

2018



**[Leaving no one behind:
making the case for
adolescent girls]**

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The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts
(Aristotle)

Introduction

Malnutrition remains pervasive throughout the world and current trends indicate that there will still be 129 million stunted children under five worldwide in 2030. An estimated 16 million adolescent girls give birth every year, representing 11% of births globally. Adolescent girls, especially if undernourished and stunted, are more likely to die in childbirth, they are at great risk to be left nutritionally depleted and are exposed to give birth to malnourished children. Avoiding teenage pregnancies and improving the nutritional status of adolescent girls represents an important window of opportunity to break this intergenerational vicious cycle of malnutrition.

On 22-23 October 2018 the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Save the Children Italy, with the support of the Government of Canada organized the International Conference “*Leaving no one behind: making the case for adolescent girls*”. The event drew on previous international meetings such as the June 2018 consultation “Adolescents: Agents of change for a well-nourished world” hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in Geneva and the priorities of Canada’s 2018 G7 Presidency on advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. The aim of the conference was to highlight the importance of adolescent girls as a key target group to achieve global nutrition goals, advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.

The international conference served as a platform for various organizations to take stock of ongoing interventions and policies in support of better nutrition and healthy diets for adolescent girls, and identify gaps that need to be filled to break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition. Around 150 participants attended the conference: governments, youth¹, researchers, practitioners, technical specialists, members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Indigenous Peoples. Members of the steering committee, composed by UN Agencies, Save the Children and other NGOs supported the content development for the conference and contributed to identify the main findings and recommendations raised during the event’s panels.

The Conference was important to highlight the need to secure a meaningful youth engagement in program and policy design. The event gave many young people the chance to make themselves heard and offer creative and valuable solutions to the nutrition challenges they are facing. Adolescents and youth must be at the very center of interventions from policy to implementation and from design to monitoring. It is not just a matter of involving but it is crucial to let them guide current and future actions ensuring a real change. In this context, it is essential to work with influential community and religious leaders, schools, boys and men, families, and of course girls to empower, build capabilities, offer opportunities and create an enabling environments in order to positively support adolescent’s transition from childhood to adulthood. Young girls and boys (particularly when we look at the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups) need to be aware of their rights, build awareness on their potential and be equipped with the capabilities and opportunities, Against this backdrop, several entry points can be identified to start up a true revolution for adolescents’ nutrition. Among them education represents a key resource and a life-

¹ In this report, the term “youth” refers also to the adolescents aged between 10- and 19 years old.

saving intervention. The linkage between education and nutrition is bi-directional as they mutually feed each other. Another entry point regards the eradication of child or forced marriages and early pregnancies that are one of the root causes of young girls' rights violation. They transcend religious and cultural boundaries, and are rooted in gender discrimination, poverty, and structural inequalities, violate internationally defined child and human rights. In other words, it is pivotal to address all those socio-cultural and economic structures that discriminate against girls, by fostering youth participation, and enabling access to livelihoods opportunities, health services, education and protection, particularly in rural areas.

Achieving these goals is not an easy task for many reasons. First of all, youth is not a homogenous group. The Youth come from very different socio-cultural and-economic background. Therefore, a life cycle approach is needed to ensure that specific actions for different age groups are taken in all nutrition programmes to reduce the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. Second, it is necessary to agree on common indicators as a significant gap in terms of age and sex disaggregated data across multiple sectors persists. Despite significant progress made in the last years, in some cases adolescent nutrition data are not fully captured in demographic and health surveys and not adequately collected at programmatic level. Third, youth empowerment requires concerted, cooperative and integrated efforts by several actors. This is crucial to look at the several complex determinants that lead to undernutrition (e.g. poverty, barriers to education and livelihoods, social, economic, cultural and political factors) and propose effective solutions to eradicate hunger. The risk is that interventions carried out by several actors at the global, regional, national and local level becomes invisible, thus ineffective.

This report is divided into two parts. The first one presents the main messages that emerged during the event, including the gaps identified by all panellists and stakeholders involved, as well as the main commitments taken by the IFAD and Save the Children Italy, the youth and members of the Steering Committee. The second part provides an overview of the highlights of the different panels, including hyperlinks to some of the presentations displayed during the two days. Finally, the Annexes include the Agenda of the conference and the list of participants.

Part I - Key messages of the conference

- Women and girls around the world suffer from multiple forms of discrimination and malnutrition, that are even more exacerbated if they live in rural areas and/or belong to Indigenous Peoples' communities, especially in case of conflicts and emergencies;
- Malnutrition is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon that affects the entire global population. There are different forms of malnutrition: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, overweight and obesity, and no country is immune to them;
- Early pregnancies and forced marriages are longstanding issues and are here to stay unless radical changes take place. They are indeed deeply rooted in some cultures and interlinked with several other social dynamics. These are human rights violations, violation of the convention on the rights of a child, right to food etc. and are particularly critical among rural and Indigenous Peoples;
- Eradicating adolescent's malnutrition requires a multi-layered response, capable to identify the right tools to empower young girls and help them to stand up against such discrimination. A rights-based approach is essential to grasp the impact of social and cultural dynamics of malnutrition;
- School-based programs are particularly important for the empowerment of adolescent girls, as they offer key entry points for several interventions. For example, if a girl drops out of school, she can experience devastating consequences for her life, while this may pave the way for other forms of exploitation and marginalization;
- Millions of adolescent girls and boys are in need of humanitarian assistance – displaced by conflict or uprooted by disaster. A crisis heightens their vulnerability to gender-based violence, unwanted pregnancy, HIV infection, maternal death and disability, early and forced marriage, rape, trafficking, and sexual exploitation and abuse. Therefore, looking harder to see the reality of those adolescents and to plan comprehensive services ideally provided in an adolescent friendly manner is essential to protecting their basic human rights and mitigate the effects of disasters and conflicts on their future;
- Adolescents are a very heterogeneous group: they differ a lot in terms of age, geographic location and ethnicity. Hence, it is not possible to have a “one size fits all” approach. Conversely, a life-cycle approach is needed. Ensuring access to adequate safe food in early life pays dividends in childhood and in later phases. The impact of early malnutrition on a young woman significantly affects the health of her children. Therefore, investing in maternal and childhood nutrition has both short and long-term benefits.
- It is crucial to create an enabling environment that brings together women, men, girls, boys, elders, religious and political leaders, families and teachers. Empowering young girls and boys implies that all the members of their communities change their attitudes and behaviours in order to listen to their needs and give chances to improve their lives;
- It is important to give adolescents the right tools to make themselves heard by the Governments and secure proper participation in policy making processes. It is not enough to listen to the youth' needs. It is time now to bring them on board and to include their demands on the political agenda. Young people need the appropriate space and platforms

- to meet, raise their voice and have an impact in designing and programming innovative projects to eradicate malnutrition;
- The nutritional transition will go hand in hand with the rural and urban adaptation. The challenge is to ensure that the evolution of food systems is guided by sustainability principles, with the aim to protect biodiversity and rural knowledge, especially in light of the relentless transition to urbanisation. Adolescents are currently overwhelmed by social media and they are shifting their food habits towards unhealthy diets that risk to harm their communities and the surrounding environment. Therefore, they need assistance and support to become the “protectors” that safeguard the traditional knowledge of their communities. On the one hand, they need to be aware of their communities’ heritage, whereas on the other hand they need to have the changes to use all available tools to build a better future;
 - Media and communication tools are also crucial to help adolescents understand that working in the agricultural sector can be profitable, especially by harnessing the full potential of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);
 - In many countries where adolescents are mostly suffering from forced marriages and early pregnancies the main problem is not the lack of rules, but rather the absence of law enforcement. Hence, there is the need to grasp more deeply the multi-layered reasons that lead to this form of discrimination;
 - There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Several programmes launched have already proved to be effective. The time is ripe to take the clear decisions and to simply get rid of those projects that have failed to deliver a positive impact or those that have proved to be harmful for adolescents, especially in rural areas and among Indigenous Peoples’ communities. In this sense, it is crucial also to build on those lessons learnt to develop innovative (and adequate) approaches.

Gaps Identified

- There is still a lack of disaggregated data about adolescents especially those living in rural areas and/or belonging to Indigenous Peoples’ communities. This not only hampers the effectiveness of the different programmes launched but also reduces the opportunities to advocate with the Governments for more transparency and accountability;
- There is a general need to better understand the root causes of malnutrition. This requires training to understand the multiple dynamics that lead to the different forms of malnutrition. It is important to acknowledge the biological and physical changes occurring during adolescence and to take them into account when formulating policies and initiatives to address adolescents’ malnutrition;
- Training and vocational programmes need to better grasp the socio-cultural determinants (e.g. gender, religion, ethnicity, etc.) that contribute to a better understanding of nutrition among girls and adolescents;
- Obesity and overweight are often underestimated because health and education programmes tend to focus on underweight and micronutrient deficiency;

- So far, no sector has full responsibility on adolescents' nutrition and this makes it more complicated not only to collect data, but even to measure the level of empowerment of adolescents;
- A lack of programming for adolescents is a striking gap in reproductive health in times of peace as well as crisis. When a crisis strikes and risks escalate, humanitarian programming should prioritize girls. Instead, adolescents are underserved in humanitarian programming, both acute and protracted;
- Experts are not adequately engaged in the G7 or other groupings of Member States' representatives on nutrition matters. Consequently, they miss the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences with governments;
- The number of youth networks has blossomed in the last years. This has created an abundance of small networks that risk competing with one another for funding and visibility and this may reduce their impact at the policy-making level. There is a clear need to join forces and scale up the activities in order to reach the critical mass to advocate and take action for real change.

