



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Promoting child nutrition in Western and Central Africa

Inter-regional parliamentary seminar co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with the collaboration of alive&thrive and the support of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

27-29 June 2017, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday 27 June 2017

9.00 a.m.	Registration of participants and distribution of documents
9.30 a.m.	Inaugural session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representative of UNICEF• Representative of IPU• Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso
10.30 a.m.	Coffee break
10.45 a.m.	PART I: Significance of Nutrition Security for Development <p>This session introduces MPs to the importance of nutrition security as a pro-development intervention/policy/agenda, explains stunting and growth and sensitizes MPs to the cost of inaction. It will include a summary of headline numbers on impact on GDP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition of the problem and importance of Scaling Up Nutrition interventions• Importance of investment in nutrition and first 1'000 days• Link to economic development and poverty reduction <p>Discussion</p>
1 p.m.	Lunch
2.30 p.m.	PART II: Regional Overview <p>This session provides an overview of malnutrition and stunting rates in the region and will also highlight examples from countries in the region that have successfully lowered stunting rates or successfully expanded coverage, or pursued some course to advance nutrition. It will also examine resource allocation for nutrition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malnutrition in Western and Central Africa• Examples of pro-nutrition efforts in the region• How much resources are being allocated <p>Discussion</p>
4 p.m.	Coffee break



4.15 p.m.	PART III: Overcoming Barriers to nutrition This session examines the reasons why malnutrition (both stunting and obesity) persist and identifies what political, legislative, economic, or other factors which contribute to malnutrition. Beginning with an examination of all levels of bottlenecks, it should differentiate between what falls under the technical/programme responsibility, and what is expected from MPs. Discussion will encompass Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and how WASH variables contribute to malnutrition, and also highlight the impact of the lack of a strong Code that is monitored and enforced. In discussing how to overcome these various barriers, MPs will make use of a political commitment analysis tool to gauge the level of commitment in their respective countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structural barriers: Institutional, legal, economic, political and administrative factors that contribute to widespread malnutrition and stunting• Link to water, sanitation and hygiene Discussion
6 p.m.	Wrap up and end of Day 1
8 p.m.	Reception

Wednesday 28 June 2017

9 a.m.	PART IV: Parliament's role in advancing nutrition Parliaments can play multiple roles which include adopting relevant legislation; helping to shape or oversee national plans; partnering with people/organizations in civil society to hold governments accountable; ensuring that laws and policies are actually implemented. This session will cover these multiple roles and identify several ways in which civil society actors can work with parliaments to advance nutrition. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pro-nutrition legislation (including regulation of breast milk substitutes, ending inappropriate marketing of foods for infants and young children, maternity leave legislation, national plans, the agricultural sector and the food industries)• Implementation and oversight• Good practices from the region• Alliances and collaboration (civil society actors and partners) Discussion
11 a.m.	Coffee break
11.15 a.m.	PART V: Budgeting for Nutrition This session reinforces the investment case for nutrition in terms of financial returns but then focuses on pro-nutrition public budgets. Attention will be drawn to how MPs can leverage their powers at the budget formulation stage as well as at the budget oversight and expenditure stage to guarantee that adequate domestic allocations are earmarked for nutrition laws, policies, and programmes. MPs will hear from each other and from economists about what kind of investment is required to spur economic development in their countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designing pro-nutrition budgets - how parliaments can use their prospective budget planning power as well as their retrospective budget audit functions to allocate and monitor for nutrition interventions• Investment case for nutrition• Good practices Discussion
1 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m.	Field visits
5 p.m.	End of day 2



Thursday 29 June 2017

9.30 a.m.

PART VI: Taking a pro-nutrition agenda forward

- (i) Break-out sessions/Group exercise
- (ii) Plenary discussion

By the end of the two-and-a-half-day meeting, delegates will have a clear understanding of their role and opportunities to build support for nutrition, and will be encouraged to select two actions to take forward with partners to advance the nutrition security agenda in their respective countries. The seminar will focus on the responsibilities (legislating, planning and budgeting) that parliamentarians should deploy to help reduce malnutrition rates. Potential actions include:

Legislate	Plan	Budget
Adopt or enforce The International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (or similar)	Organize relevant parliamentarians and committees (finance; health; women and children; agriculture, social affairs) to mobilize action and a process for change	Advocate with the ministry of finance, ministry of planning and Investments and relevant line ministries to adopt nutrition budget lines within their department
Adopt national maternity entitlements		
Adopt legal measures to support and improve locally fortified complementary food	Employ and support national data and information systems to trigger and track progress, including toward World Health Assembly nutrition targets and related SDGs	
Support latest recommendation on the commercialization of unhealthy food for children	Scrutinize performance against nutrition benchmarks and indicators and probe allocation of resources	

11 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.15 a.m.

Recommendations, next steps and summing-up by the Rapporteur and concluding comments by the organizers

- Session will include a review of the outcome document “Ouagadougou Recommendations”
- Final remarks by IPU
- Closing remarks by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso