

## ISDI Q&A on NRVs-R for Older infants (OI) and young children (YC)

<b>WHAT ARE NRVs?</b>	<p>NRVs (Nutrient Reference Values) are a set of recommendations for nutritional intake based on currently available scientific knowledge.</p> <p>Two different sets of NRVs exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nutrient Reference Values – Requirements (NRVs-R) based on levels of nutrients associated with nutrient requirements</li> </ul> <p>Nutrient Reference Values – Non communicable Disease (NRVs-NCD) that are based on levels of nutrients associated with reduction in the risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases not including nutrient deficiency diseases'</p> <p>At Codex, NRVs-R and NRVs-NCD values have been and are being established for general population older than 36 months. NRVs for older infants and young children have not been established yet.</p>
<b>WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF NRVs-R?</b>	<p><b>NRVs-R values are used for:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nutritional labelling, i.e. nutrient to be expressed as a % of its NRV</li> <li>2. Nutritional composition where not defined in specific Codex texts</li> <li>3. Nutritional claims, i.e. where claims are permitted by Codex or national legislation (*)</li> </ol> <p><i>(*) Regarding claims on foods for infants and young children, the Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997), para 1.4, states "Nutrition and health claims shall not be permitted for foods for infants and young children except where specifically provided for in relevant Codex standards or national legislation".</i></p>
<b>BACKGROUND ON CODEX WORK FOR NRVs-R FOR OI/YC</b>	<p>Over the past few years, discussion have been on-going at CCFNSDU regarding the establishment of NRVs-R for the population 6-36 months. The following is a summary of the discussion to date:</p> <p>CCNFSDU36 (2014): It was agreed to establish an electronic Working Group (eWG), chaired by Australia, with three terms of reference (TOR). TOR-3 related to NRVs-R for the 6-36 month age group, i.e. 'TOR-3: Consider the approach for establishing NRVs-R for 6–36 months of age for the nutrients for which NRVs-R are established for the general population (REF: Paragraph 81, <a href="#">REP15/NFSDU</a>)'. The findings of this eWG were presented in an agenda paper (<a href="#">CX/NFSDU 15/37/4</a>) for discussion at CCFNSDU37 (2015). Section 7 (Approach to establish NRVs-R for older infants and young children) &amp; Section 8 (Draft general principles for establishing NRVs-R for older infants and young children) of the agenda paper relate to TOR-3. In absence of a member ready to lead the eWG, the Committee agreed that the matter would be reconsidered at its next session.</p> <p>CCNFSDU37 (2015): There was consensus that the establishment of NRVs-R for older infants and young children would be beneficial and would support harmonisation across the globe; however, further consideration should be given to the intended use of these NRVs-R. To progress this work further, it was proposed that an eWG should be established and that expert advice should be sought as necessary from JEMNU (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition). In absence of a member ready to lead the eWG, the work was postpone to next session. (REF: paragraphs 46-51, <a href="#">REP16/NFSDU</a>).</p> <p>CCNFSDU38 (2016): Although there was interest to continue work through an eWG, it was not possible to find co-chairs to assist those countries who expressed interest in leading this work. Therefore, the Committee agreed to postpone discussion until the next session of the Committee. (REF: paragraphs 37-40, <a href="#">REP17/NFSDU</a>).</p>

