

## G7/G20 ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (U.S.)

# G7 FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION RECOMMENDATIONS

## 2021 G7 Summit: Carbis Bay, Cornwall, United Kingdom

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As world hunger continues to rise, the need for healthy, affordable, and widely accessible nutritious foods—especially for the most marginalized communities—is more urgent than ever before. The COVID-19 pandemic is putting additional stress on global food systems, threatening the lives of those who were already experiencing food insecurity and malnutrition prior to the pandemic. The U.S. Government should work with other G7 countries to:

1. **Commit to strongly funding food security and nutrition programs to mitigate extreme hunger and prioritize women and children in the first 1,000 days' to promote long-term solutions towards recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
  - a. In a formal statement, preview ambitious, multi-year financial and policy pledges in support of the most vulnerable populations to be released at the UN Food Systems Summit and the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit and ensure these commitments are in line with the N4G Commitment-Making Guide and recognize the resource gap for nutrition-specific interventions.
  - b. Fully fund the 2021 Global Humanitarian Response Plan and provide emergency resources for famine relief and mitigation to reach over 30 million people at highest risk of famine.
  - c. Scale up long-term nutrition and food security investments that are aligned to country plans and target the poorest and most marginalized groups.<sup>2</sup>
  - d. Ensure investments are cross-cutting, as to target contributing factors to food insecurity and malnutrition, such as the changing climate and inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services which account for half of the world's malnutrition.<sup>3</sup>

2. In a formal statement, provide time-bound and measurable indices for progress on initiatives that the G7 has adopted to date to ensure that they reach the most vulnerable populations and “will leave no one behind.”
  - a. Incorporate outcome-based indicators (e.g., addressing stunting and wasting) to complement the existing output-based indicators and demonstrate how G7 investments concretely address food security and nutrition.

## BACKGROUND

The wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will undoubtedly have long-term effects on food security and nutrition, lessening our odds of reaching a world free of hunger by 2030. Protracted conflict, serious impacts of climate change, and restrictions and increased food prices due to the pandemic are driving deeply concerning levels of hunger and malnutrition around the world.

The World Food Programme warns that over 30 million people in 41 countries are currently facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity and are highly vulnerable to famine—and three countries already have populations in famine or famine-like conditions.<sup>4</sup> This situation is predicted to worsen over the coming months, which will have devastating impacts.

In addition to addressing the serious threat of famine and long-term food insecurity due to unprecedented levels of poverty from the pandemic, the G7 must ensure millions of people do not become malnourished and maintain global progress on lowering chronic malnutrition. An additional \$1.2 billion per year is estimated to be needed to mitigate the additional impacts caused by the pandemic.<sup>5</sup> Save the Children warns that unless urgent action is not taken, pandemic-related malnutrition could kill an average of 153 children a day over the next two years.<sup>6</sup> An additional 9.3 million children are predicted to be wasted (i.e. suffer from severe malnutrition) over the next two years unless urgent action is taken.<sup>7</sup> Currently, despite a strong correlation between wasting and child mortality, only 20% of children who suffer from wasting receive treatment.<sup>8</sup> Increased caseloads will place further stress on already fragile health systems.

Leading economists rank nutrition interventions as among the most cost-effective ways to save and improve lives around the world.<sup>9</sup> Now is the time for G7 leaders to make bold investments to ensure healthy nutrition vital to building prosperous communities, preventing long-term damage, and ultimately breaking its intergenerational cycle. We urge G7 leaders to set out strong financial and policy commitments to address hunger and malnutrition at the UN Food Systems Summit and Nutrition for Growth Summit, as well as in a formal statement from the G7.

## ABOUT INTERACTION

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people.

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<sup>1</sup> Victora, C., Christian, P., Videlletti, L.P., Gatica-Dominguez, G., Menon, P., Black, R. (7 March 2021). “Revisiting maternal and child undernutrition in low-income and middle-income countries: variable progress towards an unfinished agenda.” *The Lancet*. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00394-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00394-9/fulltext).

<sup>2</sup> Per Agenda 2030’s commitments to leave no one behind and the G7 commitment to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition.

<sup>3</sup> Prüss-Üstün, A., Bos, R., Gore, F., and Bartram, J. (2008). “Safe water, better health.” World Health Organization. [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43840/9789241596435\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43840/9789241596435_eng.pdf?sequence=1).

<sup>4</sup> Khorsandi, P. (7 January 2021). “Interview: WFP emergencies chief calls for funds to avert famine.” World Food Programme. <https://www.wfp.org/stories/hunger-hotspots-2021-world-food-programme-united-nations-famine-food-aid>; IPC/CH 2020&2021; South Sudan, Yemen, Burkina Faso, IPC/CH 2020&2021.

<sup>5</sup> Osendarp, S., Akuoku, J., Black, R., Headey, D., Ruel, M., Scott, N., Shekar, M., Walker, N., Flory, A., Haddad, L., Laborde, D., Stegmuller, A., Thomas, M., and Heidkamp, R. (December 2020). “The potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on maternal and child undernutrition in low and middle income countries.” In Review. <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-123716/v1>.

<sup>6</sup> Richards, K., Abdi, M., Stephenson, H., Northcote, Cl., and Mathieson, K. (2020). “Nutrition Critical: why we must all act now to tackle child malnutrition.” Save the Children. <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2020-press-releases/malnutrition-exacerbated-by-covid-19-could-kill-thousands-of-children>.

<sup>7</sup> Osendarp, S., Akuoku, J., Black, R., Headey, D., Ruel, M., Scott, N., Shekar, M., Walker, N., Flory, A., Haddad, L., Laborde, D., Stegmuller, A., Thomas, M., and Heidkamp, R. (December 2020). “The potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on maternal and child undernutrition in low and middle income countries.” In Review. <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-123716/v1>.

<sup>8</sup> No Wasted Lives. “The Issue.” <https://www.nowastedlives.org/the-issue-1>.

<sup>9</sup> Per an expert panel of more than 65 economists. “Third Copenhagen Consensus Outcome Document.” (14 May 2012). Copenhagen Consensus Center. <https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/copenhagen-consensus-iii/outcome>.