Main Recommendations

During the two days, all participants identified several issues where the international community, the States, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and all actors fighting to eradicate malnutrition will have to focus on. In particular, they recommended to:

- Adopt a rights-based and a holistic approach that encompasses the several dimensions leading to discrimination and food and nutrition insecurity, such as the right to food and the right to education;
- Ensure that nutrition-sensitive programmes protect local food systems, agro-biodiversity and traditional knowledge. This implies that local communities should be strongly involved in both, the design and the implementation of projects. This is crucial for Indigenous Peoples' communities, where adolescents suffer from even stronger marginalization;
- Involve Indigenous Peoples in nutrition-sensitive programmes more adequately, for instance by creating specific positions (e.g. internships, consultancies, staff) on Indigenous Peoples' issues in UN Agencies;
- Recognise the value of existing associations and youth networks in reaching out to more and more people. It will be crucial to engage with the UN Youth Envoy in future events and initiatives, in order to have a stronger and coordinated commitment from the UN Agencies;
- Involve youth workers in future campaigns and to set up a Youth Council in the Executive Board of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS);
- Fully exploit the potential of communication tools to promote cultural and behavioural change and to accompany the evolution of food systems in a sustainable way. It is key to convince adolescents that it is worthy to invest in agriculture and to preserve biodiversity

and traditional knowledge. This will need to be done through a market lens, in order to match offer and demand towards a healthy food system;

- Tackle forced marriages and early pregnancies through multi-layered and multi-sectoral programmes. It is essential to engage with parents and local leaders to increase the self-esteem of young girls and to create a narrative that promotes local champions to whom the youngster can identify with. In each community there are stories of extraordinary people that have inspired massive change in their peers. These champions are not necessarily young girls and boys, but also parents, relatives, or teachers;
- Recognise the realities of adolescents (girls and boys), who live in crisis-affected settings and include them in targeted humanitarian programming. This will contribute to restore security, health and hope for those very vulnerable boys and girls at a critical time between childhood and adulthood;
- Fund participatory studies carried out by local communities to map existing youth networks, address the root causes of malnutrition and empower younger generations. This will increase the availability of data and also the effectiveness of the above-mentioned programmes;
- Try to involve the private sector (not only big transnational corporations) in future events on adolescents' nutrition in order to share views on these matters and build alliances. This will be crucial to guide action and catalyse investments with the aim to reach and benefit the most vulnerable groups;
- Ensure joint commitment within and outside the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs), as well as all actors fighting against hunger to put the adolescents' case higher on the UN Agenda, by also increasing their accountability among local communities. Some participants suggested to launch Joint Declaration endorsed by all UN Agencies and presented at major global events (i.e. G7, African Union, etc.) to start up a true revolution. Such a Declaration should be based on the principle of sustainability, protection of biodiversity, cultural heritage and collective rights and ensure inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. Such a Declaration, would be put under the aegis of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, will ensure not only greater visibility, but also stronger impact.

Commitments

For these reasons, IFAD, Save the Children and the youth made several commitments:

- IFAD has for the first time developed a Rural Youth Action Plan that will serve as a roadmap for all activities related to youth between 2019 and 2025. The action plan aims to make half of its newly approved projects “youth sensitive” and to establish strong rural youth networks linked to the farmers' forum. The Youth Action Plan will be complemented by gender, nutrition, environment and climate change action plans, which will be implemented in an integrated and strategic manner. IFAD has already started a revision of its targeting guidelines. This will ensure that all vulnerable groups like adolescent

girls are targeted by well-tailored investments; IFAD will also develop indicators to ensure that all country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) involve young girls and boys, young women and young men as key beneficiaries. Finally, IFAD will establish a Rural Youth Council to increase knowledge on adolescents around the world and work in synergy with national platforms to influence local decision-making;

- Save the Children Italy committed to mainstream nutrition in youth programmes beyond the ongoing work on child and maternal health and nutrition while also keep advocating on this issue toward the Italian Government.
- The youth committed to several issues that were displayed on the “Piazza”, such as the need to give more importance to culturally sensitive nutrition programmes, to include nutrition in future action plans, to keep supporting young generations to make themselves heard and to enrich food cultures by protecting traditions and cultural heritage.

Next steps

- Disseminate the results of the Conference to the wider public, with the aim to increase awareness and foster stronger policy engagement;

Part 2 - Main findings presented and discussed in the different panels

Opening session

The aim of the opening session was to introduce the topic of the Conference and to display some of the main challenges faced by young girls and boys at the global level. The panel included the following speeches:

Chair: Paul Winters, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD

- Welcoming remarks by
 - ✓ Cornelia Richter, Vice-President of IFAD and Chair, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)
 - ✓ Daniela Fatarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Save the Children Italy
- Opening remarks by
 - ✓ Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agricultural Agencies of the United Nations
 - ✓ Jane Napais, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kenya

Keynote address by Her Royal Highness Princess Marie-Esméralda of Belgium

Highlights of the session

Cornelia Richter, IFAD Vice President, opened the work by highlighting that in order to achieve the targets set by the UN Agenda 2030, girls and adolescents' nutrition needs to be put high on the policy-makers' agenda. Nowadays, there are 1.2 billion people aged between 15 and 24, with figures projected to skyrocket especially in developing countries. In this context, girls and adolescents suffer from many forms of discrimination, which are even more exacerbated in rural areas and within Indigenous Peoples' communities. However, the lack of precise data on adolescents' malnutrition has affected the effectiveness of the different programmes and activities on the ground by also impeding young girls to get political representation.

Daniela Fatarella, Deputy CEO Save the Children Italy, highlighted that, although some concrete steps forward have been made, malnutrition is still high and is projected to persist for a long time, unless a radical change is achieved. Fighting for the rights of adolescent girls is one of the key challenges that will help to eradicate hunger. Forced marriages and early pregnancies have not declined as it was predicted and are projected to remain a true plague in rural areas and Indigenous Peoples' communities. They lead to the violation of several other human rights, as they impede young girls to get adequate education, by reducing their chances to strive for decent

socio-economic conditions in their communities. The success of the Agenda 2030 thus relies on the role of young girls and boys as actors and drivers of change.

Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis from the Government of Canada recalled that young girls' and women's needs have to be translated into policy action. It is crucial to give them a voice, as they cannot be just mere beneficiaries. Hence, a genuine feminist assistance policy is needed in order to break up this intergenerational cycle of poverty, malnutrition and discrimination. In order to make programmes and interventions more effective she suggested:

- That women and girls are at the centre of any interventions;
- To listen to the requests from the younger generations, by bringing them on the top of the Governments' agendas;
- To strive for innovative partnerships to scale up nutrition and empowerment;
- To work on a new metrics to expand knowledge of the different situations at the ground level and to reach out to more adolescents in need.

In her keynote speech **Her Royal Highness Princess Marie-Esméralda of Belgium** stated that around the world, women and young girls suffer from various forms of discrimination, while gender-based violence is increasing not only in the developing world. In addition, as the effects of climate change are putting their nutrition security at risk, it is crucial to launch more effective programmes in which young girls and women can have safe and equitable access to food, education, land, and credit in order to increase their independence and make them true actors of change.

Finally, **Jane Napais**, Youth Leader for Nutrition, in Kenya provided real stories of forced marriages in her community in Kenya, where girls between 10 and 19 years are married off by her parents in exchange of 7 to 10 cows. This forced marriage leads to early pregnancies that exacerbate a vicious intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. Several girls are still not given the chance to get adequate education and face nutritional challenges that expose them to nutritional deficiencies. Hence, she advocated for a multi-sectorial action, that paves the way for better conditions for both the unborn and their future mothers.

Bridging the adolescent nutrition gap: The journey thus far

This session aimed to provide an overview of some of the activities launched so far both at the UN (i.e. FAO, WFP, WHO) and other levels to untangle the root causes of adolescents' malnutrition. The panel allowed the audience to understand that affordable solutions to combat malnutrition already exist and that the time is ripe for scaling them up, through joint efforts and dialogue with Governments, business partners, academia and CSOs.

Chair: Daniela Fatarella, Deputy CEO, Save the Children Italy

- Where do we stand? Building on the outcomes of the June 2018 consultation "Adolescents: Agents of change for a well-nourished world" hosted by the World Health

Organization (WHO) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Lina Mahy, Technical Officer, WHO and Sarah Parkinson, Lead, Adolescent Nutrition Programme, GAIN

- Positioning the Adolescent nutrition agenda within global frameworks: United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and International Conference on Nutrition, Trudy Wijnhoven, Nutrition Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Rural transformation and the double burden of malnutrition among rural youth in low- and middle-income countries, Giacomo Zanello, Lecturer in Food Economics and Health, University of Reading
- Adolescence as a window of opportunity to catch up on growth, Jo Boyden, Director, Young Lives
- A Journey for adolescent nutrition, Stineke Oenema, Coordinator, UNSCN.

Highlights of the session

The session started with the presentations of **Sarah Parkinson** (GAIN) and **Lina Mahy** (WHO), who analysed the results from the June 2018 consultation “Adolescents: Agents of change for a well-nourished world” that took place in Geneva. Sarah Parkinson reported several points such as the need to:

1. Stop working on those programmes that have proved to be ineffective or even harmful;
2. Identify areas of intervention jointly with adolescents, in order to touch upon topics that have a tangible effect on their every-day lives;
3. Let the adolescents guide future actions and planning;
4. Incentivise the creation of youth networks, where younger generations can take the lead and advocate for real change;
5. Have a rights-based approach that embraces several dimensions and makes it possible to tackle all form (or multiple dimensions) of malnutrition, including overweight.

