**Nutrition Critical**

# Key messages

**Headline ask**

We must act fast to end malnutrition. We call on leaders to engage in the 2021 [Nutrition for Growth](https://nutritionforgrowth.org/) year of action and make the commitments that are urgently needed to end child malnutrition.

**Key messages**

* Good nutrition saves children’s lives - and gives them the chance to thrive. It is critical for children to grow, develop physically and mentally, stay healthy, and learn.
* **In the past two decades the world has made real progress in tackling child malnutrition.** 
  + A child born at the start of 2020 was less likely to be malnourished than a child born in 2000.
  + At the turn of the millennium 3 in 10 children under five globally were stunted. In the space of 20 years this dropped to 2 in 10 (which equates to 55 million fewer stunted children).
* **But that progress is unfinished. It’s also highly unequal.**
* Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, many families and communities struggled to provide their children with the good nutrition necessary for their physical and mental development.
  + **One in three children was malnourished**. And a far higher proportion of them were in the world’s poorest, most fragile and most dangerous places.
  + **Undernutrition was linked to 45% of deaths** among children under the age of 5.
  + **144 million (1 in 5) children were stunted** and 47 million were wasted
* Now, the impacts of Covid-19 pose a deadly new challenge, threatening to unleash a wave of malnutrition among vulnerable communities. The devastating projected impact of the pandemic threatens to reverse years of hard-won progress. The most vulnerable children are set to fall even further behind.
* **Unless we take immediate action, we will see many more children die from preventable causes.** Children and adults in the most vulnerable communities will face a global food and nutrition emergency that is unprecedented in our times.
  + New projections from the Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium predict that unless we act, an **additional 168,000 children under 5** will die due to malnutrition, and **9.3 million more children** will suffer wasting – **a 20% increase** on existing rates- by 2022.
* **We cannot let this happen. We must act now to both save children’s lives today and to safeguard their future from the scars of malnutrition.**
* 2021 is a critical year for nutrition. We call on leaders to engage in the **2021** [**Nutrition for Growth**](https://nutritionforgrowth.org/) **year of action** and make the commitments that are urgently needed to end child malnutrition.
  + There are a number of key opportunities for governments, donors, the UN and other multilateral agencies, NGOs and businesses to push nutrition high up political agendas.
  + And for leaders around the world to make the commitments that are urgently needed to end child malnutrition. For good. And for all.
* Critical actions to address malnutrition have long been underfinanced. An additional **$1.2 billion per year** – on top of the World Bank’s existing estimate of $7bn per year – is estimated to be needed to mitigate the additional impacts caused by the pandemic.
* **On 14 December, as part of the virtual launch of the Nutrition for Growth year of action, global leaders committed more than US$3 billion to address the hunger and nutrition crisis**
* **This bold start is welcomed but is only a fraction of what is needed. More commitments are urgently needed to turn this strong start into a real year of action.**
* **The following critical nutrition actions should be prioritised:**
* Ensure no child is left behind from progress to end malnutrition for all
* Address the malnutrition crisis in fragile and conflict affected settings
* Strengthen essential health and nutrition services
* Promote, protect and support infant and young child feeding – particularly breastfeeding – and care for children and their caregivers
* Support and promote food security and livelihoods and access to nutritious foods
* Commit long-term and flexible financing for nutrition
* Decision makers must prioritise the **Youth Agenda for Action** – developed by the Youth Leaders for Nutrition (from the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network). Engaging young people – who are critical agents of change – is essential to supporting both the immediate Covid-19 efforts and the long-term aim of building back better.

# Executive Summary info-graphics



French and Spanish executive summaries:



## Social media and creative content

**Launch blog written by SUN Youth Leader for Nutrition, Manata from Kyrgyzstan will be** [**available on this link**](https://www.savethechildren.net/blog/don%E2%80%99t-be-zombie-take-action)**.**

**Recommended Twitter links and hashtags**

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| **Twitter accounts to link** | **Hashtags** |
| @save\_children | #NutritionCritical |
| @Nutritionwin | #ProtectAGeneration |
| @CanadaDev | #StandingTogetherforNutrition |
|  | #N4G or #NutritionForGrowth |
|  | #NutritionYearOfAction |
|  | #Covid19 |
|  | #InvestInNutrition |
|  | #NutritionCantWait |

**Suggested Tweets**

General

* Global leaders have committed US$3 billion+ to address the hunger & nutrition crisis, kicking off the #NutritionYearofAction. @save\_children new report NUTRITION CRITICAL outlines why we all must tackle child malnutrition now. What will you do? <https://bit.ly/36PMTej>
* @CanadaDev, Bangladesh, & @MofaJapan\_en have paved the way for the #NutritionYearofAction. Follow their lead as we progress along the road to ending malnutrition. What are the key steps? See here: <https://bit.ly/36PMTej> #InvestInNutrition
* Today @save\_children we launch the #NutritionCritical report, calling for global action to end malnutrition and make 2021 the #NutritionYearOfAction. Without immediate action, we stand to lose more than just the nutrition gains over the decades https://bit.ly/36PMTej
* New Save the Children report calls for #NutritionCritical actions to be prioritised as part of the #NutritionYearAction to both save children’s lives today and to safeguard their future from the scars of malnutrition. https://bit.ly/36PMTej
* Interested in finding out how we can #ProtectAGeneration, then read new @save\_children #NutritionCritical report with the latest data from the #StandingTogetherForNutrition Consortium. Global action is needed now more than ever. https://bit.ly/36PMTej
* Latest @save\_children report, with data from the #StandingTogetherForNutrition Consortium, reveals globally we are at #NutritionCritical levels. We welcome @CanadaDev leadership in kicking-off the #NutritionYearOfAction as the time for action is now. <https://bit.ly/36PMTej>

COVID-19

* #Covid19 has pushed the world to #NutritionCritical levels and close to breaking point. Latest @save\_children #NutritionCritical report calls for global leadership in saving lives, preserving progress, and in making 2021 the #NutritionYearOfAction https://bit.ly/36PMTej

SDGs

* Good nutrition is at the heart of the #SDGs. If we want the next 10 years to be a #DecadeOfAction, then 2021 must be the #NutritionYearOfAction. @save\_children latest report #NutritionCritical shows how we can do that at #N4G and beyond. https://bit.ly/36PMTej

Youth-written Blog

* “Don’t be a zombie, take action” says youth leader, Manata from Kyrgyzstan, calling on world leaders to take action and end child malnutrition! Unless we act now, 2.6m more children will suffer from stunting by 2022 due to #covid19 >> <https://www.savethechildren.net/blog/don%E2%80%99t-be-zombie-take-action> #NutritionCritical