

The Banking on Nutrition Partnership Progress Report 2015 – 2020

Investing in Grey Matter Infrastructure with \$2.3 billion
in nutrition-smart projects



Human Capital, Youth
and Skills Development
Department (AHHD)

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPPEMENT



The Banking on Nutrition partnership

Advancing the African Development Bank's human capital development agenda: "One Billion Opportunities: Building Human Capital for Inclusive Growth in Africa."

The Banking on Nutrition partnership aims to generate long-term economic growth across Africa by unlocking the nutrition potential of the African Development Bank's (the Bank) investment portfolio. It involves leveraging the Bank's investments in areas such as health, agriculture, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), social protection, and education, which account for over 30% of government spending in Africa and serve as underlying drivers of nutrition.¹ By redesigning these investments to be "nutrition-smart" projects, these sectors can deliver greater social and economic return and impact, representing a double win for the Bank and its member countries.

The partnership agreement was signed in May 2016 and offers a three-part approach:

1. Mainstreaming nutrition into the Bank's portfolio and pipeline, including regional and country strategies, lending programs, non-lending programs, and other activities.
2. Working to increase the production and consumption of safe and nutritious foods through partnerships with regional member countries and regional and private sector partners.
3. Encouraging regional member countries to prioritize nutrition-smart lending requests and investments that deliver greater social and economic return alongside achieving nutrition impact, representing better outcomes for citizens and the wider economy.

The partners:

The African Development Bank (the Bank) Group is the regional development bank for the African continent. Its mission is to help reduce poverty, improve living conditions for Africans, ensure inclusive economic growth of Regional Member Countries and mobilize resources for the continent's economic and social development. With this objective in mind, the institution aims at assisting African countries – individually and collectively – in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic development and social progress.

Big Win Philanthropy partners with driven and committed African leaders to deliver on their transformational visions for children and young people. It seeks to improve lives directly and to build demographic dividends for equitable economic growth, peace, and security.

Aliko Dangote Foundation is a Nigeria-based not-for-profit international operating foundation. Its mission is to enhance opportunities for social change through strategic investments that improve health and wellbeing, promote quality education, and broaden economic empowerment opportunities.

What we have achieved together, 2015-2020

- **\$2.3 billion:** The total amount allocated to nutrition-smart* projects.
- **18%:** The proportion of the Bank's projects that are now nutrition-smart.
- **21%:** The proportion of project interventions that have a priority focus on women and children.

***Nutrition-smart projects** are those that are grounded in the five focus sectors of health, agriculture, WASH, social protection, and education. These projects include all of the following: one or more nutrition-related objectives/goals, a nutrition-related activity/intervention, and a nutrition-related indicator at the outcome or impact level.

¹ Global Nutrition Report 2016, Chapter 6: Accelerating the contribution that nutrition's underlying drivers make to nutrition improvements.



The African continent has the potential to become a powerhouse of productivity in the 21st century—but it cannot regain and sustain strong rates of economic growth, integrate its burgeoning youth population or meet World Health Assembly and Sustainable Development Goals targets without addressing its high rate of stunting and its effect on the economy.

Children who lack key nutrients during the 1,000 days between conception and the age of two become permanently “stunted” – shorter, weaker, more vulnerable to disease, and less cognitively able. As of 2019, two out of five of the world’s stunted children under the age of five were living in Africa – up from just over one-third in 2017.² It is the only region in the world where the number of stunted children has risen in the past several years.

Stunting has a significant human and economic cost. Africa loses \$25 billion per year in costs attributed to child morbidity and mortality and impaired cognitive, physical, and economic development caused by malnutrition. Yet these losses are almost entirely preventable. Domestic investments are crucial for country ownership and long-term sustainability of programs. We need strong leadership and coordinated action to prioritise nutrition investments to achieve greater equity and impact for those most in need.

2 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/jme-2020-edition>

World Health Assembly and Nutrition

In 2012, the World Health Assembly Resolution 65.6 specified a set of six global nutrition targets to accelerate global action to address malnutrition by 2025. These targets aim to:

- achieve a 40% reduction in the number of children under five who are stunted;
- achieve a 50% reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age;
- achieve a 30% reduction in low birth weight;
- ensure that there is no increase in childhood overweight;
- increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months to at least 50%; and
- reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.

Sustainable Development Goals and Nutrition

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 global goals with the target of ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring sustainability for all by 2030. The second SDG—Zero Hunger—recognizes the need for better nutrition. Its targets include:

- End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food;
- End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age; and
- Address the nutritional needs of girls, and pregnant and lactating women.

To address this crisis, the Bank has committed to scaling up the proportion of its investments that are nutrition-smart in the agriculture, water, sanitation, hygiene, social protection, health, and education sectors. Because these five sectors account for over 30% of government spending in Africa and are underlying drivers of nutrition, this approach delivers greater social and economic return alongside achieving nutrition impact, representing a double win for the Bank and its member countries. Stronger evidence on the costs and benefits of multi-sectoral actions for nutrition could provide the basis for smarter and more systematic investments in nutrition across sectors.

In the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2018-2025, the Bank announced an ambitious target of investing at least 50% of its agriculture and health portfolios, 15% of its WASH portfolio, and 10% of its social protection portfolio in nutrition-smart investments and set a goal of reducing stunting by 40% amongst African children under five years old by 2025.

With the mobilization of its vast investment platform and the commitment of its senior leadership, the Bank is advocating and championing a new approach to human capital by developing “grey matter infrastructure”—harnessing brain power to drive development.

The Bank has already reported a marked increase in the percentage of its programs that qualify as nutrition-smart to a total amount of \$2.3 billion during the reporting period. It is in a unique position to encourage multiple sectors and other actors to prioritize nutrition as a central development target, unlocking the human and economic potential of Africa. Through the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative, the Bank is also encouraging other investors to follow their lead to accelerate the pace of change. This approach channels more resources and funding to tackling stunting and malnutrition in Africa and will mobilize broad political commitment to make this a priority.

Acting today for a better tomorrow—Bank President Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina's plan for a nutrition-smart future

Historically, the African Development Bank (the Bank) has concentrated its investments in power and physical infrastructure. When President Akinwumi Adesina assumed leadership of the Bank, among his first commitments was a goal of rebalancing the Bank's portfolio to invest more deliberately in people and human capital development in Africa. The Bank's Ten-Year Strategy 2013-2022 highlighted the importance of food security and nutrition for Africa's growth. Following the launch of the High 5 priority areas – including Feed Africa – there was a need to put more emphasis on nutrition.

The Banking on Nutrition (BoN) partnership has since worked with the Bank to identify the best opportunities for the Bank and its member countries to leverage their existing and developing portfolio to make it nutrition-smart.

