



LOW IN
SUGAR

LOW IN
SATURATED
FATS

LOW IN
TRANS
FATS

LOW IN
SODIUM

CIVIL SOCIETY POSITION PAPER ON THE FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY

February 2025



CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	3
Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Urgent Action Needed to Tackle Malnutrition, Obesity	4
2.1. Marketing of Unhealthy Foods and beverages to children	4
3.0. The Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy, 2003	5
3.1. Recognition of food as a human right	5
3.2. Regulation of the processing of food to ensure it is healthy & safe	6
3.3. Regulation of marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages	6
4. Comparative approached with FOPWL	8
5. Recommendations	9
6. Conclusion	9
Annex I: WHO Nutrient Profiling Model for the African Region	11
Annex II: Illustration of comparative country approaches FOPWL regulations	16

Acknowledgement

CEFROHT acknowledges expert knowledge Professor Christopher Mbazira of the School of Law, Makerere University put to developing this paper. The comments made by Elinami Mungure and Bobi Odiko are acknowledged.

CEFROHT

Copyright 2025

Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT).

Summary

This is a Civil Society Position Paper on the Food and Nutrition Policy authored by the Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights. The purpose of the paper is to make recommendations intended to improve the Uganda National Food and Nutrition Policy in ways which include Front of the Package Warning Labelling (FOPWL).

This is intended to promote food safety by protecting consumers of processed foods from foods to be realized by regulating not only the processing but also the marketing and advertisement of food and beverages. Packaging should include clear front-of-pack nutritional information and warning labels to help consumers make informed choices, particularly regarding foods and beverages high in sugar, salt, and fats. This will reduce case consumption of nutrients harmful to health, including ingredients that pre-dispose both adults and children to obesity and non-communicable diseases.

The paper makes the following recommendations: (i) Include FOPWL in the Food and Nutrition Policy; (ii) Maintain FOPWL in the Food and Nutrition Bill, 2024; (iii) Adopt FOPWL regulations under the Public Health Act; (iv) Include marketing restrictions in the Food and Nutrition Policy; and (v) Include provisions on public food procurement in schools in the Food and Nutrition Policy to ensure healthy foods.

I. Introduction

Uganda is reviewing the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy (UFNP) of 2003. One of the key aspects that should be focused on is food safety. This can be achieved through a package of healthy food policies like system of Front of the Package Warning Labelling (FOPWL). According to the WHO, one of the key drivers of not only NCDs but also obesity is the “consumption of foods high in sugar, salt, and fats, including saturated fats and trans-fats”.¹ Most affected are children when exposed to media that advertises the foods above. To counter these unhealthy foods, WHO has indicated that this can be achieved by “maintaining healthy weights from childhood and consuming foods that are low in saturated fat, trans-fatty acids and salt”.² One of the ways of managing this is to regulate the marketing of the unhealthy foods high in sugar, salt and fats as mentioned above.

One of the outcomes of the Sixty-Third World Health Assembly was a Resolution on Marketing of Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children.³ It was resolved that states should “identify the most suitable policy approach given national circumstances and develop new and/or strengthen existing policies that aim to reduce the impact on children of marketing of foods high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars, or salt”.⁴ The WHO has also made very specific recommendations for strategies that could be adopted to manage the marketing and consumption of the foods: (i) Fiscal measures such as taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs); (ii) Implementing recommendations on the marketing of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children; and (iii) Implementing a standardized nutrient labelling system with interpretative front-of-pack warning labelling (FOPWL). The purpose of this paper is to make recommendations that could inform the review of the UFNP in order to ensure that it regulates processing and marking food in order to protect the public of unsafe foods.

¹ World Health Organisation Nutrient Profile Model for the WHO African Region: A Tool for Implementing WHO Recommendations on the Marketing of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages to Children (2019), at p 1.

² As above.

³ Sixty-Third World Health Assembly, 17th – 21st May 2010, Geneva, Switzerland, WHA63/2010/REC/1, Resolution WHA63.14.

⁴ As above, para 2(2).

It is argued that to achieve this, the Policy should incorporate improve the Uganda National Food and Nutrition Policy in ways which include FOPWL. FOPWL are labels on the front of food packages which indicate the nutrient profile of a product indicated in a simple and graphic manner to inform and warn consumers of the product.

2. Urgent Action Needed to Tackle Malnutrition, Obesity

There are several studies in Uganda on the state of malnutrition and the causes of these.⁵ It has been demonstrated that mortality of children under 5 years of age due to acute malnutrition is high.⁶ A study of landslide prone Bududa demonstrated that underweight was at 37.7%, wasting at 13.3%, and overweight at 4.3%.⁷ A number of proposals are made to overcome the problems, including improving information systems in order to enable good food saturation and availability in the country.⁸

While undernutrition remains a big problem as demonstrated by studies above, obesity also presents itself as a problem. Consumption of foods that are low in nutrients yet high in sugar, something which is contributing to obesity.⁹ Indeed, a 2024 study shows that Uganda is leading as far as the rates of consumption of sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) is concerned.¹⁰ Uganda is also “fighting with persistent problems of undernutrition, stunting, and wasting while concurrently experiencing a burden of overnutrition due to the rapid rise in overweight, obesity, and diet-related noncommunicable diseases”.¹¹ Obesity and overweight are on the rise. Overweight was 9.77% in 1995 and 16.21% in 2016 and obesity moved from 1.99% in 1995 to 6.21% in 2016.¹² This data shows that the country is sitting with a big problem, showing that between 1996 and 2016, overweight almost doubled and obesity tripled.

There are various factors associated with overweight, including low physical activity, higher sedentary behavior, dietary behaviour including consumption of foods high in sugar, and psychosocial factors, among others.¹³ While physical activity as suggested here may play a role, it remains important to deal with the dietary related factors mentioned here.