Lina May, WHO, reflected upon the challenges and opportunities for reaching adolescents through the health system, by recalling the potential of education to reach a very big number of young girls and boys and to promote healthier diets that address the double burden of malnutrition. In addition, she recalled the need to fully implement the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Finally, she shared the commitment by WHO members to promote a special focus on women, children and adolescents in the 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023.

Trudy Wijnhoven, FAO, underlined the need to find a common ground to go forward. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and its Work Programme provide a good framework for future plans and discussions. The aim is to accelerate the learning process on how to work with adolescents and to learn from a fruitful engagement with them on several topics, such as water, sanitation, sexual education and sustainable diets. So far, the different projects on the ground

identified a series of lessons learnt, such as the need to ensure access to diversified and healthy diets, the importance to mobilize investments, foster dialogue with local actors and identify gender-sensitive solutions. Finally, she warned that the report by the UN General Assembly on SDG2 on eradicating hunger revealed that the world is off track to achieve the targets set in the Agenda 2030 and that the fight against hunger is still far to be won.

[Giacomo Zanella](#), University of Reading, UK), presented his research work on adolescents' malnutrition, by highlighting that although overall a decline in adolescents' undernutrition took place but, overweight and obesity are conversely growing. Yet, there are still huge differences between gender, age groups and different countries. Hence, he recommended addressing all forms of malnutrition, not just stunting or undernutrition.

In this sense, **Jocelyne Boyden** from Young Lives presented another study that showed that in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) a double burden of malnutrition occurs. In these contexts, girls are discriminated and they have higher risks to be stunted than boys. This trend is even more dramatic for early pregnancies, as it paves the way for an intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and marginalization. Moreover, she confirmed that malnutrition is determined by multiple drivers that need to be taken into account when planning policies and programmes. Furthermore, she pointed out that a multi-sectoral approach is needed, to bring together both the more general context and the household one. Finally, she stated that it is possible to recover from childhood stunting and undernutrition from a psycho-physical point of view during adolescence. Hence, it is important to capitalize hope and shape actions accordingly.

To conclude, [Stineke Oenema](#) (UNSCN) provided an overview of the main events organized since May 2017 on adolescents' nutrition. She pointed out that the common denominator among them was the need to have a life-cycle approach towards these matters. These meetings revealed once again that the lack of disaggregated data impedes to better grasp the nuances of such a broad group. Finally, she recalled the importance of having youth on board when programming and designing any programme or activity dealing with adolescents' nutrition.

Panel I: Early marriage and early pregnancy

This session aimed to reflect on the root causes of early marriages and pregnancies that dramatically affect adolescent girls, especially in rural areas and within Indigenous Peoples' communities. Studies have showed that there is a strong correlation between child marriages and early pregnancies, with a strong pressure played by families and culture. In addition, they have proved that there is a link between child marriages and food insecurity: in a family who experiences severe food insecurity, there are more risks that young girls suffer from negative coping strategies, such as early marriages in exchange for food, money, etc. Breaking this discrimination is essential to empower young girls and save them from of a vicious cycle of undernutrition, discrimination and harassment. The speakers of this session were:

Chair: Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist, Gender and Social Inclusion, IFAD

- Link between child marriage, early pregnancy and nutrition, Alessandra Tranquilli, Senior Programme Officer, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage
- Addressing the challenges of adolescent girls in Kenya: A complex approach to prevent early and child marriage, and progress their nutritional health, Rahab Mwaniki, Campaigns Manager, Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium (KANCO), ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership
- Culturally sensitive approaches to address child marriage: Best practices and innovative solutions from Pakistan, Samar Minallah, Founder, Ethnomedia
- Civil society organizations and institutions working together to reduce harmful practices, Maria Grazia Panunzi, President, Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)
- The challenges of child marriage in Kyrgyzstan and key lessons learned from the youth group, Manata Sadykova, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kyrgyzstan

Highlights of the session

[Alessandra Tranquilli](#) (Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage) presented the work of the partnership and the importance to launch multi-sectoral approaches to address child marriage. Recent data from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) demonstrated the presence of a direct link between child marriage and early pregnancies and that food insecurity is both a cause and consequence of child marriage. For this reasons, she advocated for integrating child marriage interventions into food security and nutrition programmes and she referenced to the TESFA programme in Ethiopia, as a good example of a multi component programme (it included agricultural skills training, provision of agricultural assets, nutrition education, targeting social norms within communities) that contributed to reduce rates of child marriage.

[Rahab Mwaniki](#) from Kenya Aids NGO Consortium (KANCO) presented the findings of a recent EU-funded research project by recalling the need for increased advocacy efforts with local Governments to launch multisectoral strategies to tackle malnutrition. In this context, she also highlighted the role of digitalization to bridge existing socio-cultural gaps as well as the need to ease access to markets for local farmers. Finally, she touched upon the issue of school meals by saying that it is crucial to keep working in this field, by involving male leaders in rural communities in order to convince them to keep girls and adolescents in schools.

[Samar Minallah](#) from Ethnomedia presented the case of Pakistan, by indicating how crucial it is to launch culturally sensitive approaches. So far, culture is the main missing link in nutrition-sensitive programmes. In several communities there is a real culture of silence that perpetuates discrimination against women and adolescents. In order to break this silence, it is essential to provide local communities with the right tools to advocate for change. She presented her work as movie maker, by highlighting how films can help to reach out to a wider public, including opinion makers and legislators. Finally, she recalled the need to have men and young boys on board as partners to challenge existing patriarchal traditions and to fight more effectively against girls' discrimination.

Maria Grazia Panunzi from the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS) presented the work of her organization, in promoting women's and girls' rights through its Women health centres (e.g. in Gaza, Nepal, Venezuela, Jordan, Syria, Burkina Faso). She underlined that in 2014 AIDOS launched, with the Italian All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health and Women's Rights the so called "Girl Declaration". The Declaration was created in partnership with 25 development organizations, and in consultation with more than 500 girls in 14 countries. All these efforts pushed the Italian Parliament to unanimously approve a motion demanding the government to implement the UN resolution against early marriages and to financially support international cooperation programs for the prevention of forced early marriages.

The final presentation by [Manata Sadykova](#) (Youth Leader for Nutrition) was helpful to grasp the challenges of child marriages in Kyrgyzstan. She presented data on early marriage in her country as well as dramatic stories reflecting how young girls are the ones suffering the most in poor families. Moreover, she highlighted the lack of law enforcement as well as the pressure made by religious leaders on families that often leads to forced marriages.

All the panellist agreed that there are multiple entry points to fight child marriage and malnutrition (among others education, reproductive health, agricultural development, school feeding, HIV/AIDS prevention). Yet, it is crucial to ensure law enforcement, as in many cases girls' rights could be ensured just by respecting existing laws. Against this backdrop, it is clear that the achievement of SDG5 on gender equality is linked to the integration of a gender sensitivity in any activity aimed at eradicating child marriages and pregnancies. Men and male leaders (i.e. religious leaders, fathers, relatives, teachers, etc.) in communities need to be taken on board in this battle. Improving the girls' self-esteem is also crucial, as young girls need champions and good examples to look at to embrace this radical cultural battle. Different approaches are needed to understand which programmes have been more successful, but adolescents need anyway to be at the centre of interventions from policy to implementation, from design to monitoring.

Panel II: Policy change and multi-sectoral approaches

This session was important to present some efforts made at the national and international level to scale up the voice of adolescent girls. The fight against malnutrition is a complex matter, that touches upon several sectors (i.e. agriculture, education, health), that is realized at several levels (national, regional, subnational, communities, etc.) and that involves several partners (i.e. governments, CSOs, international organizations, private sector, etc.). Hence, states are called to launch multi-sectoral plans and strategies to answer to all these multiple dimensions. Achieving adequate adolescents' nutrition is a cornerstone to implement the Agenda 2030 and it needs to be done in synergy with several other stakeholders, ranging from the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) concerned with food and agriculture to local governments. Yet, the lack of disaggregated and context-specific data on age, location and sex makes it hard to identify the right tools to support the most vulnerable groups and communities. It included the following panellists:

Chair: Joyce Njoro, Lead Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD

- Policy change and multi-sectoral approaches to improving adolescent nutrition, Purnima Kashyap, Director, Global Coordinator, UN Network for Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat
- Policy framework on adolescent nutrition: Experience from Tanzania, Obey Assery Nkya, SUN Government Focal Point and Secretary, High Level Nutrition Steering Committee, Prime Minister's Office, Tanzania
- Nutrition for girls: Multiple determinants for improved outcomes, Simona Seravesi, Consultant – Save the Children Italy
- Nepal country approach to nutrition, Barsha Bhattarai, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Nepal

Highlights of the session

During the first presentation **Purnima Kashyap** (UN Network for Scaling up Nutrition) reflected on how the Global Nutrition Community, the UN Agencies and the national Governments could better work to increase the effectiveness of nutrition policies and programmes. On the one hand, the global nutrition community should foster multi-stakeholder collaboration to identify new interventions in the health, agriculture, education, social protection, water and sanitation and other sectors to include adolescent-focused nutrition objectives. In addition, it should constantly assess the impact of these programmes on adolescent nutrition and it should work to develop standardized indicators for assessing their well-being. On the other hand, UN agencies and partners should provide technical support to national and sub-national platforms to facilitate better planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring of the nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive strategies. Moreover, they should advocate for a budget line for adolescent-focused nutrition and establish a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear sex-and-age disaggregated indicators at the country-level

Obey Assery Nkya (Prime Minister's Office of Tanzania) presented the case of Tanzania, one of the few countries that have started including adolescent nutrition in their nutrition strategy. It has launched a new Framework that brings together 12 different Ministries and that tries to assess on an annual basis the results achieved, as well as the level of coordination between the regional and the subnational level. All this work has allowed to identify challenges linked to adolescents' nutrition and to launch new programmes to fight against HIV, early pregnancies and improve food and nutrition security.

