



ACTION Positioning on the 2025 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Paris Summit

Nutrition Is Fundamental

Nutrition is the foundation of human development, at all stages of life. The first 1,000 days, from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, are a particularly critical window for growth and for a lifetime of good health. Failure to act early can have devastating consequences, for undernutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of all deaths of children under five years of age. Thankfully, the global community has identified a number of highly cost-effective interventions that can support nutrition during this period. However, in 2022, 148 million children were estimated to be stunted (too short for age) and 45 million were estimated to be wasted (too thin for height).¹ Even before children show physical signs of malnutrition, their growing brains and bodies are negatively affected. Consequences of undernourishment and micronutrient deficiencies are long lasting and hinder full potential growth of individuals and communities they live in.

Research has shown that over one billion women and girls suffer from undernutrition.² Anemia, a form of malnutrition that disproportionately affects women and girls, is particularly dangerous during pregnancy and increases the risks of injury and death for baby and mother. But progress is heading in the wrong direction. From 2020 to 2022, the rate of severe acute malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women and adolescent girls increased by 25 percent.³

World leaders must prioritize nutrition in all global health and international development policies, investments, and programs if we hope to end all forms of malnutrition in our lifetimes.

¹ "Joint Estimates on Child Malnutrition (JME)," n.d. <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/monitoring-nutritional-status-and-food-safety-and-events/joint-child-malnutrition-estimates>

² United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). "Undernourished and Overlooked: A Global Nutrition Crisis in Adolescent Girls and Women". *UNICEF Child Nutrition Report Series*, 2022. UNICEF, New York, 2023.

³ UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), Standing Together for Nutrition (ST4N), Micronutrient Forum (MNF). *Global resilience report: Safeguarding the nutrition of vulnerable children, women, families and communities in the context of polycrisis*. Washington, DC: MNF; 2024.

Nutrition for Growth Is a Critical Opportunity for Governments to Invest

Nutrition for Growth (N4G) is the only global initiative where governments, multilateral organizations, philanthropies, bilateral donors, and the private sector make financial and policy commitments to exclusively improve nutrition, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The Paris N4G summit in March 2025 can set bold ambition and put the community on track for achieving both the World Health Assembly (WHA) updated global nutrition targets and the SDG 2 by 2030. It is a crucial occasion for the world to ensure progress on nutrition through ambitious financial and policy pledges, ultimately driving human development and reducing poverty. Donor governments, multilateral institutions, implementing countries, philanthropies, and private sector entities compliant with the principles of engagement have the opportunity to secure an increase in financial and policy commitments to global nutrition. This summit can showcase governments' and funders' continued commitment to end malnutrition while, at the same time, promoting a sense of accountability and engagement for past pledges.

Investing in nutrition is not only cost effective, but essential to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also a smart investment. Analysis in 2024 found that US\$1 invested in nutrition could yield on average \$23 in benefits and save the lives of 6.2 million children under the age of five.⁴ However, there is a \$12.8 billion per year (2025 to 2034) financing gap for these targeted nutrition interventions,⁵ and how we bridge that gap is the big question. While domestic resources and good quality ODA remain very important, we will not end global malnutrition without wider financing for development reforms, including in relation to debt and tax. We will need significant resources, political will, and meaningful partnerships with affected communities, national CSOs, and youth to do it right.

⁴ Shekar, Meera; Shibata Okamura, Kyoko; Vilar-Compte, Mireya; Dell'Aira, Chiara; eds. 2024. *Investment Framework for Nutrition 2024. Human Development Perspectives Overview booklet*. Washington, DC: World Bank. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/42164> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO, 13.

⁵ Shekar, 7.

What Governments Can Do to Make a Difference at the Paris N4G Summit

Donors and high-burden countries must act to make the Paris N4G Summit a critical moment for accelerating progress on malnutrition and global health more broadly, especially targeting the populations most affected by malnutrition.

Road to Paris

- Pledge early and commensurate with current needs to bridge the resource gap for evidence-based, high-impact nutrition interventions, which persists and holds back progress.
 - Donors should ensure their financial commitments add up to an additional \$3.8 billion per year from 2025 to 2029.⁶
 - Countries with the highest burdens of malnutrition must ensure domestic allocation of resources and spending to ensure reduction of various forms of malnutrition and build capacity of communities to respond.
 - The World Bank should make a commitment of at least \$4 billion per year for the next three fiscal years (FY26, FY27 and FY28).
- Ensure high-level political leadership for nutrition by mobilizing champions, engaging the private sector, highlighting innovations, leveraging key moments, and developing South-North and South-South partnerships.
- Mobilize other governments and relevant stakeholders to prioritize nutrition on the international stage, specifically the World Bank Annual Meetings, the World Health Summit, the G20 launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, and the IDA21 replenishment conference.

At Paris (March 27–28, 2025)

- Ensure in-person attendance of heads of state or the highest political level to demonstrate leadership and commitment.
- Align pledges with the commitment-making guide⁷ to drive a cohesive and coordinated global movement on nutrition.
- Announce funding directed toward nutrition-specific interventions with the highest impact to prevent, detect, and treat all forms of malnutrition for the most affected communities in all contexts with a particular focus on enabling women and girls to access diverse and nutritious diets and other nutritional supports they need to be healthy.
- Support calls for wider financing for development reforms such as a UN sovereign debt restructuring mechanism, a UN automatic debt cancellation mechanism for crisis-hit countries to ensure that debt burdens do not hold governments back from investing in nutrition, and a UN Convention on Tax to ensure that sufficient taxes can be raised by governments to enable investments in nutrition.

⁶ We have calculated this figure by applying the average of the ODA needs, 37%, established in the World Bank's 2017 *An Investment Framework for Nutrition* (IFN) to the additional \$52 billion called upon for 2025-2029 established by the 2024 IFN. This is one way of looking at an overall estimation of the donor share and does not supersede individual donor country asks.

⁷ The N4G governance structure is currently working on issuing the commitment guide.

- Commit to integrating nutrition into health, food, education and social protection systems to better address the structural causes of malnutrition.
- Create SMART commitments and detail how they will be monitored and tracked publicly and embedded across all development policies, programs, and budgets.

After Paris

- Fully disburse all N4G commitments — past, present, and future — by the end of their pledging period.⁸
- Empower women and girls to manage nutrition programs.
- Continue to champion accountability by reporting to the Nutrition Accountability Framework (NAF) and providing financial support, so the NAF can continue monitoring nutrition action.
- Prioritize, when making funding decisions, the most effective, evidence-based nutrition interventions, including channeling resources through mechanisms that catalyze or crowd-in additional funds, such as the Child Nutrition Fund and Global Financing Facility.
- All eligible countries and donors should collaborate with the Child Nutrition Fund, a UNICEF-led platform created to support global donors to coordinate their investments in high-impact nutrition interventions.⁹ This can help ensure that some interventions or geographies are not oversupplied while others are underfunded.

N.B. This document does not necessarily reflect alignment across each member of the ACTION Partnership.

About ACTION

The ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership is a group of 14 locally rooted, independent member organizations around the world, advocating together with allies and champions for a world where all people have equitable access to health. The Partnership, which was established in 2004, is supported by a secretariat located in Washington, DC, U.S.

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⁸ See the Nutrition Accountability Framework: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/tracker/>.

⁹ <https://www.childnutritionfund.org/about-child-nutrition-fund>.