



OCTOBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Countdown to 2030 (CD2030) is an international consortium comprising of academic institutions, UN agencies and civil society organizations that aims to accelerate the momentum for ending preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths, and to help catalyze efforts to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

CD2030 has been implementing activities aimed at regional evidence generation and capacity strengthening in RMNCH and Nutrition, as a strategy for improving progress monitoring and analytical capacity in its focused countries. The West and Central Africa Regional Initiative involves analytical workshops with intermediate phases for data compilation and analysis.

CD2030, in collaboration with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), the International Center for Equity in Health at the Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil (ICEH), UNICEF and WHO, has partnered with the West African Health Organization (WAHO) to coordinate the West African initiative.

This nutrition data analysis series in West Africa, conducted in 2019, involves two analytical workshops with an intermediate data compilation phase. The first workshop, which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 10 -14 June, 2019, brought together representatives of National Nutrition Programs, Health Information Units and research/statistics institutions from all the 15 ECOWAS Member States (2 participants per country). In all, there were about 53 participants (see attached list).

The second workshop of the Regional Initiative to Strengthen the Analytical Capacity for Nutrition in West Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal on October 14-18, 2019 under the theme: “Leaving no woman and no child behind: levels and trends in inequalities in nutrition coverage and status among women, children, and adolescents”.”.

The workshop was facilitated by a team of experts from the Johns Hopkins University, ICEH, APHRC, UNICEF, Alive and Thrive/FHI360, and WAHO. It was partially supported by Alive & Thrive/FHI360.

The main objectives of this workshop were to:

1. Develop comprehensive country and regional analyses on inequalities in nutrition
 - Update analyses based on the 1st workshop and the data compiled in the intermediate phase
 - Produce country nutrition equity performance profile, gaps and policy briefs and regional evidence synthesis focused on nutrition evidence among women, children and adolescents.
2. Strengthen the analytical skills of the participants in survey and other types of analyses, as well as interpretation and communication of the results.
3. Produce the key elements of joint scientific papers with regional synthesis analyses on (1) inequalities in nutrition status among adolescent girls and adult women; (2) Subnational inequalities in infant and child nutrition in West Africa; (3) Data, Policy and Program gaps in nutrition in West Africa

The outputs of the workshop were:

1. Country specific policy brief highlighting inequities in women, children and adolescents' nutrition intervention coverage and status and implications for programs and policies;
2. Detailed comparative country nutrition equity performance profiles focusing on women, children and adolescents' nutrition intervention coverage and status;
3. Regional synthesis presentation on nutrition inequities;
4. Technical document which forms the basis for 3 publications:
 - Paper 1: Levels, Trends, and inequalities in nutrition status among adolescent girls and adult women in Sub-Saharan Africa;
 - Paper 2: Subnational inequalities in infant and child nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa;
 - Paper 3: Monitoring nutrition status in West Africa: data, policy and program gaps.

The opening session was chaired by Dr Kofi Busia, the Director of Healthcare Services, who represented the Director General of WAHO, and was assisted by representatives from UNICEF, Alive & Thrive/FHI 360 and Countdown 2030.

WORKING SESSIONS

During the five days, several sessions were covered on different topics such as:

- 1) Concepts, and measures of inequalities in nutrition indicators among women, children and adolescents;
- 2) Introduction to effective translation of analysis results into policy and program and policy brief development and communication;
- 3) Subnational inequalities in nutrition intervention coverage and status;
- 4) Trends in inequalities in IYCF, nutrition intervention coverage, and child anthropometry;
- 5) Inequalities in nutrition intervention coverage and status among adolescents, and adult women;
- 6) Country equity profiles and development of draft country policy brief based on an identified nutrition priority by each country team;
- 7) Regional analysis on inequalities in nutrition, focusing on four themes (see below).



Introduction to policy brief session

Participants were introduced to translation of evidence to policy and policy brief writing. All groups were organized so the participants could use their country data to build and interpret evidence. These documents were focused on the topics they considered as of priority in their countries. They were then asked to build action points and recommendations regarding these evidences. The draft policy briefs were shared with the facilitators from APHRC who revised them and provided rapid feedback.

