

Endorsers

Governments addressing undernutrition:

People's Republic of
Bangladesh

Republic of Benin

Burkina Faso

Republic of Burundi

Democratic Republic of
the Congo

Cote D'Ivoire

Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia

Republic of the Gambia

Republic of Guinea

Republic of Guatemala

Republic of Indonesia

Republic of Liberia

Republic of Malawi

Republic of Mali

Republic of Namibia

Federal Republic of
Nigeria

Republic of Senegal

Republic of Sierra
Leone

Republic of Sri Lanka

United Republic of
Tanzania

Republic of Uganda

Republic of Yemen

Republic of Zambia

Republic of Zimbabwe

Donors and Development Agencies:

Government of
Australia

Bill and Melinda Gates
Foundation

Government of Canada

Global Nutrition for Growth Compact

We commit to address the challenge of tackling undernutrition. This is the worst face of poverty, and has no place in the 21st Century. We commit to take urgent action to end the scourge of undernutrition within our lifetime. This endeavour reflects a shared vision, agreed goals and mutual accountability for its realisation.

Why invest in nutrition?

It has never been more pressing to take action on undernutrition, especially on stunting and wasting. Every day more than 8,000 children die from preventable undernutrition related causes. This neglected issue is the single largest contributor to child mortality worldwide, underlying 45% or 3.1 million child deaths a year.ⁱ Addressing nutrition is of critical importance for achieving the MDGs, in particular the MDGs related to hunger, child and maternal health, and education.

Across the world, 165 million, or 1 in 4 children under 5 years of age are stunted, and 80% of those live in just 14 countries.ⁱⁱ Globally, it is estimated that 19 million children under 5 suffer from severe wasting.ⁱⁱⁱ Evidence shows that getting the right nutrients at the right time is critical, particularly during the first 1000 days from pregnancy to the child's second birthday.^{iv} Good nutrition is a pre-requisite for physical, mental and social development, and therefore success in school and in life.

Failure to obtain optimum nutrition not only negatively impacts the life chances of children and their mothers, it prevents them, their communities and their countries from achieving their full economic potential. Undernutrition is responsible for the loss of billions of dollars in productivity; in effect stunting not only the citizens, but also economies. It is estimated that 11% of GDP in Africa and Asia is lost to undernutrition every year,^v with productivity losses to individuals estimated at more than 10% of lifetime earnings.^{vi}

Governments, international organisations, civil society, business and the research community recognise this challenge. A number have joined initiatives such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, supported the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge, and are demonstrating their commitment to tackle undernutrition.

Putting good nutrition at the centre of the development agenda

The Global Nutrition for Growth compact marks a seminal declaration by leaders to scale up political commitment, increase resources, and take urgent action on nutrition. Such investment is urgently needed and delivers excellent value for money, every \$1 spent on direct nutrition interventions has an average \$15 return,^{vii} a comparable or superior return to investments in irrigation, water and sanitation, or infrastructure.^{viii}

As a first step, by 2020, **we commit:**

- to ensure that at least 500 million pregnant women and children under two are reached with effective nutrition interventions.
- to reduce the number of children under five stunted by at least 20 million.
- to save the lives of at least 1.7 million children under 5 by preventing stunting, increasing breastfeeding, and increasing treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

Children's Investment Fund Foundation

European Union

Government of Finland

Government of France

Federal Republic of Germany

Government of Ireland

Government of Japan

Government of the Netherlands

UBS Optimus Foundation

UNICEF International

United Arab Emirates

United States Government

UK Government

World Bank

World Food Programme

International Partners:

Government of Brazil

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Global Partnership for Education

Grand Challenges Canada

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Business and Science:

Ajinomoto

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul)

Anglo American

Aslan Group

Associated British Foods

Bayer Crop Science

BBSRC

We commit to make nutrition one of the top political and socio-economic development priorities and to work in partnership together (governments, international organisations, private sector and civil society) and with vulnerable populations to accelerate progress towards achieving the World Health Assembly nutrition targets by 2025.^{ix} We particularly recognise the importance and support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

We commit to support the development of innovative, cross-cutting programs that integrate and mainstream nutrition objectives and outcomes by efficiently leveraging investments in maternal, newborn and child health; education; agriculture; water, sanitation and hygiene; gender equality and social protection. We recognise that support to exclusive and continued breastfeeding is a key priority for protecting nutrition and saving lives. We recognise the importance of strengthening the link between sustainable agricultural growth and food systems in order to increase the availability of safe and affordable nutritious foods to support improved nutrition outcomes, but also that agricultural growth alone is not enough and requires a much more direct focus on nutrition. To support this, we will establish the means to generate further evidence and guidance for policymakers on how all these cross-sectoral investments can best be leveraged for improved nutrition outcomes.

We commit to ensure that world-class scientific knowledge and innovation is integrated into policy and practice, including building the knowledge and evidence where it is lacking.

