

UNICEF

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. UNICEF 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.

UNICEF:

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:

Financial support commitments

UNICEF:

In addition to the above, informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of SDGs 1 and 2 and the Global Alliance's objectives:

Led by UNICEF, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and the United Kingdom, the Child Nutrition Fund aims to reach 250 million children and 100 million women across 23 countries with services for the prevention and early detection of malnutrition and treatment of wasting.

The Child Nutrition Fund is a UNICEF-led coordination and financing mechanism designed to improve global and country governance for nutrition. Through the CNF, UNICEF can match domestic investments from eligible countries in specific high-impact nutrition supplies. The CNF can also deploy parallel financing to enhance and complement domestic contributions (including loans from IFIs) for high-impact nutrition actions delivered through the health system therefore through the CNF, UNICEF can deploy multi-year parallel financing to enhance domestic investments from eligible countries for specific high-impact nutrition actions for the prevention, detection and/or treatment of undernutrition in children and women through the health system.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the destination, allocation and alignment of the use of its resources, including through coordination and cooperation facilitated by the Global Alliance, to support member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of select programmes or policy instruments in the Alliance's reference basket to drive the fight against hunger and poverty, in line with sustainable country-led financing and implementation strategies.

Knowledge support commitments

UNICEF:

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.

[1] 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:

Work closely with national governments to support to support the expansion, quality, adequacy and inclusiveness of:

- Child and family support/benefits
- Disability benefits
- Emergency cash transfers in fragile and humanitarian contexts
- Emergency food transfer/supply, including humanitarian
- Maternity protection/benefits
- Social care services
- Prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies
- Maternal and early childhood nutrition
- Prevention, detection and management of malnutrition
- Promotion and access to healthy diets, including through education and affordable/subsidized prices
- Integrated programmes (IP) for gender equality and empowerment
- Integrated programmes (IP) for human capital development, including health and education and early childhood development

More specifically, UNICEF provides technical support and capacity strengthening support to governments to governments in implementing programmes and policies aimed at addressing child poverty and child malnutrition (especially those referenced above) and establishing the required policy frameworks and delivery systems – with a particular focus on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children

- In most countries of the world, UNICEF works with governments to and partners to make children and their families living in poverty visible. This includes supporting governments systematically measure and monitor child poverty, as well as increasing the evidence base on the policies and programmes that work to tackle child poverty, and advocating for the urgent need to accelerate a reduction in child poverty.

- UNICEF supports more than 130 countries to develop and strengthen integrated, inclusive and shock-responsive social protection systems and to expand their coverage, including in fragile and humanitarian contexts. This includes specifically, working closely with governments and partners to support the expansion, quality, adequacy and inclusiveness of cash transfer programmes for children and families.

- UNICEF is the lead UN organization on child nutrition and development working in over 120 countries to protect diets, services and practices that support optimal nutrition, growth and development for all children, adolescents and women. UNICEF aims to comprehensive approach to prevent all forms of malnutrition (undernutrition, overweight and micronutrient deficiencies), leveraging and building synergies across five systems (food, health, social protection, education, water and sanitation). When prevention of malnutrition fails, UNICEF works with Governments and partners to ensure the early detection and treatment of wasting. In summary, UNICEF works to support proven high-impact policies, programmes and interventions across four pillars for the: 1) prevention of malnutrition among children and women and ; 2) prevention, detection and management of child malnutrition including in the face of shocks and crises; 3) protection and promotion of healthy and affordable diets and 4) prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies.

- Together with Governments and partners, UNICEF strives to act as a knowledge broker and thought leader to strengthen the quality of evidence and research to inform changes in policies and practice for eradicating child poverty and improved maternal and child nutrition at national, regional and global levels. This means documenting, sharing and using learnings from programme design and implementation to foster a culture of innovation to design, test, evaluate and scale up new policy concepts and programme approaches in ways that inspire governments, partners and communities.

[2] Informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance’s objectives:

In support of objective 1 [Provide sustained political drive at the highest level by the Group of 20 and other countries and organizations, galvanizing collective action and building upon synergies with other existing efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger across the world]:

- Engage with G20 Leaders and other global forums that UNICEF contributes to, such as UNGA, HLPF, COP to advocate for the prioritization of ending child poverty and child malnutrition and the required policy instruments on the global agenda. The urgency to do so is underscored by the data: 333 million children live in extreme poverty¹ and 1 billion children in multidimensional poverty, an estimated 148 million children under five years of age suffer from chronic undernutrition, and over 135 million children aged 6-10 years are affected by overweight and obesity.
 - Global advocacy on ending child poverty, in collaboration with partners, to advocate for ending child poverty and malnutrition through the prioritization and implementation of policies that accelerate progress.
 - Facilitate and participate in high-level dialogues and partnerships as well as technical working groups between governments, UN sister organizations, international organizations and civil society to strengthen global commitments to eliminate poverty, hunger and child malnutrition.
 - In the field of social protection, these include Global Accelerator of Jobs and Social Protection, USP 2030, and SPIAC-B, as well as through regional and country level coordination groups.
 - And with regards to maternal and early childhood development: UNICEF provides a global leadership role in maternal and early childhood nutrition and development, For example, UNICEF is the co-lead for the Global Breastfeeding Collective and the Global Complementary Feeding Collective and UNICEF co-leads global implementation of the Nurturing Care Framework together with WHO, World Bank and the ECD Action Network. UNICEF is also the lead agency on the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting and in humanitarian contexts, UNICEF is the lead on the Global Nutrition Cluster.
- In support of objective 2** [Facilitate mobilization and improved alignment of domestic and international support, including public and private financial resources and knowledge, to enable large-scale country owned and country-led implementation of proven policy instruments and programmes, especially by countries most affected by hunger and extreme poverty and focusing on persons in vulnerable situations and those most likely to be left behind.]
- Support governments, working jointly with key partners, to double current coverage and ensuring 1 billion children have access to child benefits by 2030 ([UNICEF Proven solutions](#)).
 - Together with governments and partners, reach at least 200 million mothers and children annually with interventions to improve child survival, growth and development. UNICEF can also catalyze additional resources for maternal and child nutrition through the Child Nutrition Fund. Leveraging its match window, the Child Nutrition Fund can effectively double available domestic funding, maximizing impact and reach.

¹ [Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines](#)

- Strengthening national financing for greater and better investments in children, including in humanitarian and fragile contexts.
- Advocate for the use of innovative international financing mechanisms, including through climate financing, and scale up of existing mechanisms such as the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the Child Nutrition Fund to mobilize resources for large-scale, sustainable programmes aimed at reducing poverty and hunger, especially among children.
- Support knowledge-sharing, cross-country learning and South-South Cooperation, including through platforms and cooperation frameworks where countries and supporting organizations can engage in technical cooperation and share good practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches.
- Create spaces and platforms where civil society and children can meaningfully participate in decision-making processes and share those experiences.

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.