

African Continental Frameworks for Early Childhood Development (ECD)

AfECN (Africa Early Childhood Network) Conference

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AUDA-NEPAD

WHO IS AUDA-NEPAD?

- AUDA-NEPAD is THE Implementing arm of the African Union: dating back to 2003 and progressed from a NEPAD Secretariat to its current format as AUDA
- The Vision is to build an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens
- Its Mission is to work with African countries (55!), both individually and collectively towards sustainable growth and development
- The mandate is to;
 - Coordinate and execute priority national, regional and continental projects to promote regional integration
 - Strengthen the capacity of AU Member States and Regional Bodies (8!)
 - Advance knowledge, advocacy and advisory support services
 - Serve as a data base and technical interface with continental and global stakeholders

ECD Starts with Good Nutrition

- Balanced diverse healthy diets
- Interdisciplinary approaches and provision of multiple services
- Prevention Programmes
- Investments in ECD
- Robust policies and legal instruments
- Adequate and functional Infrastructure
- Skills mix to attend different ECD needs e.g. Special Education Kids
- Community and cultural norms and standards – promote good aspects
- Training and Capacity Building
- Knowledge management and Accountability



MALNUTRITION is a global problem

**1.9
BILLION**

adults are
**overweight or
obese**

**2
BILLION**

people suffer from
some form of
**micronutrient
deficiency**

**161
Million**

children under
the age 5 are too
short for their age

**795
Million**

people do not get
the food they need
to live a healthy life

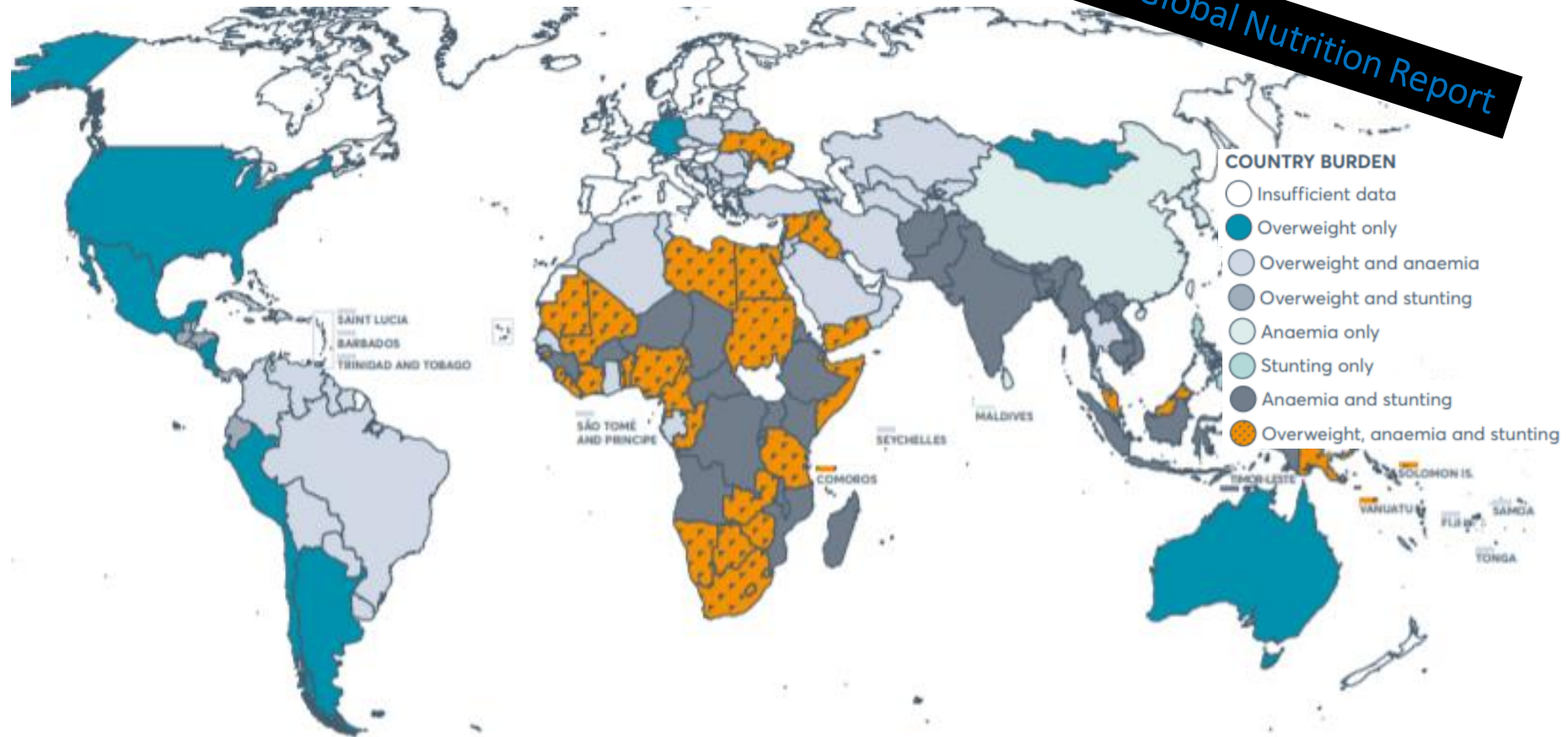
UNHEALTHY DIETS

are one of the leading causes of global **malnutrition**



Visualizing the multiple burden of malnutrition

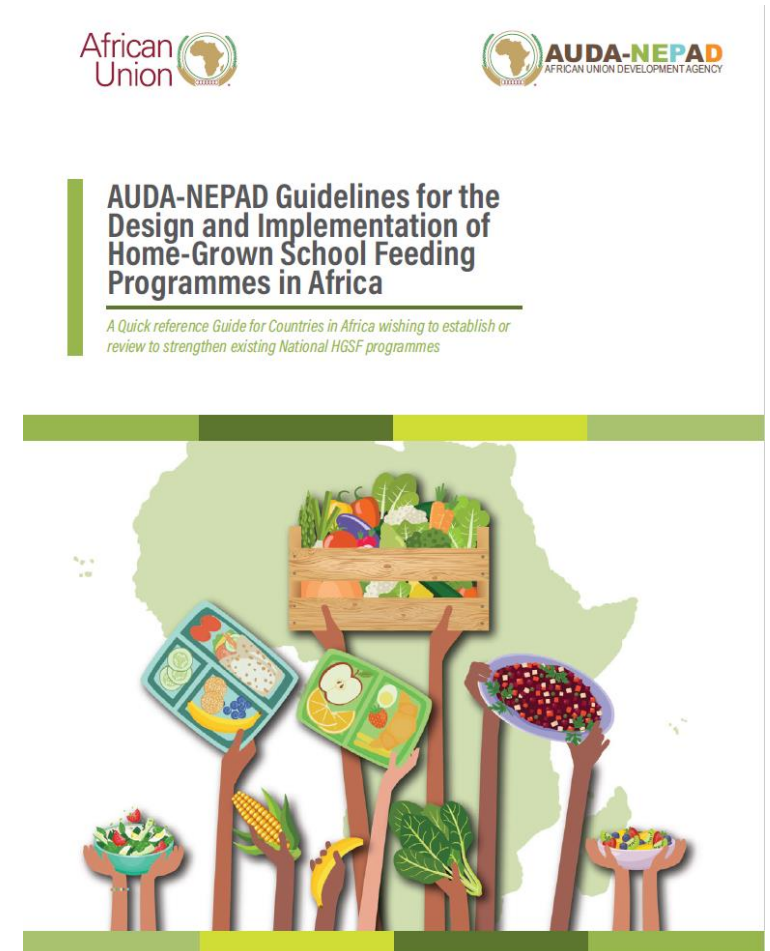
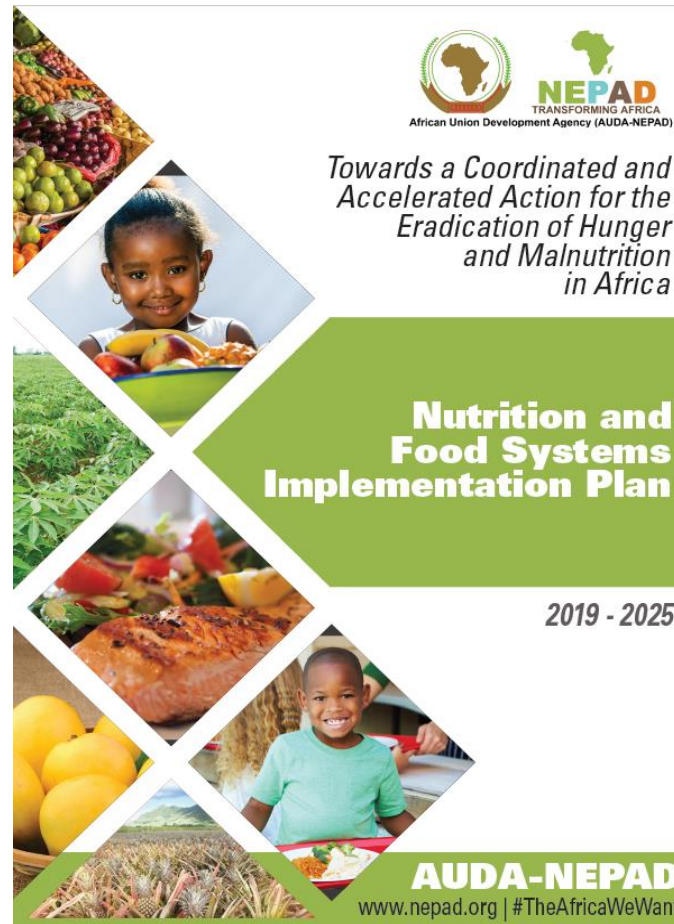
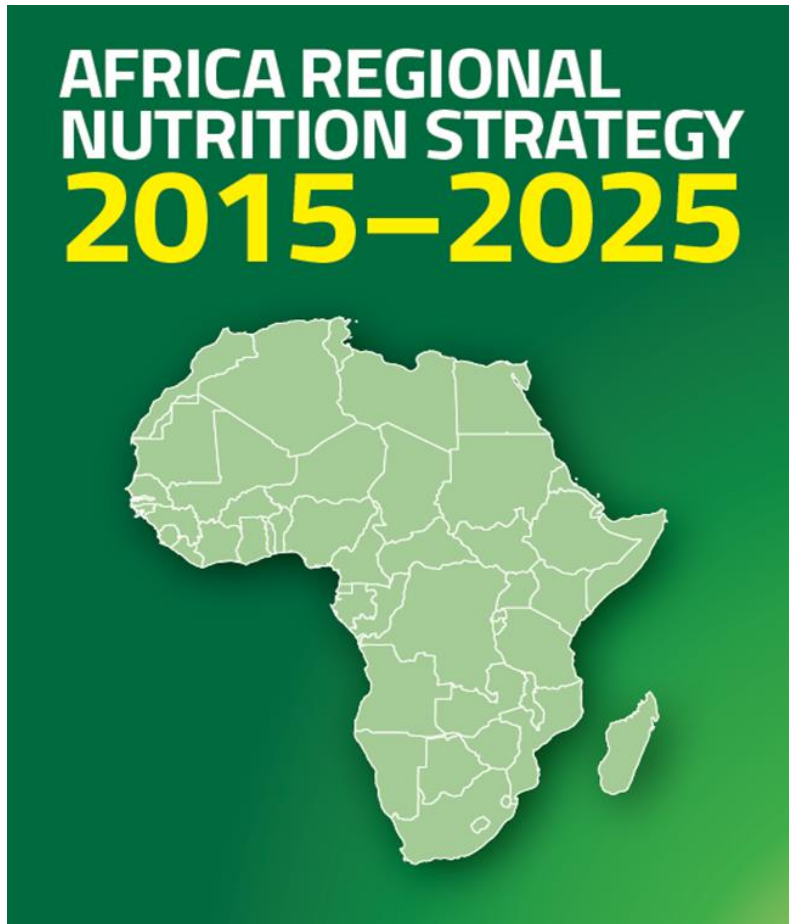
2020 Global Nutrition Report



