

## **Nutrition and food security: challenges for the future.**

### **DRAFT AGENDA**

**Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> - Rome, Italy**

**First Session: Global Agenda for Nutrition and Food Security: 09:30 – 11:30**

**Session facilitated by Davide Bradanini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Agencies in Rome.**

Opening by **Valerio Neri**, CEO Save the Children Italy

#### **Key notes speakers:**

- **Marie Rumsby**, Head of Hunger and Nutrition - Policy and Research SC UK- Introduction to the Save the Children Global Report *Unequal Portions*.
- **Christine Muyuma**, Graça Machel Trust Fund – A voice from the Community.

#### **Discussants:**

- **Francesco Branca**, Director of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO - The current Global Agenda about Nutrition.
- **Lauren Landis**- Director of Nutrition, WFP - The WFP's role in the global fight against hunger and malnutrition.
- **Adolfo Brizzi** - Director of the Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD - The key role of agriculture in the nutrition sensitive interventions.

**Second Session: approaches & challenges for tackling malnutrition in all its forms and food security: 11:30-13:30**

**Session facilitated by Daniela Fatarella, Deputy CEO, Save the Children Italy**

#### **Discussants:**

- **Maurizio Martina** (tbc) - Italian Minister of Agriculture and Former Delegate for Expo Milan 2015 - The legacy of Expo 2015 and way forward.
- A High-level Representative from the UK Government - Following up the N4G Summit in London and way forward towards the next N4G Summit.
- A High-level Representative from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs - The Dutch Diamond Approach 's model: the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in implementing Dutch development cooperation policy.
- **Mariangela Zappia** (tbc) – Diplomatic Advisor of the Italian Prime Minister – and **Laura Frigenti** – Director Italian Agency for the Development Cooperation - From L'Aquila Food Security Initiative to Expo 2015: the Italian's role in fighting against malnutrition in all its forms.
- **Marta Dassu'** - Senior Director, European Affairs, The Aspen Institute and Executive President of "Women empower the World" - The legacy of WE Women for Expo and the key role played by women and girls in the Nutrition and Food Security context.

**Buffet lunch 13:30**

**Registration contact:** [advocacyinternazionale@savethechildren.org](mailto:advocacyinternazionale@savethechildren.org)

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Nutrition and food security: challenges for the future

Rome, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Venue: Sala Giuseppe della Vedova, Palazzetto Mattei, Villa Celimontana  
via della Navicella 12, Rome

#### Introduction

#### The global picture of malnutrition: some progress but too slow and unequal

In 1990 there were 255 million children with stunted growth in the world – 40% of all children. The situation has improved since then - with an estimated 159 million stunted children in the world in 2015 – 24% of all children.

This progress shows it is possible to address malnutrition. In fact, a number of countries have shown impressive progress towards their nutrition goals, and are reaping the benefits in many areas of society. **But progress has been slow and unequal since 1990.**

Globally 7.5% of children are dangerously thin for their height (wasted) - 50 million children - of whom 16 million were severely wasted. This is approximately 1 out of every 13 children in the world.

While the burden of undernutrition is decreasing, **the burden of overweight and obesity is unfortunately increasing.** The number of overweight or obese infants and young children (under the age of five) in the world increased from 31 million in 1990 to 41 million in 2013 – a worrying trend. The vast majority of overweight or obese children live in developing countries, where the growth rate has been more than 30% higher than that of developed countries. However, prevalence of childhood overweight is increasing in all regions of the world, particularly in Africa and Asia. If current trends continue there will be about 70 million overweight or obese under five children.

**Many governments have signed up to global goals as part of their commitments to defeat malnutrition in all its forms, without translating those goals into national targets, based on national trends and contexts.** Reporting against targets with national averages has hidden the difference in nutrition outcomes among different social and economic groups of children. In dealing with malnutrition, many governments are not transparent about how much they spend on nutrition, or about which groups are benefitting from their nutrition budgets. Beneficiaries are not involved in programme design or decisions about budgets, making it very difficult for them to hold governments to account.

In addition to this, international community's response to events like **El Niño** remains inadequate, thereby violating the right to food and nutrition for many citizens. Some Governments have not put in place the right policies to deal with malnutrition in an inclusive and sustainable way. Furthermore, **women and girls around the world do not have the same opportunities as men.** This is of course bad for them, and it's bad for their children. It's also bad for society as it further exacerbates inequalities. Early marriage, teenage pregnancy, limited control over finances and other resources and unequal access to food are a few of the issues that arise as a result of exclusion, and which have an impact on nutrition outcomes.

Based on the scenario above, now more than ever it is fundamental to keep up the attention of the main

decision makers about the importance of working and investing in nutrition and food security. **Save the Children, is concerned that if the commitments will not increase in the next years, the battle would be lost.**

## **Background**

The last ***Nutrition for Growth Summit*** took place in London in 2013. Hosted by the UK Government, the Brazilian Government and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the Summit produced a compact that pledged more than \$4bn (£2.6bn) for nutrition programs until 2020. The Global Nutrition for Growth Compact was endorsed by 90 stakeholders, including development partners, businesses, scientific and civil society groups.