2.1. Marketing of Unhealthy Foods and beverages to children

In Uganda, as in many countries, the overconsumption of foods high in fat, sugar, and salt is a major risk factor for childhood obesity and overweight.

⁵ See Yusuf Adebayo Adebisi et al “Prevalence and Socio-economic Impacts of Malnutrition Among Children in Uganda” (2019) *12 Nutrition and Metabolic Insights* at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1178638819887398>

⁶ Damalie Nalwanga et al “Mortality among children under five years admitted for routine care of severe acute malnutrition: a prospective cohort study from Kampala, Uganda” (2020) *20 BMC Pediatrics* 1.

⁷ Aziiza Nahalomo et al “Malnutrition and Associated Risk Factors among Children 6–59 Months Old in the Landslide-Prone Bududa District, Eastern Uganda:A Cohort Study’ (2022) *6 Current Developments in Nutrition*, available at <<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2475299122000178>> (accessed on 13th November 2024).

⁸ As above.

⁹ Morgan Bradley et al “Obesity and malnutrition in children and adults:A clinical review” (2023) *28 Obesity Pillars* 1

¹⁰ Lara-Castor et “Intake of sugar sweetened beverages among children and adolescents in 185 countries between 1990 and 2018:Population Based Study” (2024) *BMJ* 386, availabl at <<https://www.bmjjournals.org/content/386/bmj-2024-079234>>

¹¹ Oumy Erica Wie Dia et al “Mapping of outdoor food and beverage advertising around primary and secondary schools in Kampala city, Uganda” (2021) *21 BMC Public Health* 707, at p 3.

¹² Yaya S and Ghose B “Trend in overweight and obesity among women of reproductive ageing Uganda: 1995–2016” (2019) *5 Obesity Science & Practice*, available at <<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/osp4.351>> (accessed on 13th November 2024).

¹³ Karl Peltzer and Supa Pengpid “Overweight and Obesity and Associated Factors among School-Aged Adolescents in Ghana and Uganda” (2011) *8 International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

This issue is largely driven by the uncontrolled and aggressive marketing of unhealthy foods and studies have shown that most of the advertisements of foods and beverages are usually done around schools. It has been established that 86% of food adverts were for unhealthy foods with an average of 36 unhealthy food ads around each school.¹⁴

Unfortunately, however, there is no policy or law regulating food and non-alcoholic beverage advertisement in Uganda which is mostly affected children exposed unhealthy foods. For instance, there are no legal or policy guidelines on advertising and on the production and distribution of foods with high sugar, salts and fats. Regulations on food fortification are acknowledged.¹⁵ These though cannot be used with respect to food sweetening and fat processing, the exception are the Food and Drugs (Marketing of Infant and Young Child Foods) Regulations. There are therefore a number of regulatory gaps that need to be filled. As illustrated below, the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy of 2003 has not adequately done this.

3.0. The Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy, 2003

The UFNP, adopted in 2003, aims to ensure food security and improve nutrition through multi-sectoral efforts. Key objectives include promoting food availability, accessibility, and affordability, integrating nutrition education into training, and enhancing food safety and quality.¹⁶ The overall objective of the policy was to promote the nutritional status of the people of Uganda through multi-sectoral and coordinated interventions that focus on food security, improved nutrition and increased incomes. This paper assesses the extent to which the Policy deals the recognition of food as a human right; regulation of the processing of food to ensure it is healthy and safe; and regulation of marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages.

3.1. Recognition of food as a human right

The 1995 Constitution does not expressly recognise the right to adequate food. However, it has several provisions which could be used to read the right into the law. One such provision is Objective XIV of the National Objective and Directive Principles of State Policy which requires the state to fulfill the fundamental rights of all Ugandans to social justice and economic development by among others ensuring the enjoyment of adequate food security. Objective XXII requires the state take appropriate steps to encourage people to grow and store adequate food. The state is also required to establish national food reserves.

The UFNP acknowledges the right to food as a human right, aligning with international agreements such as the ICESCR and the African Charter. It emphasizes the need for availability, accessibility, and quality food, although there is a lack of explicit commitments for state accountability and rights protection. This recognition is reflected in the objectives of the UFNP, which includes the objective “to ensure availability, accessibility, affordability, of food in quantities and qualities sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals sustainably”.

This objective appears to directly draw from the elaboration of the right in General Comment No. 12. In addition, almost all the areas of focus detailed by the UFNP somehow contribute to the realisation of the elements of the right. The relevant areas of focus include the following:

¹⁴ Oumy (note 12 above), at p 8.

¹⁵ See for instance Food and Drugs (Food Fortification) Regulations, SI 2005 No. 2.; the Food and Drugs (Marketing of Infant and Young Child Foods) Regulations, SI 278 – 1; the Food and Drugs (Control of Quality) (Iodated Salt) Regulations, SI 278 – 2; the Food and Drugs (Prohibition of the Use of Cyclamate) Regulations, SI 278 – 3; and the Food and Drugs (Prohibition of the Use of Violet No. 1) Regulations, SI 278 – 4.

¹⁶ Food and Nutrition Policy, at p 4.

Focus Area	Right to Food Element
Food supply and accessibility	Availability, accessibility
Food processing and preservation	Availability, quality
Food storage, marketing and distribution	Availability and accessibility
Food aid	Availability, accessibility
Food standards and quality control	Quality
Nutrition	Dietary needs
Gender, food and nutrition	Non-discrimination

In spite of the above, the Policy does not clearly define the rights of persons as rights holders and the obligations of the state as a duty bearer.

