

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CHILD MALNUTRITION IN GHANA; POLICY, PRACTICE AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE – WA WEST PERSPECTIVE



Nutrition Dialogue

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INTRODUCTION

- Malnutrition among children in Ghana presents a troubling paradox. Despite our country's abundant resources—fertile lands, favorable climate, and access to agricultural technology—child malnutrition remains alarmingly high. Ghana even imports essential vegetables such as tomatoes and onions from neighboring Burkina Faso, though our geography and natural endowments suggest we should be a net exporter of such commodities.
- This reality challenges the idea that poverty and malnutrition are simply geographical or cultural phenomena. Instead, it highlights structural weaknesses—particularly within our institutions, policy frameworks, and implementation mechanisms. If we are to fully harness our resources and ensure that no child suffers from malnutrition in a land of plenty, then strengthening these structures must be our collective priority.

INTRODUCTION CONT'D

- Today's dialogue is therefore not about assigning blame, but about finding solutions. It is about working together—government, civil society, and communities—to build stronger systems, better policies, and more resilient institutions that can deliver on the promise of good nutrition for all.
- Let us commit to this shared responsibility, because the health and well-being of Ghana's children is the most important investment we can make in the future of our nation.

The global burden of malnutrition is as seen below:

- Over 2 billion have micronutrient deficiencies: 372 million are children (6-59 months),
- 1.2 billion are women and girls 15-49 years
- Over half a billion (29.9%) women 15-49 years have anaemia
- 269 million (39.8%) children 6-59 months with anaemia
- Over 340 million children and adolescents aged 5-19 were overweight or obese (2016)



STUNTING
148 million

Stunting affected an estimated 22.3 per cent or 148.1 million children under 5 globally in 2022



WASTING
45 million

Wasting threatened the lives of an estimated 6.8 per cent or 45 million children under 5 globally in 2022



OVERWEIGHT
37 million

Overweight affected an estimated 5.6 per cent or 37 million children under 5 globally in 2022

- Child malnutrition is particularly alarming: the **UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Estimates (2022)** show that **148 million children under five are stunted worldwide**, and **45 million suffer from wasting**.

Situation in Ghana



- ☐ National stunting rate stands at 18%
- ☐ Current rate of wasting stands at 6%.
- ☐ Underweight is 12%
- ☐ Under five mortality rate in Ghana stands at 40/1000 live births as against a global target of <25/1000 live births
- ☐ Almost half (49%) of children aged 6–59 months in Ghana are anaemic, with 28% experiencing mild anaemia, 20% moderate anaemia, and 1% severe anaemia. This statistic is very high by WHO standards.
- ☐ 2% percent of children under 5 are overweight
- ☐ The proportion of the population experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity based on food insecurity and experience scale (FIES) declined from 49.5 percent in 2017 to 47.7 percent in June 2020 and 47.0 percent in September 2020.
- ☐ Based on the 2020/2021 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) for Ghana and the latest results from the March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé, the food insecurity situation in the North still persists, where over 237,000 people were projected to be food insecure (IPC/CH Phase 3 and 4) in Upper East and Upper West regions.

Gaps:



Despite progress in recent years, malnutrition remains a significant challenge worldwide, particularly in conflict-affected areas and regions with high levels of poverty.

Many countries lack the necessary political will, resources, and infrastructure to effectively address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

Climate change and other environmental factors are exacerbating food insecurity and contributing to increased malnutrition rates.

Nutrition Dialogues Phase 1 (2024-25)



PURPOSE

Nutrition Dialogues were initiated by World Vision International and 4SD Foundation, supported by partners that include the SUN Civil Society Network, GAIN and the SDG2 Advocacy Hub, to

- Bring the **perspectives and lived experience of people** from communities at risk of malnutrition to the leaders attending the N4G Summit in March 2025, and beyond.
- Engage nutrition stakeholders, primarily at national and community level, to share perspectives and explore priorities for actions to improve nutrition, especially of **women and children**, within their own localities.

