

## FCDO-UNICEF Action Review Panel on Child Wasting,

21 October 2021

**Co-Chairs:** Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF and Wendy Morton MP, Minister for Europe and Americas

**Panellists:** Amy Pollack (BMGF), Naoko Yamamoto (WHO), William Moore (Eleanor Crook Foundation), Kathryn Bolles (Save the Children), Andrew Morley (World Vision), Christos Christou (MSF), Abigail Perry (WFP), Connell Foley (Concern Worldwide), Peter MacDougall (Global Affairs Canada), Shawn Baker (USAID), Sufia Askari (CIFF), Jean-Michel Grand (Action Against Hunger), Jeannie Annan (IRC)

### Agenda:

Session	Main Objective	Chair	Length
<b>Opening remarks: welcome by UNICEF ED and MP Morton;</b>	Introductions and setting the scene	HF	5 mins
		WM	3 mins
<b>Update on progress and new developments</b>	Confirm Priority Actions and Scorecard	WM	10 mins
	Propose National Government Participation	WM	
	Reflect and integrate outcomes from the wasting reset process	WM	
<b>Road to N4G</b>	Present GAP Commitments and associated financial needs and present recent high-level investments on child wasting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic commitments leveraged through the RUTF Match Fund</li> <li>• Comments from the Floor</li> </ul>	HF	10 mins
	Discussion on additional commitments to support GAP Roadmaps at N4G	HF	15 mins
<b>AOB</b>	A chance to discuss other key topic relevant to the ARP	HF	5 min
<b>Next Steps and Closing</b>	Propose new ARP Task Force	WM	3 mins
	Next Steps & Closing	HF	2 mins

## 1. Opening Remarks and Introductions

ED Fore opened the meeting by welcoming the panel to the second meeting of the Action Review Plan on Child Wasting. She thanked the panel for joining and their ongoing commitment to this important issue which is sometimes neglected.

## 2. Road to N4G

ED Fore stressed that the momentum behind child wasting could not have come at a better time. In the Summer of 2019, the UN Secretary General tasked UN agencies to develop a Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. These 23 countries Country Roadmaps will be released on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

ED Fore took the panel through the slide on concrete commitments that these countries have made as part of the Global Action Plan to achieved measurable progress on child wasting. These countries are being encouraged to make these commitments publicly at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit.

The question for all panel members now is how we can support these countries in achieving these commitments. The countries have identified core interventions that need to be scaled up. Supporting that scale up will require us to come together at country level and to support them to leverage the financial resources. The GAP process has helped to give costed plans for achieving these commitments.

All GAP countries are committed to mobilizing domestic resources to meet these needs but have made it clear that additional support is needed to mobilise the full \$3billion dollars needed to address this problem. Now we have this plan and concrete measures of success we need to make it happen.

One example of what UNICEF are doing to support the GAP countries is a Ready to Use Therapeutic Food Match Fund which is supported by FCDO and CIFF. This fund matches domestic contributions to RUTF 1 to 1. This fund has already leveraged \$4.5million of domestic resources from governments like Nigeria, Uganda, Mozambique, Mauritania and Senegal. This is the beginning of a new way to finance RUTF. UNICEF will build on this approach with a new approach to accelerate progress on prevention, early detection and treatment of child wasting this approach will be called 'No Time to Waste'.

Participants were then invited to share what their organisations are already doing to support the child wasting agenda and the opportunity they see to amplify these commitments at the N4G Summit in December.

Andrew Morley – World Vision announced \$500million to fight malnutrition at the Nutrition for Growth Year of Action launch in December 2020, this includes supplementing feeding support for 100,000 community health workers. The Key is to find ways to do things together.

William Moore – expressed he is excited to see how the match fund is being used. It is likely the Eleanor Crook Foundation will be committing at least \$50million for Prevention and Treatment over the next 4 years. They will focus on the scale up of the highest impact interventions. They are looking to bring in new donors on wasting and recently signed a \$30million collaboration with Rotary in Ethiopia.

