



The 1992 International Conference on Nutrition:

How it was prepared, what was
achieved and lessons learned

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World Health
Organization



The International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

Rome, 5 – 11 December 1992



- ❑ Attended by more than 1,300 participants
- ❑ Including over 1,000 country representatives from 159 Member States and the European Community --- 140 were ministerial level
- ❑ Representatives of 15 UN organizations
- ❑ Over 150 other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations
- ❑ Adopted the ***World Declaration and Plan of action for Nutrition***



How did the 1992 ICN come about?

Global situation (late 1980s):

- ❑ There is enough food for all people and we have both the knowledge and the resources to eliminate hunger and to reduce all forms of malnutrition
 - ❑ But, approximately 780 million people in developing countries suffer from chronic food deficiency
 - ❑ There is a high prevalence of malnourished children under 5 years of age
 - ❑ More than 2000 million people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies
 - ❑ Hundreds of millions of people suffer from communicable diseases caused by contaminated food and water
 - ❑ And at the same time, NCDs are increasing in developed and developing countries, due to
 - Excessive or unbalanced dietary intakes
 - Changing lifestyles
- ➔
- ❑ Holding of the ICN was proposed at the 15th session of the Subcommittee on Nutrition of the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC/SCN) in 1989
 - ❑ Holding of the ICN was then approved by the FAO Conference in November 1989 and by the World Health Assembly in May 1990
 - ❑ In January 1991, FAO & WHO DGs sent a circular letter to all Member States



Objectives of the ICN

- ❑ examine the magnitude and extent of problems of hunger, malnutrition and diet-related diseases and analyse their causes and consequences
- ❑ develop and adopt a strategy and proposals for action to reach agreed nutrition and dietary goals
- ❑ Increase public awareness of the scope and extent of nutritional problems and how they might be resolved
- ❑ mobilize the financial resources required for strategies to promote healthy diets and nutritional well-being
- ❑ establish a global system for monitoring the nutritional status of populations at risk



The ICN Preparations

Global level:

- Framework paper on Meeting the Nutrition Challenge**
- Theme papers**
- Case studies**
- Main background paper on "Assessment and analysis of trends and current problems in nutrition"**

8 theme papers

- assessing, analysing and monitoring nutrition situations
- improving household food security
- protecting consumers through improved food quality and safety
- preventing and managing infectious diseases
- caring for the socio-economically deprived and nutritionally vulnerable
- preventing and controlling specific micronutrient deficiencies
- promoting appropriate diets and healthy lifestyles
- incorporating nutritional objectives, considerations and components into development policies and programmes



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2 approaches:

1. Topic approach
 - Specific conditions or problems
 - Particular interventions, programmes and policies
 - Nutritional impact of various development and macro-economic policies and programmes
2. Whole country approach
 - Brazil
 - Egypt
 - India



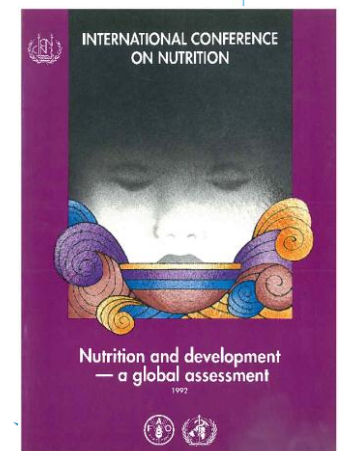
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The ICN Preparations

Global level:

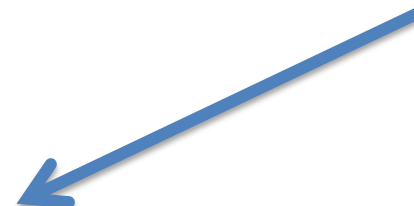
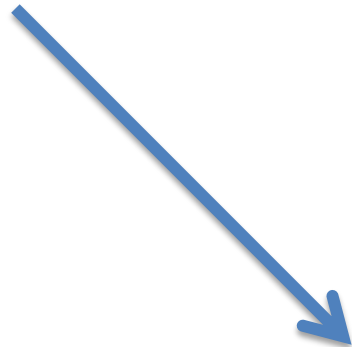
- Framework paper on Meeting the Nutrition Challenge
- Theme papers
- Case studies
- Main background paper on "Assessment and analysis of trends and current problems in nutrition"

Country level:

- Designation of an official country focal point
- Country paper --- nutrition problems, past experience in confronting them, plans for future action



Regional / Sub-regional technical consultations



Draft World Declaration and Plan of action for Nutrition



The International Conference on Nutrition (ICN)

A Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) held in Geneva, 18 – 24 August 1992:

- ❑ Reviewed and revised the draft of the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition

The Conference in Rome, 5 – 11 December 1992:

- ❑ Adopted the World Declaration and Plan of action for Nutrition





What was pledged:

To make all efforts to eliminate before the end of this decade (by 2000):

- famine and famine-related deaths
- starvation and nutritional deficiency diseases in communities affected by natural and man-made disasters
- iodine and vitamin A deficiencies

To reduce substantially within this decade (by 2000):

- starvation and widespread chronic hunger
- undernutrition, especially among children, women and the aged
- other important micronutrient deficiencies, including iron
- diet-related communicable and noncommunicable diseases
- social and other impediments to optimal breast-feeding
- inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene, including unsafe drinking-water



World summit for children (September 1990)

Nutrition Goals for Child Survival, Development and Protection

- 1) Reduction in severe, as well as moderate malnutrition among under-5 children by half of 1990 levels
- 2) Reduction of the rate of low birth weight (2.5 kg or less) to less than 10 per cent
- 3) Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels
- 4) Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders
- 5) Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness
- 6) Empowerment of all women to breast-feed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breastfeeding, with complementary food, well into the second year
- 7) Growth promotion and its regular monitoring to be institutionalized in all countries by the end of the 1990s
- 8) Dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production to ensure household food security



World Declaration on Nutrition

"..... we (the Ministers and the Plenipotentiaries) ... affirm our determination to revise or prepare, before the end of 1994, our national plans of action, including attainable goals and measurable targets, based on the principles and relevant strategies in the Plan of Action for Nutrition.
We pledge to implement it."



ICN Plan of Action for Nutrition

Strategies and actions:

- incorporating nutritional objectives, considerations and components into development policies and programmes;
- improving household food security;
- protecting consumers through improved food quality and safety;
- preventing and managing infectious diseases;
- promoting breast-feeding;
- caring for the socio-economically deprived and nutritionally vulnerable;
- preventing and controlling specific micronutrient deficiencies;
- promoting appropriate diets and healthy lifestyles;
- assessing, analyzing and monitoring nutrition situations.



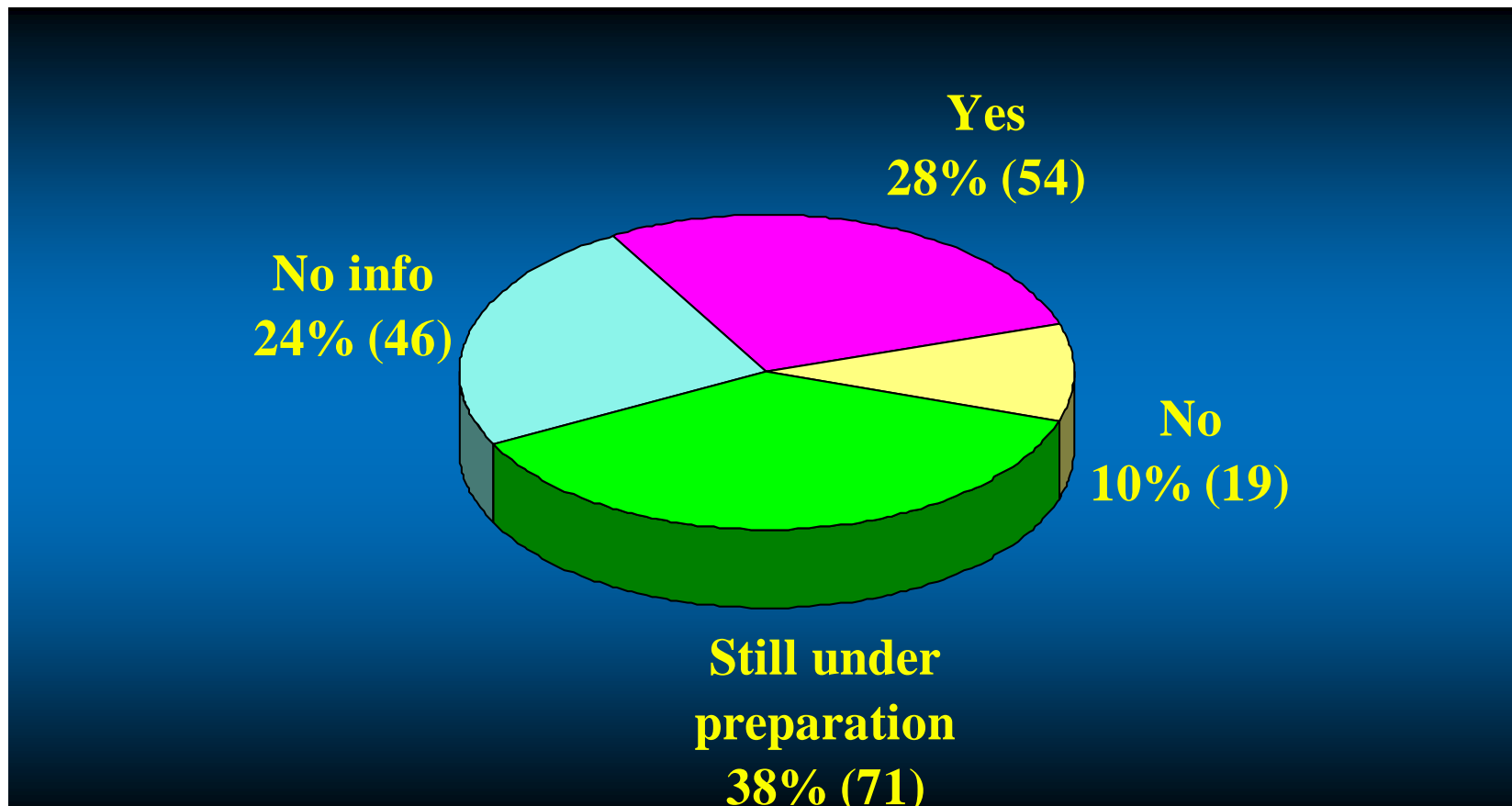
Did we follow through with this commitment?