PURPOSE

Building on strong momentum of phase 1, phase 2 will:

- Continue promoting **inclusive, action-oriented Nutrition Dialogues** at local, national and global levels

Strengthen accountability

- Deepen community engagement to explore and **accelerate local action**
- **Improve nutrition outcomes locally.**

Be committed to improve nutrition for all, especially for women and children

- Recognize that everyone's nutritional status has **multiple determinants**

- Welcome multi stakeholder **diversity and inclusivity** , including young people

- Respect** different perspectives while nurturing trust among stakeholders

- Be open to **share and learn** from others

- **Act with integrity** and in an ethical manner

- Act with a commitment to uphold the **equity and rights** of all women, men and children

- Act with **urgency**

- **Protect** Nutrition Dialogue events from the marketing and promotion of any products



World Vision



ENOUGH
END CHILD HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Every Child deserves ENOUGH nourishing food to thrive.

ENOUGH Campaign Launch

The Campaign Overview

Vision: A world where every child enjoys nourishing food so they can thrive (no child hunger or malnutrition – SDG2)

Campaign timeline: FY24-FY26

Strategic goal 1: Children are visible and heard in hunger, nutrition & food security-related policies at all levels

Strategic goal 2: More children enjoy better food security, nutrition and resilience, through prioritized services.



The ENOUGH Campaign Biblical Foundation Calling

- As Christians, we are called to steward the planet and to cultivate the earth in a way that is sustainable for us, our neighbors and future generations.
- Highlighting the importance of food

Jesus teaching us to pray our daily bread (**Matthew 6:11**) .

God making a covenant with his people to preserve thee... **Isiah 49: 10** - "they will not hunger or thirst.... for He who has compassion on them will lead them and guide them to springs of water"

Why Now?



- Hunger a driver for violence against children.
- Existing legal frameworks need to be reviewed and approved in alignment with the food systems and SDG agenda.
- Food-poor individuals increasing .
- Food storage inadequacies at all levels.
- Elevated prices which affected all regions of the country.
- Climate change affects sustainable food production
- Forced displacement (either by climate change or war) which worsens hunger and increases food insecurity.



WVG

Focus Areas



- Food Insecurity (Home & School)
- Advancing climate smart agriculture.
- School feeding
- Addressing malnutrition (underweight +micronutrient deficiencies, breast feeding)
- Influencing effective and sustainable food systems.



Childrens Recommendations

- Government should intensify school feeding program for all school children
- Government should bring policies that will help reduce the prices of food on the market to make it affordable to all
- Government should provide our parents with farming equipment
- Government should support community members to do irrigation farming
- Government should construct good roads to lead to our communities
- Government should create enough employment in agriculture for all, especially youths.
- Government to embark on public education on child protection especially in hunger and crisis.



Key Messages under World Vision Ghana, ENOUGH Campaign

- WVG through ENOUGH Campaign is calling on government and all key stakeholders to ensure we have ENOUGH.
- Lets eliminate child malnutrition
- Lets end child hunger now
- ENOUGH of the right foods – even in crises
- ENOUGH funding for nutrition
- ENOUGH food policies and services centered on and influenced by children.
- Every child in Ghana should enjoy ENOUGH nourishing food to thrive
- Scale up the school feeding program to cover the most vulnerable in deprived and hard to reach communities in rural Ghana.



Campaign In 45 words

ENOUGH

We have **ENOUGH**. Let's eliminate child malnutrition.

Let's end child hunger now.

ENOUGH of the right foods — even in crises.

ENOUGH funding for nutrition.

ENOUGH food policies and services centred on and
influenced by children.

Every child should enjoy ENOUGH nourishing food to thrive.

#ENOUGH #ENOUGHChildHunger



ENOUGH nutritious food.
ENOUGH funding.
ENOUGH political will.
ENOUGH people like you.
ENOUGH to end child hunger
and malnutrition.

We say **ENOUGH** – no child will suffer
from hunger if we all act NOW.