Thematic sessions were then organized. Four topics were covered:

- Inequalities in IYCF patterns and child nutrition intervention coverage,
- Inequalities in nutrition status of children,
- Nutrition coverage and status among adolescent girls and adult women,
- Nutrition data, programs, and policies: strengths, gaps and way forward.



Intensive group work

Six cross country groups were constituted based on the three official languages of ECOWAS. The participants worked on analytical profiles of the regional inequalities according to the listed topics. These profiles were presented and discussed in plenary.

At the end of this training workshop, the participants were

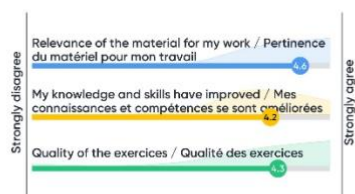
given certificates of participation.

CONCLUSION AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the second Regional Initiative to Strengthen the Analytical Capacity and Evidence for Nutrition in West Africa workshop achieved its goals. Country participants were trained to interpret data in terms of trends and inequities. They produced 15 draft policy briefs on each of the ECOWAS countries, highlighting specific evidence in nutrition inequities, contextual factors, policy and program landscape, data and evidence gaps, recommendations and calls to action. Finally, regional profiles were made on inequalities in key topics.

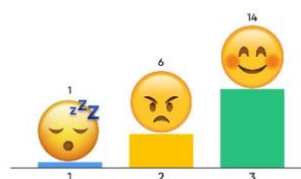
The facilitators were impressed by the participants' commitment and the evolution of the quality of their production during the week. Daily evaluations showed that participants were satisfied with the acquired skills and competences, and that such activities must be integrated into the annual work plans of WAHO, and the results widely disseminated.

Please rate Session 10 (Policy Briefs and Peer Review)



25

Which emoji represents you at the end of today? / Quel emoji vous représente à la fin de la journée?



21

Wrap-up session using “Mentimeter” for evaluation

Key recommendations for WAHO management

- ✓ Plan workshops yearly to continue with these analytical capacity strengthening activities;
- ✓ Propose the production of systematic reports on inequities on health state, specifically in nutrition;
- ✓ Improve inter-country collaboration with such initiatives in order to strengthen the health information management systems of the region;
- ✓ Guide the preparation of a regional report using identified key Nutrition indicators and priorities ;
- ✓ Follow up and provide technical support (when necessary) to countries to enable them to improve their data collection skills for developing good country profiles;



Countries presenting the regional profile

- ✓ Support countries to showcase their work at the ECOWAS nutrition forum.

NEXT STEPS

Next steps are planned for the different participating institutions to ensure the production of outputs:

For APHRC:

1. Revise the draft policy briefs and revert to the countries;
2. Monitor the correction and the finalization of the policy briefs;
3. Format and print the finalized policy briefs for the countries.

For WAHO:

1. Finalize the report of the second workshop;

2. Produce a technical report presenting the regional profile and the inter country inequalities.

For the Countdown team:

1. Finalize paper1: *“Levels, Trends and Inequalities in Women’s nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa: Have we reached the tipping point?”* (Expected date January 2020);
2. Finalize paper 2: *“Subnational inequalities in nutrition coverage Sub-Saharan Africa”*;
3. Present the experience of the workshops at the regional nutrition forum (November 2018);
4. Participate in the Nutrition Data Summit (February 2020);
5. Prepare the next phase of the Countdown workshops.

WORKSHOP MATERIAL

All the workshop material can be accessed via the following dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6wxip3n70m2d72n/AAAkY0UaVjL1Z5t5EEMAKDLa?dl=0>

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ANNEX

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

Countdown to 2030 – Regional Initiative to strengthen the analytical capacity and evidence for Nutrition in West Africa: Second Advanced Analytical Workshop

14-18 October 2019

Dakar, Senegal

Venue: Residence Mamoune

West African Health Organization

Countdown to 2030 for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

Alive & Thrive / FHI360

Transform Nutrition West Africa / IFPRI

WHO and UNICEF

Objectives:

