



4 PROGRESS AGAINST AND NATURE OF THE 2013 NUTRITION FOR GROWTH COMMITMENTS

ON JUNE 8, 2013, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND BRAZIL, AND THE CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION (CIFF) HOSTED A SUMMIT IN London titled "Nutrition for Growth: Beating Hunger through Business and Science" (known as N4G). The objective of the summit was to mark a "seminal declaration by leaders to scale up political commitment, increase resources, and take urgent action on nutrition" (United Kingdom 2013a, 1).

At the summit, 90 stakeholders—countries, international agencies, donors, businesses, and civil society organizations (CSOs)—made commitments that were published in the N4G Commitments document (United Kingdom 2013b) (see Panel 4.1). A further 20 stakeholders made commitments after the summit, leading to a total of 204 commitments made by 110 stakeholders.

The *Global Nutrition Report* was established at the summit in part to track these commitments. The *Global Nutrition Reports* of 2014 and 2015 provided an assessment of progress in implementing these commitments. Here we assess progress in implementing the commitments between 2015 and 2016, and

compare progress across the three years of reporting based on reports provided by the stakeholders (details on methodology appear in Appendix 7 [online]). In addition, in light of future N4G summits and the recent developments of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we conduct an assessment of the N4G commitments to action. We ask three questions: Are the 2013 N4G commitments SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound)? Are they aligned with all forms of malnutrition? And finally, how aligned are the government commitments with the recommendations for action agreed upon multilaterally at ICN2?

PROGRESS DURING 2015 ON IMPLEMENTING THE 2013 N4G COMMITMENTS

RESPONSE RATE

The response rate from signatories in reporting on their commitments was 65 percent in 2016, compared with 92 percent in 2014 and 83 percent in 2015. Donors and UN

agencies posted the highest response rates (more than 80 percent) and businesses posted the lowest (31 percent), with countries (60 percent), civil society (80 percent), and other organizations (75 percent) falling in between. Rates declined among all types of signatories. The decline among businesses was particularly notable: from 83 percent in 2014 to 72 percent in 2015 to 30 percent in 2016. Donors, however, consistently achieved a 100 percent response rate in reporting on their financial commitments in all three

KEY FINDINGS

This chapter assesses whether commitments made at the 2013 Nutrition for Growth Summit are on course, are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound), consider all forms of malnutrition, and are aligned with intergovernmental recommendations for action since 2013.

- Two-thirds of Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments are on course. Different groups are progressing at different paces.
 - On policy and program commitments,
 - ▶ 9 out of 12 donors are on course,
 - ▶ 6 out of 7 UN agencies are on course,
 - ▶ 9 out of 21 national governments are on course,
 - ▶ 7 out of 11 civil society organizations are on course, and
 - ▶ 7 out of 29 companies are on course to meet workforce commitments.
 - On donor financial commitments,
 - ▶ the 10 donors have met about 61 percent of their nearly US\$20 billion N4G commitment;
 - ▶ taking the United States and the World Bank out of this assessment (because their commitments were from 2013 to 2015), the remaining 8 donors have met about one-third of their N4G commitments; and
 - ▶ this performance is encouraging, but the World Bank and the United States need to make new, more ambitious, SMART commitments for 2016 onward.
- Fewer stakeholders reported their progress on N4G commitments this year—only 65 percent—with a particular drop in business responses. “Reporting fatigue” or irregular N4G reporting cycles could explain this phenomenon.
- The majority of the N4G commitments are not SMART and thus are difficult to monitor. In fact, only 29 percent of the 2013 N4G commitments are SMART.
- The majority of N4G commitments do not specify which types of malnutrition they are seeking to address. Where they do, commitments focus on stunting, wasting, and exclusive breastfeeding. N4G commitments do not address malnutrition in all its forms: obesity, overweight, and noncommunicable diseases are conspicuous in their absence.
- A shift is needed away from the existing 2013 N4G commitments toward a new unified set of commitments to address malnutrition in all its forms. The Decade of Action for Nutrition, the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Brazil, and SDG target setting at the country level provide excellent opportunities to ensure that future commitments are SMART and address malnutrition in all its forms.

PANEL 4.1 THE NUTRITION FOR GROWTH COMMITMENTS

PATRIZIA FRACASSI

At the 2013 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, 110 stakeholders made four types of commitments to action:

- Impact commitments focus on concrete outcomes that align with, for example, World Health Assembly targets for exclusive breastfeeding or stunting.
- Financial commitments focus on the sources and amounts of funding to be directed toward nutrition targets.
- Policy commitments create a more enabling environment for nutrition action or implement specific policies to improve nutrition.
- Program commitments focus on the implementation of concrete strategies to achieve nutrition targets.

Under the leadership of the governments of the United Kingdom and Brazil, and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), the N4G Summit stakeholders decided to focus on undernutrition. Commitments were made to achieve three main goals based on technical recommendations developed by a mixed group of experts from different national and international institutions:

1. Ensure that effective nutrition interventions reach at least 500 million pregnant women and children under 2.
2. Reduce the number of stunted children under 5 by at least 20 million by 2020.

3. Save the lives of at least 1.7 million children under 5 by preventing stunting, increasing breastfeeding, and increasing treatment of severe acute malnutrition (United Kingdom 2013a).

