

High-Level Roundtable on the Foresight Report



Accra, Ghana, 25th and 27th October 2016

Summary

In partnership with the John A Kufuor Foundation, the Panel hosted a high-level roundtable and Foresight stakeholder event alongside the 2016 Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADNFS). Ghanaian colleagues led discussions, using the evidence and recommendations from the Foresight report, to take forward action on new collaborative, multi-sector, cross-Ministerial governance to tackle malnutrition in all its forms.

“Business as usual in nutrition is not sufficient, the good is always the enemy of the best”

- Dr Joyce Aryee, former Minister of Information, Education and Democracy

Speakers

Panel representative **Prof Baffour Agyeman-Duah** and Director **Prof Sandy Thomas** hosted Chair **Dr Joyce Aryee** (former Minister of Information, Education and Democracy), and speakers **Prof Matilda Steiner-Asiedu** (University of Ghana), **Dr Pauline Addy** (Ministry of Food and Agriculture) and **Mrs Mary Mpereh** (National Development Planning Commission).

Consensus statements

- Hunger has declined significantly in Ghana, but micronutrient deficiencies (iron, vitamin A, folic acid, B6 and zinc) and obesity are common. Socio-economic variation across Ghana and lack of localised data make the implementation of interventions challenging.
- There is widespread interest in the potential for collaboration with the private sector and others to improve diets and shift the food system from feeding to nourishing people.
- Policymakers must focus on: food advertising; food safety; sanitation; education (farmers and consumers); imports vs domestic production; post-harvest losses; improving breastfeeding practices, better data and analytical technology, more investment in agricultural research; more decentralisation from national to district level; better use of transitional seed funding from international donors; and an improved system of accountability.
- Regulatory options include food labelling (both nutrition and safety); setting minimum standards for nutrition; re-evaluating free trade policy (and its effects on local food production); increasing mandatory maternity leave; and creating private sector incentives to promote healthy foods.
- A working group of experts and policymakers should be established across ministries and sectors, building on SUN's platforms, to improve communication and identify priorities for action at district level.
- The private sector should be encouraged to use business platforms to share best practice.
- All partners should work directly with farmers to promote the growing of healthy, safe, food, and share their knowledge with service providers, markets, and schools.
- All those with expertise and responsibilities in nutrition across Ghana need to work together, using one voice, to encourage policymakers to act on malnutrition in all its forms.

Key actions to take forward

- Create a cross-ministry, cross-sector working group to identify and act on barriers to healthy diets.
- Consider how to implement nutrition interventions in local food systems in selected districts.
- Use multi-stakeholder platforms to communicate, evaluate and share best practices.