The potential rewards available are vast. Interventions to reduce malnutrition have the potential to boost GDP by 11%, and reducing stunting could increase the future earnings per child by 20%.³

Partner Support

Early in his first tenure, President Adesina asked Big Win Philanthropy and the Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF) to support him in extending the Bank's core investment strategy to incorporate human capital investment into its existing portfolios and embed this as the central pillar for driving economic growth on the African continent. He specifically asked both organizations to support a process that would enable the Bank to agree and integrate a multisectoral plan as part of its human capital development strategy, with an enhanced focus on nutrition and investment in grey matter infrastructure to boost the economic returns on its portfolio.

Since May 2016, ADF and Big Win have each supported the Bank with \$1 million three-year technical assistance grants for nutrition activities under the first phase of the Banking on Nutrition Partnership (May 2016-May 2019). Big Win deployed a team with deep experience in this area to directly provide technical guidance and support. In 2019, Nutrition International was retained to support the implementation of the Bank's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan and the roll out of a performance management system. This collaboration was designed to strengthen the Bank's in-house capacity and provide technical support to mainstream nutrition in Bank operations, laying the foundation for nutrition-smart, multi-sectoral investments across the African continent.

“Malnutrition limits human abilities, productivity, and life expectancy. Stunting impairs the brain, diminishing cognitive ability. And stunting hurts economic growth. Stunted children today will lead to stunted economies tomorrow.”

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank

³ World Bank Group, Development Economics Development Research Group August 2018: The Aggregate Income Losses from Childhood Stunting and the Returns to a Nutrition Intervention Aimed at Reducing Stunting by Emanuela Galasso Adam Wagstaff

Partner Support



Big Win Philanthropy

Big Win Philanthropy has worked with the Bank since 2015 to identify the best opportunities for the Bank and its member countries to leverage their existing and developing portfolio to make it nutrition-smart.

As part of this effort, Big Win has supported the Bank in developing its 5-year Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan and has played a key role in providing technical oversight and strategic support to guide its implementation.

Big Win partners with leaders with the ambition and commitment to improve the lives of young people and the economic trajectories of their countries

and to set precedent beyond their own borders. By supporting the Bank regional member countries to prioritize nutrition-smart lending requests and investments, the Banking on Nutrition Partnership both enables government-led change at the country level and sharing of best practice across the continent.

The program also aligns with Big Win's emphasis on multi-sectoral collaboration, guided by an understanding of the interconnected drivers of sustainable economic growth and the investments required for many countries to reap the demographic dividend made possible by their growing youth populations.

Aliko Dangote Foundation



Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF)

President Adesina's request to the Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF) stemmed from ADF's role in developing the Transformative Partnership for High-Energy Nutritious Foods for Africa, as well as ADF's role in strengthening the Inter-Ministerial Agriculture Nutrition Working Group (IANWG) initiated when President Adesina was serving as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

These programs resulted in ADF's current flagship program on nutrition: the Aliko Dangote Foundation Integrated Nutrition Programme (ADFIN). ADFIN

is designed to work selectively on the proximate and underlying causes of malnutrition, recognizing the reality of challenges and trying to mitigate these where possible, prioritizing areas where 'quick wins' are possible and where progress is most sorely needed.

Subsequently, ADF supported the Bank in developing its 5-year Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan to increase nutrition-smart investments in its projects and played a key role in providing technical oversight and strategic support to guide its implementation.



Nutrition International

Nutrition International is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to tackling one of the world's greatest health issues: malnutrition. Recognized as global experts, it deploys its NTEAM (Nutrition Technical Assistance Mechanism) through which governments and other nutrition stakeholders can access Nutrition International's world-class

nutrition technical expertise. With funding from the BoN partners, NTEAM designed and delivered technical assistance packages to support the operationalization of the Bank's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan while ensuring effective coordination with the sponsoring partners.

Understanding The Problem And Its Impact

Causes of stunting

Stunting is caused by multiple factors such as insufficient vitamins, proteins, and fats in the diet. It is compounded by poor hygiene and sanitation, which cause diseases that make the body actually lose nutrients.

Stunting can begin during pregnancy, when poor maternal nutrition and health limits the growth of the fetus. Additionally, pregnancy in adolescence can create competition between a still-growing mother and fetus for nutrients, while closely spaced pregnancies can also deplete a mother's nutrient reserves.⁴

Children who lack key nutrients in the 1,000 days from conception to the age of two become permanently "stunted" – being shorter, weaker, more vulnerable to disease, and less cognitively able. There are an estimated 58.7 million stunted children in sub-Saharan Africa.

The effect of stunting on children, their communities, and countries

Stunting is largely irreversible: a child cannot recover height in the same way that they can regain weight. Stunted children fall sick more often, miss opportunities to learn, perform less well in school and grow up to be economically disadvantaged, and are more likely to suffer

from chronic diseases. The impaired functional development of the brain persists later in life: adults who were stunted as children fail to perform as well as non-stunted adults in cognitive tests.

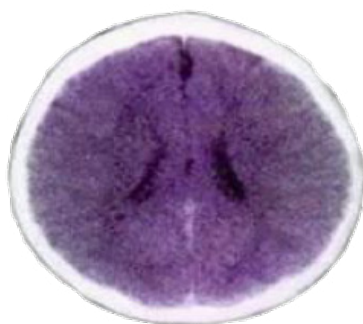
Poor nutrition affects individuals, families, and communities in three ways: direct losses in productivity because of poor physical health; indirect losses from poor cognitive development and less time spent in school; and increased healthcare costs for infectious and chronic diseases.

Stunted children grow up to earn 20% less in average wages compared to people who are not stunted, with GDP losses estimated to be 11% per year. Figures from the World Bank show that a 1% loss in height due to stunting is equal to a 1.4% loss in economic productivity.

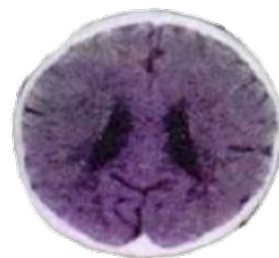
By focusing on this critical window of opportunity in the first 1,000 days from conception to age two, approximately 24 million fewer children will be stunted in 2025 and will go on to lead healthier and more productive lives.

1,000 Days

Brain scan –
two 3-year-old
children



Normal



Malnourished

⁴ https://www.who.int/nutrition/healthygrowthproj_stunted_videos/en/
Josette Sheeran, "Ending Hunger Now," TED Global, 2011 https://www.ted.com/talks/josette_sheeran_ending_hunger_now/transcript?language=en

Sample Interventions



Health

Delivering direct nutrition services through the public health system and integrating good nutrition counselling within existing health services including antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care, reproductive health, and family planning.



Agriculture

Scaling up home gardens and behavior change communications strategies to promote improved diets and improved year-round availability and consumption of nutrient-dense foods such as fruit, vegetables, and animal products.