In the run-up to N4G Summit, the N4G's steering and technical advisory committees identified a number of high-priority areas for feasible commitments. From those high-priority areas, **countries** chose commitments related to (1) setting targets for reducing undernutrition, (2) stating the levels of domestic support, (3) establishing new arrangements to improve governance and legislation, and (4) strengthening the monitoring of progress and the transparency of reporting. In particular, the emphasis on governance arrangements pointed to the importance of strong executive leadership and cross-ministry coordination. In each signatory country, government focal points for nutrition, with the support of technical partners, played a key role in developing national commitments in the run-up to the London event. In most cases the commitments made in London reflected the work done at the country level. This enabled the countries to report on the results of their commitments to the *Global Nutrition Report* in the following years.

For **businesses** a first step was to support the productivity and health of their workforces by introducing a nutrition policy and improving policies for maternal health, including support for breastfeeding

mothers. Some businesses further committed to improving the nutrition delivered by food systems so that mothers and children have access to the affordable, nutritious foods they need.

For **donors**, the emphasis was on mobilizing and aligning international resources, empowering country-led coordination arrangements, and facilitating mutual learning (for example, South-South knowledge sharing) and technical assistance. In this regard, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Donor Network developed a common methodology to track donor funds.

Civil societies committed to mobilizing private resources to support the scale-up of nutrition programs, particularly in fragile states, and they committed to coordinating actions for aligned responses to undernutrition. Advocacy and transparency of information were seen as ways to allow citizens to hold their governments accountable for their commitments and to drive forward action and progress on nutrition.

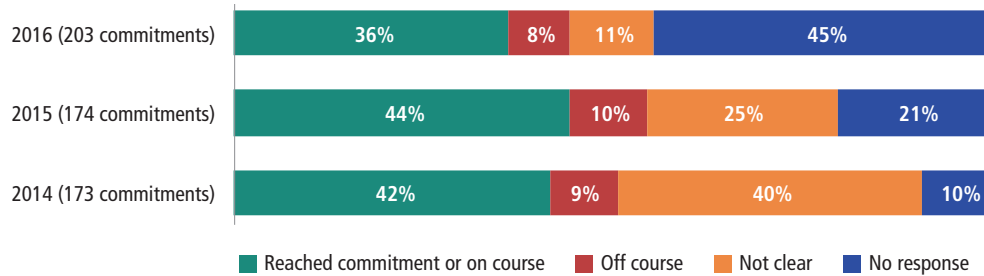
The **United Nations and UN member states** focused their efforts on jointly setting clear and ambitious targets for nutrition with relevant indicators within the Sustainable Development Goal agenda.

years (but a lower rate of reporting on their nonfinancial commitments in 2016) (full details on responses from signatories appear in Appendix 7 at www.globalnutritionreport.org).

It is not clear why the response rate was lower in 2016 across all signatories despite a consistent process of engagement to encourage responses and a facilitated platform for reporting. Several possible reasons are the following:

- There could be response fatigue; three years of intense data reporting with different due dates can be demotivating if the rationale is not apparent.
- The *Global Nutrition Report* time frames shift each year because releases are timed to coincide with important international nutrition events, which do not fall at the same time each year, preventing a consistently timed reporting schedule.

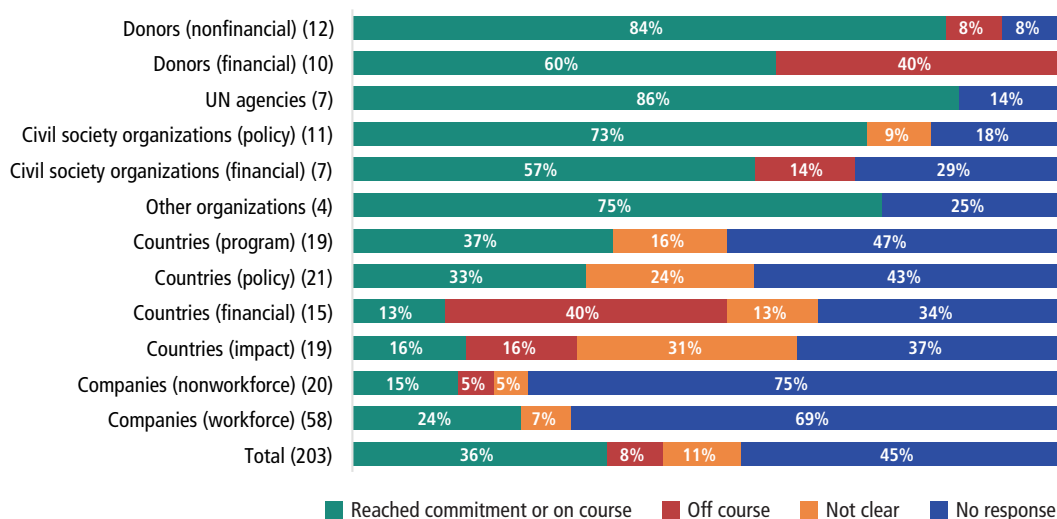
FIGURE 4.1 Overall progress against N4G commitments, 2014, 2015, and 2016



Source: Authors.

Note: In 2013, 204 commitments were made, but the 2014 *Global Nutrition Report* included only 173 of them because businesses were not ready to report on all of their commitments in 2014. Response rates in Figure 4.1 are given only for commitments being tracked in both 2014 and 2015. The number of commitments is 174 in 2015 and 173 in 2014 because Ethiopia did not separate its N4G commitment into program and policy components in its 2014 reporting, but it did so in 2015. The total number for 2016 includes all commitments made, totaling 203; this total differs from the initial 2013 total because the Naandi Foundation was taken out of the reporting process.

