

*Editorial*

# Nutrition at the crossroads: Scientific insights and policy directions from World Nutrition's third issue of 2025

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It is our pleasure to introduce the journal's new and expanded Editorial Team. [Stanley I.R. Okoduwa](#) has taken over from George Kent (who sadly is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease) as Deputy Editor. We have three new and extremely competent Assistant Editors: [Maarten D.C. Immink](#), [Cintia Lombardi](#), and [Kevin S.](#) Our Associate Editors include [Yeji Baek](#) and [Marcello Boati](#), who is helping with the training of several more. Similarly, our Social Media Editor, [Kamryn Bailey](#), is training several more volunteers to help with that crucial work. All of their impressive credentials can be viewed [here](#).

In Volume 16, Issue 3 of *World Nutrition*, the official journal of the [World Public Health Nutrition Association](#), we bring together a broad spectrum of scholarship and reflection—two editorials, 14 original research articles, one review paper, two commentaries, and one policy statement and perspective—each contributing unique insights to the ongoing dialogues on food, nutrition, and health in a rapidly changing world.

The editorial section continues with two contributions from your editors: [Greiner](#), "Food fortification – should progressive nutritionists support it or not?", examining the contested terrain of fortification policies, revisiting the essential role of mandatory fortification in addressing micronutrient deficiencies, while urging clarity in understanding both risks and benefits; and then a timely trend editorial from [Okoduwa and Imam](#), "Leather and public health nutrition: Exploring the layers beyond the surface", confronting an overlooked issue: how environmental pollution from leather production threatens food safety and nutritional health in Nigeria and beyond. This indeed is a challenge for us to consider the hidden nutritional and environmental costs of leather production.

The papers in this issue span multiple continents and diverse public health concerns. Several focus on nutrition in relation to disorders and diseases. [Shah and Nigudkar](#), "Risk of binge eating behaviour among university women, quality of their diet and their perception of their body image", provide important insights into binge eating risks, dietary quality, and body image among young women in Mumbai. [Adnan et al.](#), "Prevalence of lactose intolerance among children with severe acute malnutrition with diarrhea", investigate lactose intolerance in malnourished Bangladeshi

children, with significant implications for clinical management. From Kenya, [Diba et al.](#), "Complementary feeding, dietary diversity, and diarrhea morbidity in some rice-growing regions", examine child feeding practices and diarrheal morbidity. [Hosseini et al.](#), "Translation and determining the validity and reliability of the Nordic Orofacial Test-Screening", validate a Persian language version of a tool developed in Scandinavia for assessing orofacial dysfunction in children. [Nanfuka et al.](#), "Prevalence and determinants of malnutrition in children with cerebral palsy", highlight the intersection of disability, poverty, and nutrition in Uganda. In a review paper, "The double burden of childhood malnutrition in the Caribbean," [Bailey and Okoduwa](#) synthesize epidemiological trends and policy responses to the growing crisis of undernutrition and obesity in the region, highlighting the urgent need for integrated, equity-driven approaches.

Three contributions focus on local foods. [Kamgain and Kesa](#), "Awareness and consumption of indigenous foods for health benefits in Gauteng", explore knowledge gaps regarding traditional foods, pointing to opportunities for promoting healthier local foods in South Africa. [Akeredolu et al.](#), "Evaluation and acceptability of crackers made from a blend of fonio and conophor nuts", introduce a culturally relevant snack option for people living with diabetes, illustrating how traditional crops can support modern dietary challenges. [Udofia et al.](#), "Nutritional knowledge, attitude and practices of mothers regarding vegetable oil consumption in Oyo-State", document significant rural-urban differences in vegetable oil use and handling, particularly related to safety.

Three other papers examine aspects of food systems. [Tossou et al.](#), "The contribution of school feeding programs to children's energy and nutrient intakes in Benin", assess the nutritional impact of government feeding programs on schoolchildren, identify persisting micronutrient gaps, and offer insights for improving dietary quality. [Ekerette et al.](#), "Contributions of street foods to dietary intakes of traders in Uyo", provide evidence on the dual role of street foods in Nigeria as both vital and nutritionally inadequate. [Chotivichien et al.](#), describe how the Ministry of Health in Thailand is transforming employee cafeterias to provide healthier options.

This issue also features two programmatic evaluations. **Leshi and Olatunji**, “*Effectiveness of a pilot church-based intervention to improve breastfeeding knowledge and intention of young women*”, demonstrate the promise of faith-based interventions. **Aidam et al.**, “*Transforming maternal, infant and young child nutrition in Southeastern Madagascar*”, assess the Baby-Friendly Community Initiative, showing how grassroots approaches can shift maternal and child health practices.

Finally, several papers examine issues related to the need to regulate the food industry. **Heiss et al.** “*Non-profit organizations as strategic arms of the food and beverage industry*”, critically analyse the influence of industry-linked nonprofits in Europe. From India, **Pande et al.** “*Decadal transition in food labelling compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India regulations*”, analyse progress and limitations in labelling practices of packaged foods and their implications for public health. A commentary by **Piaggio et al.**, “*The imprints of sponsorship: The case of UNITAR’s Breastfeeding Education Initiative*”, questions the role of private sponsorship in breastfeeding education, raising pressing concerns about corporate influence and conflicts of interest in global nutrition initiatives. Finally, this issue includes a **World Public Health Nutrition Association** “*Policy statement on the fourth United Nations High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health*”, which calls for stronger global action on ultra-processed foods, sugary beverages, and commercial determinants of health, alongside accountability and transparency in governance, for a more equitable approach to global nutrition governance.

Together, the contributions in this issue reflect the breadth and depth of contemporary nutrition challenges—scientific, social, political, and ethical. They also affirm World Nutrition’s role as a platform for independent, critical, and solution-oriented dialogue, critique, and innovation, where evidence informs practice and policy, and where diverse voices shape the global nutrition agenda. They remind us that while nutrition is deeply biological, it is equally social, political, and environmental.

On behalf of the editorial team, I thank all authors, reviewers, and readers for their continued engagement. I invite you to explore the rich collection of ideas and evidence presented in this issue, and to carry forward their implications into your work, research, and advocacy. Your work and engagement continue to drive the mission of this journal—to bridge evidence and action in the pursuit of healthier, fairer, and more sustainable food systems and healthy diets for all.

#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

TG conceptualized the editorial. SIRO prepared the original draft. Both TG and SIRO contributed to reviewing and editing the manuscript. TG provided supervision. Both authors approved the final version for publication.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

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