- **143 countries** (where there is data) experience **at least one form of malnutrition** at high levels
- **124 countries** experience high levels of **at least two forms of malnutrition**
- Of the 124 countries, **37 experience high levels of all three forms of malnutrition**, mainly in Africa



Development of Various Frameworks and Guidelines



AUDA-NEPAD Private Sector Framework

The overall objective of this guideline is to contribute to the improvement of food and nutrition security situation in Sub-Sahara Africa by providing guidelines for private sector engagement and strengthening networks for increasing both direct nutrition and nutrition sensitive investments. E.g. for ECD.

- It is intended that this guideline will help to:
- Enable more private sector engagement especially for Better **Maternal and Child** Nutrition in Africa.
- Motivate the private sector to adopt nutrition sensitive investments as part of the African Union (AU) strategic framework for better nutrition.
- Strengthen the food and nutrition coalitions, especially the School Meals Coalition to mainstream nutrition sensitive investment and engagement of private sector.



Guidelines for Engaging the Private Sector for "Win Win Outcomes" in Nutrition in Africa





THE COST OF **HUNGER** IN **AFRICA** | **COH A**

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT
OF CHILD UNDERNUTRITION



Food Safety Regulations and Standards Guidelines

AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, RECs, Member States

- National food safety policy
- Food legislation
- National food standards development platform
- Science-based risk assessment
- Inspection
- Laboratory testing services
- Capacity Training and education in food safety
- Epidemiological surveillance
- Alignment with Codex requirement



THE YEAR OF NUTRITION
Strengthening Resilience in
Nutrition & Food Security
on the African continent:

Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health & Social
Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human,
Social & Economic Capital Development

United Nations Food Systems – Africa's Commitment

- Africa Regional Dialogues
- Africa Common Position On Food Security and Nutrition
- Support to the Global School Feeding Consortium
- Support to the Research Consortium on School Feeding and ECD
- Support to the Development and Strengthening of ECD Policies and Programmes
- Promote Multisectoral Approaches to Address ECD in Africa
- Collaboration with Africa Research, Academia, and Associations
- Coordination with Global Partners – PCD, GCNF, UN System, SP2030, INGOS, & RECs et al

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: leave no one behind”

“...We pledge to

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Nutrition is central to the SDGs and Socioeconomic Development



SDG Vision for nutrition:

End all forms of malnutrition, address the nutritional needs throughout the lifecourse, give universal access to safe and nutritious food sustainably produced and ensure universal coverage of essential nutrition actions.

Major Advocacy Events and Key Annual Days

- Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security - October 30th
- Africa Day for School Feeding – March 1
- Support to the Global School Feeding Coalition
- Support to the Research Consortium on School Feeding and ECD
- Support to the Development and Strengthening of ECD Policies and Programmes
- Promote Multisectoral Approaches to Address ECD in Africa
- AU Summits
- Pan African Parliamentary Committees (for Legislation)

Africa needs ECD & nutrition investments through PPPs

Progress towards the global nutrition targets among 54 countries in Africa



Source: [GNR_CNP_2023](#)

Key take-aways and messages

- Invest in appropriate and context specific research that is targeted to address the local ECD problems
- Ensure a multisectoral integrated approach and coordination from research, to pedagogy, policy, programme design and implementation
- Invest and increase national budgets in ECD for better health, education and nutrition – from public, private and other innovative financing
- Educate consumers to create a demand driven culture for balanced and effective ECD programmes and go to scale
- Understand the links between child development, performance, societal contribution determinants and outcomes
- Monitor and evaluate for accountability