FIGURE 4.2 Progress against N4G commitments by signatory group, 2016



Source: Authors.

- The 2016 report had a particularly short reporting schedule, with just seven months between reporting periods owing to the anticipated Rio N4G Summit in 2016.
- There has been turnover in critical staff among the organizations reporting, resulting in the loss of historical perspective on prior N4G reporting and knowledge.

There may well be additional reasons. Further work is needed to understand why businesses had a significantly lower reporting rate than the other types of stakeholders.

OVERALL PROGRESS

In the 2016 assessment, a smaller number of stakeholders reported being on course or having met their commitments (36 percent) than in 2014 and 2015, in part a result of the lower response rate (Figure 4.1¹). A further

19 percent of the commitments either were off course or were assessed as not clear because insufficient evidence was provided to make an assessment.

Of the responses received, however, more than two-thirds of the commitments were assessed as on course (36 percent out of 55 percent), which is a higher proportion than in 2014 and 2015 (Figure 4.1).

Panel 4.2 provides examples of on-course commitments from different stakeholders and what they did; more details on two of the commitments are given in Panels 4.3 and 5.5.

Donors, CSOs, UN agencies, and “other” organizations had success this year in making progress toward their policy and programmatic commitments. Between 57 percent and 86 percent of them reported being on course or having reached their commitments (Figure 4.2). In contrast to

PANEL 4.2 EXAMPLES OF ON-COURSE AND ACHIEVED COMMITMENTS MADE AT N4G 2013

SWETHA MANOHAR AND SARA GLASS

The following are examples of commitments—made by various stakeholders at the 2013 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in London—that have been met or are on their way to being met. Although this panel does not address whether these commitments were ambitious or successful in attaining improved nutrition status, it does show what the commitments were and how they were achieved.

UN Agencies

- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) committed to orienting approximately 20 percent of all new IFAD-funded projects toward achieving nutrition outcomes. In 2016, IFAD reported allocation of 21 percent of funding for nutrition-sensitive projects.
- UNICEF made several commitments, one of which was to support implementation of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) in about 50 countries over the next three years. UNICEF has reported implementing MICS in more than 50 countries, with more than 58 surveys implemented, in progress, or planned since 2013 (more details in Panel 4.3).

Governments

- The government of Bangladesh committed to reducing stunting from 41 percent (in 2011) to 38 percent (in 2016), reducing wasting from 16 percent (in 2011) to 12 percent (in 2016), mobilizing domestic and international financial support for national efforts to improve nutrition, and reviewing national policy and safety-net programs for explicit focus on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. It reached

its policy commitments by endorsing the National Nutrition Policy 2015 and the National Strategy for Micronutrient Deficiency Control. Nearing endorsement are a nutrition advocacy component of the Comprehensive Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy and revision of rules under the Breast Milk Substitutes Act of 2013. Additionally, the Seventh Five-Year Plan, National Nutrition Policy, National Food Policy, and other relevant sectoral policies and strategies have addressed undernutrition by including cross-sector nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches. Bangladesh is on course to attain its other commitments.

- The government of Burkina Faso attained its policy commitment of promising to include civil society organizations and parliamentarians as key stakeholders in nutrition. Civil society was brought in through its inclusion in the multisectoral platform, with journalists contributing to nutrition awareness activities and increasing the visibility of nutrition by organizing communication trailers about exclusive breastfeeding in certain areas of the country.

Donors

- Germany committed US\$105 million and provided \$102 million to nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, setting it on course to achieve its commitment of providing a total of €200 million (\$260 million) in additional funding for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions between 2013 and 2020.
- The World Bank committed \$600 million to support maternal and child nutrition

programs in developing countries—a threefold increase from its spending in 2011–2012. It achieved its commitment from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, during which it disbursed \$1,627 million in new nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive commitments.

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation disbursed \$90.9 million in 2014, setting it on course to achieve its pledged overall investment of \$862.7 million in nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs by 2020.

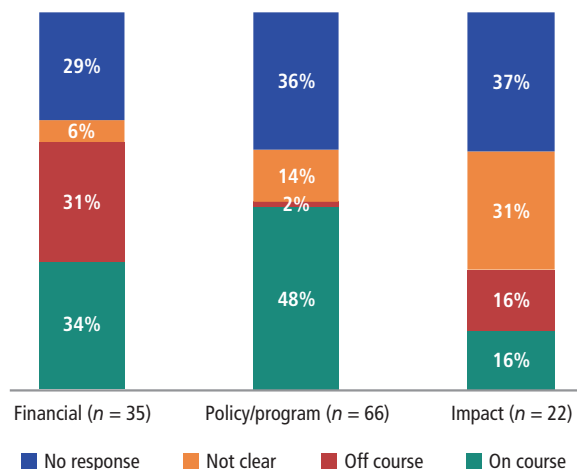
Businesses

- In 2015 Cargill completed the \$150,000 in funding it committed to the Notre Dame Haiti Program, which has established a salt fortification facility that produces 3,000 metric tons a year (see Panel 4.3).
- Royal DSM committed to supporting improved nutrition for 50 million beneficiaries per year by 2020. Through its largest partnership with the World Food Programme, DSM reached 25.1 million beneficiaries in 2014.