What did the situation look like in 1994?



1994 Questionnaire Outcomes on Country Progress

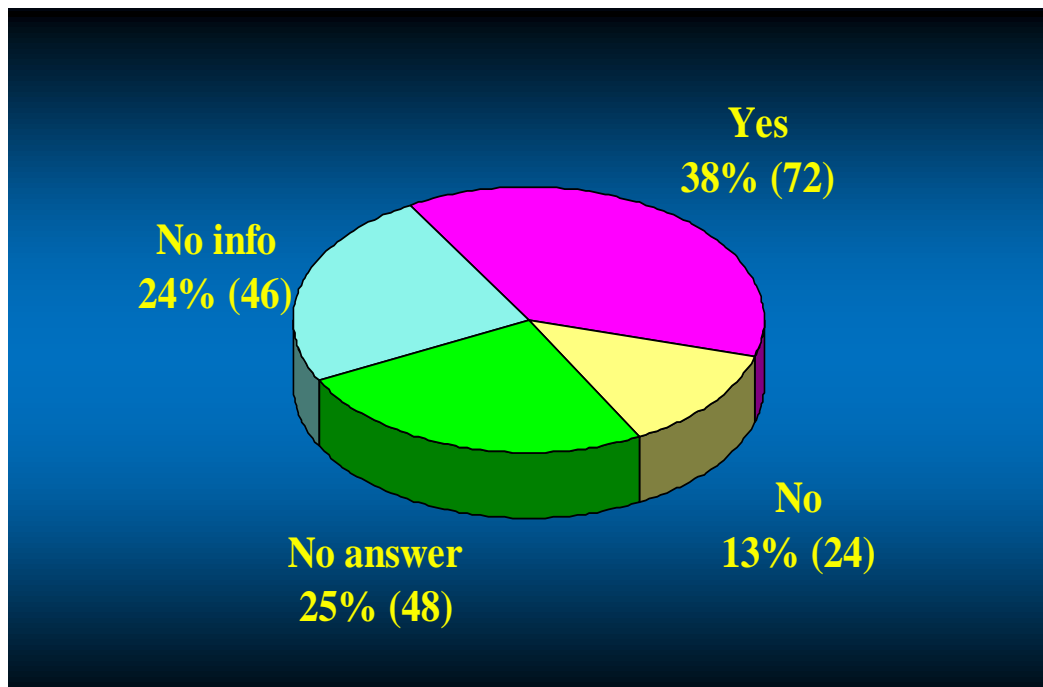
- 1 Has a national plan of action for nutrition been prepared, finalized or strengthened?