WASH

Providing access to hygienic sanitation facilities that safely remove and treat feces and behavior change communications strategies to address open defecation.



Social Protection

Providing social assistance through conditional cash transfers, insurance, input subsidies, and public work programs in order to increase/stabilize household income.

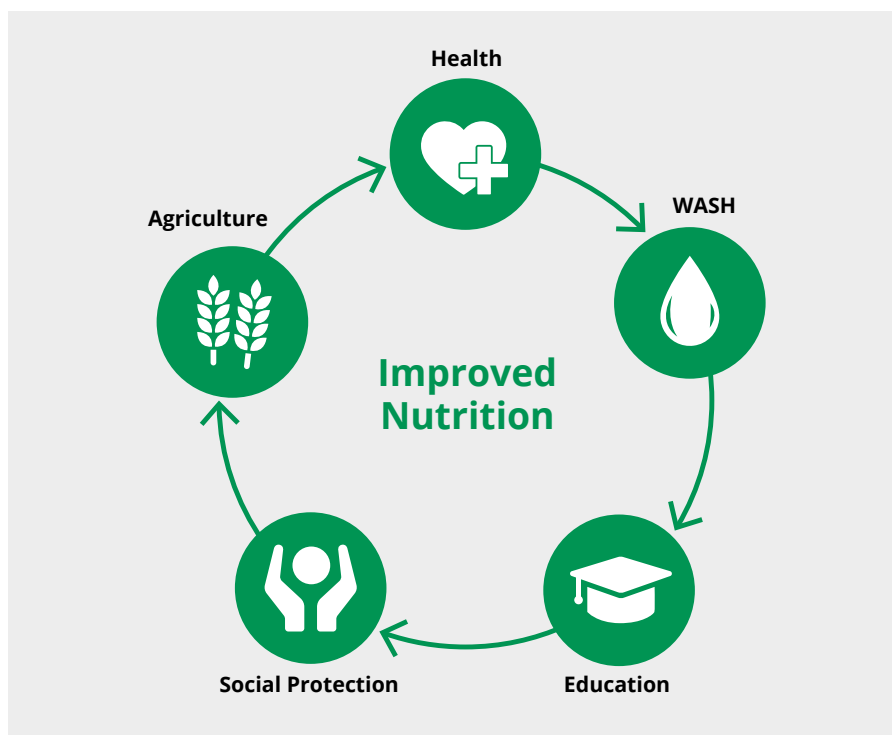


Education

Nutrition education and demonstration classes on harvesting, preservation, and reducing food waste.

Priority targeting of such interventions to reach women and children is a key feature of the Bank's nutrition-smart projects.

Overview of the Banking on Nutrition partnership



A Multi-Sectoral Approach

While nutrition-specific services run by the health sector (such as supplements for pregnant mothers) are a necessary part of reducing stunting, they are insufficient. The Bank's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2018-2025 aims to redesign the Bank's investments in areas such as health, agriculture, WASH, social protection, and education to become nutrition-smart, delivering greater social and economic returns alongside achieving nutrition impact.

To deliver this multi-sectoral approach across five areas of focus, the Banking on Nutrition partnership is:

1. Mainstreaming nutrition into the Bank's portfolio and pipeline, including regional and country strategies, lending programs, and other activities.

The Bank has identified specific interventions in the five sectors that have the greatest impact on nutrition and account for over 30% of government spending in Africa: health, agriculture, WASH, social protection, and education. These interventions are being incorporated into the Bank's investment (debt and equity) pipeline for regional country members.

2. Working to increase the production and consumption of safe and nutritious foods, through partnerships with regional and private stakeholders.

The Bank is prioritizing the integration of nutrition-smart interventions into projects in its agricultural pipeline, promoting technologies that increase the production of safe and nutritious foods, and boosting agro-based spatial development strategies and agro-industrial infrastructure.

3. Encouraging regional member countries to prioritize nutrition-smart lending requests and investments that deliver greater social and economic return alongside achieving nutritional impact, representing better outcomes for citizens and the wider economy.

The Bank has launched the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) initiative to drive progress on existing continental and global nutrition targets. This will be achieved by strengthening political engagement, building partnerships, and collecting evidence through nutrition advocacy tools that encourage accountability and accelerate action.

What are nutrition-smart projects?

Nutrition-smart projects are those that are grounded in the five focus sectors of health, agriculture, WASH, social protection, and education. These projects include all of the following: one or more nutrition-related objectives/goals, a nutrition-related activity/intervention, and a nutrition-related indicator at the outcome or impact level. These five sectors are responsible for over 30% of government spending in Africa and serve as underlying drivers of nutrition. Nutrition-smart projects can be implemented in many other sectors.

Health

A number of priority health interventions significantly impact the nutritional status of the population, while many of the high-impact, nutrition-specific interventions (as identified in The Lancet Series on Maternal and Child Undernutrition, 2013) are most feasibly delivered through health services. Interventions are most cost-effective when targeted to populations most in need and when they are approached appropriately in the context. Using health system platforms to deliver nutrition interventions maximizes synergies to achieve common goals of reduced morbidity and mortality and improved nutritional status. Nutrition interventions delivered through the health system include: regular weight monitoring; more assertive screening and treatment of children, pregnant or lactating women, and vulnerable populations for conditions that lead to nutrient loss such as diarrhea, malaria, and anemia; and screening and providing nutrient supplements for wasting and micronutrient deficiencies.

Agriculture

Agriculture remains a major source of income in Africa. However, untapped potential has resulted in persistent poverty and deteriorating food security. The Bank's Feed Africa initiative adopts a nutrition-smart approach with a clear double objective of improving human nutritional status while achieving the farm or agri-business level objective of increased productivity, income, and profits. Priority sets of nutrition-smart interventions include providing the vitamins, proteins, and fats required for good diets and targeting the poorest households. These include: biofortification; animal rearing; and home gardening.

WASH

Often, the same communities affected by undernutrition also have limited access to safe water and sanitation services, which facilitates ingestion of fecal-oral pathogens that cause infections and affects the absorption of nutrients. In the WASH sector, opportunities exist to improve the socio-economic and environmental conditions of the rural and peri-urban population that contribute to stunting reduction, particularly through improved access to sustainable WASH infrastructure and services while also enhancing service delivery capacity in the sector. However, these WASH interventions must attain near universal coverage within a contiguous area to deliver health benefits and improved nutrition outcomes. Priority interventions include water supply quality and quantity; sanitation; hygiene promotion; and education.

