

World Bank Food Security and Nutrition Analysis

Main Take-aways and Recommendations

1. **Greater nutrition investments are needed to match the need of the moment:** Based on our analysis, so far for FY23 nutrition operations, approvals are at \$1,858 million total (\$1,310 million for IDA, \$400 million for IBRD, and \$148 million grant financing). Overall, there are lower than anticipated approvals for nutrition operations in the current fiscal year (there are only 3 months left of this FY) compared to FY22 investment for nutrition, which amounted to \$3,631 million. Approvals would need to double in order to maintain FY22 levels. This is particularly concerning given that the Bank has indicated in the Evolution Roadmap document that there will be a sharp decline in IDA's lending capacity for FY24 & FY25 following the significant frontloading in FY23 for crisis response.
2. **Deliver on \$30 billion Food Security Commitment and Publish Report on Progress:** Since April 2022, the World Bank has committed \$10,744 million (\$10.7 billion) in active (new and ongoing) operations for nutrition and food security (\$6,960 million IDA, \$2,701 million IBRD, and \$1,904 million grant financing), meaning that they are falling behind to meet the \$30 billion pledge. However, in a joint statement in February with heads of FAO, WFP, and WTO, the **World Bank** said that the \$12 billion of new projects had all been committed ahead of schedule. These differences could be due to the inconsistencies in the publicly available project database. Nonetheless, the World Bank should fast-track approvals of the \$30 billion commitment and publicly share an update on progress to ensure accountability of this commitment.
3. **Address the slow pace of disbursements, especially for emergency/food crises projects:** The World Bank has often been criticized for prioritizing loan conditionalities over the speed of disbursements. This analysis could not verify if this is the reason for slow disbursements in nutrition and food security operations, but to date, less than a quarter of financing committed since FY18 has been disbursed. This warrants further investigation and reflection by management at the Bank given the need for the resources to flow to address pressing nutrition and food security challenges, as well as for the institution to meet its different commitments. For nutrition, only 25% of the committed funds have been disbursed across the 128 operations that were identified; while for food security, about 20% of these funding commitments have been disbursed.
4. **Improve transparency and accessibility and implement code reforms:** Investments in nutrition and food security are measured by the World Bank through a theme code. The code reforms that went into effect at the beginning of FY18 created separate codes for "nutrition" and for "food security", but they have not been implemented in the project database. Thus, the database still uses the "Nutrition and Food Security" theme code (68) to capture these investments, and not all projects include a theme code. In addition, through a previous analysis (done in 2020), the public database provided proportion breakdown for involved/target sectors by project. This is currently not available in the public database, so for the projects that encompass both food security *and* nutrition, it is impossible to know how much is going to each, as well as how much funding is considered nutrition-specific and -sensitive. **Thus, clearer and more consistent coding in the public database is needed.** Regarding global nutrition commitments, although it seems that they have met all of their recent commitments (in terms of money programmed, not disbursed), the World Bank reports on progress towards total commitments via the Nutrition for Growth Commitment Tracker and Global Nutrition Report Nutrition Accountability Framework (NAF), but it doesn't provide a detailed breakdown of where this money is going, disbursements, etc., thus commitments cannot be effectively assessed based on the information publicly available. **More transparency and accessibility in data is needed, or the Bank needs to publish their own analysis and report on their commitments on a consistent basis.**