

## **Response to OWG Focus Area document version June 2, 2014: Ending Hunger, achieve food and nutrition security for the Most Vulnerable Children**

World Vision believes that each child, and their family, has the right to enough nutritious food each day to live a healthy life. We also believe children should be protected against the causes and consequences of both acute and chronic food and nutrition insecurity. Around the world, almost 870 million people in developing countries don't have enough nutritious foods each day. On average, one hundred million people require life- saving food assistance each year.

Leading scientists, economists and health experts agree that improving nutrition during the critical 1,000 day window (during pregnancy and up to two years of age) is one of the best and most cost effective investments we can make to achieve lasting progress in global health and development. Undernutrition is the single biggest cause of preventable deaths of children under five years of age, responsible for almost half of the 6.6 million under five child deaths in 2012. An estimated 162 million children (1 in 4 of all children under-five) are stunted and 52 million suffer from wasting.

This is a global crisis with far reaching and devastating effects. Hunger weakens immune systems and stunts children's physical and cognitive development. Extreme hunger and food insecurity can also force families to adopt a range of negative coping strategies that expose children to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, such as taking them out of school or sending them out to look for work.

### **Focus Area 2: Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition**

The newest version of the goal statement reads "End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture" rather than "End hunger and improve nutrition for all though sustainable agriculture and improved food systems" from the April 24 version.

- WV is glad to see there remains a standalone goal on food security and nutrition in this version of the FA document and that the issue is framed as "Ending hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all"
- We are glad to see that the language in the goal has changed to one that calls for the 'promotion of sustainable agriculture' rather than positing that investments in agriculture alone are the answer to food security and nutrition.
- While there remains a heavier weighting towards agriculture-focused targets, this is balanced out by 1) the calls for more explicit recognition of smallholder farmers, who still make up the majority of food insecure people globally and 2) more of a food systems perspective (i.e. rather than just ag)

More specifically,

Target 2.1: end hunger and ensure that all people have access to adequate, safe, affordable, and nutritious food all year round

- Strongly affirm this target. WV would like to see the phrase added "including the dietary needs of children in their first 1,000 days (pregnancy to age 2)"

Target 2.2 end malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity and overweight, with special attention to reducing stunting by 40% and wasting to less than 5%

in children less than 5 years of age by 2025, and address the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women

- Strongly affirm the broad vision to **end malnutrition** in all its forms, with the specific mention of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.
- WV stands strongly behind zero based goals for stunting and wasting. As such, we do not support the change in the stunting target- which has now decreased to 40% (by 2025). We understand this is the WHA target and timeline, but we support a higher degree of ambition for a world free from stunting. Also, it is inconsistent with the beginning of the sentence, which starts with “**end malnutrition** in all its forms”.

Suggest changing 2.1 to: “end hunger and ensure that all people, **particularly children in their first 1000 days (pregnancy to age 2) and pregnant and lactating women** have access to adequate, safe, affordable, and nutritious food all year round by 2030”

- We think that the recent addition of maternal nutrition here ‘address the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women’ risks overcomplicating and overloading the target. **We would suggest that maternal nutrition is either positioned as an additional target or is instead moved to target 2.1.** Our suggested addition to target 2.1 above could be expanded to read “including the dietary needs of children in their first 1,000 days (pregnancy to age 2), pregnant and lactating women”.
- **Maternal, infant and young child nutrition should also feature in proposed goal 3 ‘attain healthy life for all at all ages’,** in recognition of the multi-sectoral nature of improving nutrition and the particular role that the health sector should play:

**by 2030, significantly improve child and maternal nutrition, including increasing rates of exclusive breastfeeding to 6 months of age to at least 60% and reducing maternal anaemia”.**

Target 2.10 improve effectiveness of addressing humanitarian food emergencies, including as appropriate through stockholding

- Strongly affirm inclusion of this target (which is new) particularly the first part of the phrase “improve effectiveness of addressing humanitarian food emergencies”. Would suggest we don’t include the ‘stockholding’ reference in our support, as this is a very specific method to improve effectiveness and is tied up to larger debates around ag trade and subsidies in the WTO and G20 that could derail inclusion of reference to humanitarian food emergencies. The first part of the phrase is consistent with our post 2015 flagship calls around ‘Vulnerable groups have access to adequate and reliable safety nets designed to protect consumption and nutrition of highly food insecure populations” so would like to see part of this target retained in the next version of the SDGs.

Suggest changing wording to: “improve effectiveness of addressing humanitarian food emergencies, **ensuring access to adequate and reliable safety nets designed to protect consumption and nutrition of highly food insecure populations”**

