

The battle against malnutrition in Africa can be won.

Governments have an opportunity to learn from progress and redouble efforts to meet African Union and global nutrition goals.

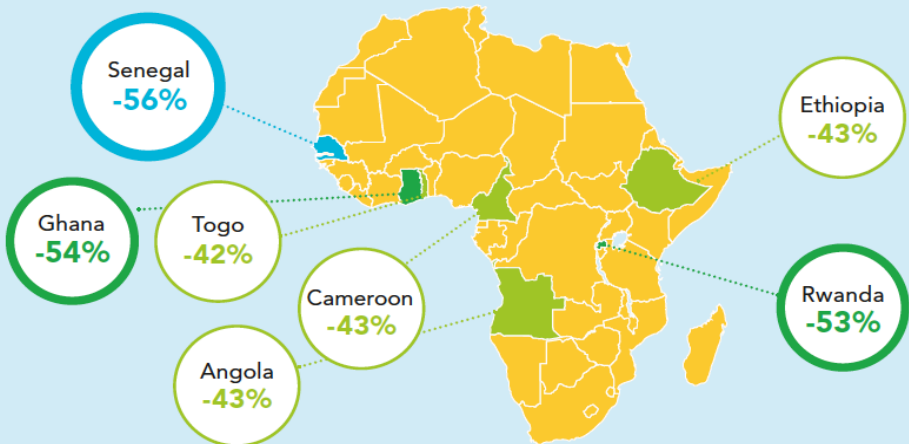
The **proportion of people who suffer from hunger on the continent** dropped from 27.6% to 20% between 1990 and 2015...

... and several African countries have **dramatically reduced malnutrition over the last 15 years.**

Africa is the only region where the absolute number of hungry people is still rising. This causes suffering for hundreds of millions of people and weighs on future economic growth.

Too many children are severely or moderately wasted and many more stunted.

But between 2000 and 2016 these countries reduced undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality by:



Source: International Food Policy Research Institute, Welthungerhilfe, and Concern International, 2016, Global Hunger Index

Recommendations to improve nutrition



1. Adopt a comprehensive policy on nutrition as a top priority.

Governments need to make nutrition a policy priority and work across ministries to ensure an inclusive approach.



2. Create a broad partnership dedicated to nutrition among key groups of actors.

Policy makers need to work in partnership with stakeholders – particularly, national research centres, the private sector and donors - to deliver on nutrition.



3. Set up mechanisms to coordinate a coherent agenda on nutrition across government.

Mainstream nutrition into agriculture policy making, rural development plans, social protection and education.



4. Invest in crisis prevention and emergency intervention capacities to address the threat of conflict to malnutrition reduction.

Conflict adds a new set of challenges and diplomacy, security actions and emergency aid will be required.



5. Invest in programs to protect the nutritional status of vulnerable populations during extreme weather events.

Enhance the capacities of countries to protect vulnerable populations during extreme weather events.



6. Strengthen food-system regulation and controls to raise the supply of safe and nutritious food.

Governments and corporations need to promote healthier diets and consumption patterns.



7. Strengthen national agricultural and nutrition research to expand biofortification and other nutrient enrichment programs.

Investments are needed to increase the productivity of nutrient rich foods and to take actions on fortification, biofortification and enrichment.



8. Expand access to nutrition education to ensure long-term positive changes in dietary patterns.

Nutrition education needs to be embedded into school curricula combined with promotion of healthier consumption patterns and awareness and education campaigns.



9. Support initiatives that enhance the leadership role of women in the area of nutrition.

National and local governments and civil society organizations need to support and empower women's groups.



10. Invest in the availability and use of better data for more effective interventions.

More and better data is urgently needed to provide critical insights and drive effective solutions that address malnutrition.



11. Design programs that capture the synergies between agriculture, water, health, and sanitation

Governments and other stakeholders need to increase access to services among vulnerable populations in urban and rural areas.



12. Pay urgent attention to obesity and interventions to curb it in nutrition policies.

Raise awareness to address the emerging burden of obesity.