
AGENDA

ACTION REVIEW PANEL MEETING

30 MAY 2023

- 1. Welcome and introductions (5 min)** *UK Minister Andrew Mitchell*
- 2. Update on progress and forward look (10 min)** *UNICEF ED Catherine Russell*
- 3. Increasing investments in wasting through financing and advocacy – what needs to be done differently? (45 min)**
 - Opening remarks - *USAID Administrator Samantha Power*
 - Sustainable financing opportunities – *Mark Suzman, CEO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*
 - Reflections from panel members – *chaired by ED Catherine Russell*
- 4. Next steps and priorities for 2023/24 (10 min)** *UNICEF ED Catherine Russell*
- 5. Closing (5 min)** *UK Minister Andrew Mitchell*

Relevant pre-reading:

- Summary of Progress (agenda item 2)
- Opportunities for improved sustainability and quality of financing for wasting (agenda item 3)
- ARP actions for endorsement (agenda item 4)

KEY RESULTS IN CHILD WASTING FROM 2021

Message 1 – In 2022, the number of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition who received treatment increased by 35% globally, the highest number reached on record.

- In June 2022, UNICEF predicted that 8 million children in the 15 countries most affected by the global food and nutrition crisis suffered from severe wasting and faced an increased risk of death, while 40 million children were living in food poverty.
- In response the largest emergency nutrition response to date was delivered UNICEF and partners reached 5.5 million children in the 15 crisis-hit countries¹ with lifesaving treatment for severe wasting in 2022: a 37 per cent increase from the 4 million children treated in 2021.
- The rapid scale-up and expansion of interventions such as Family MUAC and treatment of child wasting by community health workers, facilitated this rise in treatment coverage, particularly in the countries with the largest number of children treated for severe wasting in 2022: Afghanistan DRC, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Somalia.
- In addition, outside of humanitarian contexts, following years of investment by UNICEF and partners in supporting policies, systems, supply chains and programmes in partnership with national governments across the globe, the following results were achieved in 64 countries in 2022:
 - 7.3 million children under 5 years of age reached with lifesaving treatment for severe wasting (a 35 per cent increase from 2021) -the highest annual increase and the highest number of children treated for severe wasting since large-scale treatment began in 2007
 - 182 million children under 5 were screened for early detection of child wasting (an 18 per cent increase from 2021)
- After 7 years of advocacy, the CODEX Guideline on RUTF was released in November 2022, which will support national-level production of the appropriate standard of RUTF and its availability as routine treatment in high-prevalence contexts.

Message 2 – In 2022, substantial financing facilitated acceleration of programmes for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting, including new modalities to expedite the production of RUTF

- Due to the global food and nutrition crisis in 2022, UNICEF called for \$1.2 billion to urgently meet the needs in the 15 most affected countries
- In response USAID provided \$200 million to UNICEF – and at a UN General Assembly side-event in September co-hosted by USAID, UNICEF, the Government of Senegal and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) **an additional \$280 million was pledged to scale up efforts, including** from the governments of, Canada, Ireland, The Netherlands, and a number of philanthropies, CIFF, Dangote Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

¹ Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen

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- To ensure the production of RUTF could meet the increased needs, and in a context of rising costs of raw materials coupled with a lack of capital by producers, new financing modalities were needed. With the support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – a \$50 million financial guarantee advance payments of up to 70 per cent upfront were made to suppliers to increase production of RUTF. This was thanks to an additional \$20 million mobilized through the bridge fund supported by UNICEF USA (Vaccine Independent Initiative). The efforts are already supporting manufacturers to expand their capacity and significantly increase production of RUTF in 2023. As of 17th May, a total of \$46.4m in advanced payments have been paid to RUTF suppliers since the Facility was established on 9th November 2022. This amount expedited the manufacture of 2.6 million cartons of RUTF (worth \$126 million).
 - To support transparent real-time monitoring of RUTF pipelines, UNICEF established a new RUTF tracker: [RUTF Market Dashboard | UNICEF Supply Division](#)
 - Finally, UNICEF and partners continued to support the expansion of regional and country level RUTF production and the development of alternative RUTF recipes to support sustainable supply chains.