3.2. Regulation of the processing of food to ensure it is healthy & safe

Food processing has been defined as to include “a wide variety of treatments on food materials such as mechanical treatment, heating, cooling, drying, high pressure, acid and alkaline treatments, fermentation and more”.¹⁷ Food processing can on the negative side produce harmful chemical compositions.¹⁸ Some of the benefits of food processing have been identified to include “destruction of food-borne microbes and toxins, improved bioavailability of nutrients, extension of shelf life, improved sensory characteristics and functional properties”.¹⁹

The UFNP recognizes the importance of food processing and aims to promote traditional food processing methods while encouraging fortification. However, it does not directly address the regulation of unhealthy foods high in sugar, salt, and fat, despite the growing concern around processed foods.

3.3. Regulation of marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages

Marketing of food and beverages plays a big role in consumers making their food choices and could entice people to consume food, both healthy and unhealthy. Yet, food choices and intake are some of the crucial factors that influence a person’s health and nutritional status.²⁰ Indeed, some studies have established the relationship between food advertising and obesity.²¹ Most affected in this regard are children.²² It is for these reasons that many jurisdictions have now moved to regulate the marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages.

¹⁷ Jinkai Zheng and Hang Xiao “The Effects of Food Processing on Food Components and Their Health Functions” (2022) 2 *Frontiers in Nutrition* 1, at p 1.

¹⁸ As above.

¹⁹ Ann Augustin et al “Role of food processing in food and nutrition security” (2016) 56 *Trends in Food Science & Technology* 115, at p 117.

²⁰ Sowley Kalog et al “Food advertisement influences food decision making and not nutritional status:a study among university students in Ghana” (2022) 8 *BMC Nutrition* 1, at p 2.

²¹ See Juan Rodríguez Delgado et al “Unhealthy food advertising. A position paper by the AEP Committee on Nutrition and Breastfeeding” (2022) 97 *Anales de Pediatría* 206.

²² Megan LoDolce Food Marketing to Children:A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing? Obesity Action Coalition, available at <<https://www.obesityaction.org/resources/food-marketing-to-children-a-wolf-in-sheeps-clothing/>> (accessed on 16th November 2024).

The WHO recommends mandatory regulation of marketing of foods high in fat, sugar and salt to children with policies to protect children from the harmful impacts of aggressive and pervasive marketing by the food industry.²³ One of the strategies which has been used to regulate marketing is by prescribing the forms the marketing should take. This includes what has been described as Nutrient Profiling intended to inform policies and regulations on FOPWL, marketing restrictions, and school feeding to enable consumers make informed decisions on healthy and unhealthy foods. WHO has looked at FOPWL as a “tool through which governments can guide consumers to make informed food purchases and healthier eating choices”.²⁴ It is in this regard that WHO has defined FOPWL as labelling systems that: (i) are presented on the front of food packages (in the principal field of vision) and can be applied across the packaged retail food supply; (ii) comprise an underpinning nutrient profile that considers the overall nutrition quality of the product or the nutrients of concern for NCDs (or both); and (iii) present simple, often graphic information on the nutrient content or nutritional quality of products, to complement the more detailed nutrient declarations usually provided on the back of food packages.²⁵

In the same regard, WHO has defined “nutrient profiling” as “the science of classifying or ranking foods according to their nutritional composition” and take different forms, including “setting threshold amounts that meet a nutrition guideline”, “applying algorithms for food products’ overall nutrition profile” or “basing criteria on nutrient reference values”.²⁶ To support countries, WHO has undertaken regional-based profiling, thereby producing a Nutrient Profiling Model for each region, Africa inclusive. Focus among others being on profiling of foods for children.²⁷ The model profiles various food categories and for each gives the following information: Total fat; saturated fat; total sugar; sodium; and energy. WHO has defined what it has called “Ranges of population nutrient intake goals.

WHO has guided that FOPWL’s focus should be on “packaged, manufactured, processed, or ultra-processed foods that are required to carry a nutrient declaration, presented as ready for sale to the consumer in the retail sector”.²⁸ In addition, WHO has provided guidance on steps that should be taken to establish an FOPWL framework:

- Contextual analysis
- Confirmation of aims, scope and principles
- Establish a government-led stakeholder engagement process
- Select the FOPWL system format

According to WHO, the FOPWL should be guided by certain principles. WHO details these under four titles: (i) Overarching principles; (ii) Principles to collaborative approach to developing FOPL; (iii) Principles for FOPL format; and (iv) Principles on implementation of FOPWL system. WHO details these.²⁹

23 [https://www.who.int/news/item/03-07-2023-who-recommends-stronger-policies-to-protect-children-from-the-harmful-impact-of-food-marketing#:~:text=The%20guideline%20recommends%20countries%20implement,%2For%20salt%20\(HFSS\).](https://www.who.int/news/item/03-07-2023-who-recommends-stronger-policies-to-protect-children-from-the-harmful-impact-of-food-marketing#:~:text=The%20guideline%20recommends%20countries%20implement,%2For%20salt%20(HFSS).)

24 World Health Organisation Guiding principles and framework manual for front-of-pack labelling for promoting healthy diet available at <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/healthy-diet/guidingprinciples-labelling-promoting-healthydiet.pdf?sfvrsn=65e3a8c1_7&download=true>

25 As above.

26 As above.

27 WHO Nutrient Profiling for the African Region: A Tool for Implementing WHO Recommendations on Marketing of Foods and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children.

28 WHO (note 38 above).

29 As above.

Dietary factor	Goal
Total fat	15–30%
Saturated fatty acids	<10%
Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)	6–10%
n-6 Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)	5–8%
n-3 Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)	1–2%
Trans-fatty acids	<1%
Monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs)	By difference
Total carbohydrate	55–75%
Free sugars	<10%
Protein	10–15%
Cholesterol	<300 mg per day
Sodium chloride (sodium)	<5 g per day (<2 g per day)
Fruits and vegetables	≥400 g per day
Total dietary fibre	From foods
Non-starch polysaccharides (NSP)	From foods

Annex I: Detailed profiling model designed for Africa by WHO.