Social Protection

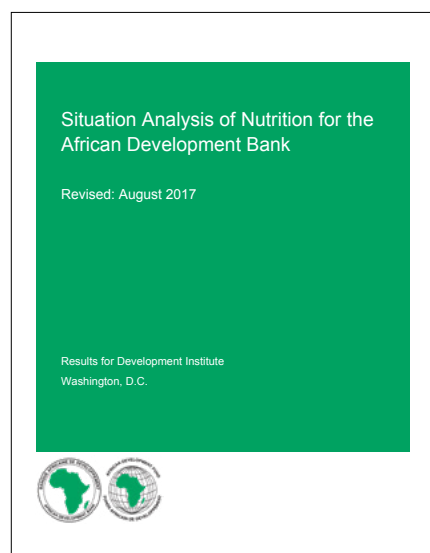
Social protection can positively impact nutrition by improving dietary quality, increasing income, and improving access to health services. In addition to the direct links related to the diversity, safety, and quantity of food consumed by each individual, social protection can also influence other determinants of nutrition, including practices related to care, sanitation, education, and inadequate access to resources. Nutrition-related impact is achievable through a variety of social protection instruments targeting the nutritionally vulnerable including improving diets, improving health care practices, and increasing/stabilizing household incomes.

Education

Schools offer a unique delivery platform for other interventions that provide multiple benefits for children and their communities and help the next generation. School-based food and nutrition interventions offer a unique opportunity using a systemic, multi-sectoral lifestyle approach to achieve health and promote healthy diets. It recognizes not only the 1,000 days from conception to a child's second birthday as an essential window of opportunity but also the subsequent 7,000-day period as crucial to helping the child reach their development potential. School-based food and nutrition interventions include health and nutrition services; an enabling school environment; and food and nutrition education.

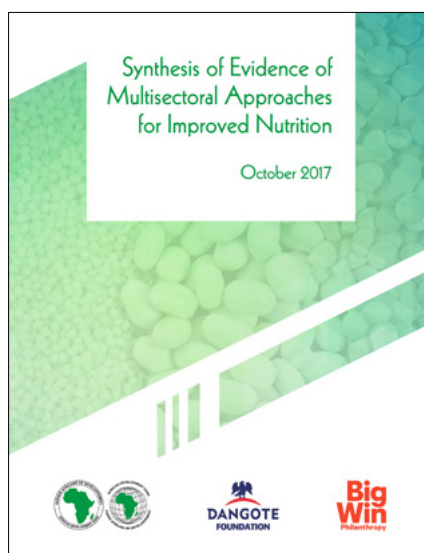
Achievements So Far

Technical Support Provided by the BoN Partnership:



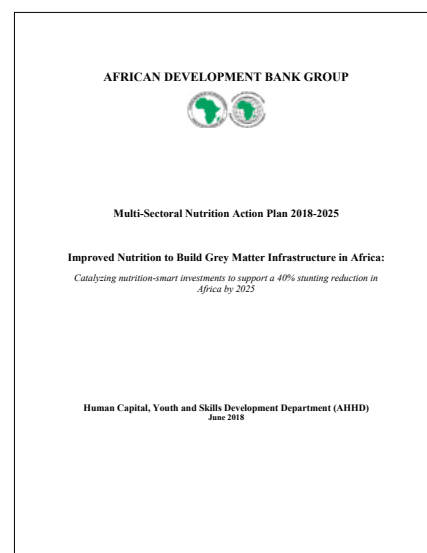
Situational analysis of nutrition:

With technical support from Results for Development (R4D), this report identified the Bank's comparative advantage in relation to key global nutrition stakeholders. These were identified as: The Bank's statutory access to Ministries of Finance in the Regional Member Countries, its multi-sectoral projects and portfolio, and the high-level political commitment to investments in nutrition that the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) initiative generated. This work was finalized in August 2017.



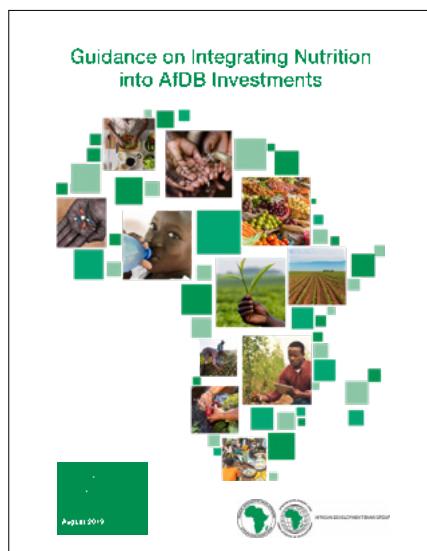
Synthesis of evidence of multi-sectoral approaches for improved nutrition:

With additional technical support from R4D, an analysis was conducted between January and March 2017 to identify interventions and programs with potential impacts on nutrition. The report was disseminated at the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Gathering in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in November 2017 and at the Bank's Annual Meetings in 2018. Subsequently, it formed the basis for the development of the Bank's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan.



Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MNAP), 2018-2025:

This Action Plan, developed with technical support from R4D, sets out the Bank's vision, strategic priorities, and actions for nutrition from 2018 to 2025. The MNAP will contribute towards building the continent-wide "grey matter infrastructure" through its contribution to a 40% reduction in stunting on the continent by 2025. The Bank formally launched the MNAP through a regional event with external stakeholders that took place in December 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.



Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Operational Toolkit:

With technical support from Nutrition International, a toolkit was developed to guide the Bank's project task managers and country economists in integrating nutrition into sector projects and Country Strategy Papers, respectively. The toolkit includes a set of 11 knowledge products addressing the entire project cycle used in designing the Bank's projects, including a snapshot on the nutrition situation in Africa, information related to the action plan and nutrition-smart investments, sector briefs, and overall operational guidance. The toolkit is available on the ALN webpage of the Bank's website, and on Nutrition International's Bank Nutrition Resources Site (<https://afdb-nutritionintl.talentlms.com/index>).



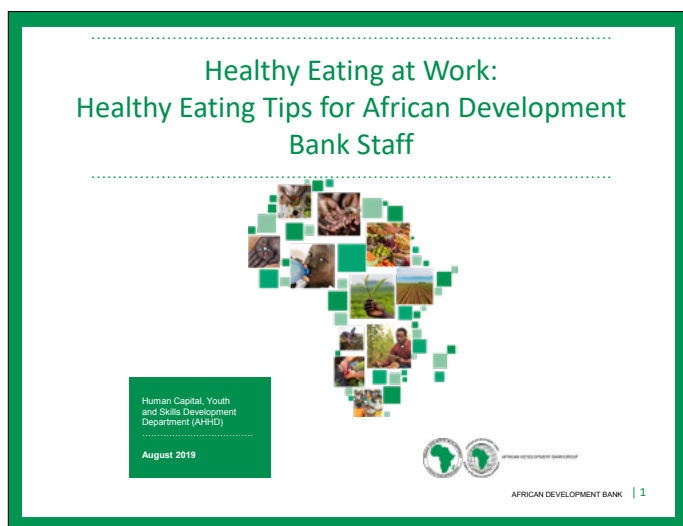
Sensitization of Bank staff and managers:

With additional technical support from Nutrition International, six short videos were developed to sensitize staff and the Bank's managers on the importance of nutrition and the Bank's nutrition agenda. The different directors of the Agriculture, Human and Social Development sector complex, which focuses on the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy and the "Feed Africa" and "Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa" High 5 Priorities, participated in the development of the videos by providing their views on how the respective sectors contribute to the improvement of nutrition outcomes. The videos shown during a regional sensitization event for West and Central Africa and HQ organized in Abidjan in June 2019 are available at <http://bit.ly/afdbvideos>.