Message 3 – From 2021 increased investments and prioritization of child wasting by a number of Governments

- Since the last ARP in 2021, 22 Global Action Plan (GAP) roadmaps were completed and launched at the Nutrition for Growth Summit, where significant commitments (financial and policy) were made towards child wasting from a large number of national governments, CSO, UN agencies and development partners
- These GAP Country roadmaps are now being used to prioritize actions at country level and for resource mobilization at global level.
- In Q1 2023, Somalia joined the GAP on Child Wasting with the development of a national roadmap
- Domestic financial investments continue to be demonstrated through the Child Nutrition Fund Match Instrument as follows:
 - › 6.3 million USD raised in domestic financing through the Match instrument
 - › Cambodia, Senegal, Mauritania, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Pakistan have all increased domestic resources towards RUTF through the match fund since 2021
 - › Of particular note in Mauritania, for example, the Match instrument enabled the government to cover 75% of the RUTF needs for 2022 and 100% in 2023
- UNICEF/USAID UNGA side event on child wasting (September 2022) was co-hosted by Government of Senegal
- The AU year of action on Nutrition in 2022, facilitated advocacy on the prevention of all forms of malnutrition including child wasting across the continent

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY OF FINANCING FOR WASTING

Points for Discussion, ARP, May 30th 2023

Background/Current financing architecture

- 1. Malnutrition is the cause of 45% of child deaths yet continues to receive less than 1% of ODA.**
The Global Investment Framework for Nutrition called for an average annual increase of over \$2Bn to meet the World Health Assembly targets on nutrition.
- 2. In 2020, \$570 million was spent on wasting alone, though 59% of this was channelled through humanitarian funding,** highlighting the changing nature of spending to annual, less predictable spending. In addition to this immediate need for humanitarian support in many contexts, financing wasting treatment sustainably will require more predictable and longer-term development assistance that helps to strengthen systems.
- 3. There is a need to reshape the financing architecture for wasting prevention and treatment** so that it better reflects the nature of this challenge. This includes (1) leveraging more domestic financing and more 'development financing' from donors to strengthen systems to address wasting efficiently, (2) drawing in more predictable, multi-year financing for countries where domestic spend / development finance is less feasible, and (3) ensuring there remains flexibility to scale up financing in the face of unexpected nutrition crises.
- 4. However, while domestic resources remain the most important source of financing for any country, highly concessional flows from donors, the World Bank and other multilaterals remain extremely important at the margin for many countries,** especially in Africa.

Key opportunities on the horizon

- 1. The Child Nutrition Fund,** a new financing mechanism designed to accelerate scale up of sustainable policies, programs and supplies to end child wasting, and represents an opportunity to increase and prioritize the allocation of global and domestic resources, as well as essential supplies for child wasting.
- 2. New financing approaches that bridge the humanitarian-development nexus.** Given the current financing architecture for wasting, and whilst countries face continued crises, it is imperative to explore financing approaches (e.g. risk financing for food security/livelihoods) that have been utilized in other sectors to enable more efficient and predictable scale up of support to avert escalation of child wasting. ARP members have a wealth of experience with different financing approaches and should explore/apply experiences from other sectors for nutrition programming
- 3. The ARP Taskforce have also identified the World Bank (International Development Assistance /International Bank Reconstruction and Development) as a key opportunity for increasing investment in prevention,** given it represents by far one of the largest single sources of financing for food security and nutrition, with ~\$3.6 billion in commitments in FY23. IDA cycles, including the mid-term review in December provide a unique opportunity to position nutrition at the forefront of country responses to intersecting food and health crises and plans for sustainable investment in an economic recovery that supports human capital development.