At the community level, tackling adolescents' nutrition is a crucial window of opportunity to revert the malnutrition cycle beyond the first 1,000 days. **Simona Seravesi** presented the field study conducted by Save the Children Italy in Nepal that tried to assess the newly-launched Nutrition Development Plan, by engaging with several Ministries. However, the plan did not target girls really well, but is focused more on women (aged between 15 and 49 years), and this makes it hard to track progress, especially in a country where the adolescent population is huge and even growing. Hence, a life-cycle approach is needed to target the different age groups and launch

multi-sectoral programmes that lead to behavioural change and are culturally sensitive. Among the critical issues emerged, it was noted that multi-sectoral approach raised competition among the different Ministries involved by reducing its overall impact. Furthermore, the lack of law enforcement was very apparent in the case of early marriages. Although the national Law sets the legal age for marriages at 20, this provision is hardly respected in particular in rural areas. Finally, she underlined that agriculture is a key entry point for adolescent nutrition, although agricultural planning seldom include nutrition-sensitive objectives in their actions.

Against this backdrop, **Barsha Bhattarai** (Youth Leader for Nutrition) highlighted that young people remain excluded from several policies and programmes launched to tackle malnutrition. Many Governments are failing to provide younger generations with the needed tools to mobilise themselves and to become agents of change. Nutrition programmes are mostly focused on mother and child nutrition (especially during the first 1,000 days) and they undervalue the importance of adolescents' nutrition (even though several mothers are also adolescents). Education is also key to empower girls through household enterprises. Education plays a pivotal role (i.e. school meals) as schools are the hubs where it is possible both, to provide nutritious food and to improve local value chains, by empowering farmers and small producers.

Panel III: Dialogue with governments

The aim of this panel was to present the work done by some Governments in the fight against adolescent malnutrition. In particular, the panel was important to assess the activities launched under the Canadian Presidency of the G7 on women empowerment and the gender agenda. In addition, the panel gave the chance to analyse how the Italian development cooperation policy and interventions for food and nutrition security is applying a gender lens. The panelists gave concrete examples of some interventions on the ground and reported the political commitment of their respective countries to address adolescents' nutrition under the aegis of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The speakers of this session were:

Chair: Maria Egizia Petroccione, Head of International Advocacy and Policy Department, Save the Children Italy

- Championing gender equality and women's empowerment, Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agricultural Agencies of the United Nations
- Action to support girls' rights and improve nutrition, Counsellor Stefano Pisotti, Deputy Head, Strategy Global Processes and International Organizations Unit, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- The importance of engaging young people in policy development processes: Experiences from Colombia, Sebastian Pedraza, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Colombia

Highlights of the session

Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis (Government of Canada) and **Stefano Pisotti** (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) recalled that at the G7 and national levels important commitments have been made to boost the role of food and nutrition security, with a special attention to women and girls. This has been possible thanks to the role played both by the Italian and the Canadian G7 Presidencies. Against this background, they both underlined that youth still needs to be brought to the decision table to produce change. Nonetheless, there is a global awakening of young people around the world. On the one hand, the Gender Taskforce launched by Canada during the G7 Presidency was mentioned as a best practice to improve women and young girls' nutrition. On the other, Mr. Pisotti presented some initiatives launched by the Italian Government in ensuring maternal and infant nutrition in Afghanistan and to improve access to markets for coffee producers in Guatemala through the "Caffè" programme.

Against this backdrop, [Sebastian Pedraza](#), (Youth Leader for Nutrition) offered an overview of the Colombian experience, by highlighting that in Latin America approximately 20% of the population is youth, and that population of rural youth fluctuates between 5% and 11% approximately of the total population. In Colombia only, rural youth (nearly 2.6 million people) represent one quarter of the total rural population. Against this backdrop, he pointed out several challenges such as the lack of credibility and trust of youth in institutions, especially when they merely impose rules and programmes to territories, without identifying key interlocutors and include the youngsters in the design phases. Furthermore, he stressed that Colombia still suffers from very high levels of corruption in the political arena and from the chronic persistence of gender discrimination. Sebastian concluded by stating that the exclusion of youth in Government-led programmes can lead to several disadvantages such as the risk that the programmes are not context-tailored, the risk of smaller impact for local communities and even the rise of opposition from youngsters in the territories involved.

Panel IV: Scaling up the voice of youth

The aim of this session was to give young leaders the chance to speak up and present some of the main issues faced by younger generations in their countries. Among them, a special attention was given to the link between poverty and undernutrition in rural contexts, gender inequality, forced marriages and early pregnancies as well as the perils linked with the unsustainable transition of food systems. The latter is aggressively driven by mass and social media and risks to disrupt traditional knowledge as well as the sacred value attached to food especially among Indigenous Peoples. The speakers of the panel were:

Chair: Megan Pennell, SUN Civil Society Network Country Support Adviser, Save the Children UK

- Barsha Bhattarai, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Nepal
- Lucenia Cuenca Mendez, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC), Mexico

- Joseane Mendoza, Indigenous Adolescent from the Miskitu People, Global Indigenous Women's Leadership School, International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF), Nicaragua
- Jane Napais Lankisa, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kenya
- Sebastian Pedraza, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Colombia
- Manata Sadykova, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kyrgyzstan
- Niroj Sudarshan Sukumar, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Sri Lanka
- Hanitrarinina Rarison, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Madagascar and Efatara Era, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Bangladesh (connected remotely)

Highlights of the session

During this workshop, the youth representatives raised several issues that are essential to translate policy into action and truly empower adolescents. Food insecurity and marginalization were the *fil rouge* in all the interventions, as they highlighted how strong the link between malnutrition and poverty in rural contexts is. Gender inequality also contributes to reduce access to food among girls and boys and this is particularly worrisome during adolescence, which is a crucial moment for the psycho-physical development of younger generations. In addition, forced marriages and early pregnancies need to be tackled through a holistic approach that seriously takes into account the youngsters' voice both in the planning and implementation of policies. From a food security perspective, the youth raised that on the one hand, they suffer from a triple burden of malnutrition (underweight, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight). On the other hand, social media and commercials are radically changing their food habits towards unsustainable and unhealthy diets (i.e. junk food). This leads to a progressive loss in food culture and traditions especially among Indigenous Peoples' communities, where the violation of human and collective rights increases their vulnerability by provoking displacement, migration and biodiversity loss.

Efatara from Madagascar highlighted that food security is still persistent and threatens biodiversity and she called for new kinds of interventions that are deeply shared and implemented through local communities. **Barsha** from Nepal recalled that adolescence is a crucial period where physical, hormonal and psychological changes take place. In Nepal, many young girls and boys are literally starving in rural areas and even worse they are threatened by a triple burden of malnutrition: undernutrition, overweight and micronutrient deficiencies. Hence, she called for a mobilization against social media that are advertising unhealthy dietary habits. **Manata** from Kyrgyzstan pointed out that in her country very few girls know what nutrition really means and this lack of healthy dietary habits should be tackled through more innovative communication campaigns that are attractive and manage to trigger a change in the way adolescents feed themselves. **Jane** from Kenya warned that forced marriages and early pregnancies are significantly affecting the number of young girls dropping out from schools in her country. Therefore, she called for new programmes that involve several stakeholders in the different communities and drive for a structural change. **Sebastian** from Colombia reflected on the fact that tackling poverty in rural areas is key to eradicate adolescents' malnutrition. He also joined the other speakers saying that advertising healthier food habits represents a cultural battle that needs to be fought

with tailored messages and that this can bring several positive outcomes in more vulnerable areas and communities. **Lucenia** from Mexico highlighted how in her country younger generations are forced to migrate and this exposes them to poverty and discrimination. In this context early marriages are the only alternative to survive hence to reduce this phenomenon it is necessary to tackle the root causes of poverty. **Joseane** from Nicaragua stated that preserving and safeguarding culture is a big challenge in Indigenous Peoples' communities. Investing in education is essential to empower young girls and boys and to drive cultural change that helps to protect local heritage. Finally, **Niroj** from Sri Lanka underlined the importance of involving parents in educational programs. Most of them do not know how to properly feed their children. Therefore, he called for including food education in schools and to involve families in these activities as the first step to promote more sustainable food diets.

All young leaders highlighted the need to implement a nutrition curriculum in education schemes, to raise the awareness of the communities on the needs of adolescent girls, by establishing platforms where their voices can be heard. They also expressed the need to take over social media and to make vibrant interventions that promote agriculture and nutrition, by combining ICTs and innovative tools to increase the attractiveness of these jobs. In order to achieve these ambitious goals it is necessary to create synergies that effectively invest in nutrition and to promote better advocacy.

At the end of Day1, Juliane Friedrich closed the meeting by recalling the main points touched during the different panels.