We commit to improve transparency and mutual monitoring and accountability for results. We will ensure strengthened data systems, establish common definitions and indicators, and ensure a framework, including an authoritative annual global report on nutrition, is in place at country and global levels to make data readily available to citizens and stakeholders, including publishing plans and nutrition spending, and monitoring progress on reducing undernutrition. This will enable partners to hold each other accountable for their commitments, demonstrate the delivery of results, and ensure sustainable impact.

Governments addressing undernutrition specifically commit to provide strong national leadership to strengthen and develop high quality, validated, costed national nutrition plans and mobilise domestic resources for them. We will scale up the implementation of evidence based, cost effective solutions, which significantly impact undernutrition,^{x xi} and we will adapt programmes that are sensitive to the determinants of poor nutrition and encourage the achievement of better nutrition outcomes - across all development sectors.

Donors and development agencies specifically commit to support countries as they reinforce and implement national nutrition plans, through mobilizing and aligning international resources, empowering country-led coordination arrangements to support the effective delivery of resources, and facilitating mutual learning and promoting South-South knowledge sharing and technical assistance.

Businesses specifically commit to putting good nutrition at the core of business practice. As a first step, we will support the productivity and health of our workforces by introducing a nutrition policy and improving policies for maternal health, including support for breastfeeding mothers. Some businesses will also take further steps by improving the nutrition delivered by food systems so that mothers and children have access to the affordable, nutritious foods they need. We will also look to initiatives, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network, as a platform to help facilitate accountable, transparent business engagement to improve nutrition.

Britannia Industries
 British Petroleum (BP)
 CABI
 Cargill
 CGIAR
 Royal DSM
 Gallup
 GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
 GSMA
 GUTS Agro Industry
 Indofoods
 Infosys
 Johns Hopkins University
 KPMG (UK)
 Marks and Spencer
 Shambani Graduates Enterprises
 Syngenta
 Tansed International
 Unilever
 Waitrose
Civil Society:
 1000 Days
 Action against Hunger (ACF)
 Christian Aid
 Comic Relief
 Concern Worldwide
 CSO SUN Alliance Zambia
 Helen Keller International
 InterAction
 Mercy Corps
 Micronutrient Initiative
 ONE Campaign
 Oxfam GB
 Results UK

Civil society specifically commits to mobilise private resources to support the scale-up of nutrition programmes, particularly in fragile states, and to coordinate actions to help ensure harmonised and aligned responses to undernutrition. We will also advocate for and help strengthen the transparency of information to allow citizens to hold their governments to account for their commitments and to drive forward action and progress on nutrition.

Marking the beginning of the end for undernutrition

Together, we will change the landscape on stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, and breastfeeding and break the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition. Today marks an historical turning point, but not an end in itself. Delivering for the next generation of children will require sustained commitment and placing good nutrition at the centre of the global effort to eradicate poverty and hunger. We call on the United Nations and UN Member States to jointly set a clear and ambitious target for nutrition with relevant indicators within the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Finally, **we commit** to ensure we capitalise on previous momentum and drive forward this agenda by holding a global stock-take meeting annually in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly from September 2013 onwards. Under the leadership of the Government of Brazil, we will ensure their Nutrition for Growth High Level Event, during the 2016 Rio Olympics, provides an opportunity to review progress 1000 days from the date of this compact and make additional commitments.

Global Nutrition for Growth Compact initiated by:



Save the Children

Valid Nutrition

The Vegan Society

World Vision
International

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- i Black, R. et al. 'Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries'. *The Lancet*. 6 June 2013. Available at [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)60937-X/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)60937-X/fulltext).
- ii India, Nigeria, Pakistan, China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, DRC, Philippines, Tanzania, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan. Source: ('Improving Child Nutrition, the Achievable Imperative for Global Progress' Unicef, 2013)
- iii Black, R. et al. 'Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries'. *The Lancet*. 6 June 2013. Available at [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)60937-X/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)60937-X/fulltext).
- iv Save the Children 2012, 'Nutrition in the First 1000 Days: State of the World's Mothers 2012'.
- v Malnutrition. Global economic losses attributable to malnutrition 1900–2000 and projections to 2050. Sue Horton and Richard H. Steckel. 2013. In "The Economics of Human Challenges", ed B. Lomborg. In Press. Cambridge University Press.
- vi World Bank, 2006, 'Repositioning nutrition as central to development: A strategy for large-scale action', Washington, D.C., International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank.
- vii Copenhagen Consensus 2012, see http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/jdefault/files/Outcome_Document_Updated_1105.pdf.
- viii Haddad, L. 'Ending Undernutrition: Our Legacy to the Post-2015 Generation. May 2013, Institute of Development Studies, UK.
- ix WHA targets: 1. 40% reduction in number of children under 5 years old who are stunted; 2. 50% reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age; 3. 30% reduction in low birth weight; 4. No increase in childhood overweight; 5. Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%. 6. Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.
- x Key Lancet interventions from 2013 series.
- ^{xi} Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child nutrition approved by the WHA in 2012.