Abigail Perry – was pleased to see the progress in the match fund. WFP are in the process of developing a commitment and will be looking at a refreshed approach on the prevention and treatment of wasting. The commitment may not be ready for N4G but will be setting out this new approach to the wider community. WFP are keen to keep a strong voice on this important issue.

Naoko Yamamoto – WHO are working with other partners to mobilise country commitments. They are looking at ensuring the essential package of nutrition is included in Universal Health Coverage.

Peter MacDougall – echoed excitement at the progress made so far. Reiterated that Canada co-hosted the year of action launch in December 2020. At this they committed \$520million for nutrition-specific interventions. They continue to fulfil this commitment with a focus on women and girls. They champion the need to take a comprehensive approach with low cost and high impact.

Shawn Baker – great to see this work which helps countries own their own agenda. They are working across the US government on what their commitment will be, they will be looking at strong policy commitments as well as financial. They will focus on maternal nutrition, children's diets and wasting, focussing on prevention and treatment. They have started a wasting working group across the three bureaus looking at the prevention and treatment agenda.

Sufia Askari – CIFF are proud to announce their new \$50million partnership with UNICEF, this includes funding the RUTF match fund. They also have a partnership with WHO looking at the guidelines to bring prevention and treatment together. They are also looking to increase capacity by three times at their factory in the US producing RUTF.

Amy Pollack – BMGF announced their \$922million at the UN Food Systems Summit. Until recently they have focussed on wasting but out of the broader commitment over \$100million will be spent on wasting over the next four years. This will focus on addressing wasting in children under six months old, research on implementation and product innovation. Their approach looks holistically at prevention and treatment.

Christos Christou – MSF believe in the child health approach and ensuring mothers and the whole family are given the services they need too. They currently have 47 programmes working across 13 countries and are thankful for the progress being made.

Jeannie Annan – IRC are currently working on their N4G commitment. They have a new 19m partnership with Givewell which will allow them to expand the scale of their treatment effort.

Katherine Bolles – Save the Children are currently working on their N4G commitment. At the start of 2022 they will be beginning a new three-year strategy that will reach 105million children. Their approach will be looking at the three Cs: impact on Covid, climate and crisis.

Connell Foley – Concern are still working on their commitments but wasting will be a key part of this. They are now on the SUN executive committee and will ensure wasting isn't lost on the agenda. They are also working on the resilience working group for N4G.

Jean-Michel Grand – commitment is currently being finalised this will likely allow around three to four million to access treatment in the next five years. They will be looking at how they can scale up treatments.

Minister Wendy Morton- confirmed that the UK remains firmly committed to driving forward progress on wasting. Tackling acute malnutrition in the poorest countries of the world is critical for reducing preventable deaths and ensuring children get the best start in life. It is a core focus of their work on global health, humanitarian response and in support of UK goals on girls' education and climate. The UK government is currently undertaking its Spending Review process, setting departmental budgets for the next three years. They will set out their approach to the N4G summit, following the conclusion of the Spending Review.

Minister Morton reiterated that the UK is committed to the N4G process and is supporting the Government of Japan in its hosting and delivery of a successful summit in December

### 3. Update on progress and new developments

#### *Confirm Priority Actions and Scorecard*

Minister Morton updated the panel that the priority between now and the end of the year is to give full visibility to the commitments being made, both through this panel and through the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. These commitments will be made publicly available through the dedicated website [www.childwasting.org](http://www.childwasting.org).

In 2022 the focus will shift to using this platform to show progress against these commitments bringing together existing information collected through the SUN movement and the Global Nutrition Report.

#### *Propose National Government Participation*

Minister Morton took the panel through the proposal on inviting GAP frontrunner countries to join the panel. The suggestion is to invite a subset of 10 countries to join this group and this group would be largely the countries that have led the way in this process. These are; Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, The Philippines, Cambodia, South Sudan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Haiti.

Minister Morton opened the floor to the panel to check if they were supportive of this approach. There was a positive response to this approach.

Shawn Baker – thrilled at the approach but questioned what the right level of representation would be in those countries and whether it should be Ministerial level representation and how do we bring them in.

