

Pillar 4: More effective and efficient WHO providing better support to countries

Item 24.3: Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year (Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition)

Singapore's Written Statement

Singapore strongly supports the recommendations on extending the time frame of the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition to 2030.

2 Singapore recognises the importance of good nutrition as a key factor in creating a supportive environment that allows children to thrive in today's world. Singapore recently launched "Grow Well SG", a national health promotion strategy to inculcate healthier lifestyles for children and adolescents. A key component of the strategy is "Eating Well", where schools and school-based food vendors are provided with guidelines and nutritional recommendations, allowing students access to appealing healthier food options.

3 Historically, maternal and child health in Singapore was focused on addressing undernutrition and communicable diseases, resulting in significant morbidity and mortality. Singapore has adapted to the changing healthcare needs of women and children, which is now characterised by the sharp increase in metabolic disorders, such as obesity and obesity-related non-communicable diseases.

4 Singapore has also invested in research in this area. Drawing from key observations from the nationwide GUSTO and SPRESTO cohort studies, the Healthy Early Life Moments in Singapore (HELMS) programme was launched. It is a research study looking at care implementation that includes screening for nutrition-related conditions, vitamin supplementation for both mother and child, and breastfeeding support at baby-friendly hospitals.

5 Investing in nutrition is highly cost-effective. Singapore emphasises the need for increased funding for nutrition interventions, especially at the policy level and primary healthcare setting. Achieving food and nutritional security is crucial for achieving universal health coverage and brings about multiple short and long-term benefits, including economic productivity and physical well-being.