Civil Society

- Concern Worldwide committed \$25,300,000 and invested \$31,709,300 in nutrition-specific actions.
- Helen Keller International committed to building an evidence base for nutrition-sensitive interventions, supporting large-scale food fortification efforts in Burkina Faso, securing private funding to support nutrition initiatives, and playing a leadership role in global nutrition initiatives. It is on course with these commitments (see Panel 5.5 in Chapter 5).

FIGURE 4.3 Progress by commitment type, pooled across donors, civil society organizations, and countries



Source: Authors.

2015, a larger proportion of CSOs were assessed as on course for their policy commitments (73 percent) than for their financial commitments (42 percent). As in 2015, a larger proportion of governments were assessed as on course for their program and policy commitments than for their financial and impact commitments.

Signatories that made financial N4G commitments, including donors, countries, and CSOs, made a total of 35

financial commitments (Figure 4.3). Of these, 34 percent were assessed as on course for being reached, 31 percent off course. We did not receive responses for 29 percent of financial commitments.

The largest proportion of commitments assessed as on course were those related to policy and programming (48 percent), followed by financial commitments (31 percent) and impact commitments (16 percent). Impact commitments were made only by countries, and they had the lowest response rates (63 percent) out of the three commitment types; they also the largest proportion assessed as not clear (31 percent). Financial commitments had the largest proportion assessed as off course (31 percent).

A deeper look at donors' financial commitments

Although the financial commitments were least likely to be on course, donors performed well. In total, 10 donors made financial commitments at the 2013 N4G Summit. Six of these commitments either were on course or had been achieved by the 2016 assessment (Appendix Table A7.3 [online]). Among the remaining 40 percent assessed as off course, all have shown marked increases in nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific disbursements since 2013 (see Chapter 7, Table 7.1, for more details).

But as a set, how are the donors performing in relation to their N4G commitments? Table 4.1 reminds us of the N4G financial commitments made and summarizes reporting on those commitments over each donor's commitment period.

TABLE 4.1 Donor financial commitments at N4G and reporting on those commitments

Donor	N4G commitment	Reporting on commitment in <i>Global Nutrition Reports, 2014–2016</i>
Australia	Extra A\$40 million (about US\$37 million ^a) over 2013–2017	US\$108 million disbursed over 2013 and 2014, but not clear how much is additional. Assume all.
European Union	\$4,565 million, 2014–2020	\$615 million disbursed in 2014
Germany	\$260 million additional funding, 2013–2020	\$160 million disbursed over 2013 and 2014. Assume \$96 million (\$160 million – 2 × \$32 million [the 2012 level]) is additional.
Ireland	\$338 million, 2013–2020	\$134 million disbursed over 2013 and 2014
Netherlands	\$390 million, 2013–2020	\$85 million disbursed over 2013 and 2014
United Kingdom	\$1,922 million, 2013–2020	\$1,707 million disbursed over 2013 and 2014
United States	\$10,015 million, 2012–2014	\$7,488 million disbursed over 2012–2014
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$863 million, 2013–2020	\$218 million disbursed over 2013 and 2014
Children's Investment Fund Foundation	\$793 million, 2013–2020	\$65 million disbursed over 2013 and 2014
World Bank	\$600 million, 2013–2014	\$1,627 million reported as covering 2013 and 2014
Total	\$19,863 million	\$12,143 million (or 61% of the commitment)

Source: Authors; N4G commitments are available at United Kingdom (2013b).

Note: A\$ = Australian dollars; all other dollar amounts are in US dollars. See Table 7.1 for a complete summary of donor reporting.

^a Converted to US dollars using 2013 exchange rate from www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/Yearly-Average-Currency-Exchange-Rates.

From Table 4.1 it would appear that donors are well on their way to meeting their \$19.86 billion N4G commitment: they have met 61 percent of the pledge. However, this strong performance is influenced by the sizable disbursements made by the World Bank and the United States, two large donors that made two- to three-year commitments in contrast to other donors' seven- to eight-year commitments. Taking the World Bank and the United States out of the assessment, the remaining eight donors have met about 33 percent of their total N4G financial commitments—progress that, two years into an eight-year period, puts them ahead of schedule.

Given that their commitment periods have now been completed, we look to the World Bank and United States to make SMART and ambitious commitments for 2016 and beyond.

Details of progress by signatory group

- **National governments:** For commitments to reduce undernutrition rates (impact), 3 of 19 governments either are on course or have reached their commitments based on their reported progress against these targets (Appendix Table A7.2). Two of 15 governments are on course to meet their financial commitments, and 9 of 21 are on course or have reached their policy/program commitments.
- **Donors:** Of the 10 financial commitments made by donors at the 2013 N4G Summit, 5 are on course and 1 has been reached (Appendix Table A7.3). Of the 12 donors that made policy/program commitments, 9 were assessed as on course for these commitments, and 1 had reached its commitment (Appendix Table A7.4).
- **Civil society organizations:** Of the 7 CSOs that made financial commitments at N4G, 4 are on course, 1 did not respond, 1 was unable to respond, and 1 is off course. Out of 11 that made policy/program commitments, 2 have reached their commitments, 6 are on course, 1 was assessed as not clear, and 2 did not respond (Appendix Table A7.5). As reported in 2014 and 2015, many of the N4G commitments focus on nutrition-sensitive work and the linkages between nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), agriculture, and health. Panel 5.5 in Chapter 5 shows an example of a successful CSO commitment.
- **Businesses:** Of the 29 companies that made workforce commitments at N4G (that is, to produce a nutrition policy for their workforce and to improve policies for the maternal health of their workforce), 20 did not

respond, 7 are on course, and 2 were assessed as not clear (Appendix Tables A7.7a and A7.7b). Of the 9 companies that responded, 7 are on a positive trajectory (continued or accelerated rate of progress) and 2 are on a downward trajectory (consistently slow or slowing rate of progress). Of the 20 companies that made nonworkforce N4G commitments, 5 responded: 3 are on course, 1 is off course, and 1 is not clear. Panel 4.3 presents an example of a company commitment.

