



# Policy coherence for nutrition A role for science



Stineke Oenema September 2018 Ghent., Tropentag

#### **UNSCN**

- Established as a UN System Standing Committee by ECOSOC Resolution in 1977. Since 1
   January 2016, Secretariat located at FAO HQ, Rome.
- Current Chair: IFAD Vice-President C. Richter

### **Mandate**

- Keep under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the UN System response to nutrition problems;
- Be point of **convergence** to harmonize UN policies, activities;
- Provide initiative in development and harmonization of concepts, policies, strategies
   and programs in UN System;
- Appraise experience and progress towards achievement of objectives, and lay down guidelines for mutually supporting action at UN interagency and country levels.

#### **UNSCN**

- Is universal in scope
- Advocates a human-right based approach to nutrition
- Concentrates on the UN system
- Works on all forms of malnutrition
- Promotes intersectoral analysis and action
- Focuses on global issues that relate to local realities and needs

### **Products**

- 1. Annual World Nutrition Reports before its current format: Global Nutrition Report
- 2. Flagship publication: **43 SCN News**: peer reviewed publication, distributed worldwide substantively contributing to nutrition conversations
- **3. Policy** documents, leading to discussion and policy coherence
- **4. Technical briefs and guidance**: consistent delivery of nutrition programmes



# **UNSCN Strategic Plan 2016-2020**

- Inclusive and open to all UN agencies having significant interest or engagement in nutrition. Members include IAEA, UNWomen, UNEnvironment, UNHCR, OCHA, UNDESA, UNIDO and CEB. CGIAR is associate member. Growing membership.
- Steering committee: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNSCN Chair and Secretariat
- Subsidiarity principle, including delegation of responsibility to members on behalf of UNSCN

## **Strategic Objectives**

- 1. Maximize UN **Policy coherence and advocacy** on nutrition
- 2. Support **consistent and accountable delivery** by the UN System
- 3. Explore **new and emerging** nutrition-related issues
- 4. Promote **knowledge sharing** across the UN System



# Political impetus for action against malnutrition

2016: UN Decade of Action on

**Nutrition 2016-2025** 

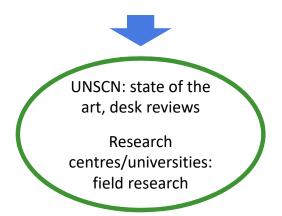


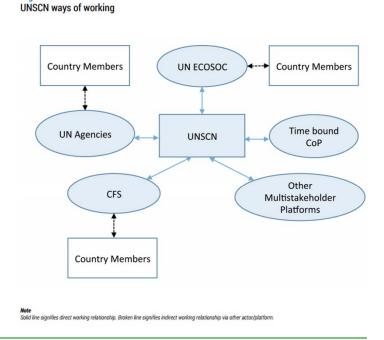
The aim of the Nutrition Decade is to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025 and contribute to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030



