

How to create healthier food environments: the roles of public and private sector action

The conference's theme is "*Improving Nutrition, unlocking potential, accelerating change*". We all know that a multi-sectoral/multi-actor approach is key in making sustainable progress, especially with regard to the universality of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the context of malnutrition in all its forms, this raises questions about appropriate roles for private and public sector agencies – an issue that's been hotly contested in global nutrition for decades.

Both public and private sectors are active in shaping environments and implementing actions that impact on nutrition – for better or worse -- in different contexts. In this short symposium, we seek to raise questions and hopefully shed some light on the appropriate roles of public and private action, and their interactions, in the southern African region. In doing so, we will draw upon global experience.

We can, for example, consider experiences with public-private partnerships for nutrition, with corporate accountability initiatives that pressure companies to 'do no harm', and with governmental regulation (including taxation) to limit damaging practices – to name just three strategies.

Intended audience

- Anyone interested in the major issues and challenges regarding public and private sector roles in creating and sustaining healthier food environments in southern Africa, in order to address malnutrition in all its forms.

Aim and outcomes

- Through a rapid-fire set of presentations, we seek to share some perspectives (regional and global) on the respective roles of public and private sector organizations in cultivating and sustaining healthier food environments in the southern Africa region. Because the arena for action is so broad, we will outline principles and practices, as well as sharing more specific evidence and experience.

Agenda

10.05: Stuart Gillespie (Chair)
Namukolo Covic (IFPRI, Addis Ababa)
Corinna Hawkes (City University, UK)
Nzama Lawrence Mbalati (HEALA, South Africa)
Scott Drimie (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

10.35: Q&A, discussion

10.57: Wrap-up

11.00 Close