Panel V: Youth economic empowerment

The second day opened with a panel on youth empowerment. The aim was to highlight the importance to dig into the root causes that lead to youth discrimination, as well as to scale up existing multi-sectoral policies and programmes on the ground. The current food environment is not helping adolescents to have healthy diets, whereas they are progressively abandoning agriculture as the sector is not perceived as attractive or profitable anymore. Empowering youth means thus not only engaging them but giving them the concrete means (i.e. economic empowerment) to access markets and have decent life conditions. The speakers of this panel were:

Chair: Robyn Bright, Senior Manager, Advocacy and Global Impact, Nutrition International

- Adolescent skills for successful transitions, Silvia Paruzzolo, Interim Director, Child Poverty Global Theme, Save the Children International
- Working with adolescents: Field experience from Bolivia, Nina Kühnel, National Focal Point for Advocacy, Campaigns and Child Rights Governance, Save the Children Bolivia
- The situation of adolescent girls as a building block for women's empowerment in food systems, Jessica Fanzo, Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO
- Youth economic opportunities in IFAD's youth framework, Tom Anyonge, Lead Technical Specialist, Youth, IFAD

Highlights of the session

[Jessica Fanzo](#) from FAO, reported that adolescents are currently facing many challenges from a nutritional perspective. Many of them eat more and more outside due to their busy lives, many skip meals and spend less time eating than their parents, and they tend to eat processed food with high concentration of fat, sugar and salt. These new habits are pervasively sponsored by peers and mass media. Adolescents do not live in a vacuum, they live in social environments. Recent studies have highlighted the strong link between nutrition and cognitive development showing that brain development does not occur only during the first 1,000 days, but also throughout adulthood. Hence, understanding the sculpting period is key to launch effective nutrition programmes. During this period, emotional and social factors interact with biology to influence decision-making, food choices and dietary preferences. That is why food industry and mass media are giving more and more importance to these trends. Therefore, it is essential to develop more inclusive and different food environments that promote the protection of biodiversity as well as a shorter and more sustainable food supply chains. Engaging young girls and boys in the food environments is key, as they work a lot in the food supply chain.

[Silvia Paruzzolo](#) from Save the Children International reflected that adolescent need skills to strive for success. For this reason, she introduced Save the Children's "Adolescent skills for successful transition" model. This model aims to provide them with the specific competences and it goes hand in hand with the creation of the appropriate enabling environment, where they can express their full potential. A case study in Bangladesh demonstrated that it is possible to reduce early marriages and pregnancies, not only through training, but also through financial incentives that help understand the benefits of getting their daughters married at a later stage.

[Nina Kühnel](#) from Save the Children Bolivia presented the case study of Bolivia by highlighting some dramatic trends affecting young girls such as the presence of domestic violence, the high number of teenage pregnancies, often as a consequence of sexual violence and the persistence of poverty. Against this dramatic backdrop, she suggested to look into sustainable solutions that take into account all the components of young girls' discrimination and to work better in order to make them learn to appreciate themselves, their sexual health and not just to focus on their economic empowerment. Then she recalled the importance to understand the context in which humanitarian actors work to transfer comprehensive strategies to key stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, public officials) to increase the advocacy efforts. She also reported the importance to have a market analysis that takes into account the importance of the informal sector. The risk is to fuel adolescents' frustration by pushing them into the formal sector, even though there are not enough job opportunities for them.

Finally, [Tom Anyonge](#) from IFAD presented the current challenges that reduce the chances for young girls to reach a true personal empowerment. Among them, he pointed out that the access to goods and services as well as the development of new skills is crucial to reduce malnutrition and truly empower rural smallholders. Therefore, he also suggested as a potential solution the need to make the agri-business sector more attractive and profitable by exploiting new

technologies. In this sense, partnerships with local Governments and other development organizations is crucial for training young people, policy makers and even staff of the RBAs and spur capacity-building.

Panel VI: Indigenous adolescents

This panel specifically tackled the nutrition challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples. Nowadays, Indigenous peoples protect 80% of the world biodiversity, although this is under attack. When engaging with Indigenous Peoples' communities it is crucial to ensure their full and effective participation and to co-invest in education, well-being, and job access. It is also important to take into consideration the relevance of knowledge transfer and the involvement of all the actors all along the whole intergenerational circle, and to fully understand how different family members play different roles within their societies. The speakers of the panel were:

Chair: Mattia Prayer Galletti, Lead Technical Specialist, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues, IFAD

- Message of energetic connection led by an invited leader
- Welcoming words from Her Royal Highness Princess Marie-Esméralda of Belgium
- Panel discussion
 - ✓ Teresa Zapeta, Executive Director, International Indigenous Women Forum (FIMI/IIWF)
 - ✓ Joseane Mendoza, Indigenous adolescent from the Miskitu People, FIMI/IIWF Indigenous Women Leadership School, Nicaragua
 - ✓ Lucenia Cuenca Mendez, GIYC, Mexico

Highlights of the session

The panel on Indigenous adolescents started with a message by **Her Royal Highness Princess of Belgium**, who highlighted that about 5 % of the global population belongs to Indigenous Peoples, and they are among the most vulnerable and marginalized people. Indigenous peoples have historically been displaced and killed because of the richness of their lands. In these contexts, young girls suffer from a quadruple form of discrimination, as they are young, they are women, they live in rural areas and they are Indigenous. This discrimination unveils the presence of specific power relations that often lead to social exclusion.

In this sense, **Teresa Zapeta** from International Indigenous Women Forum (FIMI/IIWF) stated that colonization did not end with the looting of Indigenous Peoples' territories and resources; today multinational companies, extractive companies and monocultures are again displacing Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous peoples are desperately trying to defend their lands, territories and resources by putting their lives in danger and many have already been killed. Internally displaced people are also discriminated in the new places of arrival, where they seriously risk losing their identity. Indigenous peoples are also under attack from the media, as many promote a narrative that makes it aspirational to leave the community and to look for alleged better living condition in

urban settings. Indigenous girls living in rural areas are the ones with less access to education. For many states, they represent a load rather than an opportunity and they totally undervalue their worldviews and spiritual dimensions. Against this backdrop, it is crucial to address differently the situation of rural Indigenous adolescents in comparison with urban ones. Policies and programs should not focus exclusively on youth employment as it brings income but may disrupt social and community life which are very important for Indigenous Peoples. Programmes must be holistic and address the root causes (e.g. racism, discrimination, inequality) with inter-sectoral proposals and through the promotion of activities that respect the culture and identity of the people and that generates results in terms of nutrition, health, self-esteem and access to opportunities

Lucenia Cuenca Mendez (GIYC) recalled that it is important to look at cultural aspects related to nutrition. In many communities, food is a truly sacred element, thus it is important to recognize the value that Indigenous Peoples attach to their land, territories and resources in their cosmology. They are not simply assets or commodities, and do not only have an economic value, but a spiritual, social and ecological interconnection. It is also important to recognize the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples over their land, territories and resources when working with them, and the governance systems that they have in place.

Panel VII: Inclusive programming, frameworks and indicators

Metrics still represents one of the most critical issues to be tackled and often reduces the possibility to effectively monitor adolescents' food and nutrition security. Adolescents are a very distinct group that differs a lot in terms of geographical location, age, culture, ethnicity and this makes it very critical to target them during this special stage of life. In some context, adolescents define themselves as such on the basis of the duties carried out in their every-day life (i.e. housekeeping, farming or any work contributing to the family income). Elsewhere, once a young girl or boy gets married s/he immediately stops being considered an adolescent. Hence, getting a deeper understanding of what adolescents' nutrition really means and whom the members of this group are, is a necessary precondition to fill this gap and to tailor more effective policies and programs. Having the right indicators allows to subgroup and disaggregate data for different countries. In many cases, data are retrieved from national centralized databases, thus impeding to have a better understanding of the nutrition status and needs of adolescents at the subnational and community level.

Chair: Lauren Landis, Director, Nutrition Division, World Food Programme (WFP)

- Formative research to inform adolescent programming: Four country studies, Fatiha Terki, Deputy Director, Nutrition Division, WFP
- Making the case for adolescent nutrition programmes: New tools for data-driven decisions, Marion Roche, Senior Technical Advisor, Adolescent and Women's Health, Nutrition International
- The Survey-based Women's Empowerment Index (SWPER) in Africa, Fernanda Ewerling, Researcher, International Center for Equity in Health

- Intervention and impact evaluation of adolescent nutrition and development outcomes, Kiyoshi Taniguchi, Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank
- Adolescent girls and boys: Gender norms and nutrition, Letisha Lunin, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor for the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) Programme, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Highlights of the session

[Fernanda Ewerling](#), from the International Center for Equity in Health presented the work done by using the Survey-based Women's Empowerment Index (SWPER) indicator to assess and track adolescents' nutrition and women's empowerment. The SWPER methodology measures this progress by considering three domains: attitude to violence, social independence and decision-making. The research highlighted that the SWPER allows to produce within and between-country comparisons, to have time trends analyses and to identify groups in worst situation. It also proved to be a powerful tool for gender analysis in LMICs, where most of the available data comes from national surveys.

In addition, a four-country study undertaken by the World Food Programme (WFP) presented by [Fatiha Terki](#) showed the results of formative research on adolescents' nutrition. A sample of young girls and boys interviewed helped to understand that there is not a standardized definition of adolescents, that disparities persist even in the terminology used within the same country and that often other factors are used to indicate the different phases of life beyond adolescence (i.e. marriage, parenthood, circumcision, growing level of responsibility). Finally, the research conducted an analysis of food habits that showed the prevalence of a lack of quality, absence of variety as well as of limited choices due to economic constraints. Eating fast food is perceived as a symbol of empowerment that identifies a change in the social status. All these findings strongly highlighted how hard it is to have a "one-size-fits-all approach".

[Kiyoshi Taniguchi](#) introduced a pilot project by the Asian Development Bank that tested the impact of some programmes launched to change food habits among adolescents. These studies also measured their impact on the adolescents' nutrition status after the implementation of a pool of interventions that ranged from advocacy, cash transfer, increasing accessibility (subsidized nutritious food) and peer network.

[Letisha Lunin](#) (ODI) presented the findings of her research by pointing out that while adolescence is a time for promoting an individual's development, it is also a moment when social norms become increasingly influential in shaping what young people do and are expected to do. This is particularly true for adolescent girls in the global South, where the endorsement of gender stereotypes' can be particularly salient. The research identified some key findings such as the need to engage with parents and communities by providing guidance around nutrition. Moreover, she highlighted the role of school feeding as a social protection mechanism as well as the burden that restrictive gender norms can play in determining health outcomes around nutrition. For these reasons, she advocated that social protection systems are age and gender-responsive, and cash transfers translate into food that is nutritious for adolescents and to support school feeding in

areas which are chronically food insecure and nutritional education around the importance of dietary diversity.

