

# Review of: "A Policy Dialogue for Nutrition of Women and Adolescent Girls: Sustainable Development Goals Matters Arising"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors have done a fantastic job of exploring some of the problems affecting the nutritional wellbeing of women and adolescent girls in Rwanda, and providing recommendations on policy actions that could contribute to meeting the related SDGs.

There are a few minor issues that need to be addressed.

1. In the abstract, line 3, the phrase "wicked problem" seems a little far out, as a simple Google search of "wicked problem" shows that it refers to an idea or problem that cannot be fixed. The authors can consider other words like "complex", "perplexing", "intractable", etc.
2. In the first paragraph of the Introduction, the sentence below is rather long-winded. Can you break it into two as shown here? Undernutrition (referred to as malnutrition in this dialogue) is an ill health condition caused by deficiencies of calories, protein, vitamins, and minerals, interacting with infections and other poor health and social conditions. This condition saps the strength and wellbeing of millions of women and adolescent girls around the world.
3. In the second paragraph of the introduction, the phrase "generate (or generating) income" is repeated in close succession in the same paragraph. Can you consider using a different phrase for one of the sentences?
4. In line 7 of the third paragraph in the Introduction, an SDG number is missing from the sentence Needless to add, SDG (which one?) on quality education transcends the boundaries of the classroom
5. In line 3 of the first paragraph under "How Nutrition Affects Women", the word anemia should start with a lower case letter.
6. In line 3 of the first paragraph and line 7 of the third paragraph under "How Nutrition Affects Women", the idea of anemia reducing work capacity or productivity is repeated often, making the paper not to be concise. Could the authors avoid repeating an idea that has already been introduced early on in the paper?
7. In line 2 of the second paragraph under "How Nutrition Affects Women", can the authors correct "6percent" to "six percent"?
8. In line 3 of the second paragraph under "How Nutrition Affects Women", can the authors break this longwinded sentence into two as shown here? Fetal growth restriction is associated with maternal short stature or stunting and underweight. It causes about 12 percent of neonatal deaths and increases the incidence of obstructed labour, leading to maternal deaths.

9. In line 3 of the second paragraph under “Newborns And Children: the Cycle of Poor Growth”, Can the authors edit this sentence: “In Rwanda, 10 percent of babies born to mothers under age 20 are LBW compared to babies born to mothers aged 20-34 or 35-49, who are LBW 7 percent of each” to read “In Rwanda, 10 percent of babies born to mothers under the age of 20 are LBW, as compared to seven percent each, of babies born to mothers aged 20-34 or 35-49”?
10. In line 3 of the first paragraph under “How Women’s Nutrition Affects National Economies”, consider editing this sentence “Rwanda, with high stunting levels, must deal with its immediate costs, including reduced income from malnourished citizens and long-term ill health costs that may be related to low birth weight, including high rates of cardiac disease and diabetes in adults” to read Rwanda, with high stunting levels, must deal with its immediate costs, including reduced income from malnourished citizens and long-term ill health costs that may be related to low birth weight. Such long-term costs include high rates of cardiac disease and diabetes in adults, because ----- (here, give a scientific link between stunting and chronic diseases here).
11. The word “productivity” is used rather often in the manuscript. Consider using the phrase “earning potential” at times.
12. In line 2 of the first paragraph under “Policy Options” consider editing the sentence “is critical to preventing malnutrition in all its forms” to: are critical to preventing malnutrition in all its forms.
13. In line 2 of the second paragraph under “Policy Options”, the sentence “Policymakers should also address women’s low social status and ensure that girls have access to education — which should include information on nutrition” seems rather vague. It may be beneficial to provide more specific recommendations in terms of broad categories of new policies that should be enacted, or old policies expanded, and what sectors of government these new or expanded policies should be domiciled in. As it is now, these seem like vague recommendations that may not be translatable to meaningful policy actions.
14. Under Nutrition governance for adolescent girls and women, point 1 says “Build bolder leadership....” At what levels? Local, state or national? In what sectors? Please provide broad/overarching areas of government where this leadership is needed.
15. Under Nutrition governance for adolescent girls and women, point 2 says “Harness data and evidence.....” Consider making this actionable by giving a broad overarching description of what kind of data and evidence.
16. Under Food systems and nutritious diets, point 3 says “Improve access to affordable, nutritious foods...” Suggesting some broad/overarching ways to improve access will enrich this paper.
17. Under Food systems and nutritious diets, point 4 says “Implement policies and mandatory legal measures to protect adolescent...” Again, some broad/overarching examples will enrich this paper.
18. Under Nutrition services and social protection programmes, point 1 says “Improve access to essential nutrition services for adolescent girls...” Any consideration for policies that can reduce early marriage in order to prevent high-risk pregnancies in very young adolescent girls?
19. Under Nutrition and care practices, point 1 is excellent, because it spells out specific actions that can be taken. Other key actions should follow this pattern by providing examples of specific or even broad actions that can be taken.
20. In line 3 of the Concluding paragraph, the authors state “Ultimately, this study...” Can this really be called a study? Consider the phrase “policy dialogue.”

