



# **Agriculture and Nutrition: What do we know now, and what do we still need to know?**

## **Comments**

**Chizuru Nishida, Coordinator  
Nutrition Policy and Scientific Advice Unit  
Department of Nutrition for  
Health and Development**



**World Health  
Organization**



## Do we know?

### 1. What effective food and agriculture policies to improve nutrition are?

- Food and agriculture policies should ensure more availability, more affordability and higher nutritional quality of foods
- Nutrition sensitivity should encompass the prevention of NCDs.



What policy actions can be taken, not only to have positive impact, but also to mitigate the unwanted effects on health and nutrition?



## Do we know?

2. What the effective governance for nutrition-sensitive action to impact on nutrition is?



## Why is progress not faster in reducing malnutrition?

Inadequate investments

Inadequate coordination for delivering interventions

Inadequate coverage

Inadequate focus on lifecourse

Inadequate focus on social determinants

Inadequate nutrition governance



## What is Nutrition Governance?

- ❑ Processes by which policies and programmes are developed to improve nutrition



Both the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented to achieve nutrition security

- ❑ Strength of Nutrition Governance scoring calculated with key elements, including:
  - ▶ intersectoral mechanism to address nutrition
  - ▶ national nutrition plan, policy/strategy
  - ▶ nutrition plan, policy/strategy part of development plan
  - ▶ budget allocated for implementation
  - ▶ nutrition budget in health budget
  - ▶ regular nutrition monitoring and surveillance



## Nutrition Governance and MDG1

- ❑ Having single element of nutrition governance



No significant relationship w/ progress of achieving MDG1

### Except:

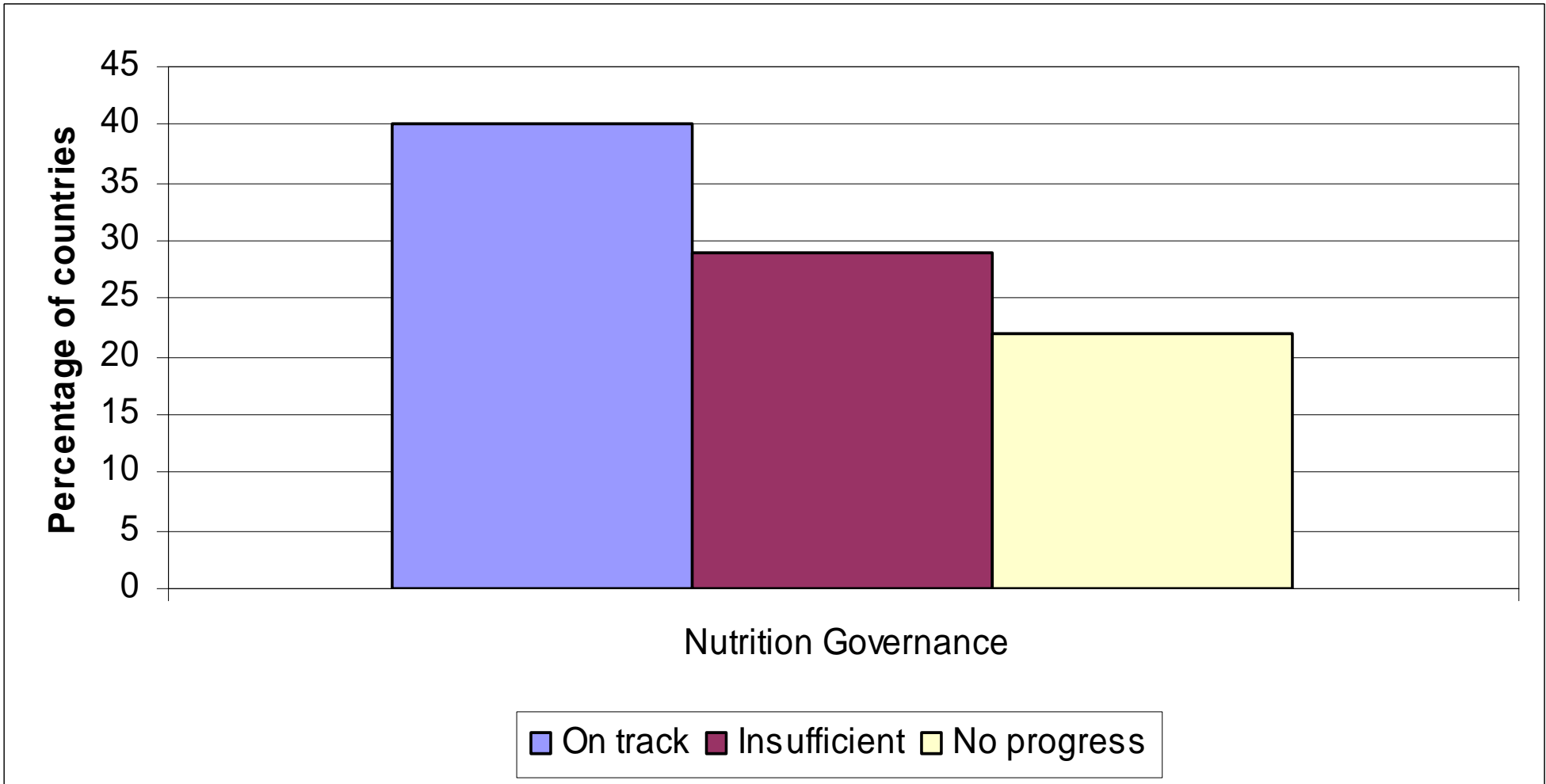
- ❑ Adopted national nutrition plan, policy/strategy and being part of development plan
  - on track: 60%
  - insufficient: 29%
  - no progress: 33%

### Regular nutrition surveillance

- on track: 50%
- insufficient: 35%
- no progress: 22%



## Number of countries with strong nutrition governance and progress towards achieving MDG1





## Do we know?

### 2. What the effective governance for nutrition-sensitive action to impact on nutrition is?

- What are the elements of governance for nutrition-sensitive action?
- What kind of institutional mechanisms need to be established to allow health objectives to be embedded in food, agriculture and trade policies?





## Do we know?

3. What kind of human capacity resource is required to deliver effective nutrition-sensitive actions?
  - What kind of training is needed?
  - What kind of competencies are needed at different levels?
  
4. What kind of surveillance system is required to monitor and evaluate effective nutrition-sensitive actions?
  - What are the indicators to monitor nutrition-sensitive actions and evaluate their impacts?