Finally, [Marion Roche](#) from Nutrition International presented the findings of her research on iron deficiency anaemia, stating that it is the main cause of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) for adolescent girls and showing how programmes that provided iron folic acid supplementation reduced the risk of having anaemia by 27% in treated girls. Through a brief case study conducted in Indonesia, she showed data modelling supported by multi-sectoral joint advocacy can be used at subnational levels to drive decisions, policy and commitment to tackle adolescents' nutrition.

Interactive session: Building consensus on conference recommendations and next steps

During the last session of the conference the youth leaders had the chance to present some of the main commitments and recommendations collected during the two days and displayed in the "Piazza". After the presentation, Julianne Friedrich summarized the main topics and issues touched during the conference.

Chair: Lara Steinhouse, Nutrition Specialist, Global Affairs Canada

- ✓ Presentation of commitments by the Youth;
- ✓ Reflections on emerging themes, recommendations and conclusions, Juliane Friedrich, Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD.

Highlights of the session

During the plenary session, several points were raised by the participants. Among them, the youth representatives read several commitments written by the different participants in the "Piazza". Among them, they recalled the importance of culture and identity especially for Indigenous Peoples' communities, and the need to include nutrition in their future action plans. Others committed to keep supporting younger generations to make themselves heard and to use their knowledge to enrich food culture and protect traditions and heritage.

Juliane Friedrich (IFAD) summarized the main findings of the conference. Among them, she recalled how young girls suffer from multiple forms of malnutrition and that those living in rural areas or Indigenous Peoples' communities are even more marginalized. She stated that law enforcement is key to protect and safeguard adolescent girl rights, especially in case of forced marriages and early pregnancies. She pointed out that the evolution of food systems needs to be shaped in a way that allows adolescents to have nutritious and healthy food that protects the environment and cultural knowledge, especially in light of climate change related disasters. Moreover, she recalled that cross sectoral and holistic approaches are needed to create the right enabling environment to feed adolescents and protect them from any forms of discrimination. Furthermore, she highlighted the role played by mass media and communication tools and the

need to use them appropriately to convey the right message and have an impact on adolescents' nutrition. Finally, she stated that young girls and boys need to be involved right at the beginning of programme planning and need to be given the right tools to become real drivers of change.

During the discussion, participants referred to the need to use already existing associations and networks to reach people outside from outside that network. The highlighted the need to keep involving the UN youth envoy in future events. The Indigenous participants stated that it would be important to fund participatory studies carried out by local communities to map existing youth networks, address the root causes of malnutrition and empower younger generations. This will increase the availability of data and also the effectiveness of the above-mentioned programmes. Finally, the involvement of the private sector was considered as a key milestone for future events. In this sense, the idea to launch a Declaration to be endorsed by all UN Agencies and to serve as cornerstone for major global events such as the G7 or the summits of the African Union was raised.

Closing session

The last session of the Conference was aimed to summarize the main results achieved throughout the two days with interventions from IFAD, Save the Children and one representative of the youth. The panellists were:

Chair: Antonella Cordone, Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD

- ✓ Daniela Fatarella, Deputy CEO, Save the Children Italy
- ✓ Margarita Astralaga, Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, IFAD
- ✓ Niroj Sudarshan Sukumar, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Sri Lanka

Highlights of the session

Daniela Fatarella Deputy CEO, Save the Children Italy recalled the importance to have good data as well as the proper tools to assess and monitor the Governments' action and to boost the advocacy effort by CSOs. In addition, she highlighted the need to have a life-cycle approach to better address adolescents' nutrition. Furthermore, as Save the Children Italy, she committed to mainstream nutrition in its youth programmes in addition to the ongoing work on maternal and child nutrition. In addition, she highlighted how CSOs need to keep working to make governments accountable on prioritising adolescent nutrition in the upcoming international events and to push this topic high in the Agenda. This would require concerted, cooperative and integrated efforts to integrate the different programmes and better coordinate in inclusive and multi-stakeholder partnerships. She re-affirmed that Save the Children Italy will keep monitoring that the Italian government invests in food and nutrition security programmes in its programmatic and political commitments in the framework of the Decade of Action on Nutrition and with a specific attention to the most vulnerable groups (particularly children and adolescents). Moreover, she reminded the

need to engage with the private sector and to give adolescents the tools to make themselves heard, guide future actions and become true drivers of change. She concluded by saying that it is essential to close the inequity gaps and reach the most vulnerable groups to ensure that their rights are represented and heard, and to correct and catalyse progress towards the Agenda 2030.

Margarita Astralaga Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, IFAD indicated some of the measures that the Agency is taking in order to upscale the battle against adolescents' nutrition. Among them, she said that IFAD is ready to launch a Rural Youth Action Plan, to serve as a roadmap on its engagement with youth from 2019 to 2025. In addition, she said that all IFAD's country strategies will look not only at youth, but also gender, nutrition, environment and climate in a very strategic manner from the beginning. In this sense, the Agency will also identify indicators to make sure that youth is duly included in IFAD's Country Strategic Opportunity Programme (COSOPs). Moreover, IFAD is ready to establish a Rural Youth Council, which will help the Agency understand the needs of the youth in several places around the world, with the aim to attract support from national platforms and networks. Finally, she assured that all IFAD activities will need to give an important space to the eradication of those cultural barriers that exacerbate youth discrimination, especially of young girls in rural areas and Indigenous Peoples' communities.

Finally, **Niroj Sudarshan Sukumar** (Youth Leader for Nutrition) stressed once more that the key challenge is to find the right way to involve youth in the decision making, bridging the gap between them and national or local Governments. In this sense, he welcomed the decision by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Health to commit more resources to adolescents' nutrition. He recalled the importance of school meals and the need to have male leaders on board to eradicate forced marriages and early pregnancies and he called for a global action of youth networks to fight for healthier and more sustainable diets.

Annex I: Agenda of the event

Leaving no one behind: making the case for adolescent girls

IFAD Headquarters – Italian Conference Room

Via Paolo di Dono 44, Rome, Italy

22–23 October 2018

Day I – Monday, 22 October 2018

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and welcome coffee

9.30 – 10.15 **Opening session**

Chair: Paul Winters, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD

- Welcoming remarks by
 - ✓ Cornelia Richter, Vice-President of IFAD and Chair, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)
 - ✓ Daniela Fatarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Save the Children Italy
- Opening remarks by
 - ✓ Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agricultural Agencies of the United Nations
 - ✓ Jane Napais, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kenya

 Keynote address by Her Royal Highness Princess Marie-Esméralda of Belgium

10.15 – 10.30 **Coffee break**

10.30 – 11.30 **Bridging the adolescent nutrition gap: The journey thus far**

Chair: Daniela Fatarella, Deputy CEO, Save the Children Italy

- Where do we stand? Building on the outcomes of the June 2018 consultation “Adolescents: Agents of change for a well-nourished world” hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Lina Mahy, Technical Officer, WHO and Sarah Parkinson, Lead, Adolescent Nutrition Program, GAIN
- Positioning the Adolescent nutrition agenda within global frameworks: United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and International Conference on Nutrition, Trudy Wijnhoven, Nutrition Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Rural transformation and the double burden of malnutrition among rural youth in low- and middle-income countries, Giacomo Zanello, Lecturer in Food Economics and Health, University of Reading
- Adolescence as a window of opportunity to catch up on growth, Jo Boyden, Director, Young Lives
- A Journey for adolescent nutrition, Stineke Oenema, Coordinator, UNSCN

Questions and answers

11.30 – 12.30 **Panel I: Early marriage and early pregnancy**

Chair: Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist, Gender and Social Inclusion, IFAD

- Link between child marriage, early pregnancy and nutrition, Alessandra Tranquilli, Senior Programme Officer, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage
- Addressing the challenges of adolescent girls in Kenya: A complex approach to prevent early and child marriage, and progress their nutritional health, Rahab Mwaniki, Campaigns Manager, Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium (KANCO), ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership
- Culturally sensitive approaches to address child marriage: Best practices and innovative solutions from Pakistan, Samar Minallah, Founder, Ethnomedia
- Civil society organizations and institutions working together to reduce harmful practices, Maria Grazia Panunzi, President, Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)
- The challenges of child marriage in Kyrgyzstan and key lessons learned from the youth group, Manata Sadykova, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kyrgyzstan

Questions and answers

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 14.45 **Panel II: Policy change and multi-sectoral approaches**

Chair: Joyce Njoro, Lead Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD

- Policy change and multi-sectoral approaches to improving adolescent nutrition, Purnima Kashyap, Director, Global Coordinator, UN Network for Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat
- Policy framework on adolescent nutrition: Experience from Tanzania, Obey Assery Nkya, SUN Government Focal Point and Secretary, High Level Nutrition Steering Committee, Prime Minister's Office, Tanzania
- Nutrition for girls: Multiple determinants for improved outcomes, Simona Seravesi, Consultant
- Nepal country approach to nutrition, Barsha Bhattarai, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Nepal

Questions and answers

14.45 – 15.45 **Panel III: Dialogue with governments**

Chair: Maria Egizia Petroccione, Head of International Advocacy and Policy Department, Save the Children Italy

- Championing gender equality and women's empowerment, Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agricultural Agencies of the United Nations
- Action to support girls' rights and improve nutrition, Counsellor Stefano Pisotti, Deputy Head, Strategy Global Processes and International Organizations Unit, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- The importance of engaging young people in policy development processes: Experiences from Colombia, Sebastian Pedraza, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Colombia

