



NUTRITION SUMMIT IN RIO 2016

**A CALL FOR SUSTAINED EU
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
TO END UNDERNUTRITION**

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**GENERATI • N
NUTRITION**



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FAST FACTS

Each year around
6 MILLION CHILDREN
DIE BEFORE THE AGE OF FIVE

45% of these deaths are
DUE TO MALNUTRITION

LESS THAN 1%¹ of global
development aid is spent
on specific interventions
TACKLING UNDERNUTRITION

only meeting **1.4%**
OF THE TOTAL NEEDS

According to estimates,
to reach the World Health
Assembly (WHA)
stunting target by 2025²:

GOVERNMENTS **DONORS**
should should
DOUBLE **QUADRUPLE**
THEIR CURRENT INVESTMENTS

Not investing in nutrition
comes at a great cost:
impaired national productivity
could represent

AN ESTIMATED LOSS OF 2-3%
OF A COUNTRY'S GDP

while in some countries, like
Ethiopia, it is **AS HIGH**
AS 16%³

The European Union (EU) has taken on a strong leadership role in the area of food and nutrition security over recent years. In addition to adopting pivotal policies at the EU level, such as the Food Security Policy Framework and subsequent Implementation Plan, a Resilience Communication and a Nutrition Communication were developed, followed and supported by concrete action plans. As the world's largest donor, the EU demonstrated its commitment to substantially reduce undernutrition when - **at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2013 - it committed to reducing stunting by at least 7 million by 2025 and pledged €3.5bn for the 2014-2020 period to achieve this target.**

This EU leadership is much needed and greatly valued. There are also specific issues on which we, as civil society, are committed to working alongside and supporting the EU to enhance and improve. We see a need for:

- ▶ A new focus on wasting by inclusion of **specific actions and targets on wasting in development contexts**, given that 9 out of 10 children suffering from often life-threatening wasting do not receive the treatment they need;⁴
- ▶ **Increased investment in nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.** Out of the €3.5bn pledged by the EU, only €0.4bn is dedicated to direct or so-called nutrition-specific interventions, such as the promotion of appropriate child feeding practices, food fortification and supplementation and behavioural change among others.⁵ Nutrition-sensitive interventions, which span several sectors and address the underlying and structural causes of undernutrition, such as food security, gender equality, water, sanitation, hygiene, education, are allocated with €3.1bn;
- ▶ **Improved tracking of nutrition spending.** While both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions are important to allow for sustainable and long-term change, it is imperative that disbursement and impact are tracked adequately.

Indeed, tracking nutrition spending continues to be a significant challenge. The methodology the EU and some other donors use to track these cross-cutting nutrition-sensitive investments could be strengthened to enhance accuracy and reduce subjectivity. Producing accurate and reliable data on all nutrition investments is central to ensuring accountability. **Accountability in turn is key if the EU wants to help to achieve the SDGs.**

Another element, that is critical to achieving the SDGs, is ensuring that countries worldwide are **collecting the necessary data to understand where nutrition is improving and where efforts need to be targeted.** Efforts supported by the EU to collect this kind of nutrition data are ongoing. However, more investment in accurate and timely collection, analysis and use of data, is still needed.

1 In 2013 USD \$0.94bn was disbursed by donors for nutrition specific interventions against USD \$ 134.8bn in total ODA. Global Nutrition Report (2015), "Actions and accountability to advance nutrition & sustainable development", <http://ebrary.ifpri.org/utis/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/129443/filename/129654.pdf>, p. 58 and OECD, «Aid to developing countries rebounds in 2013 to reach an all-time high», <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/aid-to-developing-countries-rebounds-in-2013-to-reach-an-all-time-high.htm>

2 Global Nutrition Report (2015), "Actions and accountability to advance nutrition & sustainable development", <http://ebrary.ifpri.org/utis/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/129443/filename/129654.pdf>

3 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Union (2014), "The Cost of Hunger in Africa: Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda", http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/CoM/com2014/com2014-the_cost_of_hunger-english.pdf. On the other hand, the Global Nutrition Report (2014) shows that investing in nutrition is the most cost effective interventions to advance global welfare, as every dollar spent in scaling up nutrition interventions targeting the first 1,000 days of life yields a return of at least \$16. See more at: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/global-nutrition-report-2014-actions-and-accountability-accelerate-worlds-progress>

4 Generation Nutrition (2014), "Acute Malnutrition: An Everyday Emergency", http://www.generation-nutrition.org/sites/default/files/editorial/acute_malnutrition_an_everyday_emergency_low_res.pdf

5 The Lancet (2013), Maternal and Child Nutrition, <http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-child-nutrition>

ROAD TO RIO

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EU

The Second High Level Summit on Nutrition will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 4th of August 2016. It is the biggest global event between now and 2020 to address the devastating burden of undernutrition. The EU should seize this opportunity to strengthen the political momentum and reinforce its leadership role in the fight against undernutrition. **The Rio 2016 Summit will be the moment to evaluate progress made since 2013 and build on those commitments with the necessary financial support in order to ensure the ambition of the SDGs to end malnutrition in all its forms can be realised.**

WE CALL ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION & MEMBER STATES TO:

SECURE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

- ▶ Pledge an additional €1bn to nutrition-specific interventions for the period 2016-2020 to meet the WHA & SDG nutrition targets.
- ▶ Explore contribution & synergies with new innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Power of Nutrition or UNITLIFE.

