

Global CAN_I Indicators

The Global Child and Adolescent-Centred Nutrition Indicators (CAN_I) addresses the need for nutritional measurement where current indicators, such as biometric and anthropometric, fail to adequately and holistically identify a child's vulnerability to malnourishment before it occurs. The CAN_I indicators align with the UNICEF 2020-2030 Nutrition Strategy, which outlines program priorities of *(1) nutritious foods and (2) healthy food environments, in schools and beyond; (3) micronutrient supplementation and deworming; (4) nutrition education in school curricula; and (5) healthy dietary practices* (UNICEF 2021) for all children and adolescents. The indicators will compliment metrics developed by The Global Action for Measurement of Adolescent health (GAMA) and UNICEF adolescent nutrition monitoring technical advisory group. The CAN_I metrics provide researchers, NGO's, clinicians and policy makers the ability to measure a child's environment as a determinant of adequate nutrition, continuing growth and positive health outcomes.

The development of CAN_I metrics used the Young and Resilient Research Centre's child-centred approach to run participatory workshops with children and adolescents aged 10-18 years in Australia. Participants completed participatory activities such as food environment mapping, games and worksheets that allowed them to express what they thought about food and nutrition in various aspects, from school to influences to food systems and security. Data gathered from these workshops was thematically analysed, generating 16 critical themes, which became the foundations for 58 draft key indicators for nutrition under the 5 domains of the ecological model. While the indicators are measurable, they are also living, allowing them the flexibility to be adaptable as future environments and circumstances change.

The indicators are ***currently in the piloting phase***, with the next step to pilot the indicators with children and adolescents globally. The Global CAN_I project is funded and supported by Western Sydney University. For more information on the CAN-I study or becoming a partner, please contact catharine.fleming@westernsydney.edu.au. If you would like to use the pilot draft indicators in your work, please use the below citation for referencing:

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