



World Food Programme

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# Fill the Nutrient Gap

## Analysis for Decision-Making Towards Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy, Nutritious Diets and Improved Human Capital

### What is the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis?

Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) is a collaborative analytical process (a secondary literature review in combination with linear optimization) to understand local drivers that affect the availability, cost, and affordability of nutritious diets. It aims to strengthen analysis, build consensus, and improve decision-making to make healthy and nutritious diets widely possible. As part of the analysis, the FNG team assesses solutions for: improving the affordability of nutritious foods by lowering their costs and/or increasing household income, improving availability of nutritious foods, and quantifying the potential impact of proven interventions in specific contexts.

### Why conduct an FNG analysis?

- Nutrition is a crucial pillar in the development of a healthy, productive nation. Good nutrition enhances physical and

cognitive development, prevents disease, and increases the potential of the workforce and society. Improving diets, especially of children and women, brings immediate and long-term health, education and economic benefits.

- The Sustainable Development Goal, Target 2.2 sets forth the challenge to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. Recognizing that sustainable healthy diets must provide adequate nutrition, the FNG seeks to assess the extent to which people can make the choice to eat nutritious foods and to understand the choices they make.
- The availability, physical access, affordability, and choice of nutritious foods and how systems can improve these aspects is central to the analysis.
- The FNG aims to strengthen analysis, build consensus and improve decision-making to bring healthy, nutritious diets within people's reach, and is designed to contribute to national policy and programming planning cycles, with a myriad of potential entry points for nutrition-related action by different sectors.

### Value-add of the FNG:

1. The FNG analysis uses a systems approach to determine gaps in dietary intake to inform national policies and actions to improve nutrition, with a focus on the most vulnerable.
2. The FNG considers whether nutritious foods are available, accessible, and affordable in a specific context, and identifies the barriers that lead to gaps in nutrient intake.
3. The FNG process identifies and models the impacts of context-appropriate interventions to improve diets and nutrient intake across the food, health, education, and social protection systems.
4. The FNG assists multi-sectoral stakeholders to identify possible entry points to refine programmes, and to make recommendations to policymakers.

### How are FNG results being used?

Design or revise national/sub-national nutrition policy, action plan or investment framework.

Support engagement towards implementation of existing policies, plans and programmes.

Redesign social and humanitarian assistance programmes and policies to be more nutrition sensitive (for example school meals, cash or in-kind transfers).

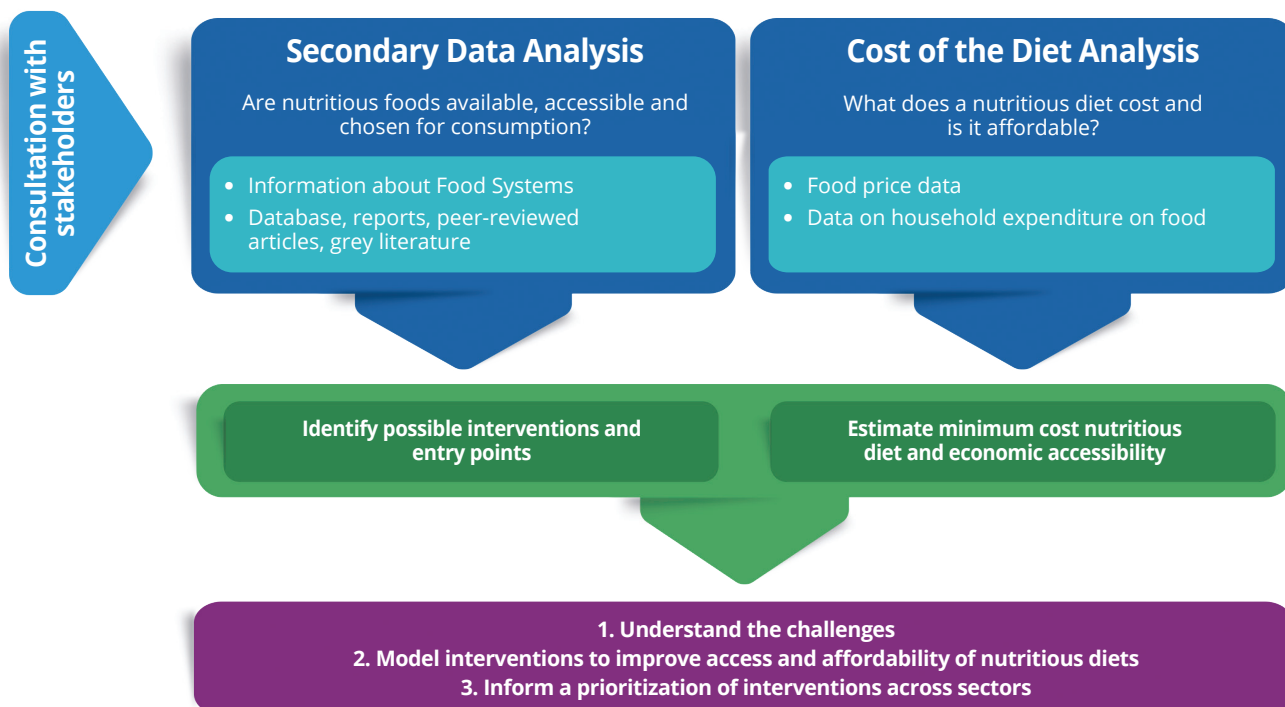
Align strategies of multi-sectoral stakeholders to better serve nutrition outcomes at all levels.

## Who is involved?

- Stakeholders at national and sub-national level: national and local governments (e.g. health, agriculture, social protection, education, industry and trade, infrastructure, gender), civil society, donors, UN agencies, private sector and academia.

- WFP, with support from UC Davis, Epicentre, Harvard, University, IFPRI, Mahidol University, Save the Children and UNICEF, has developed the FNG analytical approach and decision-making process which has to date been conducted in more than 40 countries from all world regions.

## The Framework and Process



## For more information

For country summary reports of FNG analyses and topic briefs go to [www.wfp.org/fillthenutrientgap](http://www.wfp.org/fillthenutrientgap)

For the publication on the FNG concept and methods go to <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.12793>

For full country reports of FNG analyses and slide decks go to DataViz (<https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/>) Reports Explorer and search Fill the Nutrient Gap.



### Nutrition Division

World Food Programme  
Via Cesare Giulio Viola, 68/70  
00148, Rome, Italy - T +39 06 65131  
[wfp.org](http://wfp.org)

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