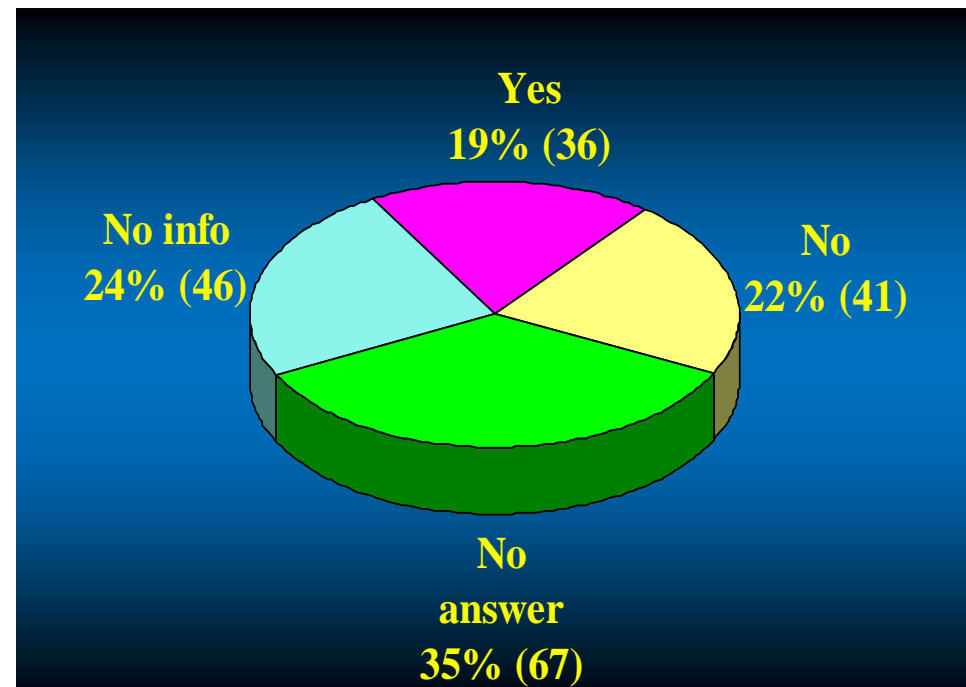


1994 Questionnaire Outcomes on Country Progress

- 2 Have successful efforts been made by the Government and NGOs to allocate/mobilize additional resources for implementing national plan of action for nutrition?



