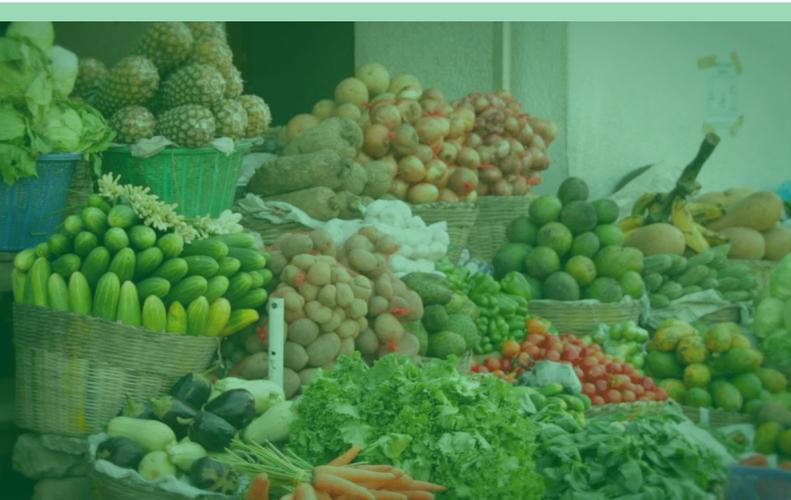




# AFRICAN UNION 2022 YEAR OF NUTRITION: STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE IN NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT



April 2022

## Nutrition and Food Security Dialogue Series

*Organized by AKADEMIYA2063 and the Senegalese National Council for  
Nutrition Development (CNDN)*



## Background

Good nutrition is essential for human and socio-economic development. Investments in nutrition particularly in the first 1,000 days of a child's life help to prevent lifelong effects of malnutrition, enable children to have better health and education outcomes, and contribute to improved economic outcomes. The 2007-2008 global food price crisis raised awareness on the need to improve nutrition in order to achieve international, regional, and national development and growth targets as well as the need for concerted effort to address the triple burden of malnutrition (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, and overweight and obesity).

In Africa, the awareness generated strong resolve at the highest political levels, which resulted in several new nutrition initiatives and the incorporation of nutrition in major development agendas. For example, in 2013 the African Union Commission (AUC) launched the cost of hunger studies in Africa to quantify the social and economic impacts of child undernutrition; in 2018, the African Development Bank and AUC set up the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative and followed suit with a Continental Accountability Scorecard in 2019 to highlight country and continental progress on achieving nutrition targets. A total of 40 African countries are now part of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement that was launched in 2010 to apply multi-sectoral nutrition-sensitive approaches in addressing malnutrition. Furthermore, the commitment to address malnutrition has been echoed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and World Health Assembly Nutrition Targets as well as in various African strategies and agendas including the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, the AU African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025), the 2014 Malabo Declaration, and national development strategies and investment plans.

Africa has made remarkable progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition since the mid-1990s and saw steady declines in the prevalence of undernourishment, child stunting, child underweight, and child wasting, [particularly between 2008 and 2014](#). However, since 2017, there has been a reversal in the declining trend in undernourishment. The rising undernourishment and still high levels of child malnutrition have been attributed to several factors including economic volatility, conflicts, and climate change and more frequent weather extremes. The COVID-19 pandemic has further threatened to reverse nutritional gains and exposed vulnerabilities in Africa's economic, health, and food systems alike, [adding a projected 46.2 million](#) more undernourished people. Meanwhile, the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war is expected to exacerbate food insecurity in countries that are highly dependent on imports from Russia and Ukraine through import disruptions and rising global agricultural commodity and input prices.

In addition, Africa faces rising trends in overweight and obesity among children, youth, and adults that is associated with a growing middle class and rapid urbanization on the continent. If no measures are taken to reverse these trends, one in five adults and one in 10 children and adolescents are [projected to be obese](#) by the end of 2023 in 10 high-burden African countries.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic that has exposed pinch points in Africa's health and food systems and is threatening to reverse Africa's gains in combating malnutrition, the AU has designated 2022 as the Year of Nutrition in order to advocate for greater financing, implementation capacity, and coordination in strengthening the resilience of Africa's food security and nutrition.



## Objectives

In support of the AU's 2022 Year of Nutrition, AKADEMIYA2063 and the Senegalese National Council for Nutrition Development (CNDN) will organize a series of continental level dialogues on nutrition and food security with a wide group of stakeholders including policymakers, civil society organizations, farmers' organizations, research institutions, the private sector, and development partners, to facilitate knowledge exchange, mutual learning, and drive required action toward achieving continental and global food security and nutrition targets.

Specific *objectives* of the nutrition and food security dialogues are to highlight the following:

1. Africa's progress, challenges, successes, and opportunities in achieving nutrition and food security outcomes and targets;
2. Critical and emerging areas that need to be addressed in order to effectively improve dietary quality and nutritional outcomes on the African continent; and
3. Potential solutions to challenges and required policies and investments to accelerate and sustain the achievement of nutritional and food security goals in Africa.

The first dialogue on May 5 will take stock of Africa's progress toward meeting continental and global nutrition and food security targets, remaining gaps and challenges, and highlight Senegal's successful experience in reducing malnutrition and the importance of adopting nutrition sensitive programs, and applying food systems, multi-sectoral, and inter-disciplinary approaches to deliver more nutritious and healthy diets. The dialogue will feature a keynote presentation and an expert panel to share different perspectives on the challenges and opportunities to enable African countries to meet nutrition and food security goals and ensure healthy and sustainable diets for all.

## Topics for Dialogue Series

AKADEMIYA2063 and CNDN will organize a series of five dialogues covering the following pertinent topics:

1. Africa's progress toward meeting nutrition and food security targets, successes, challenges, and lessons learned including the importance of applying a food systems lens and multi-sectoral approaches to addressing malnutrition
2. Food systems-related opportunities and challenges to advancing nutrition in Africa
3. The role of trade in advancing nutritional outcomes and aligning trade and nutrition policies
4. Balancing nutrition goals with climate and environmental goals, shifting to more sustainable consumption patterns, and building resilience in nutrition and food security
5. Africa's rapid urbanization and impacts on diet quality, both in rural and urban areas



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