UFNP does not address the regulation of unhealthy food marketing, particularly to children. While the WHO recommends using tools like Nutrient Profiling Models (NPM) and FOPWL, the policy lacks a clear framework to regulate food marketing practices. The Food and Nutrition Bill in Parliament may eventually address these issues. However, the Food and Nutrition Bill, 2024, currently being processed by Parliament somehow address the issues of FOPWL by requiring the Department responsible for nutrition in the Ministry of Health to “advise the Minister on labelling of nutrients on food products”.³⁰ In addition, the Department is also required to advise the Minister on the regulation of the marketing of breast milk substitutes, unhealthy foods and foods procured by public and private institutions and other emerging areas including breast milk banks. With FOPWL consciousness in mind, these functions can be expounded to generate regulations on FOPWL.

4. Comparative approached with FOPWL

A number of countries have heeded the call for FOPWL and adopted policies and legal standards in this regard. The Global Health Advocacy Indicator has profiled FOPWL of ten countries, including: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Israel, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.³¹ In some countries, FOPWL has taken the form of acts of the legislature, while in others it has taken the form of regulations. However, in all these countries, the following have been regulated: Determination of the FOPWL model; label design and location on package; covered products as well as excluded products; Nutrients and additives covered; and enforcement and monitoring agencies, among others. In aggregation, the purpose of the FOPWL in many countries has been to protect public health by requiring the indication of additives to foods beyond the recommended thresholds. This, ultimately, is intended to give consumers information to make informed decisions. It has been demonstrated that FOPWL reduces the perceptions of consumers of healthfulness on products with high levels of nutrients and reduces consumers' intentions of purchasing products containing high levels of nutrients.

³⁰ Parliament of Uganda, Food and Nutrition Bill, 2024, clause 7(1)(q).

³¹ Global Health Advocacy Incubator FOPWL Regulations Around the Globe, available at <https://dfweawn6ylvgz.cloudfront.net/uploads/2023/FOPWL_Regulations.pdf> (accessed on 25th November 2025).

For policies, that within the first year of implementation, they reduce the percentage of products on the market with high levels of nutrients of concern. That this leads to product reformulation and ultimately improved diets.³²

Annex II illustrates the approaches different countries have adopted in their FOPWL regulations. Some of these could be replicated by Uganda.

5. Recommendations

(i) Include FOPWL in the UFNP

↗ To the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture

There is need for Uganda to put in place an FOPWL system. This is important to guide Ugandan consumers of processed foods and non-alcoholic beverages to make informed choices. In the first place, there is need for the review of the UFNP to expressly address the need for FOPWL. This could be achieved by including provisions that highlight the importance of FOPWL to health and the nutrition of Ugandans. This should be guided by the WHO Nutrient Profiling Model for the African Region and which should be adapted to both solids and liquids. This is in addition to committing to ensuring that there is an FOPWL system in place and laws and regulations to support this.

(i) Maintain FOPWL in the Food and Nutrition Bill 2024

↗ To Parliament and the Ministry of Health

Commitments to the FOPWL in the UFNP should be given legal effect by express mention of the FOPWL. Commendably, this has been done with the inclusion advise on food labelling of nutrients on food products as one of the functions of the Ministry of Health. This position should be maintained. However, this alone is not sufficient. Once the Bill has been enacted into law, the same should be elaborated by FOPWL regulations that should detail the labelling requirements. This should be guided by the WHO Nutrient Profiling Model for the African Region.

This though could be adapted, based on the processed and ultra-processed foods on the market in Uganda and the nutritional needs of the population. The regulations should address the FOPWL areas which have been addressed by the comparative laws highlighted above. This includes the following:

- (i) FOPWL system
- (ii) Label design
- (iii) Label location and size on packages
- (iv) Covered products
- (v) Excluded products
- (i) Adopt FOPWL regulations under the Public Health Act

↗ To the Ministry of Health

FOPWL regulation is a matter of urgency. For this reason, FOPWL and marketing restrictions could be addressed and regulation adopted under other relevant laws. One such law is the Public Health Act.³³ This law gives the minister responsible for the health the power to “make rules for the preservation of health or prevention of disease”.³⁴ This provision is broad enough to be used for FOPWL regulations.

³² Global Health Advocacy Incubator Evidence Sheet: Front-of-Package Labeling, available at < <https://assets.advocacyincubator.org/uploads/GHAI-FOPL-Evidence-Sheet-2024-1.pdf>> (accessed on 23rd February 2025).

³³ Chapter 310 of the Laws of Uganda.

³⁴ Section 77(1).

These could later be integrated in the Food and Nutrition Act once adopted.

(i) Include marketing restrictions in the UFNP

↗ To the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture

There is need to develop regulations and guidelines to safeguard against the marketing and consumption of unhealthy foods high in fat, sugar and salt to children based on the provisions under the Food and Drug Act, and the Public Health Act (as amended). These should be guided by the WHO Nutrient Profiling Model for the African Region.

(i) Include provisions on public food procurement in Schools

↗ To the Ministry of Education and Sports

Whereas these provisions are highlighted in school feeding policy being drafted by the Ministry of Education and Sports, the UFNP based on the PPDA Act, should encompass provisions on public food Procurement in schools specifying procurement modalities, structures and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for staff and institutions involved in school feeding preferably based on the adopted Nutrient Profiling Model for Uganda.