Nutrition sensitization event and capacity building workshop at the Bank Headquarters (HQ):

This event and workshops were conducted in June 2019 and November 2019 for Bank staff drawn from various sectors and offices to ensure that they are appropriately equipped to drive the implementation of the Bank's nutrition strategy.



Nutrition in the workplace:

The Bank's Medical Center recruited a consultant in November 2017 to work with the Bank's canteens to improve hygiene conditions and quality of the menu of meals provided within the Bank's offices in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and to provide nutrition counselling and dietary advice in the Medical Center. Over 12 months, the consultant registered a total of 132 consultations; most of the clients were either overweight or obese. The consultant introduced healthier products at the vending machines with a traffic light classification according to their health impact. In collaboration with the Public Health, Security, and Nutrition Division of the Human Capital Youth and Skills Development Department, the consultant organized a nutrition week in October 2018. Posters on healthy lifestyle have been printed and disseminated in the Bank's offices. The Bank's canteens have introduced healthier options on the menu and measures have been taken to ensure hygiene and quality control during preparation and conservation of foods. Healthier options have also been included in the bidding document for the recruitment of the Bank's catering services. A package of resources was created to support workplace breastfeeding, healthy eating tips, and guidance specifically for food services during Bank meetings and events.

Country	Nutrition Status						Coverage of Services			Governance, Policy and Legal Provisions		Socio-Economic Impact	Country
	% of Children under 5 years old who are stunted (moderate and severe)	% of Children under 5 years old who are wasted (moderate and severe)	% of Children under 5 years old who are overweight (moderate and severe)	% of women of reproductive age (15-49 years of age) with anaemia	% exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) among infants 0-6 months of age	% of children under 5 years old with anaemia	% of children aged 6-59 months who received two age-appropriate doses of vitamin A in the past 12 months	Access to clean drinking water (% population)	Access to improved sanitation facilities (% population)	Legislation on mandatory fortification for foods (No=0, Yes=1)	Legislation on code of marketing of breast milk substitutes		
Algeria	12	4	12	36	25	30		93	88	1	0	4 123	Algeria
Angola	38	5	3	46	37	51	14	41	39	1	0	4 170	Angola
Benin	34	5	2	47	41	62	94	67	14	1	1	829	Benin
Botswana	31	7	11	30	20	40	75	79	60	0	1	7 595	Botswana
Burkina Faso	27	8	1	50	50	86	99	54	23	1	0	670	Burkina Faso
Burundi	56	5	1	27	82	47	78	56	50	1	0	320	Burundi
Cabo Verde	21	7	0	33	60	55		86	65	1	1	3 209	Cabo Verde
Cameroon	32	5	7	41	28	63	55	65	39	1	0	1 446	Cameroon
Central African Republic (CAR)	41	8	2	46	33	72	40	54	34	1	0	418	Central African Republic (CAR)
Chad	40	13	3	48		75	85	43	10	1	0	660	Chad
Comoros	31	11	11	29	21	48	17	84	34	0	0	297	Comoros
Côte d'Ivoire	22	6	3	53	24	73	72	73	30	1	0	1 662	Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of Congo	43	8	4	29	47	63	44	42	20	0	0	457	Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti	34	22	8	33	12	42	69	77	51	1	0	1 927	Djibouti
Egypt	22	10	16	29	40	32	68	96	93	1	0	2 412	Egypt
Equatorial Guinea	26	3	10	44	7	64		50	75	0	0	9 850	Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea	50	16	2	38	69	57	51	19	11	0	0	583	Eritrea
Eswatini	26	2	9	27	64	42	39	88	58	0	0	3 224	Eswatini
Ethiopia	38	10	3	23	57	50	79	39	70	1	0	767	Ethiopia
Gabon	17	3	8	59	17	5	2	88	41	1	1	7 220	Gabon
Ghana	19	5	3	46	52	67	33	78	14	1	1	1 641	Ghana
Guinea	32	8	4	51	35	74	69	67	22	1	0	825	Guinea
Guinea-Bissau	28	6	2	44	53	68	87	69	22	1	0	723	Guinea-Bissau
Kenya	26	4	4	27	61	41	41	58	30	1	0	1 507	Kenya
Lesotho	33	3	7	27	67	50	67	72	44	1	0	1 181	Lesotho
Liberia	32	6	3	35	35	69	92	70	17	1	0	456	Liberia
Libya	21	7	22	33		29		97	100	0	0	7 998	Libya
Madagascar	49	15	6	37	42	49	97	51	10	1	1	449	Madagascar
Malawi	37	3	5	34	59	59	91	67	44	1	0	338	Malawi
Mali	30	14	2	51	8	83	99	74	31	1	0	338	Mali
Mauritania	28	15	1	37	41	68	75	70	45	1	0	1 136	Mauritania
Mauritius	14	16	7	25	21	36		100	93	0	0	10 547	Mauritius
Morocco	15	2	11	37	28	34	89	83	84	1	0	3 007	Morocco
Mozambique	43	6	8	51	41	60	55	47	24	1	1	415	Mozambique
Namibia	23	7	4	23	48	47	22	79	34	0	0	5 227	Namibia
Niger	42	10	3	50	23	77	94	46	13	1	0	378	Niger
Nigeria	44	7	2	34	50	68	58	87	33	1	0	1 968	Nigeria
Republic of Congo	21	8	4	52	33	64	48	68	15	1	0	1 658	Republic of Congo
Rwanda	37	2	8	22	87	36	96	57	62	0	0	748	Rwanda
São Tomé and Príncipe	17	4	2	46	51	65	34	80	40	1	0	1 913	São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal	17	7	1	50	36	68	99	75	48	1	0	1 033	Senegal
Seychelles	8	4	10	22		35		96	100	0	0	15 804	Seychelles
Sierra Leone	38	9	9	48	31	77	99	58	15	0	0	499	Sierra Leone
Somalia	25	15	3	44	5	56		40	16	0	0	499	Somalia
South Africa	27	3	13	26	32	37	42	85	73	1	1	6 160	South Africa
South Sudan	31	23	6	34	45	58	66	50	10	0	0	257	South Sudan
Sudan	38	16	3	31	55	57		59	35	0	0	2 898	Sudan
The Gambia	25	11	3	58	47	76	27	80	42	1	1	483	The Gambia
Togo	28	7	2	49	57	71	61	83	14	1	0	617	Togo
Tunisia	10	3	14	31	9	29		94	93	1	0	3 490	Tunisia
Uganda	29	4	4	29	66	51	65	39	19	1	1	604	Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania	35	5	4	37	59	55	92	50	24	1	1	936	United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia	40	6	6	34	72	54	99	61	31	1	0	1 509	Zambia
Zimbabwe	27	3	6	29	48	42	34	67	39	1	1	1 079	Zimbabwe
Source	WHO/World Bank JME	UNICEF and WHO JMP	WHO	WHO	WHO, NLIS	World Bank /UNICEF	UNICEF	WHO /UNICEF JMP	WHO/UNICEF JMP	FFI	WHO	World Bank	Source

