

Side event application / Formulaire de demande de réunion parallèle

Contact

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Delegation(s)/Délégation(s): Ireland, Japan (co-sponsor), France (co-sponsor)	
Confirmed partners: ACF, Save the Children, Terre des hommes (TDH), World Vision, Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network (SUN CSN), Scaling Up Nutrition Secretariat; 1000 Days, Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN), IFE Core Group, Alive and Thrive, RESULTS/Action, Helen Keller International (HKI)	
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Concept

Description of proposed side event, including objective, expected results, proposed programme and speakers* /
Description de la réunion parallèle proposée, y compris les objectifs, les résultats attendus, l'ordre du jour et les orateurs* :

This side event is linked to the WHA71 agenda item on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition.

Title: Nourishing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) – country successes, lessons-learned and tools on integrating infant and young child nutrition in health, with a focus on breastfeeding

Background:

Malnutrition in all its forms is a multi-sectoral issue. Undernutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of deaths of children aged under 5, yet nutrition services delivered as part of the basic package of health services receive little attention. Worldwide less than 40% of infants are exclusively breastfed, and less than 20% of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition receive the care they need. Addressing undernutrition is an ideal entry point for countries to test integrated, “people-centred” approaches to achieve universal health coverage (UHC).

UHC is about access to quality health care, and therefore must include good breastfeeding support in maternity facilities and primary health care. Breastfeeding saves lives. For example, the risk of dying from pneumonia among infants under six months is about nine times greater among those not breastfed compared with those partially breastfed. Breastfeeding is also essential for the prevention of diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). It is estimated that 823,000 child deaths could be prevented each year in low- and middle-income countries if breastfeeding were adopted at close-to-universal levels, yet too few infants are exclusively breastfed and the share of children continuing to be breastfed after six months also needs to increase. Recent World Bank analyses have determined that achieving the World Health Assembly (WHA) target for exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months would generate almost \$300 billion in additional economic gains for lower- and middle-income countries.

Undernourished children mostly live in disadvantaged and marginalised households, with poor access to health services, let alone baby-friendly hospitals. Infants and young children caught up in humanitarian emergencies and living in fragile and conflict affected states are least likely to survive, let alone thrive. These children are the ones left behind. How can Member States use UHC as a mechanism to both prevent and treat malnutrition, and to protect, promote and support breastfeeding and child nutrition with due consideration of all Essential Nutrition Actions? Health systems need to be strengthened and to better integrate nutrition, that includes a stronger breastfeeding component. The Lancet describes the shift from breastfeeding to infant formula use as having “catastrophic consequences on breastfeeding rates and the health of subsequent generations.” Dr Tedros, WHO Director-General, (2018) confirmed, “*Breastfeeding gives babies the best possible start in life, “Breastmilk works like a baby’s first vaccine, protecting infants from potentially deadly diseases and giving them all the nourishment they need to survive and thrive.”*

The Decade of Action on Nutrition was proclaimed in April 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and endorsed in a World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution in May 2016. In 2018, WHO’s General Programme of Work clearly prioritised achieving UHC. However, greater convergence is needed between major global health and infant nutrition initiatives, including those with specific focus on breastfeeding; key initiatives include UHC2030, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the Global Financing Facility (GFF), the NetCode, Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), etc. Members of

such global initiatives need examples of how integration can be effected and deepened. Dr Tedros' call for Member States to make pledges towards UHC is an opportunity for countries to build the linkages between nutrition, breastfeeding and achievement of UHC.

We are looking ahead to a high-level nutrition summit in Tokyo in 2020 that will reflect on progress towards and identify actions to meet the 2020 WHA nutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. This side-event aims to demonstrate through concrete examples, the added value in integration of nutrition and health, in the collective path of achieving UHC. In doing so, we seek to propel action and maximise the impact of UHC. In addition to discussing country-based lessons and sharing key tools to help scale up breastfeeding promotion, protection and support, this event will provide the opportunity for Member States to pledge on UHC and nutrition.

Objectives

Facilitate integration of infant and young child nutrition, including breastfeeding, into broader health systems to achieve UHC at country level and in major international health initiatives, by

- Providing context for the proposed WHA 71 resolution on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, with focus on breastfeeding
- Discussing concrete country examples - including successes, challenges and lessons learnt from the field - of linking the nutrition and UHC agenda and the impact this can have on reaching UHC and nutrition targets, particularly breastfeeding
- Considering how we need to act to safeguard infant and young child nutrition in emergencies, with special consideration of interaction between nutrition and health responses and emergency preparedness
- Starting discussion on increased convergence between UHC and nutrition at international level
- Presenting tools on how to better protect and promote breastfeeding including within health systems
- Providing a platform for member States to make pledges committing to UHC and nutrition/ breastfeeding promotion

Expected results

- Successes, challenges and lessons learned at country-level and international examples of nutrition/breastfeeding and UHC integration are shared across governments to improve national plans to reach UHC and nutrition/breastfeeding targets
- Clarity is achieved on convergence between and specific actions which can be taken as part of: a proposed WHA 71 resolution on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, WHO's General Programme of Work (2019-2023) and the Decade of Action on Nutrition, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and UHC2030 strategies/ plans of action
- Identification of nutrition indicators, including on breastfeeding, which can be integrated in initiatives such as the GFF and UHC2030 and that can be adopted by countries
- Pledges linking UHC and nutrition, and pledges on promoting and protecting breastfeeding made by governments including: the celebration of new and reaffirmation of existing pledges, exploration of their implementation in more detail, and a call for new pledges to be made
- Member States and civil society briefed on new tools to promote breastfeeding and updated policy guidance on infant and young child feeding in emergencies