Government



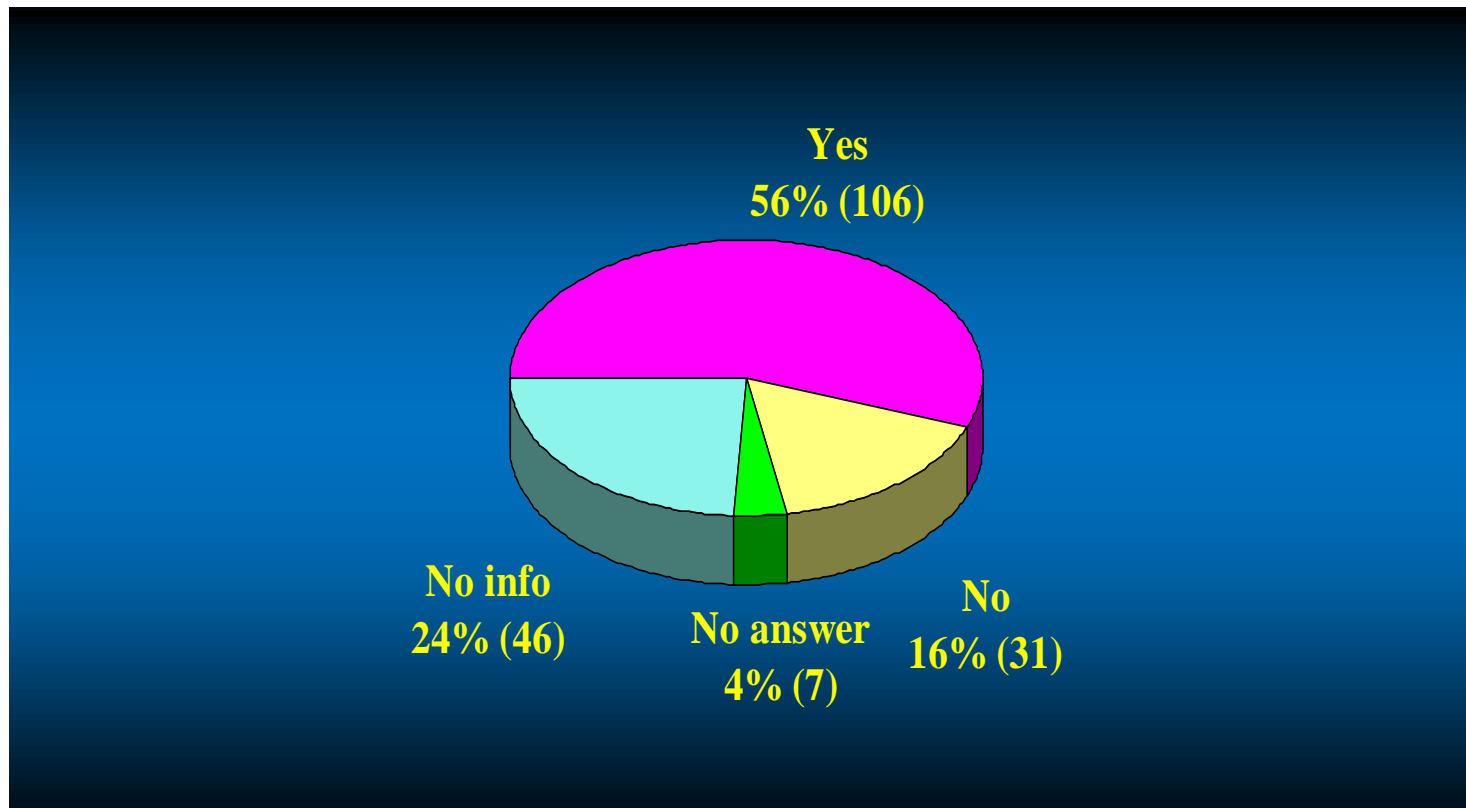
NGOs





1994 Questionnaire Outcomes on Country Progress

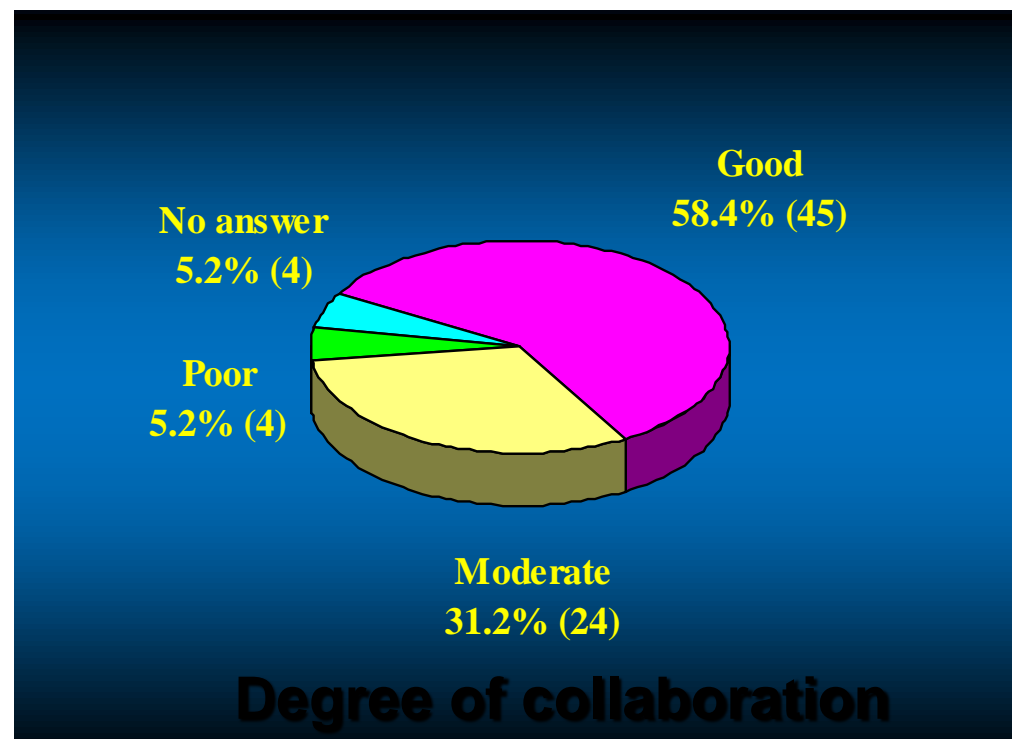
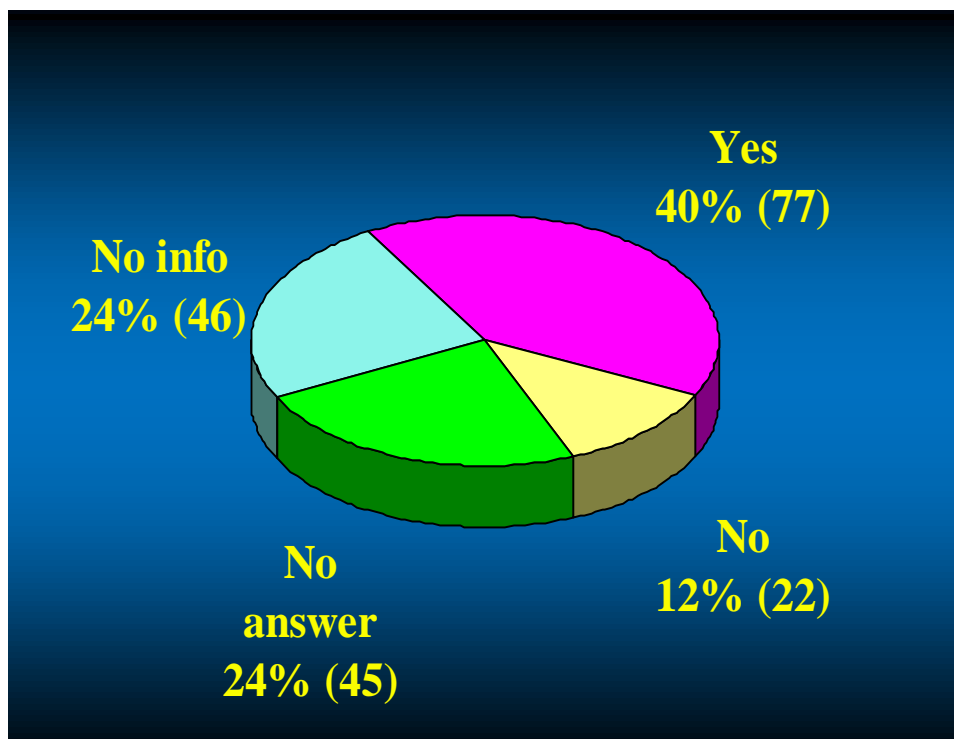
- 3 Have national intersectoral mechanisms been established for ensuring the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national plan of action?





1994 Questionnaire Outcomes on Country Progress

- 4 Is there any coordinating mechanism among UN agencies for working together with your government? If yes, what is the degree of collaboration?





Regional review meetings to evaluate the progress and experiences of countries in developing and implementing national food and nutrition plans and policies