LEGEND

On track progress Not on track No data

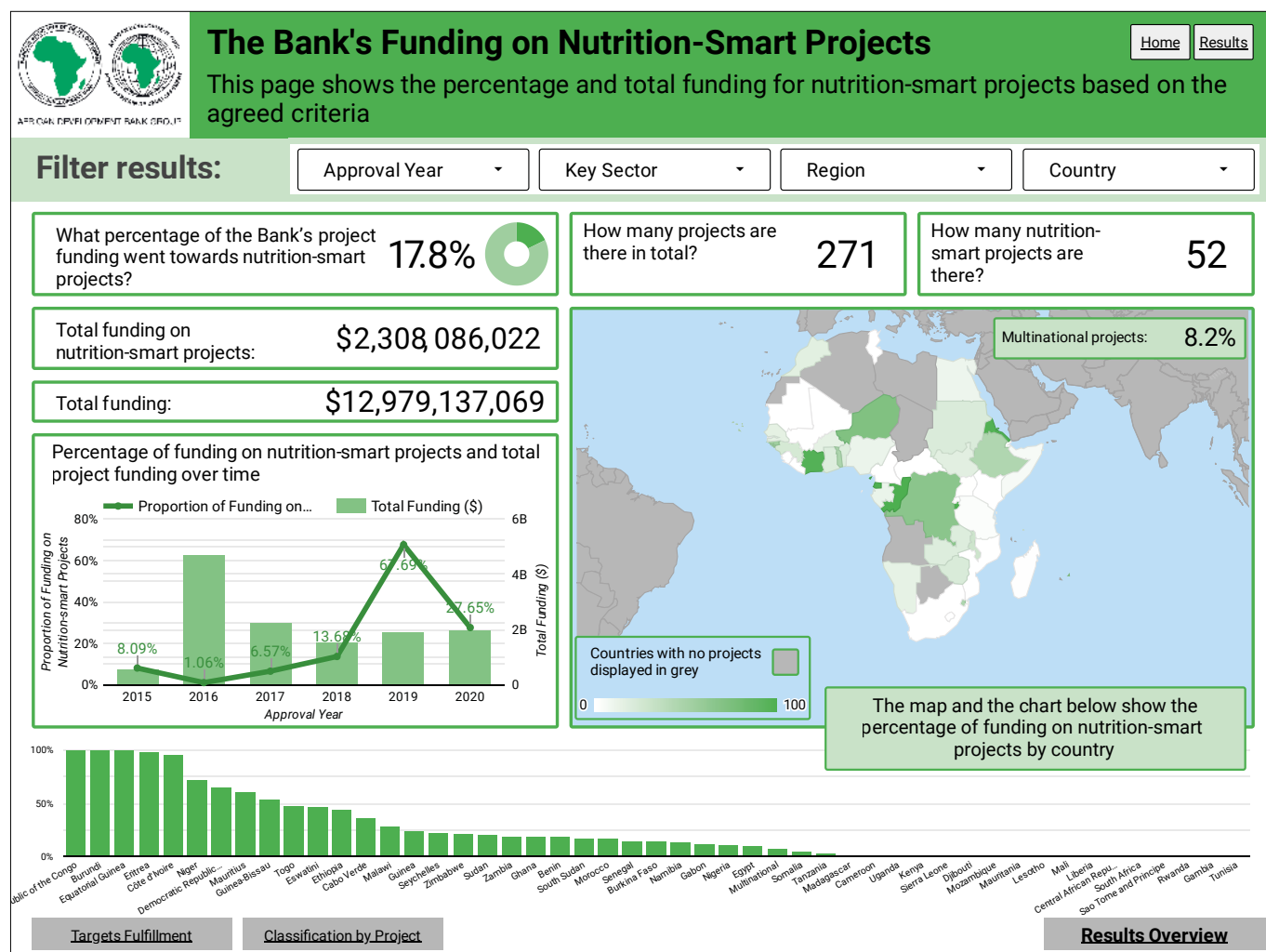
In close consultation with:

Action Contre la Faim, African Leaders Malaria Alliance, African Nutrition Society, African Union Commission, Aliko Dangote Foundation, Big Win Philanthropy, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, Graca Machel Trust, International Center for Tropical Agriculture, International Food Policy Research Institute, New Partnership for Africa's Development, Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement, United Nations Children's Fund, The World Bank, World Food Program and World Health Organization.

The Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard

The Banking on Nutrition partnership has also supported the Bank in developing and releasing a Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard (CNAS) through the African Leaders for Nutrition platform. It serves as a key advocacy tool to highlight the progress of both individual countries and of the continent as a whole towards achieving nutrition targets. The scorecard is an important component of the Bank's effort to mobilize country-led action to address stunting. Subsequent versions of the CNAS will be produced on an interactive platform that allows users to conduct their own analysis to inform decision-making.

Tracking tangible results: Nutrition Dashboard



This map was prepared by staff of the African Development Bank for use exclusively by readers of the report to which it is attached. The names used and the borders shown do not imply on the part of the ADB Group and its members any judgment concerning the legal status of a territory nor any approval or acceptance of these borders.

Nutrition dashboard and target monitoring

A nutrition dashboard has been developed to track the Bank's performance towards the goals noted in the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan across five sectors: health, agriculture, WASH, social protection, and education. The dashboard is expected to improve accountability and optimize opportunities for nutrition integration within the Bank's member states' projects across the five priority sectors and deliver greater social and economic returns while achieving nutrition impact, thus representing a double win for both citizens and the economy.

The baseline data were derived from 211 the Bank project appraisal reports out of over 300 projects selected for the data analysis. These were among the projects approved by the Bank between 2015 and 2018. The 211 projects were shortlisted for more detailed analysis, including of budget parameters, and they received funding from either the African Development Fund or the African Development Bank.

The baseline dataset was compiled by Nutrition International on behalf of the Bank. First, data from the 2015-18 projects were extracted in early 2019, and subsequently data from the 2019 projects in the five key sectors were extracted at the beginning of 2020.

