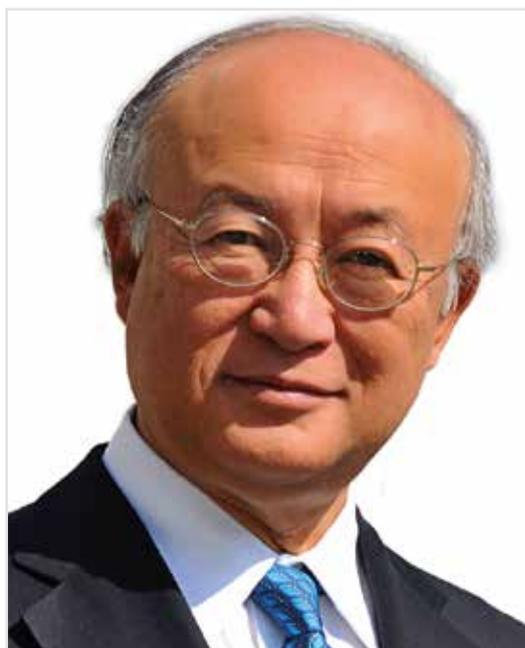


THE IAEA FOCUSES ON GLOBAL NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

For over fifty years, the IAEA has been helping its Member States to harness peaceful nuclear science and technology to bring demonstrable benefits to their people. Nutrition is one area in which the IAEA's partnership with Member States has steadily deepened.



Ensuring the right nutrition can have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn, and emerge out of poverty.

Malnutrition remains one of the biggest killers of young children. Eradicating malnutrition and improving the nutrition of children worldwide are among the Millennium Development Goals, which the IAEA is committed to supporting. One out of ten children born in developing countries will die before their fifth birthday — that is more than 10 million children who die every year. For infants and children under the age of two, the consequences of undernutrition are particularly severe, often permanent. The first two years of a child's life are vital to shaping a healthy and prosperous future. During this period, children are especially vulnerable to poor nutrition and unsatisfactory hygienic conditions. Ensuring the right nutrition can have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn, and emerge out of poverty. This, in turn, can make an important contribution

to enhancing a society's long-term health, stability and prosperity.

The IAEA is playing a valuable role by encouraging the deployment of nuclear and isotope techniques to develop cost-effective nutritional interventions that can significantly improve children's health. For example, the IAEA contributes technical expertise in the use of stable isotope techniques to help determine whether children — and their mothers — are being properly nourished. Such techniques have been used as research tools in nutrition for many years. The IAEA helps Member States to use these techniques to evaluate their national nutrition programmes and improve public health policy.

The IAEA supports the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, through the United Nations System Network. The Sun Movement was launched at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2010 and is founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It aims to significantly reduce malnutrition in participating countries.

This issue of the IAEA Bulletin focuses on the IAEA's work in nutrition. Topics include our initiatives to measure human milk intake in breastfed infants, lean body mass (muscle mass) in lactating mothers, and the bioavailability of iron in infants and young children. We also look at the paradox of the simultaneous occurrence of both undernutrition and overnutrition that is often found within communities, and even households, across the globe.

The IAEA is committed to doing everything it can to make peaceful nuclear technology available to help give all the children of the world a brighter future.

Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director General