



September 13, 2024

Civil Society Calls on Governments and International Leaders to Champion Nutrition as the Foundation of Human Development

At a time when 733 million people are undernourished,¹ the world must increase support for and prioritize nutrition in all global health and international development policies, investments, and programs. During the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025), the world has made significant progress, especially on stunting. However, we are deeply concerned that multiple, overlapping crises are worsening already fragile nutrition and food security situations, leading to backsliding and skyrocketing rates of hunger and malnutrition among children, women, and men around the world.

As the Paris Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit approaches in March 2025, your leadership is vital for building momentum and refocusing on nutrition as the foundation of all health, development, and humanitarian agendas. Between the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this September and the World Health Assembly in May 2025, there will be a series of moments to demonstrate your country's commitment to fighting malnutrition, including the World Bank Annual Meetings, the G20 Summit, and the SUN Global Gathering. We urge you to galvanize your resources and partners and ensure access to essential nutrition services that can save millions of lives. While we understand that budgets are constrained, the cost of inaction is higher² and will only increase with worsening conflicts and the effects of climate change.

Investing in nutrition is not only cost effective, but essential to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. We will need significant resources, political will, and meaningful partnerships with affected communities and youth to do it right. As a nutrition community, we ask that you champion a future where every individual, especially women and children, has access to the right nutrition at the right time. The first 1,000 days, from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, represent a critical window for growth and development and lay the foundation for a lifetime of good health. There are a number of highly cost-effective interventions that can support nutrition during this period. We ask that you commit to align resources to meet the 2025 World Health Assembly Nutrition Targets³ with a focus on investments that contribute to increased coverage of key, evidence-based interventions, such as vitamin A supplementation, breastfeeding support, micronutrient supplementation, and wasting prevention and treatment. We also urge you to commit to strengthen your efforts to improve nutrition in adolescence and

¹ "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report - 2024 | World Food Programme," July 24, 2024. <https://www.wfp.org/publications/state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-sofi-report>.

² Jain, Sakshi, Sameen Ahsan, Zachary Robb, Brett Crowley, and Dylan Walters. "The Cost of Inaction: A Global Tool to Inform Nutrition Policy and Investment Decisions on Global Nutrition Targets." Health Policy and Planning, July 17, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czae056>.

³ "Global Targets 2025," November 24, 2014. <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/global-targets-2025>.

prioritize addressing the gender-specific and age-related nutrition needs of all women, especially during pregnancy.

As civil society advocates, we call on you to:

- Remind international stakeholders present at the UNGA about the urgent need to prioritize nutrition in all global health and international development policies, investments, and programs to meet the WHA targets and aim towards the SDGs.
- Confirm your support for the renewal of the Nutrition Decade of Action.
- Ensure high-level participation at the Paris N4G Summit and pledge increased resources and policy commitments prioritizing key, evidence-based interventions.

As civil society advocates, we are eager to support your leadership and partner on policies and programs, spotlighting progress and focusing on impact to end malnutrition.

Signed,

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