

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.

I am happy to provide some review thoughts on this paper. The subject is relevant and timely, and helps to advance policy on a pertinent issue and the broader subject of the SDGs and sustainability more broadly. I have identified some issues (main/broad and specific) that I outlined below. I hope these are helpful.

Main/broad issues:

1. In-text citation:

- a. If it is not the requirement/policy of the publication to omit them, it would be great to add the citations appropriately to the body of the piece - especially in instances where the authors make emphatic evidence-based claims. For instance (and in various other cases), "...recent research indicates that 60 percent of deaths of children under age five are associated with malnutrition — and children's malnutrition is strongly correlated with mothers' poor nutritional status."

2. The authors may further improve the connection of the issues across the themes. For instance, discussing (specific) solutions to the problems to reflect a foregrounding of the problems would be great.

3. It might be helpful to redesign and present the solutions (and/or call to action) in the long, medium, and short terms — since/because all solutions may not effectively apply at the same time. They may also (need to) feed into (connect) each other logically and incrementally: perhaps this can take the form of covering the remaining decade of the SDGs, and with a forecasting of long-term (post-SDGs) measures on sustainability.

4. Perhaps, the "Policy Options" and "Call for Action" can be merged or discussed under one section — or made more clearly so. What is the difference between the two?

Specific (and also representative) Issues:

1. "Malnutrition undermines women's productivity, capacity to generate income, and ability to care for their families. Addressing women's malnutrition has a range of positive effects because healthy women can fulfil their multiple roles"
 - a. While this is great and the core of the paper, it would be helpful to situate the problem in a brief but general context - i.e., about malnutrition in general (for all genders, locations, ages, etc.). Then, with a clear rationale, emphasize the focus on women and adolescent girls.

2. "Women are often responsible for producing and preparing food for the household, so their knowledge — or lack thereof — about nutrition can affect the health and nutritional status of the entire family. Therefore, promoting greater gender equality, including increasing women's control over resources and their ability to make decisions, is crucial."
 - a. While the point of women having knowledge of/about nutrition is very important and strengthens the argument, the connection to the next sentence is rather rushed. It would be great to introduce a connecting thought that strongly underscores the relevance of the point. Perhaps, indicate the danger of the lack of knowledge to nutrition and its connection to control over resources and their use - or some other connection?
3. "Rwanda, with high stunting levels, must deal with its immediate costs, including reduced income from malnourished citizens and long-term ill health costs"
 - a. This sentence does not add to the point of the paragraph - strongly enough - and may be appropriate under another section. It sounds more like an explanation of an approach to the problem or a solution than an attempt to show "how" the problem is (related to national economies). Also, it would be helpful to show specifically "how" the relationship manifests in Rwanda - with some substantiation.
4. "but recent research indicates that 60 percent of deaths of children under age five are associated with malnutrition — and children's malnutrition is strongly correlated with mothers' poor nutritional status. In Rwanda, one study shows that an estimated 503.6 billion Rwandan francs (RWF) — \$US 820 million — were lost in 2012 because of child undernutrition,"
 - a. Perhaps, use a more recent study to enhance the validity of the data. Otherwise, briefly explain the use of the chosen data (source)).
5. "this study provides a call to action to tackle these "wicked problems" and highlights the implications for the United Nations' sustainable development goals."
 - a. It might help to briefly rehash how to do this - especially since the paragraph is rather brief.

Overall, this is a well-thought-out piece of an important subject.