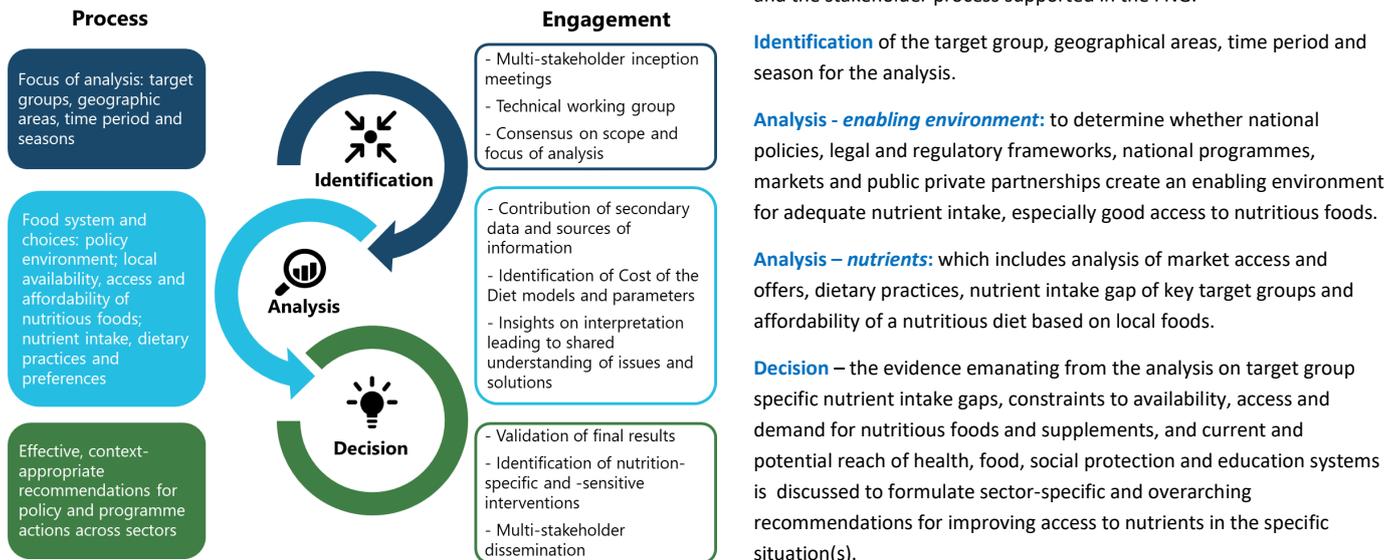
- The Sustainable Development Goal, Target 2.2 sets forth the challenge to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. Recognizing that sustainable healthy diets must provide adequate nutrition, the FNG seeks to assess the extent to which people can make the choice to eat nutritious foods and to understand the choices they make.
- The availability, physical access, affordability and choice of nutritious foods and how systems can improve these aspects is central to the analysis.
- By combining an analytical framework and a stakeholder process, the FNG aims to strengthen analysis, build consensus and improve decision-making to bring a healthy diet within people's reach.
- The FNG highlights likely nutrient gaps and identifies barriers to adequate nutrient intake in a specific context for specific target groups.

- It combines a Cost of the Diet analysis with a comprehensive review of existing secondary data on markets, local dietary practices and malnutrition to identify barriers to a nutritious diet.
- The analysis is designed to contribute to national policy and programming planning cycles, with a myriad of potential entry points for nutrition-related action by different sectors.

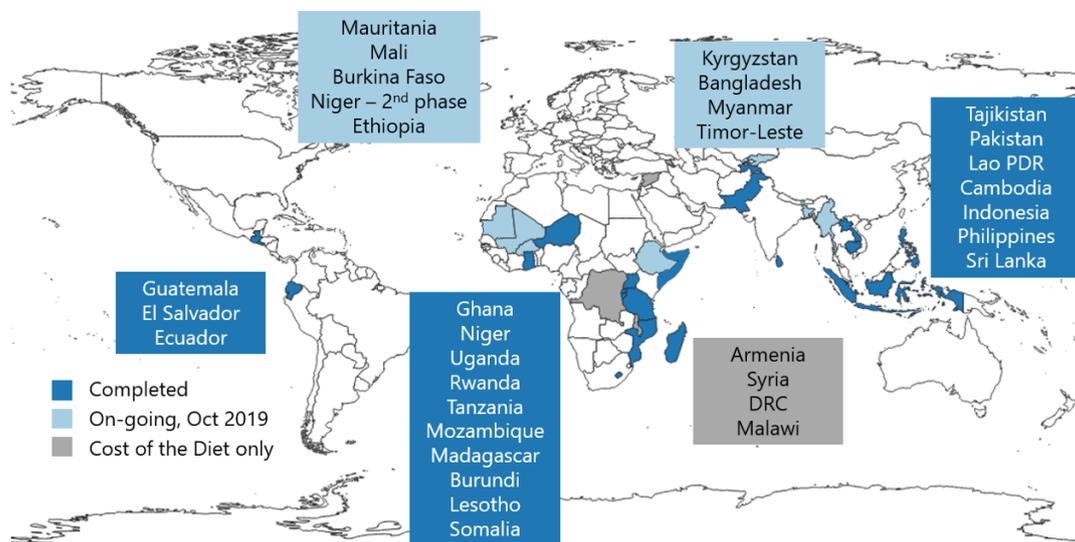
Who is involved?

- Stakeholders at national and sub-national level can include: national government (e.g. health, agriculture, social protection, education, industry and trade, infrastructure), civil society, donors, UN agencies, private sector and academia.
- WFP, with support from UC Davis, Epicentre, Harvard University, IFPRI, Mahidol University, Save the Children and UNICEF, has developed the FNG analytical approach and decision making process which has to date been conducted in 20 countries.

The Framework and the Process



FNG Throughout the World



Value-add of the FNG:

- The FNG brings together secondary information and linear programming to support systems; e.g. food, health and social protection, to identify and address bottlenecks to sustainable healthy diets.
- Conducting the FNG increases the understanding of nutrient access and affordability among stakeholders from different sectors.
- The FNG links data analysis to decision-making by modelling different interventions, modalities and platforms to improve purchasing power, lower price or increase availability of nutritious foods for key vulnerable groups.
- The FNG focuses primarily on the food system and its linkages with social protection, education and health sectors. It is complementary to a broader situational analysis on health, care practices and WASH.
- Combining FNG with analysis on the socio-cultural barriers to adequate dietary intake highlights the linkage between access and behaviours.

How are results being used?

- All countries** → Leading active engagement of stakeholders across sectors on nutrition strategies;
- Madagascar, Mozambique, Pakistan, Tajikistan** → Designing new national nutrition policy, action plan or investment framework;
- Ecuador, El Salvador, Indonesia, Pakistan** → Redesigning government social protection policies to be more nutrition-sensitive; and
- Cambodia, Ghana, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Uganda** → Aligning nutrition strategies of different actors at a national level, in refugee camps, in a specific part of the country or for specific programming.

For summary reports of FNG analyses, publication on FNG concept and methods or for any other information:

www.wfp.org/fillthenutrientgap
 Bose et al, 2019: <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.12793>
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