6. Conclusion

Proper nutrition is a key determinant of health, and food safety plays a crucial role as part of the right to adequate food and nutrition. States have an obligation to ensure that foods are safe and provide proper nutritional value. This includes regulating not only the processing but also the marketing and advertisement of food and beverages. Packaging should include clear front-of-pack nutritional information and warning labels to help consumers make informed choices, particularly regarding foods and beverages high in sugar, salt, and fats. Such measures are essential for addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Tools like the Nutrient Profiling Model (NPM) and policies such as Front-of-Pack Warning Labels (FOPWL), making it mandatory to display nutritional information prominently, can address increasing NCD rates. WHO's guidance on food nutritional information provides a framework that can be adapted by countries to implement these measures effectively.

At the moment, Uganda does not have FOPWL regulations and neither does it have marketing restrictions for over nutritious foods. Indeed, neither FOPWL nor marketing restrictions appear in the UFNP, currently under review. However, the Food and Nutrition Bill, 2024 has provisions that could be used for FOPWL. It is proposed that these be maintained and when adopted should be used to adopt detailed regulations. Nonetheless, due to the urgency of the matters, it is argued that FOPWL and marketing regulations should be adopted under the Public Health Act. The form and content of the regulations has been indicated, as inspired by comparative regulations from other countries. FOPWL should also be captured in the process of review of the UFNP.

Annex I: WHO Nutrient Profiling Model for the African Region

Food Category		Examples of food items		Codex Food Category code	Total fat (g)	Saturated fat (g)	Total sugars (g)	Marketing prohibited if thresholds exceed values per 100 g ¹⁰		Sodium (g)	Energy (kcal) ¹²
								Added sugars (g) ¹¹			
1	Chocolate and sugar confectionery, energy bars, sweet topping and desserts	Cocoa/Chocolate bars (including milk, dark and white chocolate) chocolate spread, imitations and chocolate substitutes, cereal, granola and muesli bars, table sugars, flour-based confectionaries, hard soft and chewy candy, chewing gum, caramels, soft jellied candies, marshmallow, sweet sauces, sweet desserts, creamy desserts, hard boiled sweets (such as lollipop)	5.1.1, 5.1.2 (except for products used to prepare chocolate milk or hot chocolate), 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.5, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	8.0	No threshold provided	6.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	230	
2	Cakes, sweet biscuits and pastries, other sweet bakery products, dry mixes for making such¹³	Pastries; croissants, Cakes, cookies, pies, doughnuts, sweet rolls, muffins, macaroons, breakfast biscuits (such as chocolate-covered biscuits), sweet pancake (ready-to-eat form) Buns with sweet fillings, Maandazi, chocolate pudding, plum pudding, bread pudding	7.2	8.0	No threshold provided	6.0	No threshold provided	0.25	0.25	230	
3	Bread, bread products and crisp bread	Bread and rolls, crackers, mixes for making bread and ordinary bakery wares, mixes for making pizza, savory pancake, wraps/tortillas, bread with raisins, buns, bread with cereal, rusks	7.1	8.0	No threshold provided	6.0	No threshold provided	0.25	0.25	No threshold provided	
4	Breakfast cereals	Whole, broken or flaked grains of rice and other cereals, rice-based, wheat-based or maize-based breakfast cereals of all flavours, oat meal, muesli, rice cakes, porridge (dried, as is)	6.1, 6.3, 6.7	12.0	No threshold provided	9.0	No threshold provided	0.35	0.35	No threshold provided	
5	Ready-to-eat savouries (savoury snack foods)¹⁴										
	(a) ready to eat savoury snacks Potato, cereal or starch-based (from roots, tuber, or legumes)	Popcorn, other snacks made from rice, maize, wheat, potato, cassava, plantain (i.e. chips, crisps)	15.1	8.0	No threshold provided	0.0	No threshold provided	0.25	0.25	230	

Food Category	Examples of food items	Codex Food Category code	Total fat (g)	Saturated fat (g)	Total sugars (g)	Added sugars (g) ¹¹	Sodium (g)	Energy (kcal) ¹²
Marketing prohibited if thresholds exceed values per 100 g⁹¹⁰								
(b) Processed nuts and edible seeds	Nuts, and mixed nuts (including with fruit content), edible seeds		15.2	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	0.05	No threshold provided
(c) Fish-based	Fish-based snacks		15.3	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	6.0	No threshold provided	0.25 ¹⁵ 230
6 Beverages								
(a) Juices	100% fruit and vegetable juices prepared from fresh or reconstituted from concentrate, smoothies	14.1.2, 14.1.3	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	6.0	0	0.30 ¹⁶	No threshold provided
(b) Milk and dairy based drinks¹⁷	Milks and sweetened milks, reconstituted powdered milk, flavoured dairy products a, sour milk, fermented dairy-based products (chocolate milk, strawberry milk, cocoa, drinking yoghurt), condensed milk, milk shakes, sweetened creamer. <i>Milk means milk from animals such as cows, goats, camels etc.</i>	1.1	4.0 ¹⁸	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided
(c) Water- based flavoured and unflavoured drink	Sport, energy drinks ¹⁹ , electrolyte drinks, carbonated and non-carbonated water-based flavoured drinks (i.e. soft drinks), powdered juices, concentrates (liquid or solid) calculated as or in ready-to-drink form, flavoured waters (sparkling), reconstituted chocolate or malted powdered drinks, syrups, sugar cane juices	14.1.4	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	No threshold provided	0.1	No threshold provided
(d) Coffee, coffee substitutes, tea, herbal infusions	Coffee, including instant and premixed coffee, coffee substitute, tea including instant and premixed tea, herbal infusion to be prepared or in ready-to-drink form	14.1.5	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	No threshold provided

