GENERATION NUTRITION EU is a coalition of civil society organisations working to end malnutrition in all its forms. Members of the coalition work in different sectors and different countries across the globe but are united in supporting European leadership in the fight against malnutrition, ensuring adequate and effective nutrition interventions which are firmly grounded in human rights and which leave no-one behind.

We believe the world can be freed of malnutrition within a generation and that the EU has a unique and critical role to play in this endeavour.
In 2015, 159 million children under age 5 were chronically malnourished (stunted); this is costing the global community an average GDP loss of 10% every year.¹

Only around 57% of global development aid is spent on nutrition-specific interventions.

To reach the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets to reduce stunting, wasting and anemia, and to increase exclusive breastfeeding, an additional $70 billion ² investment in nutrition interventions in the next 10 years is needed.

Investing in nutrition interventions is highly cost-effective and impactful: Every $1 invested in nutrition generates a return of at least $16.²

OPORTUNITIES TO SCALE UP EFFORTS TO END UNDERNUTRITION

In 2016, the United Nations proclaimed 2016-2025 the DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION, an unprecedented opportunity for nutrition action, which serves as a framework to increase activities conducted at national, regional and global levels to achieve existing global targets for nutrition. The Framework of Action of the ICN2 (Second International Conference on Nutrition, organised by FAO and WHO in 2014) also serves as a reference for governments to take accountability for addressing undernutrition and ensuring access to food that meets people's nutrition needs and promote safe and diversified diets. In addition, the ITALIAN G7 in 2017 will have a strong focus on Food Security and Nutrition. It should be a key occasion for world leaders to take concrete actions to deliver on the commitments of lifting 500 million people out of hunger by 2030, taken at the G7 Emuasum Summit in 2015. Moreover, the NUTRITION 4 GROWTH initiative, that started in London in 2013 and will culminate in Japan in 2020, represents an opportunity for governments, civil society, donors to come together to invest in solutions to end malnutrition.

The EU should work to ensure these future opportunities at global level can strengthen the political momentum towards ending undernutrition, building on past commitments, evaluating the progress and pledging additional financial resources, in order to fill the funding gap and ensure the ambition of the SDGs to end malnutrition in all its forms can be realised.

WE CALL ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND ALL MEMBER STATES TO:

ADOPT POLICY

- Develop a specific strategy and target to reduce wasting in under-fives in development contexts, as previously done with stunting, so to prevent and treat acute malnutrition with a long-term sustainable approach.

- Ensuring a nutrition-sensitive programming approach across different EU development sectors (health, gender, agriculture, education, water, sanitation and hygiene).

- Develop concrete plans to increase cooperation across sectors at headquarters and EU Delegation level in order to reach WHA and SDG nutrition targets in both humanitarian and development contexts.

- Ensure policy coherence across all nutrition programmes, interventions and any other EU development, economic and foreign policies, without any forms of aid conditionality based on migration indicators.

ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY

- Secure wider political commitment to the improvement of current tracking of nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific spending by aligning the DAC basic nutrition code to the Lancet list of nutrition-specific interventions and developing a DAC marker for both nutrition specific and nutrition-sensitive investments.

- Ensure full disbursement of the €3.5 billion pledge for nutrition interventions, keeping track of the progress and ensuring priority countries also provide reliable data, especially for all the global nutrition targets.

- Continue to effectively and adequately track the progress on the EU Action Plan on Nutrition, tracking the Nutrition 4 Growth disbursement and the commitment of reducing stunting by at least 7 million by 2025.

AS CIVIL SOCIETY, WE STAND READY TO WORK ALONGSIDE THE EU TO ENSURE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TO END UNDERNUTRITION.

FAST FACTS

Each year malnutrition claims the lives of 3 million children under the age of five.

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The-Foundation-for-Development-


5 Figures from the No Wasted Lives coalition, a joint initiative supported by Action Against Hunger, UNICEF, the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, the United Kingdom government, and the European Union, with the goal of ensuring that six million severely malnourished children are able to get access to lifesaving treatment every year by 2020. http://www.nowastedlives.org/

6 Figures from the No Wasted Lives coalition, a joint initiative supported by Action Against Hunger, UNICEF, the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, the United Kingdom government, and the European Union, with the goal of ensuring that six million severely malnourished children are able to get access to lifesaving treatment every year by 2020. http://www.nowastedlives.org/

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