Proposed programme and speakers

Time: TBC – first Monday of the WHA – 6pm
Length: 90 min

Possible moderators: Yvonne Chaka Chaka and ACF General director, Véronique Andrieux

Opening remarks

UHC, nutrition and breastfeeding: how they impact and drive one another (sponsoring Member State - TBD) 3"
The cost of not investing in breastfeeding (1000 Days, Alive & Thrive) 3"

Possible speakers include:

Country level lessons learnt on linking breastfeeding & nutrition with the UHC agenda (20 min)

- Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs - why donor investments and prioritization of nutrition is critical to achieving the UHC agenda 5'
- Chad - Minister of Health 5'
- Madagascar - Leader of Madagascar Community based organization, member of Sun Civil Society Network (CSN) (on: What do health system diagnosis tell us about the main weaknesses of health systems and their impact on undernutrition / how can health system strengthening (HSS) programming and advocacy help improving the prevention and management of undernutrition / and how can we take it one step further to reach UHC?) 5'
- Myanmar, Indonesia or Philippines - Member state on progress on breastfeeding promotion 5'

Convergence between international UHC and breastfeeding & nutrition initiatives (15 min)

- WHO DG - Dr Tedros or IHP for UHC coordinator - Marjolaine Nicod or UHC2030 co-chair - Dr. Githinji Gitahi (TBC)
- WHO Nutrition Director - Dr Francesco Branca
- Director of the GFF - Mariam Cleason
- Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement – Gerda Verburg (TBC)

Six tools & guidance to improve breastfeeding & nutrition, within the UHC agenda (28 min)

- Setting national priorities for action through the Global Breastfeeding Scorecard (5 min) Laurence Grummer-Strawn, WHO
- The role of the formula milk industry towards improved UHC – global perspective based on the 'Don't Push It' report (Save the Children) (5 min)
- Short movie on violation of the Code data collection in Bangladesh or Burkina – ACF (3 min)
- Ending inappropriate marketing of breast-milk substitutes through enhanced national monitoring (10 min) Joo Kean Yeong, IBFAN and Elizabeth Zehner, Helen Keller International
- Improving the quality of maternity and newborn care by revitalizing national implementation of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (5 min) France Begin, UNICEF
- Safeguarding infant and young child feeding in emergencies (5 min) Marie McGrath, Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN)
- Using m-health to better integrate nutrition in health pathways: MoU signature (Minister of Health Mali), DG (Terre des Hommes), DG (World Vision), DG (ACF) 10 min

Pledges from the Member States on UHC and nutrition

Production & communication

- Information leaflets designed by partners on health/nutrition/breastfeeding/BMS Code violation will be distributed to the participants.
- Copies of updated Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (2017) will be distributed to the participants
- Online communications will be disseminated on social media.

Plans are made for a photo exhibition to be displayed on the health workforces' role in improving health and nutrition status of the population in Madagascar and achieving UHC.

Event details / details de la réunion

Expected number of participants/Nombre de participants attendus :

Exact title of the meeting/Titre exact de la réunion: Nourishing UHC – country successes, lessons-learned and new tools on integrating infant and young child nutrition in health, with a focus on breastfeeding

Interpretation/Interprétation

Interpretation may be provided in the official languages and the estimated costs are as follows: 2 languages: 2561 CHF; 3 languages: 5123 CHF; 6 languages: 11953 CHF.

L'interprétation peut être assurée dans les langues officielles aux coûts estimés suivants : 2 langues-2561 CHF; 3 langues : 5123 CHF; 6 langues : 11953 CHF.

Are interpretation services requested? / L'interprétation est-elle requise ? Yes/Oui ☒ No/Non ☐

(If yes, which languages)/(Si oui, en quelle langue)

English/Anglais ☒ French/Français ☒ Russian/Russe ☐ Spanish/Espagnol ☐ Chinese/Chinois ☐ Arabic/Arabe ☐

Other language/autre langue:

Room Layout/Aménagement des salles

Due to type of furniture and technical equipment in the room, the layout of the rooms cannot be changed. For information regarding the location and layout of rooms at the Palais des Nations, please see:

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60057CB67/\(httpPages\)/BAE3AF717207A5AF80256EF80049C552?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60057CB67/(httpPages)/BAE3AF717207A5AF80256EF80049C552?OpenDocument)

Le type de mobilier et les installations techniques dans les salles ne permettent pas de modifier l'aménagement de celles-ci.

Pour tout renseignement sur l'emplacement ou la disposition des salles au Palais des Nations voir le lien :
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***Badges/ Badges d'accès**

WHA side events are for participants of the WHA and, as such, panellists and participants should be drawn from those participating in the Health Assembly.

Les réunions parallèles sont réservées aux participants de l'Assemblée; Les orateurs de ces réunions doivent donc être choisis parmi ceux-ci.

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