Specific recommendations are below

- 1. Develop a special theme on Nutrition and Food Security within IDA21:** Given the outsized importance of food and nutrition security to address both immediate needs and long-term resilience, adding a special theme on this would further signal the centrality of the issue.
- 2. Reform Early Response Financing for the prevention of malnutrition:** As part of the World Bank Crisis Response Window, Early Response Financing (ERF) is designed specifically to support slower onset events. However, the ceiling of \$500 million should be expanded and its caps removed to allow for greater flexibility. The criteria for triggering and accessing ERF should also be revised to ensure countries can access funding long before hitting a minimum severity level of IPC3 (crisis) and to also include preventative measures in preparedness plans to address malnutrition.
- 3. Commit to maintain FY22 levels of World Bank funding for forthcoming fiscal years:** Currently, there are lower than anticipated approvals for nutrition and food security operations in the current fiscal year compared to FY22 which is of great concern given the ongoing food and nutrition security crisis and extraordinary needs countries still face.
- 4. Include key indicators to measure the impact of IDA operations on the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations:** Retain the Tier 1 indicator for under 5 stunting rates and clarify the Tier 2 indicator for women and children who have received basic health, nutrition and population services, while for IDA21, adding additional Tier 1 indicators for wasting in infants and anemia in women of reproductive age.
- 5. Outline a pathway towards clearer, and consistent coding in the public database:** Investments in nutrition are measured by the World Bank through a theme code. The World Bank project database still uses “food security and nutrition” despite committing to use separate codes, making distinguishing and identifying financing for nutrition difficult.

RECOMMENDED BY THE ARP TASKFORCE FOR ENDORSEMENT AT THE ACTION REVIEW PANEL, MAY 2023

1. Request for endorsement of the four GAP countries proposed to be invited to join the ARP at Ministry of Health level, as well as representation at the technical level on the Task Force. The four countries **Cambodia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Pakistan** were recommended by the ARP Task Force based on evidence of national commitment (financial and policy) from the national governments as well as to provide a diverse range of geographical and fragility levels.

Once endorsed the ARP Task Force will follow up with invites will be sent so they may join the next meeting

2. Request for endorsement of recommendation to invite Irish Aid to be a member of the ARP given their increasing investments in Child Wasting

3. Request for endorsement of the priorities for the ARP for 2023/2024 as recommended by the ARP Task Force:

1. Prioritize action to address child wasting at scale

The first challenge facing global efforts to address child wasting is being clear about what it takes to scale up evidence-based action for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting. Much of the current global narrative on wasting still focuses disproportionately on treatment. The Global Action Plan on Child Wasting started to change that, but its comprehensive scope has made it difficult to develop a compelling narrative capable of galvanizing global action. The ARP can change this by providing a concrete agenda about what needs to be prioritized to leverage greatest impact and value for money. This agenda – developed by global leaders for global leaders – can in turn help streamline disjointed global advocacy efforts on this issue.

2. Coordinate efforts to mobilize resources to deliver against this prioritized agenda

The second challenge facing global efforts to address child wasting is having the resources to implement a change agenda. Despite the unprecedented levels of resources mobilized in response to the global food and nutrition crisis in 2022, funding shortfalls are still significant and often rely disproportionately on short-term unsustainable humanitarian funding streams. In the lead up to the UN General Assembly (2022), the world has seen the first global effort to mobilize resources specifically for child wasting. Those efforts have been coordinated in an ad hoc manner and the ARP can change that by providing a space for global coordination of resource mobilization efforts for this issue. To do so, the ARP could work to bring together new and existing financing instruments such as the UNICEF-led Child Nutrition Fund (CNF), to offer a comprehensive picture of funding requirements against the agreed prioritized actions.

3. Hold the global community accountable for meeting its obligations

The third and final challenge facing global efforts to address child wasting is lack of accountability and transparency. The lack of a clear and collectively agreed definition of what is needed, and the lack of a coordinated tally of available funds and results achieved at any given time, makes accountability difficult to achieve. Current support for child wasting can therefore not be publicly compared to determine if collective efforts are commensurate to needs. The ARP can change that: by aggregating both aspects of that equation and using its collective voice to both draw attention to positive action and push for greater action as needed.

4. Agreement to host another ARP meeting to review progress within the next 12months.