



## OUTCOMES REPORT

### SCALING UP COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWS) FOR NUTRITION IN AFRICA

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024 | 17.30 - 19.00 CEST.  
SUN SECRÉTARIAT, VILLA LE BOGAGE PALAIS DES NATIONS, CH-121.1  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

#### INTRODUCTION

This Roundtable took place on Tuesday 28 May 2024 on the margins of the **77th World Health Assembly**. An invite-only audience of over 35 people gathered to discuss key issues, including the lack of access to nutrition services across African Countries, and the need for strengthening of the Community Health Workforce in order to deliver these services.

Event speakers included a Child Advocate, a Community Health Worker, the Minister of Health from Cote D'Ivoire, the African Union Commission's Director for Health and Humanitarian Affairs, the Ethiopia Ministry of Health's



"The African Union recognizes that, to fight malnutrition in the continent, we must invest in community health workers."

**Prof. Julio Rakotonirina**  
Director of Health and Humanitarian Affairs African Union Commission

Nutrition Coordination Lead Executive Office, the World Health Organization's Director of Nutrition, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Coordinator, and World Vision's Health Technical Director.

Roundtable participants engaged in a lively discussion and shared mutual agreement on several key topics and recommendations:

- Excellent examples were shared from Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Burundi, and other countries that have been successful in **scaling up CHWs to provide nutrition services and overcoming challenges**.
- CHWs are essential for **preventing malnutrition**, as is community education and behavior change.
- Better **coordination of Community Health Workforce** is needed at the national level as well as sharing of Good Practices across countries.
- In order to strengthen the Community Health Workforce, action is needed across several pillars of health systems: **Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs)** embedded in the design of Primary Health Care, training and equipping healthcare workers, financing, and health information systems. Partnerships will make these changes possible.
- **Training, monitoring, remuneration**, and access to medicines and equipment are essential components to scaling up an effective Community Health Workforce.
- Participants reached a common understanding of the importance of **investments in Primary Health Care and access to nutrition services** for reducing malnutrition, anemia, maternal and newborn mortality rates, and many other key issues.



"It is the responsibility of the whole community to actively participate in trying to improve child nutrition. Children must not be left out in this, as they can actively participate and are more motivated in matters concerning them."

ZewelANJI - Child Advocate, Zambia



Scaling Up Community Health Workers (CHWs) for Nutrition in Africa

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

CHWs must be supported to do their work with professionalization, remuneration, and incentives for career progression.

Governments need to ensure that CHWs receive training before and during their service on ENAs, and provide minimum standard equipment.

Communities must demand health and nutrition services to support the investment case.

Strong political leadership is a key to successfully scaling essential nutrition service availability at the community level.

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This event was organized by :  
**The African Union Commission, the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, the International Rescue Committee, and World Vision International.**



Catalyzing strategic and financial partnerships for strengthening the Community Health Workforce to deliver Essential Nutrition Actions



#WHA77

#Nutrition

#Nutrition4All

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