SHOW CONTINUED POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Play a leadership role before, during & after the Summit, together with the UK, Brazil & Japan, and continue to act as a champion among donors in the eradication of undernutrition.
- ▶ Engage actively with civil society organisations to ensure their voices are heard at the summit, and a place is opened for civil society involvement in the run up to & at the summit.

ADOPT POLICY

- ▶ Develop a specific target to tackle wasting in under-fives in development contexts, as previously done with stunting, so that EU progress in reducing wasting in humanitarian & development settings can be measured & evaluated.
- ▶ Develop concrete plans to increase cooperation across sectors at headquarters and delegation level in order to reach WHA & SDG nutrition targets in both humanitarian & development contexts.
- ▶ Monitor the implementation of the EU action plan through specific indicators in order to measure any negative impacts of agriculture programmes on nutrition.

ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY

- ▶ Secure wider political commitment to the improvement of current tracking of nutrition-sensitive & nutrition-specific spending by refining the DAC basic nutrition code & developing a DAC marker for nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- ▶ Develop a roadmap for the disbursement of the €3.1bn pledge for nutrition-sensitive interventions & the €0.4bn pledge for nutrition-specific interventions.
- ▶ Commit to improve existing datasets, compiling disaggregated data & filling data gaps in order to be able to track progress towards WHA & SDG nutrition targets.

AS CIVIL SOCIETY, WE STAND READY TO WORK ALONGSIDE THE EU TO ENSURE THE NUTRITION FOR GROWTH SUMMIT IN RIO IS TRULY A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT FOR NUTRITION AND PAVES THE WAY FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE & BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL.

MALNUTRITION is a physical condition, which is a direct consequence of having an inadequate amount of nutrients in one's body (either nutrient consumption or absorption related). Malnutrition refers to both overweight/obesity and undernutrition.

UNDERNUTRITION stems from the inadequate quantity and/or quality of food being consumed, and/or repeated infection or disease results in improper absorption of vital nutrients. It manifests itself through wasting, stunting, and micronutrient deficiencies.

WASTING (OR ACUTE

MALNUTRITION) is a condition where a child's weight is too low for his/her height, and his/her body wastes away. It is associated with a high risk of mortality in young children.

STUNTING (A SIGN OF CHRONIC

MALNUTRITION) is a condition where a child's height is too low for his/her age as a consequence of long-term nutritional deprivation. It is associated with long-term developmental and health risks.

HIDDEN HUNGER OR MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES

is the direct outcome of inadequate intake of vital vitamins and minerals, which results in sub-optimal immune function while undermining growth and development.

NUTRITION-SENSITIVE interventions span several sectors and address the underlying and structural causes of undernutrition. They encompass interventions in the areas of agriculture, public health, gender equality, water, sanitation and hygiene, and education among others.

NUTRITION-SPECIFIC interventions look at the immediate causes of undernutrition, such as the promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, elimination of micronutrient deficiencies through fortification and supplementation, therapeutic food to manage acute malnutrition, behavioural change and school nutrition.

THE **GENERATION NUTRITION** CAMPAIGN BRINGS TOGETHER A DIVERSE AND GROWING GROUP OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS WHO WISH TO SEE AN END TO CHILD DEATHS FROM ACUTE MALNUTRITION. **GENERATION NUTRITION** IS A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN, CALLING ON GOVERNMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE URGENT ACTION TO PRIORITISE THE FIGHT AGAINST ACUTE MALNUTRITION, AND SAVE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE.

WE BELIEVE THAT, WITH STRONG POLITICAL WILL, OUR GOAL OF A WORLD FREE OF CHILD DEATHS FROM ACUTE MALNUTRITION CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHIN A GENERATION. A FULL LIST OF COALITION MEMBERS IS ON OUR WEBSITE.

www.generation-nutrition.org

GENERATION NUTRITION EU IS COMPOSED OF A WIDE RANGE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN DIFFERENT SECTORS AND ACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH THE EU ON NUTRITION-RELATED ISSUES.

**GENERATION
NUTRITION**