Increasing the proportion of nutrition-smart projects: baseline (2015-2018) and early wins (2020)⁵

Sector	Baseline	Early wins	Target
Health	0%	27.7%	50%
Agriculture	15.3%	27.9%	50%
WASH	2.9%	15.7%	15%
Social Protection	7.1%	30.9%	10%

The dashboard showcases different information (variables) related to nutrition programming in the Bank such as projects that have a nutrition objective or goal, include nutrition impact indicators, benefit women or children, or are multi-sectoral. It can be filtered further to show results by sector, region, country, and the progress made over time.

The Bank now uses the dashboard to monitor how it is delivering on its targets.

5 Note: The MNAP does not specify a target for the fifth sector, education.

Timeline of the Bank's Nutrition Events during President Adesina's First Term (2015-2020)

2015

OCTOBER 2015

At the Bank's High Level Conference on African Agriculture in Dakar, Senegal, major stakeholders agreed to create partnerships to scale up nutrition programs across Africa. Big Win Philanthropy, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition conceptualized and began to discuss the African Leaders for Nutrition initiative. Finally, at a Global Panel Meeting in Accra, Ghana in 2015, the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, former Ghanaian President HE John A. Kufuor and African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina called for the creation of the high-level body African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN).

2016

MAY 2016

Soft launch of the ALN at the African Development Bank's 2016 Annual Meetings in Lusaka, Zambia, bringing the highest-level attention to ending malnutrition and stunting in Africa. At this meeting, the Bank, Big Win Philanthropy, and the Aliko Dangote Foundation signed the Banking on Nutrition partnership agreement (Letter of Intent).

OCTOBER 2016

The first meeting of the ALN Champions Group was hosted at the African Development Bank headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to discuss the foundational documents of the ALN and upcoming efforts to support and grow the reach of the Champions group. The meeting adopted the recommendations of the ALN Concept Note and the draft African Union Resolution.

2017

MAY 2017

A side event themed "Developing Africa's Grey Matter Infrastructure: Addressing Africa's Nutrition Challenges" was held at the 2017 Annual Meetings of the Bank in Ahmedabad, India. The event highlighted the Bank's resolve and partnership strategies to build Africa's grey matter infrastructure through the ALN initiative and nutrition partnerships with Big Win Philanthropy and the Aliko Dangote Foundation. The two partnerships complement each other and share a vision: to build Africa's grey matter infrastructure through efforts that reduce stunting on the African continent.

OCTOBER 2017

As part of the World Food Prize Award for African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, a private event was co-organized with the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition in Iowa, USA, in October 2017. The theme of the event, "Leadership, Governance and Accountability for Nutrition," attracted private sector representatives, policy makers and thought leaders.

NOVEMBER 2017

The Banking on Nutrition partnership disseminated the Synthesis of Evidence Report during the SUN Global Gathering in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, sharing the in-depth analysis completed that identified interventions and programs with potential impacts.

Over the last five years, the Bank's partnerships and agenda for the Banking on Nutrition initiative have generated momentum and visibility for nutrition among regional members. This timeline showcases the actions of high-level leadership to move the Banking on Nutrition partnership forward.

2018

2019

2020

JANUARY 2018

The ALN initiative was endorsed at the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union during the 30th Ordinary Summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The endorsement, entitled Decision on the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative, is codified under the resolution number: Assembly/AU/Dec.681.

JANUARY 2018

The ALN Secretariat became operational in January 2018. The Secretariat is housed at the Bank's Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department and is supported through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Secretariat supports the advocacy role of ALN champions by coordinating the development of a Nutrition Accountability Scorecard and an Economic Investment Case for Nutrition report as advocacy and communication tools for ALN Champions.

MAY 2018

The BoN partnership disseminated the Synthesis of Evidence Report during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Bank and the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund. Over 3,000 participants, comprising members of the Boards of Directors, heads of government, business leaders, and others attended the 2018 Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

DECEMBER 2018

The Bank Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2018-2025 dissemination meeting was convened at the Bank Headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The dissemination of baseline results indicated that 5% of the Bank's projects, amounting to \$454 million, were validated to be nutrition-smart.

FEBRUARY 2019

The Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard was launched on the sidelines of the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly and was subsequently adopted by African Union Heads of State and Government at the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as a decision [Assembly/AU/Dec739 (XXIII)].

MAY 2019

African Leaders for Nutrition facilitated and supported the participation of His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho at the Bank's Annual Meetings in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, where he convened and addressed Ministers of Finance and the Board of Governors on the need to unlock investments in nutrition by presenting highlights of the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard.

JUNE 2019

A capacity building workshop on the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programming Toolkit was conducted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire for Bank staff from the Bank headquarters, as well as from West and Central Africa regional offices.

NOVEMBER 2019

A capacity building workshop on the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programming Toolkit was conducted in Nairobi, Kenya for Bank staff from the East Africa regional office.

NOVEMBER 2019

A capacity building workshop on the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programming Toolkit was conducted in Pretoria, South Africa for Bank staff from the Southern Africa regional office.

DECEMBER 2019

The dissemination of the annual progress report indicated that 16% of the Bank's projects, representing \$1.7 billion, were validated to be nutrition-smart.

FEBRUARY 2020

African Leaders for Nutrition held a high-level event to reflect upon progress made, lessons learned, and opportunities for political leaders to mobilize investments towards a concrete nutrition agenda and to address the crisis of malnutrition in Africa. The event launched a roadmap towards the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, originally scheduled for 2020, in supporting Africa's preparation and establishing priority actions and identifying a set of commitments that countries can variously endorse.

JULY 2020

The dissemination of the mid-year progress report indicated that 17.8% of the Bank's projects, representing \$2.3 billion, were validated to be nutrition-smart.

Case Studies

The Gambia, 2018:

Climate Smart Rural WASH Development Project

In The Gambia, 25% of children are affected by stunting and 58% of women of reproductive age suffer from anemia. Only 47% of infants are exclusively breastfed and large numbers of people lack access to basic sanitation and water supply. Poverty and climate change underlie a very fragile state of food and nutrition security, which is exacerbated by inadequate basic services. In 2015, it was estimated that only 47.6% of households had access to piped water indoors or in the compound. Improving WASH conditions is associated with improved nutritional status including reduction of stunting outcomes in children.

The overall goal of The Gambia Climate Smart Rural WASH Development Project is to contribute to the National Development Plan water sector goal of “Improved equitable access to safe and affordable water supply and sanitation, good hygiene practices and environmental protection promoted for all.” The specific objectives of the proposed projects are to: (i) increase sustainable access to safe water by 17% and access to safely managed sanitation by 2%; (ii) enhance services delivery capacity in the sector; and (iii) improve livelihoods through nurturing safe water and sanitation services related opportunities for women and youth employment.

