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# SUMMARY NOTE FROM ACTION REVIEW PANEL MEETING ON 30 MAY 2023

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The third meeting of the Action Review Panel on Child Wasting took place on May 30th, 2023. The panel was co-chaired by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell, UK Minister for Development Andrew Mitchell and USAID Administrator Samantha Power with the following members represented:

Inger Ashing	Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children
Francesco Branca	Director of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO
Justin Byworth	Global Director of Programmes, World Vision
Connell Foley	Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning, Concern Worldwide
Jean-Michel Grand	Executive Director, Action Against Hunger
Anna Hakobyan	Chief Impact Officer, CIFF
Kirstin Hanson	Nutrition Technical Working Group Lead, MSF
Peter MacDougall	Assistant Deputy Minister of Global issues and Development, Global Affairs Canada
Cindy McCain	Executive Director, WFP
William Moore	Executive Director, Eleanor Crook Foundation
Mark Suzman	Chief Executive Officer, BMGF

Apologies were sent for David Miliband, CEO International Rescue Committee

The meeting focused on the progress which had been made since the last meeting, led by ED Russell (for summary see annex) and was followed by a panel discussion on priority actions for the year ahead. The discussion centred around the following themes:

## **Sustainable financing**

Financing for wasting has been systematically underfunded and under resourced, accounting for only 1% of ODA despite contributing to 45% of child deaths. Wasting management has historically relied heavily on humanitarian funding despite 3 out of 4 wasted children living in contexts which would not normally have access to these funding streams. Concessional financing like WB IDA is the largest single source of financing for nutrition and there is therefore urgent need to ensure that wasting is adequately considered in both planning and utilization of international financing to allow for predictable resources for prevention, early detection and treatment of child wasting at scale.

In light of the current backsliding of nutrition indicators and the continuing threat of climate-related conflict and economic crises, the panel discussed advocating for a special theme for nutrition as part of future tranches of funding and to position nutrition at the forefront of the IDA20 mid-term review.

Domestic government prioritization of wasting is also key to ensuring more sustainable financing. The Child Nutrition Fund is becoming an important tool for high burden countries to access match funding for wasting commodities and it has seen demand exponentially increase since its inception. The integration of nutrition into health services design as part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) roadmaps and the potential inclusion of nutrition indicators within the UHC index was also discussed as a way to incentivize greater integration of nutrition services within national health systems.

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## Prevention

The panel also agreed on the importance of having a sustainable strategy to both prevent and treat child wasting. Whilst funding for and coverage of treatment of wasting has increased over the past years, for this progress to continue there needs to be sustainable investment and progress on the prevention of wasting at scale both in stable and fragile contexts. This includes expanding and improving primary health care, improving access to safe water and sanitation, strengthening social protection mechanisms as well as long term efforts to improve food and nutrition security, giving communities the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

To achieve this WFP is taking forward work to develop a concrete evidence-based investment case for food-based elements of prevention programmes. This includes the creation of a model to show how funding can be used most effectively for household-level and targeted food-based solutions to have an impact on treatment caseloads and wider impact including incentivisation for uptake of other essential services. WFP and UNICEF will also work together to convene experts working on innovative resilience financing to explore how approaches can be used to identify new sources of funding for prevention programmes.

WHO will also be releasing the first ever guideline on the prevention of wasting later this year which will provide guidance to national governments and implementing partners on the use of specially formulated foods, local foods, micronutrient supplementation and social protection mechanisms for the prevention of wasting in mothers and children along with the updated treatment recommendations that also support approaches to increase reach of programmes.

## Joint advocacy

There is a need to both keep encouraging continuous progress, based on what has been achieved so far, and to use our collective voices to raise wasting to the forefront of wider discussions around key global moments. The SDGs, the financing summit in France and COP were all raised by panel members as potential opportunities, and it was agreed that there should be a joint output of some sort within the next few months.

## Accountability

In its inaugural meeting the ARP committed to strengthening the transparency and accountability for progress on the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. The need to monitor and track the impact of funding on the effectiveness of services was discussed with the recommendation for accountability of this to be measured using population-level health indicators.

Before closing the chair also asked for the panel members to endorse the following proposals (for more information see annex):

- Inviting four GAP country representatives (Cambodia, Nigeria, Kenya and Pakistan) along with Irish aid to join the ARP.
- Mandating the ARP taskforce to take forward actions on the three priority areas for the ARP as drafted by the task force (see annex for details).
- Agreement for the ARP to meet again within 12 months to review progress

## Agreed Action Points:

- Explore options to develop a special theme on Nutrition and Food Security within IDA21 through consultation with the World Bank – *ARP Taskforce*
- Explore including key indicators to measure the impact of IDA operations on the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations – *ARP Taskforce*
- Convene relevant experts to identify new / further opportunities for better early response financing mechanisms to support prevention of malnutrition – *UNICEF and WFP*
- Explore options for the inclusion of a nutrition indicator within the UHC index - *UK*
- Work to develop a concrete evidence-based investment case for prevention programmes - *WFP*
- Draft key messages for joint advocacy on wasting by members of the ARP – *ARP Taskforce*
- Invites to join the panel to go out to the Ministry of Health of four GAP countries and Irish Aid in advance of the next ARP meeting – *ARP co-chairs*
- Development of scorecard on progress of priority areas to monitor progress and support accountability of the ARP – *UNICEF*
- Confirm date for next meeting of ARP