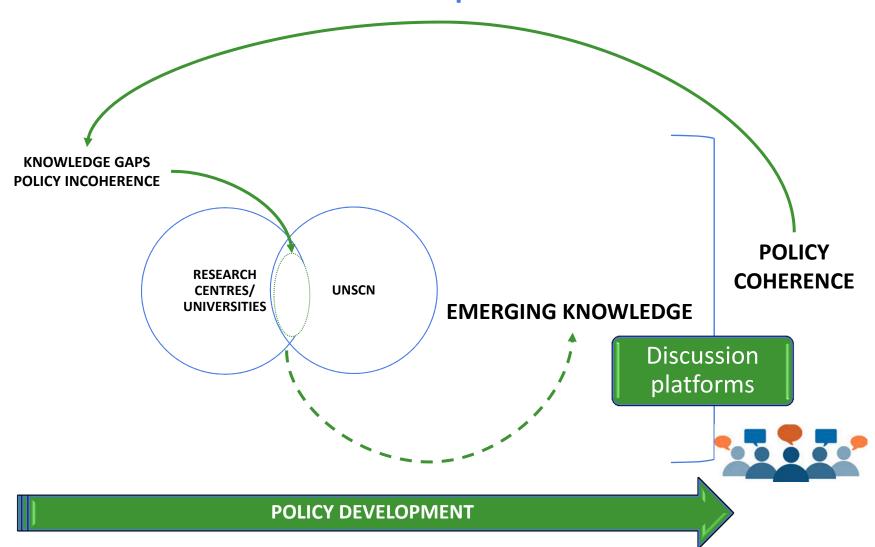
#### **Role of UNSCN**

- Governments are the lead actors in setting national policy frameworks within which other public or private actors can operate
- UN agencies support governments in their framework-setting role (support for policy development, increase access to nutrition resources, technical and functional support, implementation efforts)
- Emerging issues, knowledge and policy development: role of UNSCN and science





# Emerging knowledge, knowledge gaps and policy development

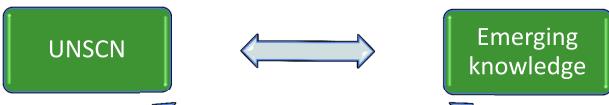


# **New and emerging Cross-sectoral issues**

- 1. Nutrition, food systems and health systems
- 2. Nutrition, food systems and social protection
- 3.
- A. Migration and Nutrition
- B. Rural transformation, urbanization and nutrition
- 4. Climate and nutrition, resilience of food systems, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions

# NUTRITION TOO IMPORTANT TO LEAVE TO NUTRITIONISTS ALONE

# 1. Nutrition, food systems and health systems



- System thinking
- All forms of malnutrition
- Connecting dots between Rome, Geneva and New York



Knowledge gaps

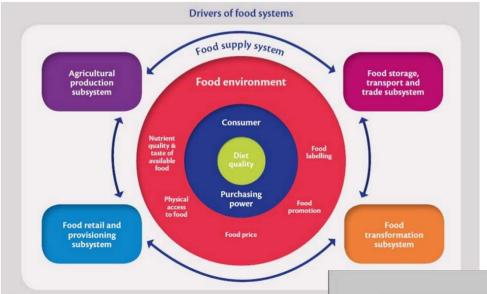
#### **General:**

No integrated approach – each system is still working in silos

- Biodiversity vs. bioavailability of nutrients
- Impacts on environment
- Food safety

- CGIAR/IFPRI programme A4NH
- UN Interagency Task
   Force on NCDs
- IPES Food Report "Unravelling the Food-Health Nexus"
- The Agriculture,
   Nutrition & Health
   (ANH) Academy
- Nutrition & noncommunicable chronic diseases CoP

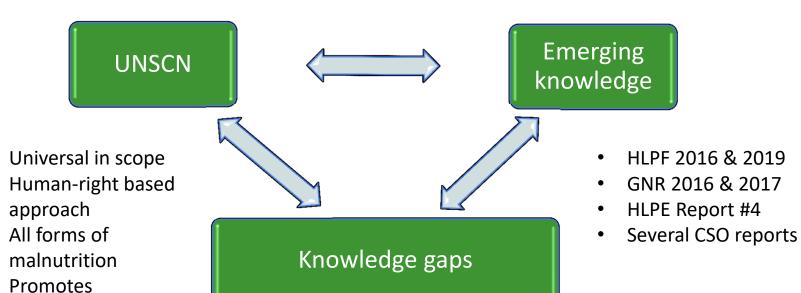
# Food systems and diets



Source: Compiled by the authors

Drivers of food systems Food supply system Not enough focus on Too much food Nutritious productivity of foods lost, especially rich in minerals and fresh foods vitamins Consumers have... Less Less Poor real useful choice Heavy marketing of transformations into low nutrient foods foods with low fibre, high salt, fat, sugar Global Panel report 2016