Food Category	Examples of food items	Codex Food Category code	Total fat (g)	Saturated fat (g)	Marketing prohibited if thresholds exceed values per 100 g ^{9,10}			
					Total sugars (g)	Added sugars (g) ¹¹	Sodium (g)	Energy (kcal) ¹²
(e) Cereal, legumes, grain, tree nut-based beverages	Cereal, grain and tree nut-based beverages produced from the extracts of cereals, pulses and tree nuts (e.g. rice-, almond-, soy, oat-based beverages).	14.1.5, 6.8.1	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	6.0	0.0 ²⁰	0.1	No threshold provided
7 Frozen dairy-based desserts and edible ices	Ice cream, ice milk, frozen yoghurt, ice lollies and sorbets	1.7, 3	6.0	No threshold provided	12.0	No threshold provided	0.10	230
8 Other dairy based desserts	Dairy based products that have been curdled by fermentation, acid, enzyme, heat, etc. and flavoured with sugar and other ingredients. Examples are flavoured cream-type yoghurt; jellied milk, butterscotch, chocolate mousse, puddings (including rice pudding, milk pudding), flan, custard	1.7	4.0	No threshold provided	6.0	No threshold provided	0.10	230
9 Cheese and analogues	Unripe or ripened cheese, processed cheese, cheese analogues, that can be classified based on physical characteristics as hard (e.g. Parmesan), semi-hard (e.g. cheddar, edam), semi-soft and soft (e.g. mozzarella, ricotta) as well as serving style as sliced cheese, cream cheeses, grated or powdered cheeses, spreadable cheeses, cottage cheese, processed cheese	1.6	20.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	0.60	No threshold provided
10 Composite foods (Prepared foods, ready-made and convenience foods and composite dishes)	Mixtures of multiple components (e.g. meat, sauce, grain, cheese, vegetables). These include foods that require minimal preparation (heating, thawing, rehydrating) or the ready-to-serve meal from restaurants. Examples: frozen and chilled ready meals, pizzas, lasagna, ready-made sandwiches, soups, burgers in buns, ready meals, soups, tinned spaghetti, baked bean, filled pastas, French fries	16, 12.5.1, 12.5.2	12.0	3.5	9.0	No threshold provided	0.35	No threshold provided
11 Butter and other fats and oils, and fat emulsions	Vegetable oils and fats, lard, ghee, fish oils and other animal fats, butter, margarine and similar products. Examples: cooking oils from plant and animal sources, fat blends, nuts spread (e.g. peanut butter)	2.1, 2.2	No threshold provided	35.0	No threshold provided	0.0	0.10	No threshold provided
12 Pasta and noodles and like products, rice and grains	Fresh, precooked, or dried noodles and pastas and like products, rice paper, rice noodles, vermicelli made from wheat, tapioca, sago, brick paper etc. (sold as ready-to-eat)	6.4	3.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	0.25	No threshold provided

Food Category	Examples of food items	Codex Food Category code	Marketing prohibited if thresholds exceed values per 100 g ¹⁰				
			Total fat (g)	Saturated fat (g)	Total sugars (g)	Added sugars (g) ¹¹	Sodium (g)
13 Fresh and frozen meat, poultry, game, fish and seafood	Fresh and frozen meat, poultry, game, molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms in the forms of whole pieces, cuts/fillet, comminuted/minced/creamed. Examples: beef, pork, chicken, lamb, goat, tuna, mackerel, catfish, shrimp, ox tails, Turkey tails, mutton flap, organ meats, eggs, oily fish (e.g. herring) etc.	8.1, 8.2.3, 9.1, 9.2.1, 9.2.3	15.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	No threshold provided
14 Processed meat, poultry, game, fish and fish products	Non-heat and heat treated whole pieces or cuts of comminuted meat, poultry and game that have been cured and dried or fermented. Examples: smoked ham, salted dried meat, salami, sausage, bacon, corned beef, smoked duck, canned meats, chicken nuggets, beef or chicken patty, pork rind, liver pate	8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.3.1, 8.3.2	8.0	3.0	No threshold provided	0.40	No threshold provided
(a) Processed meat, poultry and game products	Frozen battered, cooked and/or fried, smoked, dried, fermented, and/or salted, semi-preserved by pickling or brining, fully-preserved by canning or fermentation of fish and sea foods. Examples: salted fish and seafood, brined fish, salted fish in oil, fermented fish and seafood, anchovies, shrimp paste, canned tuna, sardine, or mackerel, smoked fishes, dried shrimp, fish balls, fish finger, fish burger	9.2.2, 9.2.4, 9.3, 9.4	8.0	3.0	No threshold provided	0.40	No threshold provided
(b) Processed fish and seafood products	Fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, roots and tubers, pulses and legumes, seaweed, fresh coconut	4.1.1, 4.1.2.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2.1	Permitted				
15 Fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, legumes, roots and tubers^{s1}							

Food category	Examples of food items	Codex Food Category code	Marketing prohibited if thresholds exceed values per 100 g ⁹¹⁰					
			Total fat (g)	Saturated fat (g)	Total sugars (g)	Added sugars (g) ¹¹	Sodium (g)	Energy (kcal) ¹²
16 Processed fruits, vegetables, and legumes	Dried fruits ²² , canned or bottled, jam jellies, marmalades, packed in vinegar, oil or brine; pickled, candied, pulp, purees, topping, fermented, fillings, cooked forms of fruits and vegetables. Examples: fruits and vegetables in vinegar, oil or brine, dried coconut, coconut cream, marmalade, jams, canned fruits, vegetables and legumes, dried mushrooms, preserved or pickled fruits and vegetables, fermented vegetables	4.1.2, 4.2.2	5.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	0.40	No threshold provided
17 Solid-form soybean products	Soybean-based products, soybean curd (tofu), semi-dehydrated tofu, dehydrated tofu (konitofu), fermented soybeans (hatto), other soybean protein products (soya nuggets and textured vegetable protein)	6.8.2, 6.8.3, 6.8.4, 6.8.5, 6.8.6, 6.8.7, 6.8.8, 12.9.1	8.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	0.10	No threshold provided
18 Sauces, dips, other seasonings and dressings	Emulsified, non-emulsified mixes as concentrated, clear sauces and like products, soybean-based seasoning and condiments. Examples: mayonnaise, salad dressing, onion dips, tomato ketchup, gravy, cheese sauce, cream sauce, bouillon cubes, seasoning powder, fermented and unfermented soy sauces, fish sauce, sweet chili sauce, spaghetti sauce, BBQ sauces,	12.6, 12.9.2	8.0	No threshold provided	No threshold provided	0.0	0.30	No threshold provided