1. To develop comprehensive country and regional analyses on inequalities in nutrition
 - Update analyses based on the 1st workshop and the data compiled in the intermediate phase
 - Produce a comparative country nutrition equity performance profile, gaps and policy brief covering three major dimensions of inequality: wealth, urban-rural residence, and administrative region/districts
2. To strengthen the analytical skills of the participants in survey and other types of analyses, as well as interpretation and communication of the results.
3. Produce the key elements of joint scientific papers with regional synthetic analyses on (1) inequalities in nutrition status among adolescent girls and adult women; (2) Subnational inequalities in infant and child nutrition in West Africa; (3) Data, Policy and Program gaps in nutrition in West Africa

Specific outputs

1. Country specific policy brief highlighting inequities in women, children and adolescents' nutrition intervention coverage and status and implications for programs and policies
2. Detailed comparative country nutrition equity performance profiles focusing on women, children and adolescents' nutrition intervention coverage and status
3. Regional synthesis presentation on nutrition inequities
4. Technical document which forms the basis for 3 publications:
 - Paper 1: Trends, inequalities in nutrition status among adolescent girls and adult women in sub-Saharan Africa
 - Paper 2: Subnational inequalities in infant and child nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Paper 3: Monitoring nutrition status in West Africa: data, policy and program gaps

Summary Agenda

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Moderator: WAHO	Moderator: APHRC	Moderator: JHU	Moderator: UNICEF	Moderator: A&T
Morning part 1; 8:30-10:00	Registration (Starting at 8:00) 1. Introduction Opening remarks (WAHO, CD, partners, 30mn) Objectives and expected products (JHU, 30mn) Review of workshop 1 and intermediate data compiled (WAHO, 15mn) 2. State of nutrition in West Africa (WAHO Nutrition strategy): (WAHO, 20mn)	7. Trends in inequalities in IYCF, and nutrition intervention coverage in children: Are the gaps closing? Implications in linking evidence to policy and program (UNICEF, 60mn) Group work: Countries develop their country profile on inequalities in IYCF and a policy brief	9. Inequalities in nutrition intervention coverage and status among adolescents and adult women: Evidence and policy/program implications (JHU, 60mn) Group work: Countries develop their profile and policy brief on nutrition status among adolescents and adult women	10b. Peer review of Country nutrition inequality profile and policy brief (APHRC to provide directions, 75mn) 11. Thematic group work for regional analysis: Each group develops a PowerPoint presentation (JHU to provide directions, all facilitators)	Group presentations and discussion (each group has 30mn plus 15mn Q&A)
Morning part 2; 10:30 - 13:00	3. Analysis of compiled data during the interim phase and guidance on their use throughout the workshop (JHU, WAHO, 60mn)	Cont. group work: Countries develop their country profile on inequalities in IYCF and a policy brief	Cont. group work: Countries develop their profile and policy brief on nutrition status among adolescents and adult women Country report out (3-5 Countries)	Cont. thematic group work for regional analysis: Each group develops a PowerPoint presentation (all facilitators)	Continued group presentations and discussion (each group has 30mn plus 15mn Q&A)

	4. Review of equity analysis: (Pelotas, 60mn)	Country report out (3-5 countries)			Workshop summary and outline of papers (JHU, 30mn) Next steps and closing remarks (All partners, WAHO, 30mn)
Lunch break					
Afternoon part 1; 14:00 – 15:30	5. Translation of evidence to policy: How to develop a policy brief (APHRC, 70mn) 6. Explaining subnational inequalities (APHRC, 45mn)	8. Inequalities in child anthropometry: Evidence and policy/program implications (60mn UNICEF & WHO)	10a. Group work: Country nutrition inequality profile and policy brief: Country consolidate their country profile; identify strengths and weaknesses and gaps in programs and policies; identify contextual factors to complete a policy brief	Cont. thematic group work for regional analysis: Each group develops a PowerPoint presentation (all facilitators)	
Afternoon part 2; 16:00 – 17:30	Group work: Countries identify and analyze subnational inequalities and link to contextual factors and policy implications	Group work: Countries develop their country profile on inequalities in child anthropometry and a policy brief Country report out (3-5 countries)	Cont. Group Work: Country nutrition inequality profile and policy brief	Cont. thematic group work for regional analysis: Each group develops a PowerPoint presentation (all facilitators)	
	Evaluation and wrap-up	Evaluation and wrap-up	Evaluation and wrap-up	Evaluation and wrap-up	

Annex 2: List of participants

LISTE DE PRESENCE/ATTENDANCE SHEET

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