



Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition

Thursday 30 May

Honorable Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I have the honor to present the State of Kuwait's national statement under agenda item 15.2

The State of Kuwait thanks the Director-General for his report.

Kuwait's commitment to maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) aligns with global health objectives, emphasizing the nutritional well-being of women during pregnancy and lactation, and tracking the growth and development of infants and young children up to the age of five. The Kuwait Nutrition Surveillance System (KNSS) plays a critical role in this endeavor, gathering data across various indicators such as antenatal care, breastfeeding practices, and nutrition intake for children under five.



In 2022 and 2023, KNSS reported high antenatal care coverage and noted an increase in breastfeeding guidance provided by healthcare professionals. Noteworthy progress was seen in breastfeeding indicators; early initiation of breastfeeding increased from 61.30% in 2022 to 74.90% in 2023, and exclusive breastfeeding rates rose from 9.5% to 14.9% over the same period. These improvements reflect the positive impact of targeted health interventions.

While challenges persist, and noticeable improvements in the prevalence of low birth weight and Anemia among children have yet to be observed, these ongoing difficulties serve as important reminders of the work that lies ahead, prompting renewed dedication and innovative approaches to address them effectively. And despite these concerns, the rate of wasting and obesity in children remained stable and within acceptable limits, demonstrating the effectiveness of current nutritional programs.

Looking forward, Kuwait aims to expand and enhance its nutrition programs. Short-term goals focus on increasing community education on



nutrition and enhancing the support systems for breastfeeding. Long-term objectives include strengthening the surveillance system to better monitor and respond to nutritional deficiencies and collaborating more extensively with international bodies to integrate best practices into national programs.

Kuwait's strategic approach to MIYCN showcases its alignment with global health standards and its commitment to ensuring the nutritional health of its future generations. By addressing existing challenges and building on current successes, Kuwait continues to prioritize the health and well-being of mothers and children as central to its national health objectives.

Thank you Chair