Annex II: Illustration of comparative country approaches FOPWL regulations

Source Global: Global Health Advocacy Incubator FOPWL Regulations Around the Globe, available at <<https://dfweawn6ylvgz.cloudfront.net/uploads/2023/>

FOPL model, relevant definitions and labels' specifications							
COUNTRY POLICY ELEMENT	ARGENTINA	BRAZIL	CANADA	CHILE	COLOMBIA	ISRAEL	MEXICO
FOPL model/ system	"Excess" warning labels for products that have added nutrients of concern above the thresholds, and precautionary labels when these have sweeteners &/or caffeine. (Arts. 4 & 5, Law No. 27642)	"High in" warning label for most packaged food products containing nutrients of concern above the thresholds. (Chapter III of RDC 429/2020, Annex XV of ANVISA Resolution Instruction No. 75)	"High in/Elevé en" warning label for products that have added nutrients of concern above the thresholds. (Art. 120 bis, Decree No. 13/2015)	"Excess in" warning labels for products that have added nutrients of concern above the thresholds. (Art. 120 bis, Decree No. 13/2015)	"Excess in" warning labels for products that have added nutrients of concern above the thresholds. It includes the NOVA classification to define which products must have the seal. (Resolution No. 2492 of 2022)	"High in" warning labels for every repackaged food that have added nutrients of concern above the thresholds. (Art. 4, Law No. 5778-2017)	"Excess" warning labels for products that have added nutrients of concern above the thresholds. It includes the NOVA classification to define which products must have the seal. (Art. 4, Law No. 5778-2017)
Label design	Black octagons with white edges for each added nutrient of concern with the "excess" followed by "SATURATED FAT", "TOTAL FAT", "SODIUM", "SUGARS" or "CALORIES", "ADDED SUGAR", "SATURATED FAT", "SODIUM". Each nutrient will be highlighted in a separate black rectangle with the name of the nutrient in uppercase and white font. Click here to see the label design.	A magnifying glass next to the phrase "high in" in a white rectangle followed by each nutrient of concern the product contains, "ADDED SUGAR", "SATURATED FAT", "SODIUM". Each nutrient will be highlighted in a separate black rectangle with the name of the nutrient in uppercase and white font. Click here to see the label design.	Black octagons with white edges with the "HIGH IN" inside, followed by "SODIUM", "SUGAR", "SATURATED FAT", "TRANS SWEETENERS", "MINSAUD", "MINSALUD" (Ministry of Health) endorsement in it. Click here to see the label design.	Black octagons with white edges with the "HIGH IN" inside, followed by "SODIUM", "SUGAR", "SATURATED FAT", "TRANS SWEETENERS", with the "MINSAUD", "MINSALUD" (Ministry of Health) endorsement in it. Click here to see the label design.	A red circle with white background that states "High In" and the correspondent nutrient of concern both in writing and through an icon representing "SUGAR", "SODIUM", and/or "SATURATED FAT". Click here to see the label design.	Black octagon with white edges for each nutrient of concern with the "EXCESS IN" inside, followed by "SODIUM", "SUGAR", "SATURATED FAT", "TRANS SWEETENERS", "SODIUM", and/or "SATURATED FAT". Click here to see the label design.	Black octagon with white edges for each nutrient of concern with the "EXCESS IN" inside, followed by "SODIUM", "SUGAR", "SATURATED FAT", "TRANS SWEETENERS", "SODIUM", and/or "SATURATED FAT". Click here to see the label design.

COUNTRY POLICY ELEMENT	ARGENTINA	BRAZIL	CANADA	CHILE	COLOMBIA	ISRAEL	MEXICO	PERU	URUGUAY	VENEZUELA
On the product's main side top right edge, if the shape of the product package is round or conic, in the top edge, it must be at least 5% of the front side of the product. If it has more than one label, it must be placed horizontally, one next to the other; if it is not possible, below, in the front of the products package. Any other object/element shall not partially or totally cover it. (ARTS. 2º), 4 & 5, Law No. 27.642; Art. 4º of Annex I and Annex II Decree No. 157/2022)	In the upper part of the main panel of the package, in a single continuous surface. The size will be determined in accordance with the area of the main face of the package, increasing its size when the front of the package is bigger. The authority has provided different alternatives if it has more than one label. (ARTS. 3 XXXV, 2º, RDC No. 429/2020, Annex XVII of ANVISA Instruction 75)	FDR prescribes where and how the FOP nutrition symbol must be displayed on the label of a prepackaged product that meets or exceeds established thresholds for saturated fat, sugars and/or sodium. The symbol must be displayed on the principal display panel (PDP) as follows:	On the product's upper right third of the front side or main display side (the total area of display for printing or labeling is defined as the whole label area minus the warning labels)	The negative symbol (for nutrients of concern) shall be at the front of the package, excluding in a unit of food where the FOP is no larger than 25 cm ² . Specifications:	On the product's front side at the top right edge, regardless of the product's package size. It does not have to be covered by anything else. (ARTS. 3 & 4. Manual for Advertising restrictions in the Supreme Decree No. 2/2018)	On the product's front side, for cylindrical, almost cylindrical or products with other shapes, of the total of the product's label. It shall be visible, easy to read, indelible and must not be covered by anything else. (ARTS. 2º & 7. Resolution No. 137/2021; ARTS. 4, 5, 6 & 7. Resolution No. 11/2020).	On the main product's area of display in the top right edge, using the dimensions established in Annex IV. Decree No. 272/2018.	On the product's front side at the top right edge, regardless of the product's package size. If it is an area of display smaller than 60 cm ² , the labels can be located in any part of that area. (ARTS. 3,49, 4.5,3,4,6, NOM 05/2020)	On the product's front side at the top right edge, using the dimensions established in Annex IV. Decree No. 272/2018.	On the product's front side. For cylindrical, almost cylindrical or products with other shapes, of the total of the product's label. It shall be visible, easy to read, indelible and must not be covered by anything else. (ARTS. 2º & 7. Resolution No. 137/2021; ARTS. 4, 5, 6 & 7. Resolution No. 11/2020).
Label location and size in package										

