

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



## INVITATION

We invite abstract submissions for oral presentations, posters, and workshops at the World Public Health Nutrition Congress 2024, convened by the World Public Health Nutrition Association in partnership with the University of Westminster. The Congress will be held in London from Monday 10 June to Thursday 13 June 2024.

## CONFERENCE THEME

The 2024 Congress theme is **'Questioning the Solutions: has the Decade of Nutrition delivered?'**

The aim of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (the Decade) was to accelerate country implementation of commitments to end hunger and to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, to achieve the 2025 global targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition, non-communicable disease risk factors, and to contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Trends in child wasting, maternal anaemia, and child/adult obesity rates remain high. The number of people experiencing acute food insecurity and requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance continues to increase, with over a quarter of a billion facing acute hunger and people in several countries being on the brink of starvation.

These trends are attributed to economic shocks, wars, natural disasters linked to climate change, and the Covid19 pandemic, alongside an undermining of otherwise resilient local food systems by global trade and commercial inroads of multinational, agribusiness, and ultra-processed food companies. WPHNA recognises the role of local food systems, agroecology, and sovereign food knowledge to be the better solution to address food security, as opposed to strengthening the prevailing industrial food system and power of multinational agricultural and food companies. Current dietary trends based on unhealthy and unsustainably produced food will exacerbate health and environmental risks to people and planet. As obesity and the global burden of non-communicable diseases worsens, the effects of food production on greenhouse-gas emissions, biodiversity loss, and water and land use will reduce the Earth's systems stability.

Throughout the Decade, WPHNA has argued for a greater focus on human rights and greater public participation in the Decade, stressing the need for paying urgent attention to the social, economic, political, and environmental determinants of nutrition. WPHNA envisions a focus on advancing the rights of the disadvantaged and marginalized groups most affected by malnutrition, with human rights providing the best framework for policy coherence and partnerships across the many sectors needing to act to address malnutrition's root causes.

The World Public Health Nutrition Congress 2024 is being held one year before the end of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Congress will question the current global solutions to addressing malnutrition in all its forms. We encourage participants to contribute to its success by asking: What worked, what not? Why? Where to now? Ultimately, we will be aiming to ensure that nutrition targets truly become truly political priorities and that solutions include the voices of the marginalised more than those of the powerful.



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We will be challenging the increasing voice of corporate actors in planning and policy making in the face of the lack of voice and influence of the populations most effected by increasing food insecurity and related food system challenges such as ongoing threats to food sovereignty.

We will examine the solutions being funded and implemented and the public health nutrition capacity needs of countries, including capacity building and training given to health and other sector nutrition service providers.

We will ask where public health nutrition sits within the global health workforce and global governance structure. Ultimately, we will be demanding action to deliver on the human rights to food and on good nutrition and health.

## ABSTRACT THEMES

The three-day program is designed to provide lively and productive discussions and contributions from people engaged in public health nutrition and associated fields. We invite you to submit abstracts related to research, policy, or practice under the following themes:

1. Sustainable, resilient food systems supporting health.
2. Health systems delivery for optimal nutrition.
3. Social protection to ensure food security for all.
4. Trade and investment for improved nutrition.
5. Safe and supportive environments for nutrition.
6. Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition.
7. Building capacity for public health nutrition action.

Given the Congress aims to build on innovative ideas for addressing the above themes, we are particularly interested in solutions-driven papers that cover the following sub-themes:

- a. Human rights, citizen engagement, and action for public interest.
- b. Partnerships and alliances that shift power to those most affected.
- c. Cross-sectoral actions free from conflict of interest.

All these, as much as possible, related to the Decade's performance.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All potential speakers will be required to disclose any potential conflicting or competing interest of themselves or co-authors when submitting an abstract to the Congress, and when presenting.

The Congress will not accept abstracts from authors who have ties and alliances with any organisation conceived, founded, funded, led, controlled, or organised by corporations or companies whose products, practices, or policies conflict with public health goals. These organisations include but are not limited to:



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- Any **food, drink, arms, tobacco, or pharmaceutical industry corporation or any representative or associated organisation.**
- Any non-profit or charitable organisation whose governing body has **more than 25 percent** of its members employed by or associated with any corporation or organisation as indicated above.

Potential conflicting or competing interests include:

1. Employment and other relevant paid activities such as consultancy or directorship.
2. Honorary positions or association at any substantial level.
3. Project funding and research grants.
4. Consultancies, grants or honoraria for research, support to attend conferences and meetings, or to cover travel and accommodation.
5. Stocks, donations, gifts, and other benefits that may be relevant.

The general guide is to disclose any interests financial or otherwise that if disclosed by a third party might cause reasonable adverse comments, embarrassment, or other difficulty. If in doubt, please include possible interests. Further guidelines are available in the [WPHNA COI policy](#).

## PRESENTATION TYPES

### Oral Presentations

Contributed oral presenters will have a total of 10 minutes (8 minutes for presentation, 2 minutes for questions). The session will have a nominated chair and rapporteur, 6-8 speakers, and a generous 20-minute period for discussion and recommendations at the end.

### Poster Presentations

Designated periods will be allocated in the program when presenters will attend their posters to take questions and discuss their work.

### Workshops

Workshops may be 90 minutes or up to half-day. They should aim to explore and make recommendations on knowledge, policy or action related to an issue relevant to a conference theme OR provide participants with an opportunity to develop a new skill relevant to public health nutrition practice. Interactive formats are mandatory.



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## ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

### Abstract Submission

- All intended presentations require the submission of an abstract in the specified format via the [Congress abstract submission portal](https://wphnc2024.exordo.com/) (<https://wphnc2024.exordo.com/>). An account must be created before you can submit.
- All abstracts will be subject to peer review.
- Whilst every effort will be made to accept an abstract for the nominated presentation type, the Scientific Committee reserves the right to allocate a different presentation type if appropriate.
- All correspondence will be sent to the person whose name and email address is entered with the abstract.
- Abstracts must be accompanied by a completed Conflict of Interest Declaration as part of the abstract submission form.
- A 150-word author biography and optional profile photo will be required.
- Submissions can be edited up until the submission end date.

### Abstract Format

- The abstract title should be no longer than **12 words**. It should be bold, Arial, size 13 font, lower case except for beginning letter of first word and proper nouns.
- Authors should be listed under the title in Arial size 12 font, underlined, with affiliations identified by superscript number and details provided in italics below.
- All abstracts should be a **maximum of 250 words** in Arial, size 11 font, single-spaced simple text paragraphs, with embedded, underlined headings and without images or tables.
- Paragraphs should be left hand justified, with normal margins and have 10 point spacing between.
- **Poster and oral abstracts** should include the following headings: background and aims, description and recommendations, and significance.
- **Workshop abstracts** should identify the aims/learning objectives of the workshop, background, process, and how the workshop findings will be used and disseminated for capacity building.

**Abstract submission closes on Sunday 15th October 2023, at 11:59pm GMT.**

Presentation offers will be advised by late November 2023.

### MORE INFORMATION

For further information, please contact [wphnc2024@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:wphnc2024@westminster.ac.uk)



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