

UNESCO

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

UNESCO:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.
4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions.*
5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.
6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food sector,

skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.
8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Knowledge support commitments

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging, and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

In particular, UNESCO informs its capacity and readiness to support Alliance member governments in implementing, improving or scaling-up the following policy instrument types, referenced in the Global Alliance's basket of policy instruments:

- **School meals programmes:** UNESCO, as part of the School Meals Coalition (SMC), reaffirms its commitment made in the 2021 "Declaration of Support" to advocate for increased action, financing, and monitoring to ensure that every child, particularly the most vulnerable, has access to a healthy, nutritious meal in school by 2030. This

advocacy will not only prioritize policy coherence but also emphasize increased coordination across sectors like health and education to streamline delivery mechanisms. UNESCO will strengthen its leadership and provide advocacy through the School Meals Coalition (SMC) and the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) on School Health and Nutrition. Furthermore, in line with its mandate, UNESCO will provide technical support to countries, ensuring that ministries of education can embed comprehensive approaches to health and nutrition within national education sector policies, plans, and programming. Technical assistance will also extend to capacity-building initiatives, ensuring that national stakeholders are equipped to scale up proven school health and nutrition programmes more comprehensively. UNESCO is also committed to facilitating knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices across countries that have committed to the School Meals Coalition.

- **Promotion and access to healthy diets, including through education and affordable/subsidized prices:** UNESCO will support efforts to promote access to healthy diets by advocating for the integration of skills-based nutrition education and physical activity into school curricula. This approach ensures that students not only learn about healthy eating habits but also develop practical skills to make informed food choices and maintain an active lifestyle. UNESCO will also assist in developing teacher training programmes focused on nutrition education and physical activity and collaborate with relevant UN agencies to create comprehensive school health initiatives. These initiatives will be designed to promote affordable, nutritious food options within schools and broader communities, ensuring alignment with health and education policies, plans and programmes.

- **Integrated programmes for human capital development, including health and education and early childhood development:** UNESCO will continue promoting holistic human capital development, focusing on quality [ECCE](#), [education for health and well-being](#), including the [Building Strong Foundations initiative](#), which aims to ensure healthier, safer, and more informed transitions for every child into adolescence and adulthood, as well as [skills development](#) through technical and vocational education and training (TVET). To further implement a holistic vision for education for health and well-being, UNESCO will leverage its flagship programme “Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future” (O3), which provides technical and financial support to over 35 countries across sub-Saharan Africa. The O3 programme is considered as central to the implementation of the [African Union \(AU\) Continental Strategy on Education for Health and Well-being](#).

- **Access to basic education:** UNESCO will continue to support Member States to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all throughout life, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4. UNESCO's supports governments in improving the inclusivity and quality of education systems. This includes promoting the integration of foundational learning with critical life skills such as health, nutrition, and social-emotional learning, as well as supporting the right to education through international and national legal frameworks. UNESCO will also support expanding access to early childhood education and care (ECCE), recognizing its importance in fostering cognitive and social-emotional development. Additionally, UNESCO will provide technical assistance for competency-based curriculum development and teacher training programmes to improve learning outcomes. Its advocacy and capacity-building efforts

will also focus on ensuring gender equality in education, addressing barriers that limit access for girls and other marginalized groups. Through these actions, UNESCO aims to empower countries to develop resilient education systems that foster both academic achievement and holistic well-being.

Integrated programmes for gender equality and empowerment: As gender equality is a global priority for UNESCO, it focuses on [gender-transformative actions](#) that address intersectional forms of inequality. Through advocacy, policy support, and programmatic interventions, UNESCO promotes equal access to education for girls and boys and strengthens gender-transformative policies and programmes within education systems, empowering women in science and technology and combating gender-based violence, among others.

General acknowledgments

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.