COUNTRY POLICY ELEMENT	ARGENTINA	BRAZIL	CANADA	CHILE	COLOMBIA	ISRAEL	MEXICO	PERU	URUGUAY	VENEZUELA
	Regular sugar, vegetable oil, nuts and regular salt. Also, natural products without any added nutrients of concern. The cut off points are not applicable for food with specific medical purposes, vitamin supplements and baby formula up to 36 months. (Art. 7 law No.27642; Arts. 6 chart 1 & Annex I Decree No. 15/2022)	Natural mineral water, natural water and water added to salts, desalinated and potable and bottled seawater. The FOP-L is optional for foods with the front of the packages smaller than 35 cm ² ; packaged food at points of sale at consumer request; and packaged food made or fractionated in the establishment where it is sold. (Arts. 2 & 18 (§ 3º RDC No. 429/2020)	A) Products intended solely for infants six months of age or older but less than one year of age. B) Human milk fortifiers. C) Human milk substitutes (infant formula). D) Foods represented as containing a human milk substitute. E) Formulated liquid diets (as defined in section B.24.001 of the Food and Drug Regulations). F) Meal replacements. G) Nutritional supplements. H) Foods represented for protein-restricted diets. I) Foods represented for low energy diet as defined in section B.24.001 of the FDR. J) Foods represented for use in a very low energy diet as defined in section B.24.001 of the FDR.	A) Infant formula for children between 0 and 6 months. B) Infant formula for children between 6 and 12 months. C) Special infant formula. D) Food for Special Medical Purposes (APMES). E) Single-ingredient products that do not contain additional additives. F) Iodized and fluorized salt, and salt substitutes. G) Foods with the packaging of natural origin materials. H) Herbal and fruit infusions; tea, decaffeinated tea, instant or soluble tea, or tea extract; decaffeinated tea extract; decaffeinated coffee ground coffee, instant or soluble coffee, or coffee extract, or decaffeinated coffee extract, which do not contain added ingredients. I) Food in bulk. J) Foods used as raw material for the industry and secondary ingredients that are not sold directly to the consumer.	Fruits, vegetables, mushrooms and fresh seaweed, meat that has not undergone processing, fresh eggs in their shells, food that has been prepared in an eatery, food that has been prepared at the consumer's request at its time of sale, food that has been prepared in a catering business for the purpose of supplying it for consumption outside the place where it has been prepared, and excluding prepackaged food for retail sale; nutritious supplements; infant formulas; food that has only one ingredient -except when vitamins or minerals are added under laws requirements or has a flavor/ scent added, without changing its intrinsic nutritional value;	Products with only one ingredient; herbs; coffee or tea -or its extracts- without any additives; fermented vinegar; water for human consumption, mineral water, and any other product excluded by the enforcement authority. (Art. 1. NOM 05/2020)	Natural food and non-alcoholic beverages; food with basic processing; food products for culinary preparation; and breastmilk substitutes. (First art. of the final provision of the Supreme Decree 017-2017)	Food with medicinal purposes in weight control diets using partial meal substitution; dietary supplements for athletes; formula for up to 36 months kids; tabletop sweeteners and certain products regarding its specific compositions. (Art. 3. Decreto No. 272/2018)	Food or food mixes, which do not have nutrients of concern added; un processed food or barely processed food, with packaging of natural origin materials; herbal and fruit infusions; tea, instant or soluble tea, or tea extract, coffee, instant or soluble coffee, or coffee extract, or decaffeinated coffee extract, which do not contain added ingredients; food in bulk; foods used as raw material for the industry and secondary ingredients that are not sold directly to the consumer.	Food or food mixes, which do not have nutrients of concern added; un processed food or barely processed food, with packaging of natural origin materials; herbal and fruit infusions; tea, instant or soluble tea, or tea extract, coffee, instant or soluble coffee, or coffee extract, or decaffeinated coffee extract, which do not contain added ingredients; food in bulk; foods used as raw material for the industry and secondary ingredients that are not sold directly to the consumer.
Excluded products										
										Food with medicinal purposes in weight control diets using partial meal substitution; dietary supplements for athletes; formula for up to 36 months kids; tabletop sweeteners and certain products regarding its specific compositions. (Art. 3. Decreto No. 272/2018)
										Food with medicinal purposes in weight control diets using partial meal substitution; dietary supplements for athletes; formula for up to 36 months kids; tabletop sweeteners and certain products regarding its specific compositions. (Art. 3. Decreto No. 272/2018)

CEFROHT

CONTACT US

 Plot 66-67 Kiriwawanu Lane,
GACCETA Estate, Gayaza-Wakiso
P.O Box 16414 Wandegeya

 **0773-000-000**

 info@cefroht.org

 www.cefroht.org

