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NGO alliance InterAction pledges \$750 million at London nutrition summit

LONDON (June 7, 2013) – Members of the NGO alliance [InterAction](#) have pledged to invest more than \$750 million in nutrition programs over the next five years, the U.S.-based group said in a joint statement with the [1,000 Days](#) Partnership.

The InterAction pledge will be officially announced on Saturday at the “[Nutrition for Growth](#)” summit in London, where governments, civil society, business and the research community will jointly commit to devote more resources to this urgent issue. The nutrition meeting will be held ahead of the G8 summit in Northern Ireland on June 17-18. The U.K. holds the rotating G8 presidency this year.

“Malnutrition is responsible for nearly half of the deaths of children under the age of 5 and is the biggest single contributor to child mortality worldwide. The commitment of InterAction member NGOs to nutrition programs is a valuable down payment on our children’s future,” said InterAction President and CEO Samuel A. Worthington.

“All of the funds included in our pledge come from private sources. We hope it will encourage governments and others to commit more resources so that all children – no matter where they live – can reach their full potential. Together we can reach our goal of reducing childhood stunting by at least 20 million by 2020,” Worthington added.

The pledge, which will be spent from 2013-2017, includes efforts that focus on the critical [1,000](#)-day window between a woman’s pregnancy and her child’s 2nd birthday.

“Investments in nutrition save lives, improve health and drive economic growth. Focusing on the crucial 1,000-day window helps break the cycle of hunger and poverty,” said Lucy Sullivan, director of 1,000 Days, which promotes greater action and investment in maternal and child nutrition.

Poor nutrition in the first few years of a child’s life can stunt brain development, affect physical health and reduce future earning potential. This pledge focuses on programs that not only improve access to nutritious food but also promote breastfeeding, good nutritional practices, and provide micronutrients and therapeutic feeding.

Each dollar invested in nutrition generates as much as \$138 in improved health and increased productivity, [according](#) to a panel of leading economists.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

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| Action Against Hunger USA | Helen Keller International |
| Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA) | INMED Partnerships for Children |
| Aga Khan Foundation USA | Islamic Relief USA |
| American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee | Latter-day Saint Charities |
| American Jewish World Service | Life for Relief and Development |
| BRAC USA | Lutheran World Relief |
| Bread for the World | Mercy Corps |
| CARE | NCBA CLUSA |
| Catholic Relief Services | Pan American Development Foundation |
| ChildFund International | Plan International USA |
| Church World Service | Plant with Purpose |
| Concern Worldwide | Save the Children |
| Convoy of Hope | The Hunger Project |
| Food For The Poor (FFP) | Trickle Up Program |
| Heifer International | World Vision |

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based nongovernmental international organizations, with more than 180 members working in every developing country. Visit www.interaction.org.

For more information about the 1,000 Days Partnership and the importance of the 1,000-day window, visit www.thousanddays.org.

