

Preventing and treating malnutrition in all its forms, especially during the first 1000 days, is a critical pathway to realising universal health coverage (UHC). Affecting every third person, malnutrition and related non-communicable diseases underlie almost half of all child deaths, and 71% of global deaths.

Malnutrition disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable, aggravating the intergenerational cycle of ill-health and poverty. Essential nutrition services like breastfeeding and dietary counselling, hygiene promotion, wasting treatment, and, vitamin and micronutrient supplementation promote development, reduce non-communicable diseases, and increase immunity and resiliency to infection. Investing in these high-impact, low-cost interventions will support the achievement of UHC.

We urge Member States to prioritise nutrition in the UN High Level Meeting on UHC outcome document as a determinant of UHC and commit to:

- Integrate nutrition interventions and health promotion in primary health care, focusing on the poorest and most marginalised, especially women and girls;
- Train and support community health workers to deliver key nutrition services;
- Ensure essential medicines include health products to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms;
- Allocate greater financing for and ownership of nutrition by the highest level of decision makers, in collaboration with other stakeholders including WASH, education, agriculture and social protection.

