



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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IPU's Empowerment Series for young parliamentarians **Health and Nutrition** *Second Online briefing for young parliamentarians* Provisional Concept note

Context and Rationale

Despite laudable gains made since 2000 with a 29 per cent reduction in maternal mortality and a 43 per cent reduction in child mortality, 295,000 women and 5.9 million children under the age of 5 continue to die annually from largely preventable causes. Sustainable Development Goal 3 on Good Health and Well-being for all by 2030 provides a roadmap that can help countries accelerate progress.

Women, children, and adolescents are also at particular risk of malnutrition, which limits learning capacities and productivity and contributes to perpetuating a cycle of ill-health and poverty. Globally, one in three people suffers from at least one form of malnutrition. Suboptimal diets are responsible for more deaths globally than any other risk factor, making good nutrition one of the best investments for human and economic development. Providing school meals is the best-known school-based food and nutrition intervention. 73 million vulnerable children were missing out on school meals before the pandemic. This number has increased to 360 million as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond children, conflicts and climate change are hindering food security and nutrition for all. Sustainable Development Goal 2 to End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and its targets aim at ending all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Young men and women were also significantly impacted by the health and socio-economic shocks brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on mental health is significant, including clinical mental illness, isolation and chronic stress. Young people were disproportionately affected by school closures, social distancing and quarantine measures. In 2021 the IPU's Seventh Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians called parliaments and governments to pay attention to youth mental health and allocate resources to mental health care and services.

Parliamentarians can help improve the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents. They enact legislation, oversee budget formulation and implementation, and foster the participation of constituencies in policy making. Community outreach and public engagement are particularly important, as children and adolescents are often among the groups without a voice. Young MPs have a right and responsibility to actively engage and make informed, evidence-based decisions on all important issues concerning their constituencies, including the issue of health and nutrition.

To shed light on these issues of concern and mobilize young parliamentarians on solutions from a policy-making perspective, the IPU is organizing the second online briefing of its Empowerment Series for young parliamentarians on Health and Nutrition.

Objectives

The aims of the online briefing on health and nutrition are to:

- Raise awareness on women's, children's and adolescent's health, mental health, and nutrition among young parliamentarians and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Take stock of advancements and challenges towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3 in 2030 and identify possible legislation and policy related solutions;
- Inform parliamentarians about children's nutrition, and effective strategies and interventions to ensure healthy diets;
- Offer a platform to share good practices and policies between young parliamentarians.

Methodology

The second online briefing of the Empowerment Series for young parliamentarians will be organized in the form of a briefing by experts on women's, children's and adolescent's health, mental health, and nutrition. It will be followed by a discussion among young MPs aimed at sharing good practices on health and nutrition related policies and legislation.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Date, virtual venue and time

The online briefing will take place on Zoom, on 30 May 2022, from 13:00 to 15:00 CET (Geneva time).

Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkfu-rQD8rH9O4vjiaPP46Wf5BLSyr0ZDz>