

Date
12 February 2025

Time
16.45–18.15

Info
Location:
IFAD HQ (Plenary Hall)
Moderator:
Ms Pieternel Boogaard
Managing Director, Office of
Technical Delivery, IFAD

LEADERS' DIALOGUE Investing in Nutrition

Global hunger and malnutrition remain pressing issues, exacerbated by conflict, climate change and economic challenges that disrupt food systems worldwide. The “Leaders’ Dialogue on Investing in Nutrition” comes at a pivotal moment, as nations work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Despite global commitments, 2 billion people in the world do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food and the United Nations Statistics Division projects that more than 600 million people worldwide will be facing hunger in 2030. In addition, malnutrition rates continue to rise, especially in low-income countries and fragile contexts, where the consequences of undernutrition, stunting and wasting in children are devastating and long-lasting. Urgent action is now required to rise to the immense challenges of achieving the zero hunger target and ensuring good health and well-being for all.

The theme of the Governing Council, “Catalysing investment at the 1st mile”, highlights the urgency of directing resources to the most critical point in food systems—the first mile—where vulnerable communities are hardest hit by malnutrition and climate change. This event will serve as a platform for exploring strategies to close nutrition financing gaps and drive investment in food security and nutrition.

Through the high-level discussions that will galvanize attention and action on nutrition financing, emphasizing the urgency of immediate and sustainable commitments, this Leaders’ Dialogue will build momentum towards the Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be held in Paris on 27 and 28 March 2025.

The Leaders’ Dialogue aims to:

- ✓ **Raise awareness:** Foster high-level dialogue on the need for increased investments in nutrition, including IFAD’s loans and grants.
- ✓ **Engage stakeholders:** Bring together stakeholders—governments, the private sector and Indigenous Peoples—to reflect on innovative financing solutions for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and its nexus with climate change and biodiversity, with a focus on fragile contexts. What works and what have we learned?
- ✓ **Bridge to the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit:** Build momentum towards the N4G Summit.

The session will open with a **keynote address by His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, FAO Goodwill Ambassador for Nutrition and African Union Nutrition Champion**. An interactive panel discussion will follow.

Panellists

- Mr Brieuc Pont, France's Special Envoy on Nutrition and Secretary-General of the Nutrition for Growth Summit
- Mr Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- Ms Erina and Mr Joel Guma, Founders of PRISTINE Foods Ltd.
- Ms Dayana Domico, Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD

The panel will be an interactive discussion with the Governors. The closing remarks of the session will be delivered by Ms Gérardine Mukeshimana, Vice-President, IFAD.