We look to the World Bank and United States to make SMART and ambitious commitments for 2016 and beyond.

- **UN agencies:** Similar to their performance in *Global Nutrition Report 2015*, the UN agencies reported that they continue to make progress on their N4G program- and policy-based commitments; 6 out of 7 UN agencies were assessed as being on course (Appendix Table A7.9). Panel 4.3 presents an example of a commitment from a UN agency.
- **Other organizations:** Other organizations included CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, which provides, among other services, a nutrition and food sciences database), CGIAR (a global agricultural research partnership), GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, an international organization addressing malnutrition), and Grand Challenges Canada (an organization that supports integrated innovation in global health). Of those organizations that responded, all were on course (Appendix Table A7.10).

HOW SMART, COMPREHENSIVE, AND ALIGNED ARE THE 2013 N4G COMMITMENTS?

Here we aim to address three questions: Are the 2013 N4G commitments SMART? Do they cover all forms of malnutrition? And finally, how aligned are they with the recommendations for action agreed upon multilaterally at ICN2?

SMARTNESS OF THE N4G ACTION COMMITMENTS

In the 2015 *Global Nutrition Report* we evaluated the “SMARTness” of the original 2013 N4G commitments.

SMART metrics are useful because they allow us to see where we are in a program or effort and make meaningful, helpful changes along the way to improve chances for success. Here we undertake a fuller analysis. To do so, we first defined what is meant by SMART commitments in the context of nutrition. As part of this process we produced a guidance note, “Making SMART Commitments to Nutrition Action: A Guidance Note.” This note, reproduced in Appendix 5, is intended as a guide for preparing future commitments to ensure they are SMART. It also sets criteria for determining whether existing commitments are SMART.

Using this guidance note, we assess the N4G 2013 commitments, focusing on whether they are specific, measurable, and time bound according to the following criteria:

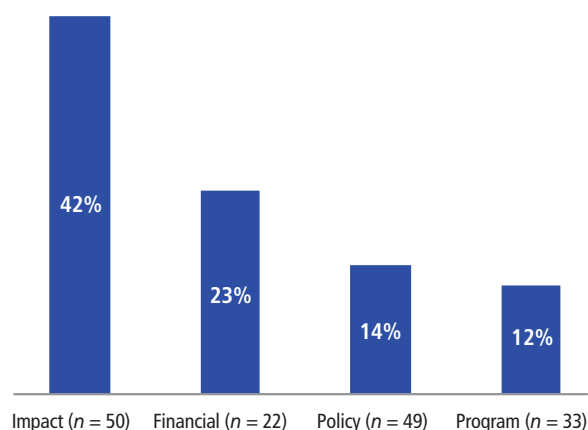
- A commitment was rated “specific” if it contained an action and denoted who is responsible for its achievement. Commitments that included an action but failed to identify who would take it were rated “not specific.”
- A commitment was rated “measurable” if it contained quantifiable or semi-quantifiable statements that could be assessed. If there was a target-based commitment, baseline numbers needed to be provided. If there was no measurable commitment or action, it was rated “not measurable.”
- A commitment was rated “time bound” if clear time frames or timelines were included in the text of the commitment. If there was no indication of timing, the commitment was rated not “time bound.”

Though “A” (achievable) and “R” (relevant), the other aspects of SMARTness, are critical for country buy-in and monitoring purposes, they were not used in the assessment because including them would require a deep dive into the country’s or organization’s ongoing capacity and the nutrition situation where it is working.

Disappointingly, and as reported in the *Global Nutrition Report 2015*, the assessment found that only 29 percent of the original N4G commitments met the criteria.

Of the 154 N4G commitments made in 2013 by the 25 governments, 37 (24 percent) were SMART. When broken down by type of country commitment (Figure 4.4), the largest proportion of SMART commitments were impact commitments (21 of 50, or 42 percent), followed by 5 of 22 financial commitments (23 percent). A smaller proportion of policy and program commitments were SMART, with 7 of 49 (14 percent) and 4 of 33 (12 percent) assessed as SMART, respectively. Notably, the analysis above shows that the SMARTest types of commitments—impact and financial—were the least likely to be on course, while the vaguer policy and program commitments were more likely to be assessed as on course.

FIGURE 4.4 Share of total 2013 N4G country commitments that are SMART, by category



Source: Authors.

As reported in Figure 3.6 of the 2015 *Global Nutrition Report*, SMART rates for other stakeholders were as follows: 58 percent for businesses (nonworkforce commitments), 30 percent for other agencies, 26 percent for donors (nonfinancial commitments), 23 percent for UN agencies, and 10 percent for CSOs (nonfinancial commitments).

Some examples of SMART N4G commitments are shown in Panel 4.3. While we are not able to assess whether these commitments were effective in reducing malnutrition, on paper they matched the right elements of SMART.

