



## Introduction

Nutrition for Growth (N4G) brings together diverse actors to make progress toward ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. Events through 2021 will focus on securing new financial and political commitments from governments, donors, civil society, United Nations (UN), and businesses. A capstone to the year, the Tokyo N4G Summit in Japan in December 2021 will be hosted by the Government of Japan and is positioned to celebrate the significant commitments made, mobilize additional commitments, and re-energize political momentum for nutrition.

## Key Messaging

### About N4G

- N4G is a global effort to transform the way the world tackles malnutrition by uniting knowledge, resources, and commitments from countries, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, and beyond.
- Over the past six years, the governments of the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Japan have each stepped up to mobilize N4G nutrition commitments against the backdrop of the Olympics and Paralympics—a symbol of health, strength, and human potential.
- These mobilization efforts have generated unprecedented, coordinated, and impactful commitments to improve global nutrition, totaling more than \$26 billion in pledges.
- The first N4G Summit was held in London in 2013 where more than \$4 billion in new nutrition-specific commitments and \$19 billion in nutrition-sensitive commitments were pledged.
- Stakeholders gathered in Milan in 2017 for the Global Nutrition Summit to track pledges made in London and generated an additional \$3.4 billion in nutrition pledges.
- The next Summit will take place in Tokyo in December 2021—hosted by the Government of Japan—to continue the N4G legacy and further accelerate progress.

## Inspiring New Commitments

- Winning the race toward ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 requires a transformation of health and food systems to deliver better health, nutrition, and diets for the most vulnerable.
- Governments, business, multilaterals, donors, and other development partners are encouraged to make financial, policy, programmatic, or impact commitments that are data-driven and cover one or more of the following core areas identified by the Government of Japan:
  - **Health:** Integrating nutrition into Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
  - **Food:** Building food systems that promote safe, sustainable and healthy diets that support people and planetary health.
  - **Resilience:** Effectively addressing malnutrition in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, supporting resiliency.
- New commitments will help close the \$8.2 billion annual gap that remains to scale up the high-impact nutrition interventions identified in the World Bank's Investment Framework for Nutrition, which is the financing required to reach the WHA global nutrition targets by 2025.

## The Opportunity

- Nutrition is one of the smartest investments governments and donors can make in the health and economic prosperity of people and nations.
  - Good nutrition helps ensure that children reach their full physical and cognitive potential. They are less prone to illness and death, better equipped to succeed in school, and are more productive when they join the workforce.
  - Nutrition investments are critical to economic growth and generate some of the highest rates of return among health interventions.
    - ◆ Improved nutrition could add \$3.5 trillion per year to the global economy; African countries could increase GDP by up to 15%.
    - ◆ For every \$1 invested in nutrition, \$16 is returned to the local economy.
- There has been important progress in the race to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030:
  - Due to greater prioritization, new research, and commitments, the rate of child stunting has steadily declined. In 2018, there were 50 million fewer stunted children than there were in 2000.
  - The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition reinforces Member States' commitment to nutrition.
  - Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2—Ending Hunger in All its Forms—and the World Health Assembly (WHA) nutrition targets have firmly established nutrition on the global agenda with measurable goals.
- However, far too many people do not receive the nutrients they need to prosper.
  - Poor nutrition is an underlying cause of nearly half of all child deaths.
  - An estimated 149 million children under age five are stunted, too short for their age, as a result of chronic undernourishment; many of these children are subsequently cognitively impaired.
  - Another 49 million children are wasted, low weight in comparison to height.
  - Child obesity and overweight is increasing at an alarming rate. In the next decade, it is estimated that over 40 million children will be overweight or obese, the vast majority living in low- and middle-income countries.

- Additionally, COVID-19 disruptions have threatened to reverse decades of progress. If no action is taken, dramatic increases in malnutrition could take place by 2022.\*
  - 168,000 additional children under five will die.
  - 9.3 million children will be wasted and 2.6 million children will be stunted.
  - There will be 2.1 million additional maternal anemia cases and 3 million children will be born to low BMI women.
- COVID-19's impact on nutrition could have life-long and intergenerational consequences for children.
  - Disruptions in nutrition services could result in nearly \$30 billion in future productivity losses.
- Despite the fact that poor nutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of all child deaths, less than 1% of global development assistance focuses on nutrition. N4G aims to address this gap by mobilizing high-impact financing and policy commitments.
  - Greater investment is needed now more than ever. An additional \$1.2 billion is needed annually on top of the annual \$7 billion originally projected to reach WHA targets because of the disruptions of COVID-19.

### The Final Decade of the SDGs

- The Tokyo N4G Summit in Japan in December 2021 comes at a critical time, more than halfway through the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, with just four years left to achieve the WHA nutrition targets, and just nine years to reach the SDGs.
- We have made important progress to reduce malnutrition worldwide over the past decade—but the work is not finished, and far greater funding is needed to meet global goals and targets.
- Together, we can ensure individuals and families have the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives—and that countries have the human capital they need to fuel health, social, and economic development in the final decade of the SDGs.

\*Data under consideration by *Nature Food*. The paper is currently available in pre-print.