“AN INVESTMENT IN NUTRITION CAN HELP MAKE EVERY OTHER INVESTMENT IN HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PAY OFF”

Bill Gates at the World Bank Group Spring Meetings, 2016

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a set of 17 global goals with specific targets aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all by 2030.

SDG 2 focuses explicitly on nutrition: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.” Achieving this goal will depend on the success of many of the other SDGs, including those aimed at clean water and sanitation, renewable energy, education and gender equality.

Target 2 of SDG 2 clarifies the specific indicators that will be used by the United Nations to define success in the global fight against undernutrition: “By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.” The internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting refer to the 2025 World Health Assembly global targets of reducing stunting by 40% and reducing childhood wasting to less than 5%.

Equally, improvements in nutrition will be key to ensuring the achievement of many of the other goals, and the broader Sustainable Development Goal agenda by 2030.

According to analysis in the Global Nutrition Report, at least 12 of the 17 SDGs contain indicators that are highly relevant for nutrition.