Peter MacDougall – Supportive of the inclusive approach but wondered if 10 was too many from a process perspective.

ED Fore highlighted that the suggestion on representation is important and suggested a letter from donor's would help to catch high level attention.

There was broad agreement this was the right approach and that the way forward would be shared following the meeting to ensure the appropriate level of representation and right number of countries.

#### *Reflect and integrate outcomes from the wasting reset process*

Minister Morton drew the groups attention to the 'wasting reset' work that has been done as part of the preparations for the UNFSS. Recognising that many members of this panel were involved, the process helped to reaffirm many of the priorities identified by this panel and to introduce new dimensions to this agenda. The rest helped to highlight the need to; Build political will and commitment to tackle child wasting, strengthen accountability for wasting at the global and national levels, prioritize and scale up packages of preventative interventions, based on evidence, improve the efficiency of services tackling child wasting, improve the cost-effectiveness of both the production of nutritional products and of programmes tackling wasting.

The Minister also flagged that the reset brought in a wide audience, of governments, academics, donors and practitioner to highlight key opportunities to advance this agenda. She then opened the floor to the panellists for their views on the panel and how this panel can build on their work.

Abigail Perry – echoed Shawn's comments on bringing the voices from the reset into this group. Highlighted that this group needs to make sure they are covering the key strategic areas that have looked at in the wasting reset process. We need to ensure we don't set up a duplicative process and that by bringing them in we can make sure the issues are progressed and that the voice on this challenge is we can't be complacent.

Minister Morton thanked the panel for their thoughts and reiterated that all thoughts and suggestions will be used to ensure we are harnessing this momentum to generate meaningful and coordinated action to drive this agenda forward.

#### 4. Next steps and closing

##### *Propose new ARP Task Force*

Minister Morton thanked the panel for their advancing work on this panel and enriching our common agenda. It is clear that partners inside and outside this panel are placing more and more trust in us to help lead this agenda forward. This panel is uniquely placed to drive this agenda forward and provide the high-level strategic and

political drive that this agenda needs. But as the agenda broadens to include more financing, programmatic and policy dimensions, we need to consider ways of providing the more regular support that this requires.

The Minister proposed the creation of a nimble, focussed taskforce to provide this regular oversight. It won't be a altogether new structure but rather the formalization of the working dynamics that many of our teams already have. The suggestion is to have around 5 existing staff working in these areas to give some of their time to this small working group on a monthly basis to track progress, new developments and emerging opportunities. UNICEF will chair the taskforce and its could potentially include a representative from the wasting reset, this creates a space for joined up working and collaboration in this space.

The Ministers welcomes any thoughts in writing but there was broad agreement from the group on this suggestion.

#### *Next Steps and Closing*

ED Fore expressed how thrilled she is by how rich and concrete the groups efforts are becoming to advance our common agenda on the preventions, early detections and treatment of child wasting.

The concrete next steps are;

1. Ensure that high-burden countries committed to address child wasting are invited to join the ARP to ensure that their priorities are at the heart of our agenda.
2. Ensure that child wasting is adequately positioned at the N4G summit, and that the countries that are committed to this agenda have the space to see their commitments reflected at the event.
3. Identify ways for all of us to support these governments in the execution of their GAP Roadmaps, and in particular, the implementation of essential actions that will improve the prevention, early detection and treatment of child wasting.
4. Formalize ways to connect with other like-minded groups and agencies committed to this agenda and find a common voice and message ahead of N4G.

ED Fore thanked Minister Morton for co-chairing and passed back to the Minister for final thoughts

Minister Morton took a moment to acknowledge that this was likely to be ED Fore's last ARP as she is due to pass on the role of Executive Director for UNICEF. She took the opportunity to thanks her for her leadership and dedication to progressing action on wasting over the years and that is has been a privilege sharing the co-chair role on this panel and looks forward to carrying on in the same collaborative spirit with ED Fore's successor.

ED Fore thanks the Minster for her kind words and wrapped up the meeting.