

Strengthening the data value chain for nutrition is critical

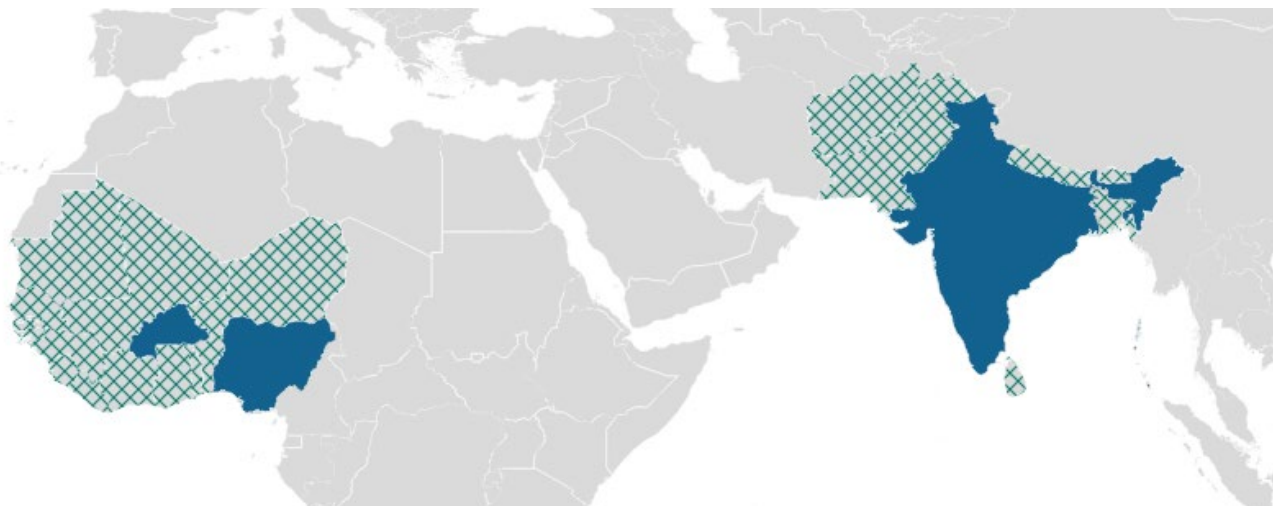
Challenges exist at each link in the nutrition data value chain. High-quality and relevant nutrition data is needed to understand progress towards reducing malnutrition and reaching nutrition targets. However, nutrition data systems are fragmented and incomplete in many countries. This makes it difficult for governments, development partners, and other nutrition stakeholders across sectors to access and use data to define priorities, monitor efforts, and allocate resources. **Data for Decisions to Expand Nutrition Transformation (DataDENT)** is a five-year initiative (2017-2022) that aims to strengthen the nutrition data value chain and transform the availability and use of nutrition data by addressing gaps in nutrition measurement and advocating for stronger nutrition data systems.



Figure: Nutrition Data Value Chain

DataDENT works at the global, regional, and country level

DataDENT aims to develop and disseminate global public goods that serve diverse audiences. We ground our global efforts in more focused engagement in three countries (Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and India) and with regional initiatives in West Africa and South Asia.



How DataDENT strengthens the nutrition data value chain



PRIORITY AREA 1: Fill gaps and improve quality of nutrition coverage measurement in household and facility surveys

We are developing new coverage indicators (infant and young child feeding counseling; nutrition-sensitive social protection), promoting inclusion of nutrition coverage indicators in global and national surveys, and conducting research to improve the validity of coverage measurement.



PRIORITY AREA 2: Develop more effective approaches for data-driven nutrition accountability and advocacy

We are working to understand how data visualization and accountability tools are being designed and used by global and national nutrition actors and providing technical assistance to develop more effective tools. We are also developing new indicators to measure the impact of multisector nutrition advocacy efforts.



PRIORITY AREA 3: Promote and support strategic planning and financing for data value chain strengthening

We are supporting nutrition data strategic planning efforts in two countries, contributing to global guidance on nutrition information systems, and identifying how much global and national actors are currently investing in nutrition data and information systems.



PRIORITY AREA 4: Global and regional nutrition data value chain advocacy, coordination and dissemination

We are coordinating the Data for Nutrition Community of Practice (www.datafornutrition.org), ensuring that nutrition data issues are being reflected in global nutrition agendas and organizing regional and national events to promote investments in stronger nutrition data value chains.

Partnerships to advance nutrition measurement

DataDENT is implemented by three institutions: the Institute for International Programs (IIP) at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and Results for Development Institute (R4D). DataDENT is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. DataDENT collaborates with other data-focused initiatives and institutions such as WHO-UNICEF TEAM, UNICEF, the World Bank, POSHAN-India (Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition), Improve Measurement and Program Design (IMPROVE), Transform Nutrition West Africa, IDInsight, Countdown to 2030, and Alive & Thrive.

