

Appendices

Appendix 1: Selection of International Examples

The INFORMAS group has compiled a list of examples where governments have demonstrated leadership and taken action to improve food environments. The two main criteria applied were strength (e.g. using independent nutrient profiling criteria) and comprehensiveness (e.g. including a broad range of age groups, settings or regions) **ASK STEFANIE WHAT THIS MEANS**. The document was revised by international experts and by the countries that are applying the Food-EPI **WHO, WHICH COUNTRIES?**

The list is partially based on the [NOURISHING](#) framework list of implemented government policy actions from around the world, which is regularly updated. NOURISHING is the policy framework of the [World Cancer Research Fund International](#), which formalises a comprehensive package of policies to promote healthy diets and reduce obesity and NCDs. Each letter in the word NOURISHING represents one of ten areas where governments need to take action. These 10 areas take place across three domains: food environment, food system and behaviour change communication. The criteria employed to compile the list of implemented government policy actions are set out in the box x below.

Box x: The NOURISHING framework criteria for inclusion of government policy actions implemented worldwide

Sourcing

The aim of the database is to be comprehensive in scope, although not exhaustive. We use the following sources:

- Academic publications (e.g. sourced via databases like PubMed or received via email listservs): reviews of policies published in academic articles
- Government websites to access source texts of legislation
- Reports and websites of international agencies (e.g. NCD status reports from WHO HQ and relevant reports from WHO Regional Offices; policy reviews from the European Commission Joint Research Centre)
- Civil society organisation news items circulated on twitter and through list serves (e.g. World Obesity Federation, NCD Alliance, Healthy Caribbean Coalition)
- Existing policy databases that we reference on the NOURISHING pages (e.g. Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity Legislation Database for policies related to obesity and diet-related diseases, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation database on State laws for School Snack Foods and Beverages, Centers for Disease Control Chronic Disease State Policy Tracking System, WHO Global Database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action)
- Conversations with policymakers and policy contacts in person, at meetings or conferences, or by email/phone
- Personal communication – we reach out to key contacts requesting information about any new relevant policy actions implemented or updates to policies currently included in NOURISHING
- *Ad hoc* communications from stakeholders about actions to include in the database
- Emails received to general policy inbox (policy@wcrf.org) with examples of policy actions

Inclusion criteria (cumulative)

In short, we include implemented government policies that are intended to reduce obesity and NCDs through promoting healthy diets. Specifically, the inclusion criteria are:

- Must be a policy related to reducing obesity and/or nutrition-related NCDs through promoting healthy diets, i.e. the policy aim must be a public health aim (and not have public health as an incidental or indirect aim). Policies related to physical activity and alcohol are excluded.
- Must be a policy related to one of the ten policy areas outlined in the NOURISHING framework.
- Must be a policy which is implemented (we define implementation as follows: the point in time when adopted policy actions are put into effect).
- Must be a policy action which is implemented by government or in partnership with government, or at least supported, sponsored or endorsed by government (e.g. industry pledges).

If we cannot find enough information to verify the above four inclusion criteria, we don't include the policy. Please note that "best practice" is NOT an inclusion criterion, i.e. inclusion in our database is not a value judgement on the effectiveness of the policy itself.

Verification

If we have enough information available to include the policy, we contact at least one regional or in-country contact to verify that the policy has been implemented (i.e. not only adopted, but actually put into effect), and to ascertain specific information about the policy for the description included in our database. If we have information that there is only partial or a step-wise implementation, we note it in the policy description. Going forward, we will also inquire about evaluations conducted on the policy in question.

Updating/removing policies

Public awareness campaigns included in "I" – "Inform People" include a start and end date as they are often short in duration. We keep them in even when no longer running to promote learning across countries.

All other policy areas: we don't systematically search the web to find out if the policies we have included have expired, were revoked or updated (we would love to, but we have no capacity to do so). If we know it will expire because of the legislative text, we include the information in the text. In all other cases, we will either hear about its update or expiry/revocation through our in-country policy contacts, or through newsletters/listservs. In this case, we either update the description according to the legislative changes, or we remove the reference to the policy as part of our quarterly updates.

In the future, all policies that have 'expired' or are no longer implemented remain in the policy database if they have been evaluated to investigate a public health impact (benefit, harm, or no effect). In this case, the policy description includes an end date for the policy and a brief description of the circumstances around the end date. It will also be identified to differentiate it from ongoing policies. Again, we want to promote cross-country learning, and removing a policy which has been evaluated would not promote this aim.

Source: Personal communication: Simone Bösch, Policy & Public Affairs Manager, World Cancer Research Fund International. June 2016.