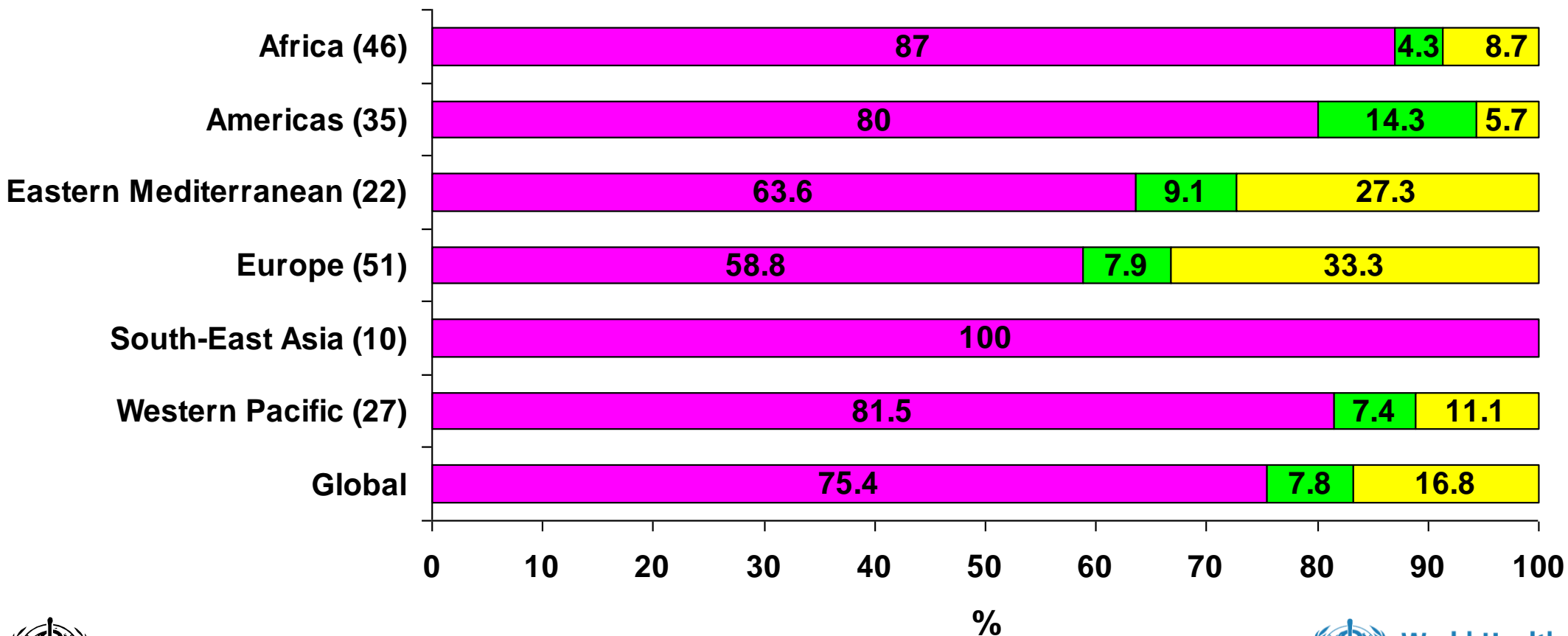
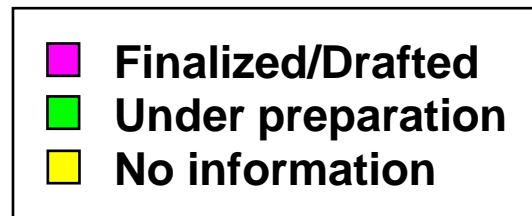
- 1. 1996 - 1997**
- 2. 1999 - 2001**





Global progress in developing and implementing National Nutrition Plans and Policies (191 countries)

1993-2001





Development of national food & nutrition plans & policies Obstacles & challenges faced by countries:

- 1. Lack of political support & commitment**
 - nutrition not being priority
 - influential ministry not leading & coordinating process among all stakeholders
 - not having high profile advocate
- 2. Lack of human capacity in nutrition**
- 3. Unavailability of reliable national food, nutrition and health data**
- 4. Political instability**





Some key elements for successfully translating national food & nutrition plans and policies into action

1. **Official governmental adoption & political support**
 - Not just having nutrition budget line
 - But specifically allocated "governmental funds" for nutrition
2. **Intersectoral coordinating mechanism**
 - location in the government
 - specifically allocated budget for their operation
 - members from all concerned stakeholders
3. **Ability to translate plans into action**
 - Prioritization of activities & designation of responsible sectors/ministries
4. **Incorporation of monitoring & evaluation mechanism**
5. **Support from donors**





Further challenges:

1. Emerging health & nutrition issues:

- nutrition transition: increasing overweight/obesity & nutrition-related NCDs
- fetal programming of chronic diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- biotechnology — GM foods
- micronutrients beyond the big three
- food safety (i.e. BSE)
- SARS, bird flue, H1N1

2. Continuously changing international context of macropolicy on food and nutrition

- e.g. World Food Summit 1996, WFS+5

3. Frequent turnover of staff -- Lack of institutional memory and continuity

4. Disconnect between national policy priority and regional / provincial level policy priority

- Low priority often given to nutrition in the region



Training “tools” for supporting countries in building national capacity:

1. Incorporating emerging issues & new international commitments relevant for each country context
2. Building intersectoral partnership for addressing priority food & nutrition issues
3. Translating plans into action
4. Strengthen advocacy for nutrition (i.e. Profiles)
5. Strengthening food & nutrition surveillance



Regional Capacity Building Training Workshops on Intersectoral Food & Nutrition Plans and Policies