The Global Nutrition for Growth Compact outlines bold targets to be achieved by 2020, including:

- Improving the nutrition of 500 million pregnant women and young children;
- Reducing the number of children under five who are stunted by an additional 20 million; and
- Saving the lives of at least 1.7 million children by preventing stunting, increasing breastfeeding, and improving treatment of severe and acute malnutrition.

The commitments made so far included approximately \$1 billion from the UK Government, \$4.6 billion from the European Commission, \$700 million from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and \$862.7 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The United States Government estimates average annual nutrition specific funding of approximately \$398 million and, for nutrition-sensitive funding, nearly \$3 billion. Unfortunately, the Italian Government was not among the signatories and donors of the N4G Compact.

Over recent years, donors are beginning to see that an investment in nutrition is a smart investment. ODA to nutrition doubled after the 2013 Nutrition for Growth Summit. In 2015 Schloss Elmau G7 commitment to 'lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030' was an achievement within the G7 process. But there's still a huge funding gap that must be overcome if the international community is to meet its human right obligations and the goal signed up to eliminate all forms of malnutrition by 2030 (SDG2).

**Save the Children strongly believes that Governments around the world should provide the resources required (financial and other) to meet the global nutrition goals and targets they have committed to reach, for example SDG2, WHA nutrition targets, ICN2 commitments and G7 aims.** In particular, Southern Governments should invest in the nutrition of their people by making a "fair share" commitment based on their own national context. Finances for nutrition should be spent in a "leave no one behind approach" – ensuring to reach the most marginalized communities.

The N4G Summit is the biggest global event to address the devastating burden of undernutrition, thus, it is fundamental to ensure the support to the SDGs to end malnutrition by 2030 and, in some way, to keep up the momentum about Nutrition.

However it seems that given the political situation in Brazil, the Second High-Level Summit on Nutrition planned to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 is at risk of being replaced by a high-level media moment, rather than an ambitious pledging or political moment.

**Considering the central role of nutrition and food security in Milan Expo 2015, the key role that**

the Italian Government will play in 2017 by hosting the G7 Summit, Save the Children has decided to facilitate this High-Level Event to keep up the momentum on these themes. Furthermore, Save the Children believes that it is fundamental to maintain the attention on the Schloss Elmau G7 commitments and the last N4G Summit commitments. Meanwhile, it is critical to mobilizing more actors, including the Italian Government, to make ambitious commitments and financing for nutrition. Without extensive financial contributions and political engagement, it will be hard to reach the global targets about Nutrition.

## **Rationale**

Building on this scenario, Save the Children Italy organises a High Level Event in Rome on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016. The event will be introduced by Valerio Neri, the CEO of Save the Children Italy and it will be organized in two sessions. The first session will be focused on the *Global Agenda for Nutrition and Food Security* and the second session will be a round table with the aim to launch a further dialogue platform to better promote and advocate for nutrition. The *Unequal Portions Global Report* will be presented with the purpose to frame the discussion and make the most excluded groups at the center of the agenda.

## **Goal and objectives:**

**The purpose of this event is to bring the attention of the international community on the importance to continue to invest in the fight against malnutrition in all its forms, and discuss what, each involved actor, could do to become a more effective key player.**

### **Objectives:**

- To continue the dialogue launched in the previous N4G Summit, G7 2015 Summit among civil society organizations, the donor community, private sector, the UN Family and all other key players around what works and what does not in current N4G and G7 process and the potential benefits of further pledges.
- Build trust and understanding around the potential role of each player to support the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms and to achieve nutrition justice, with the possibility of establishing a regular dialogue platform to promote an enabling political environment.
- Overview of approaches and challenges for tackling under-nutrition and food insecurity by Italy given the incoming G7 Summit - from L'Aquila Food Security Initiative to EXPO 2015.
- Gender aspects: key role played by women and girls in the Food and Nutrition Security Global Agenda.
- Identify the main challenges to stimulate private sector participation and market-based models for nutrition and food security and to build trust among development partners.
- Discuss policy and programmatic implications to scale up nutrition through existing policy frameworks such as CAADP/FFA/2025 World Health Assembly targets/SDG and facilitate a shared vision.

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Suggest next steps to effectively reinforce the commitments made at the last N4G Summit and at the G7 Summit in 2015 and support the topic within the international debate around nutrition, food security, agriculture, gender and the need to invest more in the fight against malnutrition in all its forms.
- Establish a fruitful multi-stakeholders dialogue on the benefits and potential actions in investing in nutrition and food security including the humanitarian context and gender-related issues given the G7

Summit in Italy.

**Location:**

Rome, Palazzetto Mattei, Villa Celimontana, via della Navicella 12

**Date and timeframe:**

11<sup>th</sup> July 2016

09:30 am – 01:30 pm

**Registration**

Contact: [advocacyinternazionale@savethechildren.org](mailto:advocacyinternazionale@savethechildren.org)