ALIGNMENT OF N4G COMMITMENTS WITH GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS

The 2013 N4G Summit focused on undernutrition, particularly stunting, with less emphasis on malnutrition in all its forms. Because the N4G Summit took place before ICN2, the SDGs, and the adoption of the WHO’s global noncommunicable disease (NCD) targets—all of which emphasize the wide range of malnutrition outcomes that need to be reversed—it would be surprising if the N4G commitments were aligned with these initiatives. Nevertheless, it is instructive to assess to what degree the 2013 N4G commitments are aligned with the full range of global nutrition targets for maternal, infant, and young child nutrition and nutrition-related NCDs (see Panel 2.1 in Chapter 2). Each of the 204 commitments made by signatories to the N4G compact was therefore examined for its alignment with these eight targets by noting whether any of these eight nutrition targets were mentioned in the signatories’ commitments.

PANEL 4.3 SMART COMMITMENTS ARE EASIER TO MONITOR: EXAMPLES FROM CARGILL AND UNICEF

KATHERINE ROSETTIE, WERNER SCHULTINK, AND TARYN BARCLAY

Cargill made several SMART—that is, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound—commitments at the 2013 N4G Summit. As part of Cargill’s Nourishing the Future initiative, one commitment was to explore new opportunities to work with the nongovernmental organization CARE’s Integrated Program for Vulnerable Children in Central America (EDUCAN) in Guatemala. The aim was to reach an additional 6,000 households and 14,000 children with nutrition education in three main municipalities over a three-year period. This commitment includes all of the SMART elements: it is specific (it identifies a specific action and who is responsible for that action—CARE and Cargill teams in Guatemala), measurable (the number of households reached can be counted), achievable (Cargill and CARE have been making progress in engaging children and parents in nutrition education since 2009), relevant (Guatemala has a high prevalence of chronic malnutrition), and time bound (it set a three-year period beginning in 2013).

A second SMART commitment by Cargill was to allocate US\$150,000 to promote sustainable salt fortification through its partnership with the Notre Dame Haiti Program (NDHP) over a three-year period. This financial commitment encompasses all five SMART elements: it is specific (it identified an action and who is responsible), measurable (the amount of money allocated to NDHP can be tracked), achievable (Cargill has been collaborating with and supporting the NDHP since the

early years of this century), relevant (iodine deficiency and lymphatic filariasis affect millions of Haitians), and time bound (limited to a three-year period).

Because these are SMART commitments, we could clearly assess whether they have been implemented and attained their goals. In 2016, Cargill reported it had reached its target of 14,000 beneficiaries with nutrition education in the three main municipalities near Cargill’s operations in Guatemala. Additionally, 70 percent of the 345 children sampled from the three target municipalities were found to have attained adequate knowledge of food and nutrition security. It also met its funding commitment to NDHP in 2015. NDHP has now established a 3,000 metric-ton-per-year salt fortification facility, and Cargill has also shipped about 1,500 tons of salt at market price from its solar salt operation in Bonaire to the Haiti program.

UNICEF also made several SMART commitments aimed at addressing global malnutrition at the 2013 N4G Summit. One was to work with government partners to include essential nutrition services in all health intervention packages delivered through Child Health Day (CHD) events over a five-year period. This commitment is specific (it identifies a specific action and indicates who is responsible for achieving it), measurable (the percentage of CHD events reached can be counted, up to 100 percent), achievable (UNICEF had already been working in many countries to improve the delivery of nutrition services),

relevant (CHD events reach the most vulnerable populations, where malnutrition is most prevalent), and time bound (set over five years).

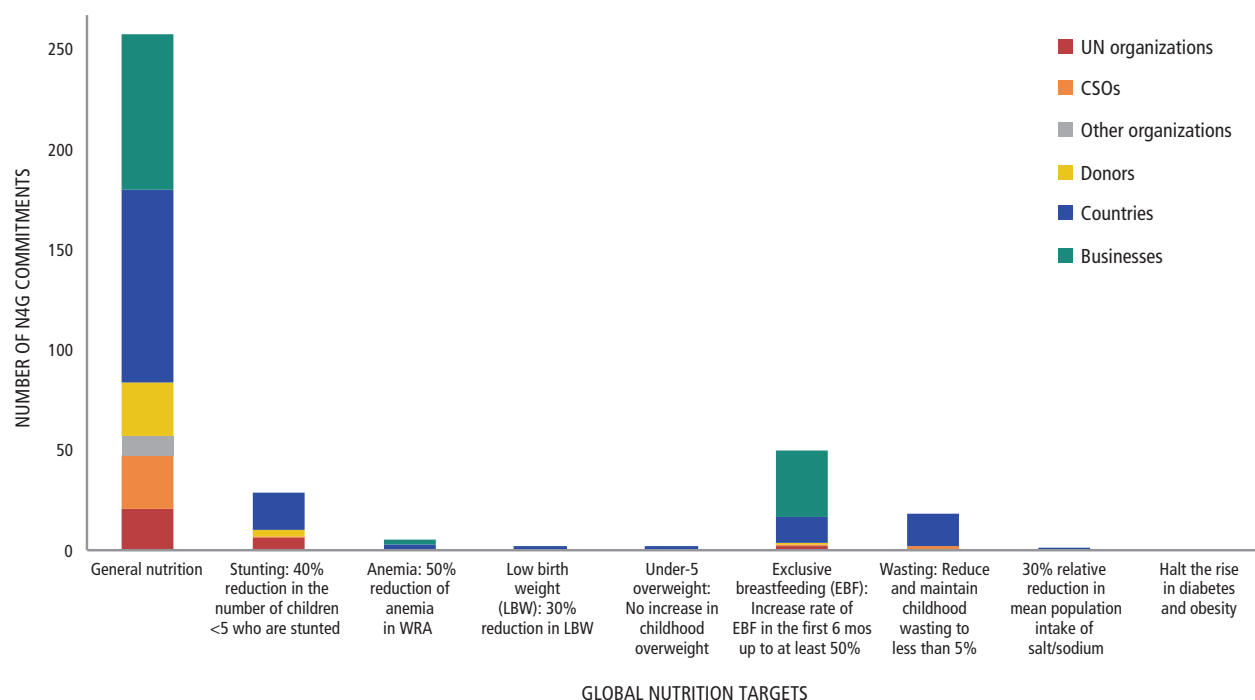
Because the commitment is SMART, it has been easier to identify that UNICEF is making substantial progress in incorporating nutrition services into CHD events. With support from the government of Canada, UNICEF has worked in 13 African countries to support governments in improving the effectiveness of semiannual Child Health Days. Specifically, UNICEF has successfully included vitamin A supplementation, behavior change communication messages focusing on nutrition, screening and referral for acute malnutrition, and growth monitoring and promotion at CHD events in Africa south of the Sahara.