# 2. Nutrition, food systems and social protection



#### **General:**

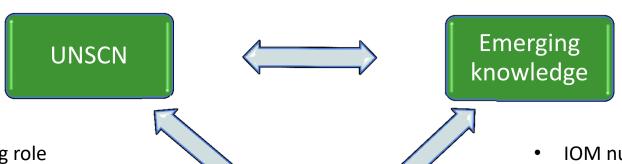
intersectoral

analysis and action

- Intersecting/horizontal inequalities
- Disaggregated data

- Overweight/obesity and NCDs
- Power concentration and unbalances

# 3. A) Migration and Nutrition



- Convening role bringing (humanitarian) actors together
- Resilience of food systems
- Policy coherence:
   Short term
   interventions in line
   with long term
   interventions

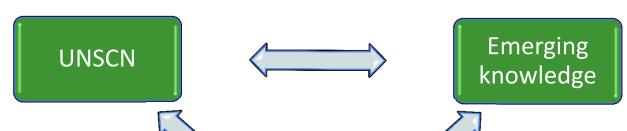
# Knowledge gaps

#### **General:**

- Missing data for people on the move **Topical:**
- Threshold indicators to define a nutrition emergency
- Resilient food systems for both host communities and displaced people.
- Horizontal-vertical integration (governance)

- IOM nutrition activities
- Nutrition guidance note for the UN Humanitarian Coordinators
- SOFI 2017
- CFS, FFA for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis
- Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN)

# 3. B) Rural transformation, urbanization and nutrition



- Healthy and sustainable diet thinking
- Policy convergence
   & integrated
   policies
- Focus on nutrition security
- Connecting dots
- 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme

Knowledge gaps

- Nutrition impact of agriculture, food system and food security policies
- Impact on the most vulnerable and lower income groups
- Youth and women engagement
- Local and regional governance of FSN
   & the role of small/intermediate cities
- Horizontal-vertical integration (governance)

- CFS: Urbanization and Rural Transformation workstreams
- New Urban
   Agenda, Habitat III
- SOFA 2017
- IFPRI, Global Food Policy Report 2017

# 4. Climate and nutrition, resilience of food systems, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions

UNSCN Emerging knowledge

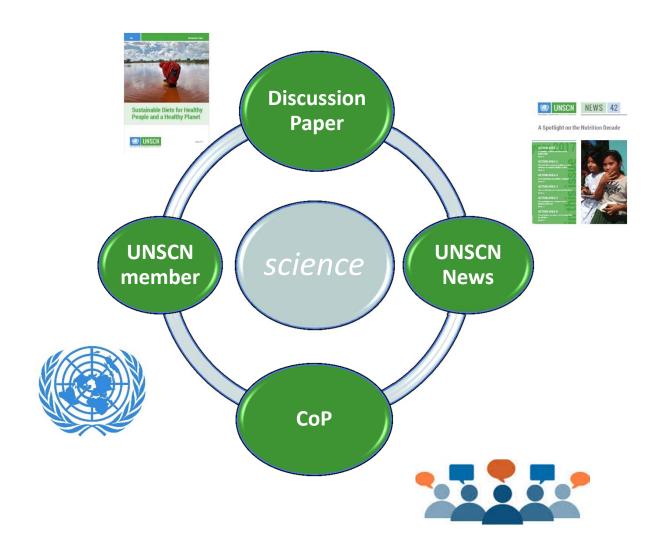
- Focus on how to ensure nutritious diets for all & safeguarding the planet
- UNSCN paper
   "Sustainable diets
   for healthy people
   and a healthy
   planet"

Knowledge gaps

- Nutrition impact of agriculture, food systems and food security policies
- What are threshold indicators to define a nutrition emergency

- EAT-Lancet
   Commission on
   Food, Planet, Health
- IFPRI, "Climate change and variability: What are the risks for nutrition, diets, and food systems?"
- SOFA 2016
- Nutrition and Climate change eGroup

# **Articulation of question!**







# **UNSCN** vision

A world free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition is attainable in this generation



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