	<p>CCNFSDU39 (2017): Committee agreed to establish an eWG chaired by Ireland, and co-chaired by Mexico and the United States of America, working in English and Spanish, with the following terms of reference (REF: paragraphs 130-132, <a href="#">REP18/NFSDU</a>):</p> <p>A. <i>Assess the need and value for the establishment of NRV-R for older infants and young children in Codex texts in relation to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <i>the purpose of such NRVs-R in the Guidelines for Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2-1985) and Codex texts for special dietary use for older infants and young children; and</i></li> <li>II. <i>the specific age groups to which these NRV-R may apply.</i></li> </ol> <p>Where a need is established under TOR A:</p> <p>B. <i>Analyse nutrition labelling provisions in Codex texts under TOR A (i) and, where appropriate, develop a request to CCFL to provide advice on the potential for amendments to provide further clarity.</i></p>
<p><b>WHY SHOULD THEY BE ESTABLISHED?</b></p>	<p>Currently, NRVs are only established within Codex texts for the general population (i.e. population older than 36 months). Establishment of NRVs for this younger population (6-36 months) would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize that these populations have special nutrition needs</li> <li>▪ Ensure parents and caregivers are provided with scientific based information about the nutritional content of food, enabling them to make informed nutritional choices that contribute to an overall healthful diet for their older infant / young child</li> <li>▪ Avoid the risk of inappropriate NRVs (i.e. those for the population older than 36 months) being applied to foods for older infants and young children (6-36 months)</li> <li>▪ Help to achieve better harmonization on nutrient declaration thus lowering barriers to trade and enhance consumer trust.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHICH AGE GROUP DO THEY APPLY TO?</b></p>	<p><b>ISDI supports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The establishment of NRVs for 2 age groups, i.e. Older infants (6-12 months) &amp; Young Children (13-36 months). This is to reflect the different nutritional requirements of both age groups for growth and development due to their different physiological stages and to ensure appropriate nutritional information is provided to parents and caregivers. This is in line with the Draft General Principles for Establishing NRVs-R for Older Infants and Young Children (REF: agenda paper (CX/NFSDU 15/37/4) for discussion at CCNFSDU37): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>NRVs-R should be established separately for older infants and for young children but not for a combined group.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>WHICH FOOD GROUPS DO THEY APPLY TO?</b></p>	<p><b>If established, ISDI believes these NRVs-R should apply to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Foods for Special Dietary Uses (FSDUs) covered by Codex texts</b></li> </ol> <p>At Codex level, foods targeting older infants and young children fall under the Foods for Special Dietary Use (FSDU) category. These foods are specially processed or formulated to satisfy the particular dietary requirements of the intended age group. They also meet strict safety criteria.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2. Prepackaged foods targeting older infant and young children which do not fall under the FSDU category</b></li> </ol> <p>In countries where foods intended for older infants and young children do not fall under FSDU category, ISDI also supports the use of NRVs on these foodstuffs. It also includes vitamin and mineral food supplements targeting this population. However, such foods should meet all the</p>

	<p>safety prescriptions applicable to this vulnerable population so as not to mislead parents and caregivers.</p> <p>Using the NRVs established for the general adult population for these products would not be appropriate and would be misleading for parents and caregivers.</p>
<p><b>TO WHICH PRODUCT CATEGORIES NRVS-R SHOULD BE USED AS REFERENCE FOR NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION?</b></p>	<p>NRVs-R for OI YC should be used as reference criteria for nutritional composition in the following Codex texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulated Complementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children</li> <li>• Vitamin and Minerals Food Supplements</li> </ul> <p>And should also be applied as reference criteria for the optional addition of vitamins and minerals for the following Codex texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CODEX STAN 74-1981)</li> <li>• Canned Baby Foods (CODEX STAN 73-1981)</li> <li>• [Name of the product] for young children as part of the Follow-up Formula Standard under review (CODEX STAN 156-1987)</li> </ul>
<p><b>DO NRVS-R OI/YC INFLUENCE PERMISSION FOR NUTRITION AND HEALTH CLAIMS USE IN FOODS FOR OLDER INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN?</b></p>	<p>The establishment of NRV's for OI/YC will not influence the permission for nutrition and health claims for foods for older infants and young children. Indeed, the Guidelines for the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997) does not permit their use for foods for infants and young children except when they are permitted in relevant codex Standards or in national legislation.</p> <p>Where specifically provided for in relevant Codex standards or national legislation NRVs-R for older infants and young children should be used as a reference for criteria for nutrition and/or health claims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition/Health claims require that a product delivers more or less than a given amount derived from NRVs when established.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RELEVANT NUTRIENTS</b></p>	<p><b>ISDI notes that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For the general population (&gt;36 months), NRVs are established for protein and certain vitamins &amp; minerals.</li> <li>▪ For older infants (6-12 months) &amp; young children (12-36 months), no discussion has taken place yet on the relevant nutrients.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PROGRESSION OF THIS WORK</b></p>	<p><b>ISDI hopes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The work undertaken by the eWG set up at CCNFSDU39 continues to progress towards the establishment of NRV-Rs for older infants and young children with appropriate TOR at CCNFSDU40.</li> <li>▪ The establishment of the NRVs-R. Much of background work to established NRVs-R has already been conducted by the 2015 eWG led by Australia. Further scientific input can be received, as necessary, from JEMNU.</li> </ul>