The project directly benefits an estimated 200,000 rural and peri-urban Gambians, reducing distances required to fetch water and allowing women and children in particular to live healthier lives. An additional 300,000 people are benefiting from the interventions in improved solid and liquid waste management as well as mitigation of the rapidly deteriorating aquatic environment. Other public and private sector institutions—including schools, health units, markets, and small and micro-enterprises—are also benefiting from the project.

Ghana, 2017:

Savannah Zone Agricultural Productivity Improvement Project (SAZAPIP)

In Ghana, a significant regional disparity exists with respect to nutrition and food security. While the national prevalence of stunting is 19%, the rate in the country's northern region is as high as 33%. Variation in stunting levels is associated with maternal education and economic status as evidenced by the fact that only 16% of children whose mothers have secondary education are stunted, compared to 26% among their counterparts whose mothers had no formal education. Similarly, only 9% of children in the highest wealth quintile are stunted compared to 25% of those in the lowest wealth quintile. Anemia, particularly in children under five years, constitutes a significant public health problem. Despite a decline in the rates of childhood anemia from 78% in 2008 to 66% in 2014, it still lies far above the 40% WHO threshold for a severe public health concern.

Food insecurity is a major contributing factor to the poor nutritional status of the population in Ghana's northern regions, with 16% of households in the most affected areas – which include the Upper East, Upper West, Northern, Brong Ahafo, and Volta – considered food insecure. Food insecurity is linked to the inability of households to produce enough staples to meet their food needs due to poor soil quality, unfavorable weather conditions, constrained access to inputs, and limited financial resources to expand production.

SAZAPIP aims to transform agricultural value chains for food and nutrition security, as well as job and wealth creation in the Northern Savannah Zone of Ghana. The project is increasing farmers' food and nutrition security and incomes through increased agricultural productivity and diversification, as well as enhanced creation and strengthening of agribusinesses in a sustainable manner to increase incomes of actors along selected value chains.

Challenges



Slow country-level impact on stunting reduction:

According to the 2020 publication⁶ on child malnutrition, Africa bears a significant burden of stunting globally with two out of every five stunted children in the world living in the continent. Based on the multiple factors associated with stunting, a commitment to scale up well-coordinated and multi-sectoral action towards stunting reduction at country level is urgently required. African countries' inability to drive in country action and meet set targets also permeates across the BoN project operations – the health sector failed to meet the set target of making 50% of the portfolio nutrition-smart. On the other hand, targets that were set for the WASH and social protection sectors were less ambitious to translate into meaningful impact on the ground. There is need for renewed focus and momentum to ensure Bank allocations and target settings activities are done in tandem with the rollout of multi sectoral nutrition strategies at country level. The Bank can leverage the MNAP to drive consensus at the country level to achieve the goal of reducing stunting by 40% by 2025.

COVID-19 pandemic:

COVID-19 triggered an economic and social crisis across all the Bank regional member countries resulting in shifting national needs and priorities. The imperative to address the emergency resource needs for the pandemic response resulted in the postponement of some the Bank projects targeted for nutrition integration in favour of domestic budget support. Despite the Bank's tremendous support for COVID-19 responses across the continent, nutrition integration to on-going projects had been limited in scope. In addition, COVID-19 also affected the effective delivery of on-site technical assistance to support the Bank country missions due to travel restrictions.

Limited nutrition coordination capacity within the Bank:

The Bank has demonstrated the potential to significantly leverage resources for nutrition via its nutrition-smart investments. However, limited capacity within the Bank's structure creates significant gaps in coordination capacity. These gaps have adversely affected nutrition guidance delivered to task managers in the regional member countries and regional hubs.

6 UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group Joint Malnutrition Estimates: Key findings of the 2020 edition

Future Considerations for the Banking on Nutrition Partnership

The Banking on Nutrition partnership has provided the technical support and expertise to help the African Development Bank tackle malnutrition and stunting on the African continent. The initiative has already resulted in an increase in nutrition-smart projects, exceeding targets for the WASH and social protection sectors and making headway towards the targets in other sectors. The momentum from the Banking on Nutrition partnership also presents an opportunity to **accelerate country action** towards attaining the World Health Assembly targets for nutrition by 2025. It will also contribute to progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, which aims to eliminate all forms malnutrition and ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food.

To date, the nutrition-smart projects that have been designed and approved by the Bank are sectoral focused. The next step for the partnership is to ensure the **roll-out of nutrition-smart multi-sectoral projects** in at least five out of the ten high burden countries that have been prioritized by the Bank using a Grey Matter Infrastructure Investment Index, which presents country rankings based on their stunting burden and borrowing headroom. The ten priority countries are Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Tanzania, Sudan, Madagascar, Kenya, Burundi, Mali, and Burkina Faso. In order to ensure the sustainability of nutrition-smart programming, the Bank will **strengthen its institutional nutrition coordination capacity**. This will also improve the provision of reliable support for task managers working in priority countries. In addition, regional hubs will increase staff capacity to complement the work of the senior nutrition officer at Bank headquarters.

A **mid-term review of the BoN partnership's activities** will be carried out to assess and quantify the progress made at the middle stage of the partnership. It will dive deep into the five focus sectors with the view of establishing new, ambitious targets and scaling up nutrition-smart programming. The review will provide prescription of what is needed moving forward and will inform an action plan with appropriate design recalibrations in order to achieve the full benefit and desired goals of the program and will revise targets where appropriate, such as raising the initial targets for the WASH and social protection sectors to align with the 50% target set for the health and agriculture sectors. It will also address the implications of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security programming and identify course-corrective actions.

The BoN partnership will **continue to build on the successes** seen from the nutrition-smart projects and will continue to support the Bank's human capital development agenda: "One Billion Opportunities: Building Human Capital for Inclusive Growth in Africa." Multi-sectoral interventions to reduce malnutrition can be highly cost-effective, save lives, boost per-capita GDP by up to 11%, and boost future earnings per child by up to 20%. Scaling up multi-sectoral nutrition projects targeting high stunting burden countries will help reduce the total number of stunted children in Africa and support a 40% stunting reduction in Africa by 2025. The impact of these projects will last for generations.



Learn more

To learn more about the Banking on Nutrition initiative or for guidance on designing nutrition-smart programs, please contact:

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Additional Resources

African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative

www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/african-leaders-for-nutrition-initiative

Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan, 2018-2025

www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/Banking_on_Nutrition_Action-Plan_A4_V1d_single.pdf

Nutrition International African Development Bank Nutrition Resources Site

<https://afdb-nutritionintl.talentlms.com/index>

Videos shown during regional sensitization event for West and Central Africa

www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/african-leaders-for-nutrition-initiative/multimedia

Banking on Nutrition video series

<https://vimeo.com/368512811>
<https://vimeo.com/368512643>
<https://vimeo.com/368511569>



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