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**Topic:** The political economy of public health nutrition

**Title:** Generating political priority for nutrition: a systematic review of the literature

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**Introduction:** There is growing consensus about what policy and programme interventions work to improve population nutrition. However, achieving the required political will to implement and sustain such interventions is a formidable challenge. This study aims to identify and describe factors generating or impeding political priority for nutrition across a diversity of issues and contexts.

**Methods:** A systematic review of empirical studies that examined political priority for nutrition, including over- and under-nutrition and related issues, at the global, national and sub-national levels. Studies were identified through a systematic search of health and social science databases, websites of relevant organisations, and manual searches of academic journals. Findings were extracted and summarised by narrative review.

**Results:** This analysis is underway however preliminary results identify a diversity of factors shaping political priority. For example, in several countries priority to address undernutrition has been hampered by inter alia the low power of nutrition actors, limited institutional capacities, low consensus about the problems causes and solutions, and the limited visibility and complexity of the issue. Political priority to address obesity has been constrained by, among other factors, the complexity of the issue, the potential for confrontations with powerful industries, and institutional environments unsupportive of regulatory interventions.

**Conclusions:** A diversity of factors shape political priority for nutrition in context dependent ways. A more complete understanding of these factors can inform more strategic actions and competencies by the public health nutrition community.