Questions and answers

15.45 – 16.00 **Coffee break**

16.00 – 16.50 **Panel IV: Scaling up the voice of youth**

Chair: Megan Pennell, SUN Civil Society Network Country Support Adviser, Save the Children UK

- Barsha Bhattarai, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Nepal
- Lucenia Cuenca Mendez, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC), Mexico

- Joseane Mendoza, Indigenous adolescent from the Miskitu People, Global Indigenous Women's Leadership School, International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF), Nicaragua
- Jane Napais Lankisa, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kenya
- Sebastian Pedraza, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Colombia
- Manata Sadykova, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kyrgyzstan
- Niroj Sudarshan Sukumar, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Sri Lanka
- Hanitraririna Rarison, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Madagascar (connected remotely)

Questions and answers

16.50 – 17.00 Close of day I, Juliane Friedrich, Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD

17.30 – 19.30 **Reception and launch of *Nutrition-sensitive Value Chain Guide for Project Design***

- ✓ Introduction by Paul Winters, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD
- ✓ Launch of the IFAD Nutrition-sensitive Value Chain Guide for Project Design by Annette Seidel, Minister, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the International Organizations in Rome
- ✓ Refreshment featuring food from IFAD's Recipes for Change

Day 2–Tuesday, 23 October 2018

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and welcome coffee

9.30 – 9.45 Recap of previous day's discussions by Youth Leaders for Nutrition (Sebastian Pedraza, Colombia and Jane Napais Lankisa, Kenya)

9.45 – 10.45 **Panel V: Youth economic empowerment**

Chair: Robyn Bright, Senior Manager, Advocacy and Global Impact, Nutrition International

- Adolescent skills for successful transitions, Silvia Paruzzolo, Interim Director, Child Poverty Global Theme, Save the Children International
- Working with adolescents: Field experience from Bolivia, Nina Kühnel, National Focal Point for Advocacy, Campaigns and Child Rights Governance, Save the Children Bolivia
- The situation of adolescent girls as a building block for women's empowerment in food systems, Jessica Fanzo, Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO
- Youth economic opportunities in IFAD's youth framework, Tom Anyonge, Lead Technical Specialist, Youth, IFAD

Questions and answers

10.45 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00 – 12.00 **Panel VI: Indigenous adolescents**

Chair: Mattia Prayer Galletti, Lead Technical Specialist, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues, IFAD

- Message of energetic connection led by an invited leader
- Welcoming words from Her Royal Highness Princess Marie-Esméralda of Belgium
- Panel discussion
 - ✓ Teresa Zapeta, Executive Director, International Indigenous Women Forum (FIMI/IIWF)

- ✓ Joseane Mendoza, Indigenous adolescent from the Miskitu People, FIMI/IIWF Indigenous Women Leadership School, Nicaragua
- ✓ Lucenia Cuenca Mendez, GIYC, Mexico

Questions and answers

12.00 – 12.30 Youth nutrition theatre performance led by Barsha Bhattarai, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Nepal

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 15.00 **Panel VII: Inclusive programming, frameworks and indicators**

Chair: Lauren Landis, Director, Nutrition Division, World Food Programme (WFP)

- Formative research to inform adolescent programming: Four country studies, Fatiha Terki, Deputy Director, Nutrition Division, WFP
- Making the case for adolescent nutrition programmes: New tools for data-driven decisions, Marion Roche, Senior Technical Advisor, Adolescent and Women's Health, Nutrition International
- The Survey-based Women's Empowerment Index (SWPER) in Africa, Fernanda Ewerling, Researcher, International Center for Equity in Health
- Intervention and impact evaluation of adolescent nutrition and development outcomes, Kiyoshi Taniguchi, Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank
- Adolescent girls and boys: Gender norms and nutrition, Letisha Lunin, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor for the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) Programme, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Questions and answers

15.00 – 15.15 **Coffee break**

15.15 – 16.30 **Interactive session: Building consensus on conference recommendations and next steps**

Chair: Lara Steinhouse, Nutrition Specialist, Global Affairs Canada

- ✓ Presentation of commitments by the Youth
- ✓ Reflections on emerging themes, recommendations and conclusions, Juliane Friedrich, Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD

16.30 – 17.00 **Closing remarks**

Chair: Antonella Cordone, Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition, IFAD

- ✓ Daniela Fatarella, Deputy CEO, Save the Children Italy
- ✓ Margarita Astralaga, Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, IFAD
- ✓ Niroj Sudarshan Sukumar, Youth Leader for Nutrition, Sri Lanka

Annex II: List of participants

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: MAKING THE CASE FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

IFAD Headquarters - Italian Conference Room

Via Paolo di Dono 44, Rome,
Italy 22-23 October 2018

Academia, Research Centres, Others

- H.R.H. Princess Marie-Esméralda of Belgium
- Ms Inka Saara Inari Arttijeff, *Adviser to the President* Sámi Parliament in Finland
- Ms Emanuela Alzari, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Anastasia Banushi, *Scientific & Regulatory Affairs* Mondelez International
- Ms Violet Chanza, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Greta Campora, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Rubina Cantele, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Martina De Felice, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Amanda De Filippo, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Belén Delgado, *Journalist* EFE News Agency
- Ms Fernanda Ewerling, *Researcher* International Center for Equity in Health
- Mr Eliot Gee, *Research Fellow* Bioversity International
- Ms Alena Goebel, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Mary-Kathryn Hart, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Letisha Lunin, *Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor for the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) Programme* Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Mr Michele Maccari, *Consultant*
- Ms Gabriela Martel, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Giulia Micheletti, *Research Fellow* Bioversity International
- Mr Mattia Mogetta, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Ms Lourdes Orlando, *Student* Roma Tre University
- Mr Eric Reguly, *Chief, European Bureau* The Globe and Mail
- Mr Phrang Roy, *Coordinator* Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty
- Ms Viviana Sacco, *Learning Route Coordinator* PROCASUR
- Mr Andrea Selva, *Managing Consultant* Bioversity International

- Ms Simona Seravesi, *Consultant*
 - Ms Consuelo Tenente, *Manager, Strategic Partnerships Team*
 - Mr Giacomo Zanello, *Lecturer in Food Economics and Health*
- Bioersivity International
University of Reading

Civil Society Organizations

- Mr Anthony Alfano, *Global Policy & Advocacy Professional*
 - Ms Elena Avenati, *Private Sector and SDGs Advocacy Manager*
 - Ms Francesca Belli, *Project Director Italy*
 - Ms Laura Binetti, *Communication Publications and Materials Assistant*
 - Ms Veronica Boggini, *Consultant*
 - Ms Paola Boncompagni, *Development Communication Specialist*
 - Ms Jo Boyden, *Director*
 - Ms Robyn Bright, *Senior Manager, Advocacy and Global Impact*
 - Ms Pia Cantini, *Head, Institutional Partnership and Business Development Department*
 - Ms Claudia Caputi, *Senior Consultant*
 - Mr Andrea Casini, *Regional Programme Officer*
 - Ms Chiara Damen, *International Advocacy and Policy Coordinator*
 - Mr Adhish Dhungana, *Maternal & Child Survival Manager*
 - Mr Patrizio Fanti, *Institutional Partnership Expert*
 - Ms Daniela Fatarella, *Deputy CEO*
 - Mr Daniele Fattibene, *Consultant*
 - Ms Tiziana Forte, *Strategy and Planning Advisor - Monitoring and Evaluation*
 - Ms Silvia Gison, *International Humanitarian Advocacy and Policy Assistant*
 - Ms Cassie Hayward, *Founder*
 - Ms Sophie Healy-Thow, *Founder*
 - Ms Nina Kuhnel, *Coordinator of Advocacy & Campaigns*
 - Ms Ellen Larby, *Administration and Communications Assistant*
 - Ms Velia Lucidi, *International Advocacy and Policy Expert*
 - Ms Grazia Manisera, *Proposal Development Expert*
 - Ms Samar Minallah, *Founder*
 - Ms Rahab Mwaniki, *Advocacy Manager*
 - Mr Callum Northcote, *Policy Advocacy Officer*
 - Ms Valentina Palumbo, *Senior Regional Programme Officer - Eastern, Western and Central Africa*
- Global Citizen
Save The Children Italy
ACTION Global Health
Advocacy Partnership

Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Italy
Save The Children Italy
Young Lives
Nutrition International

Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Italy
Save the Children International

Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Italy
International Indigenous
Women Forum (IIWF)

Save the Children Italy
Agrikua
Agrikua
Save the Children Bolivia

Save the Children UK
Save the Children Italy
Save the Children Italy
Ethnomedia
Kenyan AIDS NGOs
Consortium (KANCO)
RESULTS UK

Save The Children Italy

- Ms Maria Grazia Panunzi, *President* Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)
- Ms Sarah Parkinson, *Lead, Nutrition Program* Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- Ms Silvia Paruzzolo, *Interim Director, Global Initiative on Child Poverty* Save the Children US
- Ms Marta Persiani, *Head, Sub Saharan Africa Unit* Save The Children Italy
- Ms Maria Egizia Petroccione, *Head, International Advocacy and Policy Department* Save the Children Italy
- Ms Megan Pennell, *SUN CSN Country Support Advisor* Save the Children UK
- Ms Francesca Petrecca, *Director, International Programmes and Advocacy* Save the Children Italy
- Ms Giulia Picano, *Institutional Partnerships Officer* Save the Children Italy
- Ms Elisa Pozzi, *Food Security and Livelihoods Advisor* Save the Children Italy
- Ms Katherine Richards, *Head, Hunger and Nutrition* Save the Children UK
- Ms Cecilia Ruberto, *MEAL Advisor* Save the Children UK
- Ms Marion Roche, *Senior Technical Advisor, Adolescent and Women's Health* Nutrition International
- Ms Cristina Sala, *Special Partnership Officer* Save the Children Italy
- Mr Jacopo Segnini, *Regional Programme Assistant* Save the Children Italy
- Mr Giovanni Segre, *Regional Programme Officer* Save the Children Italy
- Ms Miriam Shindler, *Nutrition Advocacy Manager* World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