A second SMART commitment made by UNICEF was to support the implementation of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) in approximately 50 countries over three years. This commitment is SMART because it is specific (approximately 50 countries), measurable (the number of countries with MICS can be counted), achievable (UNICEF has successfully implemented MICS in many countries; this is its fifth round), relevant (MICS will be an important source of global data in the post-2015 era), and time bound (limited to three years). Since 2012, UNICEF has supported a total of 48 countries in conducting 59 MICS, 50 of which have published reports and 9 are in process toward survey completion.

Figure 4.5 shows that the vast majority of the commitments did not specify what forms of malnutrition they were aiming to address. However, as expected, of those that did, most were concerned with exclusive breastfeeding, followed by stunting and then wasting. The number

of commitments that specifically referred to anemia, low birth weight, overweight, obesity/diabetes, and salt reduction were negligible. Interestingly, however, two countries—Tanzania and Sri Lanka—made commitments on obesity despite its not being a focus of the summit.

FIGURE 4.5 Number of N4G commitments referencing specific forms of malnutrition



Source: Authors.

Note: CSOs = civil society organizations; WRA = women of reproductive age; LBW = low birth weight; EBF = exclusive breastfeeding.

TABLE 4.2 Four examples of SMART, double-duty commitments to both undernutrition and obesity/nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases

ICN2 FFA recommendation (in abbreviated form)	Example of a SMART, double-duty commitment	How is this action double duty?
1: Develop—or revise, as appropriate—and cost national nutrition plans.	The Ministry of Health, with input from the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Commerce, and Social Protection, and in consultation with civil society, develops (or revises) and costs a national nutrition plan by December 2017.	National nutrition plans should cover malnutrition in all its forms.
16: Establish food- or nutrient-based standards to make healthy diets and safe drinking water accessible in public facilities.	The Ministries of Education and Health develop nutrition standards for public schools adhering to WHO recommendations by June 2017 and ensure implementation in schools by December 2018.	Nutrition standards for schools should promote high diet quality for children at risk of undernutrition, overweight/obesity, and nutrition-related NCDs.
29: Adapt and implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions.	The legislative body incorporates the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes and WHO guidance on inappropriate marketing of commercial foods for infants and children into national laws by December 2017.	Breastfeeding plays a role in preventing forms of undernutrition and overweight/obesity.
38: Provide dietary counseling to women during pregnancy for healthy weight gain and adequate nutrition.	The Ministry of Health mandates that dietary counseling of prospective mothers (and fathers) be part of the standard counseling provided during regular pregnancy check-up appointments at maternity clinics by June 2017.	Dietary counseling should include reference to the risk of all forms of malnutrition among children and be tailored, where applicable, to the forms of malnutrition women commonly experience.

Source: WCRF International and NCD Alliance (2016).

Note: These examples are aligned with the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference of Nutrition. FFA = Framework for Action; ICN2 = Second International Conference on Nutrition; NCD = noncommunicable disease; WHO = World Health Organization.

There is scope for nutrition commitments to address more than one kind of malnutrition at once. In the 2015 *Global Nutrition Report* we identified the potential of “double-duty” actions that have simultaneous benefits for, on the one hand, undernutrition and, on the other, obesity and nutrition-related NCDs. In May 2016, World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF) and the NCD Alliance formulated examples of SMART double-duty actions that governments can take to address both undernutrition and obesity/nutrition-related NCDs, and that are aligned with the ICN2 Framework for Action (WCRF International and NCD Alliance 2016). Examples of SMART, double-duty actions appear in Table 4.2.

