

Investing in nutrition is transformative and foundational for sustainable development. It catalyzes gains across education, health, poverty reduction and resilience and ensures sustained impact across generations.



CHANGING LIVES

The Transformative Power of Good Nutrition



Good nutrition is a cornerstone for human capital and building resilient, prosperous communities and nations. Yet, one in three people globally are affected by some form of malnutrition.

In 2020, 45 million children under five were acutely malnourished and 149 million children were chronically malnourished. These numbers will increase as the global food crisis unfolds. Malnutrition is not only a killer of children but also causes life-long health and development challenges.

The first 1,000 days - from conception to age two - determines a child's future. Good nutrition for mothers and children during this unique window enables children's brains and bodies to develop properly, so they survive, thrive, and reach their full potential. Chronically malnourished children do less well at school and earn less as adults compared with their well-nourished peers.

Ending malnutrition is possible. Every US\$1 dollar invested in the first 1,000 days can yield US\$16 dollars in return. Investments in women's nutrition breaks intergenerational cycles of malnutrition and poverty.

WHY WFP?

WFP is uniquely positioned to address malnutrition by improving the diets of at-risk populations. We have an unrivaled capacity to respond to food and nutrition needs at scale.

WFP delivers direct treatment and prevention programmes to over 20 million women and children across the world's most challenging contexts. We help prevent malnutrition through strengthened resilience, food and social protection programmes across 69 countries. Given WFP's reach to over 152 million people, there is potential to improve the diets of an unparalleled number of people through our food and cash assistance.

Our nutrition work changes lives. Addressing wasting supports healthy child development. In Pakistan, 98 percent of the malnourished children and mothers we treated recovered. In Chad, our prevention programme reduced the number of malnourished children by half.

WFP fears the nutrition situation in 2023 will be worse than the crippling events of 2022, due to a looming food availability crisis. WFP requires over US\$2bn in urgent funding to address the unmet nutritional needs.

MOVING FORWARD

Improving diets of the most vulnerable

WFP responds to emergency nutrition needs, while working with governments to fill nutrient gaps, strengthening food and social protection systems to address the underlying causes of malnutrition. At the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit, we committed to ensure at least 80 percent of the people we serve not only get enough food, but also get the right combination of nutrients needed to survive and thrive.

Focus on the 1,000-day window

WFP prioritizes women's and children's nutrient needs in the 1,000-day window to maximize impact on health and long-term well-being.

Transforming policies and systems

Through analytics and technical assistance to governments, WFP supports national policies and systems to improve nutrition, including with food fortification and nutrition-sensitive social protection.

Innovation to accelerate progress

WFP invests in innovative nutrition projects. For example, our Conditional On-Demand Assistance (CODA) creates a digital identity for malnourished children and tracks services to improve their well-being.

Strategic partnerships for impact

WFP works in partnership across sectors and supports initiatives such as the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. With Royal DSM, we reach 15 million people with fortified rice.

COUNTRY EXAMPLES



In **India**, WFP demonstrated and promoted the effectiveness of fortified rice in addressing micronutrient deficiencies. In 2021, Indian authorities committed to mainstreaming fortified rice into national social assistance programmes, reaching 400 million people.



In **Ethiopia**, WFP works with 90 local traders to provide nutritious fresh foods to increase dietary diversity and reduce stunting. Since 2018, some 44,000 households have been supported with monthly e-vouchers to buy fruit, vegetables and eggs, complementing the government social safety net. Between 2018 and 2020, dietary diversity amongst children and mothers who benefit from the programme increased from 22.3% to 42.9%, and 3% to 31.7%, respectively.



In the **Dominican Republic**, WFP worked with the government to design and implement a social safety net targeted to improve women's and children's nutrition. It has cut anaemia among children in half.