- Ms Silvia Taviani, *Policy Officer* Save the Children Italy
- Ms Alessandra Tranquilli, *Senior Programme Officer* Girls not Brides:
The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage
- Ms Alison Tumilowicz, *Senior Technical Specialist* Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- Ms Paola Viesi, *Photographer* Save The Children Italy
- Ms Teresa Zapeta, *Executive Director* International Indigenous Women Forum (IIWF)

IFAD Staff

- Ms. Magdalena Ackermann Aredes Consultant, Nutrition
- Mr. Stenio Andrade Knowledge Management Consultant
- Mr. Rahul Antao Consultant, Rural Youth
- Mr. Tom Anyonge Lead Technical Specialist, Youth - Rural Development and Institutions

Ms. Margarita Astralaga	Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division
Ms. Ndaya Beltchika	Lead Technical Specialist, Gender and Social Inclusion
Ms. Ilaria Bianchi	Consultant, Nutrition
Ms. Francesca Romana Borgi	Consultant, Rural Youth
Ms. Valentina Carlino	Administrative Assistant, Administrative Services Division
Ms. Federica Cerulli Irelli	Senior Partnership and Resource Mobilization Officer
Ms. Soma Chakrabarti	Consultant, Asia and the Pacific Division
Ms. Cecilia Coccia	Financial Analysis and Planning Consultant, International Land Coalition
Ms. Antonella Cordone	Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition
Mr. Juan Ignacio Cortés	Communications Division
Mr. Ivan Cossio Cortez	Chief, Quality Assurance Group
Ms. Isabel de la Peña	Consultant, Nutrition
Ms. Maria Elfving	Junior Professional Officer, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues
Ms. Federica Emma	Consultant, Rural Youth
Ms. Ruth Efua Fianu	Intern, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division
Ms. Daniela Figueroa	Governance and Regional Support, International Land Coalition
Ms. Ilaria Firmian	Environment and Climate Knowledge Officer
Ms. Juliane Friedrich	Senior Technical Specialist, Nutrition
Ms. Ana Garcia	Investigation Consultant
Ms. Helen Gillman	Senior Knowledge Management Specialist
Ms. Sappho Haralambous	Former Policy Coordinator
Ms. Courtney Hood	Partnership Officer
Ms. Petra Jarvinen	Junior Professional Officer, Gender and Social Inclusion
Ms. Anita Kelles-Viitanen	Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist
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Ms. Wanessa Marques Silva	East and Southern Africa Division
Ms. Kristen McCollum	Impact Assessment Consultant
Ms. Estibalitz Morras Dimas	Environment and Climate Portfolio Officer
Mr. Oliver Mundy	Junior Professional Officer, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division
Ms. Joyce Njoro	Lead Technical Specialist, Nutrition
Mr. Guilherme Nogueira Seixas Queiroz Varro	Intern, Gender and Social Inclusion

Ms. Viola Paroli	Intern, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division
Ms. Giulia Pedone	Consultant, Nutrition
Ms. Giulia Pollastri	Intern, Administrative Services Division
Mr. Mattia Prayer Galletti	Senior Technical Specialist, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues
Ms. Sara Radulovic	Junior Professional Officer, Investment Management
Mr. Palash Sanyal	Intern, Asia and the Pacific Division
Ms. Karla Sofía Pita Vidal	Intern, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues
Ms. Silvia Sperandini	Programme Support, Gender and Social Inclusion
Mr. Travis Renz	Campaign and Advocacy
Ms. Cornelia Richter	Vice-President
Ms. Jessica Thomas	Communication Associate, Field Communication and Capacity Development
Mr. Paul Winters	Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department
Ms. Alessandra Zusi Berges	Senior Governing Bodies Officer

Member States and Government Representatives

- H.E. Frank Carruet, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to IFAD* Embassy of Belgium in Italy
- Ms Hannah Rees, *Intern* Embassy of Belgium in Italy
- Mr Jean Bosco Ndinduruvugo, *First Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi to the United Nations Specialized Organizations in Rome* Embassy of Burundi in Italy
- H.E. Alexandra Bugailiskis, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agricultural Agencies of the United Nations* Embassy of Canada in Italy
- Mr David Cuming, *Senior Program Officer, Permanent Mission of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Agencies of the United Nations* Embassy of Canada in Italy
- Ms Karen Garner, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Agencies of the United Nations* Embassy of Canada in Italy
- Ms Mi Nguyen, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Agencies of the United Nations* Embassy of Canada in Italy
- Ms Lara Steinhouse, *Nutrition Specialist* Global Affairs Canada
- Ms Julia Vicioso Varelas, *Minister Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to IFAD* Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Italy
- Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, *Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to IFAD* Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Italy
- Ms Patricia Rodriguez, *Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to IFAD* Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Italy
- Ms Marie Guillet, *Adviser, Permanent Representation of the French* Embassy of France

- Republic to FAO, WFP and IFAD*

• Ms Laura Braune, *Intern, Permanent Representation of the French Republic to FAO, WFP and IFAD*
 - Ms Annette Seidel, *Minister, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the International Organizations in Rome*
 - Mr Jean Turgot Abel Senatus, *Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Haiti to IFAD*
 - Mons. Fernando Chica Arellano, *Permanent Observer of the Holy See to FAO, IFAD and WFP*

 - Mr Salvatore Cavallo, *Counsellor*

 - Ms Emöke Korzenszky, *National Expert*
 - Mr Ádám Sashalmi, *Intern Office of the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome*
 - Ms Mairead Peterson, *Regional Nutrition Advisor*
 - Mr Stefano Pisotti, *Deputy Head, Strategy Global Processes and International Organizations Unit*

 - Ms Marie-Lise Léonie Stoll, *Attaché, Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to FAO, WFP and IFAD*
 - Ms Caroline Smits Van Oyen, *Intern, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Organizations for Food and Agriculture*
 - Ms Angélica Maria Jácome, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Panama to IFAD*
 - Ms Elizabeth Nasskau, *First Secretary, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome*
 - Ms Anna de Palma, *Livelihoods Adviser*

 - Ms Novella Maugeri, *Policy Officer, United Nations and Commonwealth Department*
- in Italy
- Embassy of France in Italy
- Embassy of Germany in Italy
- Embassy of Haiti in Rome
- Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture
- Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture
- Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary
- Embassy of Hungary in Italy
- Irish Aid
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Embassy of Luxembourg in Italy
- Embassy of the Netherlands in Italy
- Embassy of Panama in Italy
- Embassy of the United Kingdom in Italy
- United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)
- United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)

United Nations Organizations and International Financial Institutions

- Ms Roselie Asis, *Nutrition Officer* WFP
- Ms Lea Berthelin, *Intern, Gender Team* FAO
- Ms Chiara Bordin, *Data Analyst on Agriculture Statistics* FAO
- Ms Mariana Estrada, *Indigenous Peoples Team* FAO
- Ms Jessica Fanzo, *Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer* FAO
- Mr Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa, *Indigenous Peoples Team Leader* FAO
- Ms Fatima Hachem, *Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer* FAO
- Ms Hajira Hafeez-ur-Rehman, *Programme Officer* UN Network for SUN Secretariat

- Ms Purnima Kashyap, *Director and Global Coordinator* UN Network for SUN Secretariat

- Ms Lauren Landis, *Director Nutrition Division* WFP
- Ms Geraldine Le Cuziat, *Nutrition Consultant* WFP
- Ms Asa Ljusenius, *Communication and Outreach Officer* FAO
- Ms Lina Mahy, *Technical Officer, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development* WHO
- Mr Obey Assery Nkya, *SUN Government Focal Point and Secretary, High Level Nutrition Steering Committee* Prime Minister's Office, Tanzania
- Ms Kathryn Ogden, *Programme Policy Officer, Nutrition* WFP
- Ms Stineke Oenema, *Coordinator* United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN),

- Ms Ilaria Schibba, *Partnership Officer* WFP
- Ms Briony Stevens, *HIV and Nutrition Officer* WFP
- Mr Kiyoshi Taniguchi, *Principal Economist* Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Ms Fatiha Terki, *Deputy Director, Nutrition Division* WFP
- Ms Trudy Wijnhoven, *Nutrition Officer* FAO

Youth Representatives

- Ms Barsha Bhattarai, *Youth Leader for Nutrition, Nepal* Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG)
- Ms Lucenia Cuenca Mendez, *Indigenous Youth, Mexico* Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and Red de Jóvenes Indígenas
- Ms Joseane Alessandra Mendoza, *Indigenous Adolescent Nicaragua,* Global Indigenous Women's Leadership School, International Indigenous Women

- Ms Jane Napais Lankisa, *Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kenya*
 - Mr Sebastian Pedraza, *Youth Leader for Nutrition, Colombia*

 - Ms Manata Sadykova, *Youth Leader for Nutrition, Kyrgyzstan*

 - Mr Niroj Sudarshan Sukumar, *Youth Leader for Nutrition, Sri Lanka*
- Forum (IIWF/FIMI)
Feed the Children Kenya
Red Nacional de Jóvenes Rurales de Colombia
Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Kyrgyzstan

World Vision Lanka

Annex III: Useful links

- Presentations:
https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714174/40810084/Adolescents+Conference_PPTs+Links.pdf/cd85b61d-ef3d-4f68-8dca-a9ef7eed30b8