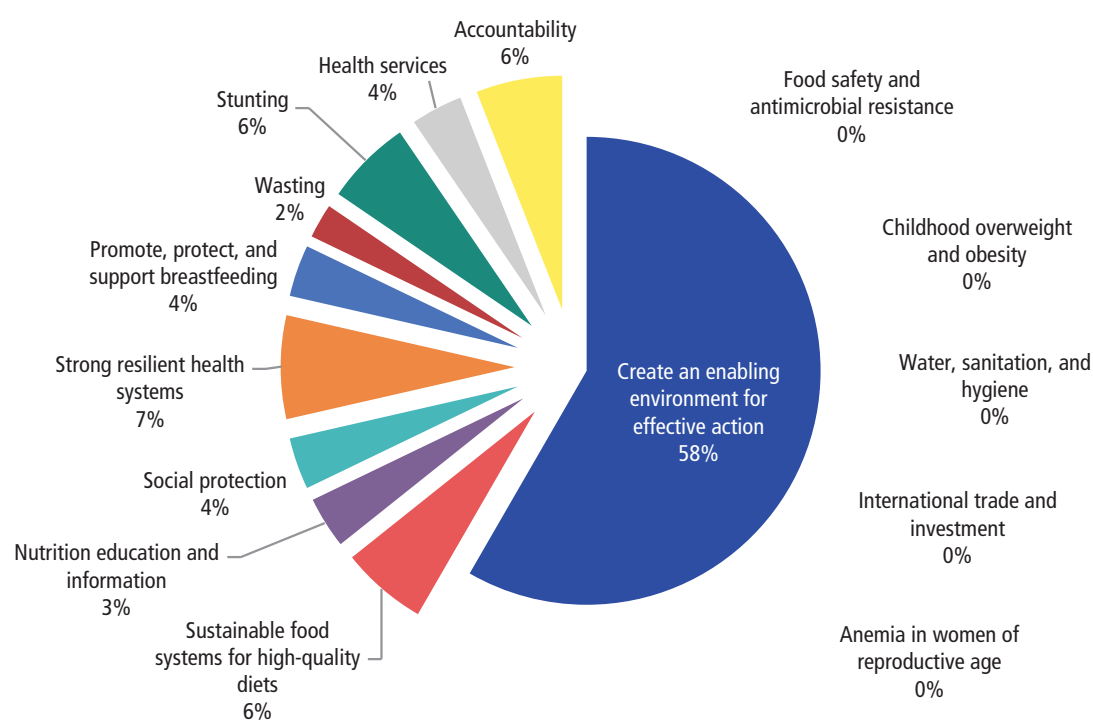
CONSISTENCY OF N4G COMMITMENTS WITH ICN2 RECOMMENDATIONS

This section focuses on which areas of the 2014 ICN2 Framework for Action are covered by the N4G commitments. There are 60 recommendations in the Framework for Action, divided into 15 action categories.

To identify areas of consistency and alignment, we reviewed the 75 N4G policy and program commitments to action made by governments and assessed which action categories (out of 15) and recommendations (out of 60) they reflected. We found a total of 87 commitments, but we only reported 84 as 3 did not fit in any category of the Framework for Action because no category captured micronutrient fortification and supplementation besides anemia. Where one N4G commitment included several different actions, we counted it more than once, making a total of 84 N4G commitments.

Figure 4.6 shows their numerical distribution. Given the focus of the N4G Summit on establishing new arrangements to improve governance (Panel 4.1), it would be expected that most commitments would be aligned with the first of the 15 categories in the Framework for Action—that is, the category on creating an enabling environment for nutrition action. This proved to be the case: 56 percent of the N4G commitments were so aligned.

FIGURE 4.6 Distribution of governments’ N4G policy and program commitments within the ICN2 Framework for Action categories



Source: Authors.

Note: This figure shows the distribution of 84 N4G commitments among the 15 action categories in the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). There is no recommendation in the ICN2 Framework for Action that covers fortification and supplementation to reduce micronutrient deficiencies, but three of the N4G countries made program or policy commitments in this area.

Two-thirds of these enabling environment commitments fell into 2 of the 60 FFA recommendations:

- Recommendation 2: Develop—or revise, as appropriate—and cost national nutrition plans, align policies that impact nutrition across different ministries and agencies, and strengthen legal frameworks and strategic capacities for nutrition.
- Recommendation 3: Strengthen and establish, as appropriate, national cross-government, intersector, multistakeholder mechanisms for food security and nutrition to oversee implementation of policies, strategies, programs, and other investments in nutrition. Such platforms may be needed at various levels, with robust safeguards against abuse and conflicts of interest.

The other N4G commitments were scattered throughout the remaining 14 action categories, although there were none relating to anemia, childhood overweight, WASH, and international trade and investment.

CALLS TO ACTION

- 1. Make all commitments SMART.** Governments, agencies, parliaments, civil society organizations (CSOs), donors, and businesses: make nutrition commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, and time-bound. Our SMART guide can help you.
- 2. Make commitments that address all forms of malnutrition.** UN member states and agencies, parliaments, CSOs, donors, and businesses: ensure that future nutrition commitments address all forms (and combinations) of malnutrition according to their nutritional contexts—stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity, overweight, and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases.
- 3. Use all new opportunities to make SMART commitments.** UN member states and agencies, parliaments, CSOs, and donors: use the Decade of Action, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) process as an opportunity to raise your level of ambition for SMART nutrition commitments.
- 4. Agree upon one strong and independent global reporting mechanism for nutrition in all its forms.** By the end of 2017, all nutrition stakeholders should engage in a process, as part of the Decade of Action, to agree on one inclusive, independent mechanism to monitor progress on outcomes, actions, and inputs relating to all forms of nutrition under the SDGs.

5. Report on commitments. UN member states and agencies, CSOs, donors, and businesses: be accountable by reporting on your progress on nutrition annually. The *Global Nutrition Report 2017* should be able to report a better than 90 percent response rate.