

THE GFF NUTRITION ROAD MAP

A COMMITMENT TO INTEGRATE NUTRITION INTO UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND DRIVE GREATER ACTION TOWARD ENDING MALNUTRITION

Poor nutrition underpins nearly half of deaths in children under the age of five years,ⁱ and an estimated 149 million children under five years of age are stunted as result of chronic undernourishment.ⁱⁱ The COVID-19 crisis not only jeopardizes years of progress to fight malnutrition; it also threatens to dramatically increase the number of people who are – or are at risk of being – acutely food insecure to 272 million.ⁱⁱⁱ

WHAT IS THE NUTRITION ROAD MAP AND WHAT WILL IT ACHIEVE?

The Nutrition for Growth Summit represents a rallying moment for multilateral organizations, governments, businesses, donors and other development partners to pledge finances, policy, programs or impact commitments to end malnutrition and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger. The Global Financing Facility (GFF) – a multistakeholder partnership hosted by the World Bank – is releasing its new Nutrition Road Map as a strong commitment to the agenda, and within the framework of the Nutrition for Growth Summit.

By 2025, the GFF Nutrition Road Map will:

- **Catalyze more and better financing for nutrition** by committing up to 30 percent of GFF country investments and launching a financing tool to attract private sector investment for nutrition outcomes.
- **Improve accountability for nutrition financing** by supporting at least five additional countries to improve transparent resource tracking for nutrition.
- **Strengthen data for decision making** by supporting at least five additional countries to strengthen systems for tracking the delivery, quality and reach of nutrition interventions at national and subnational levels and associated outcomes.
- **Increase collaboration with – and align efforts to – the Scaling Up Nutrition Trust Fund**, particularly to drive research and evaluation of nutrition projects, which will produce sector-wide benefits.

By implementing the Nutrition Road Map and its 2021–25 strategy, the GFF will help countries save 1 million lives by 2025 through increased access and integration of nutrition services into comprehensive health systems.

WHY A NUTRITION PLAN UNDER THE GFF PARTNERSHIP?

Since 2015, the GFF has supported nutrition as an essential building block for the healthy development and well-being of women and children. GFF's mandate is to support countries as they chart equitable and increasingly self-sufficient pathways to universal health coverage (UHC). Fighting malnutrition is core to this agenda. As of June 30, 2021, the **GFF has provided US\$186 million in grant financing — linked to US\$1.84 billion** in International Development Association/International Board for Reconstruction and Development (IDA/IBRD) investments — to scale up nutrition interventions across 22 countries. An additional US\$14 million in GFF grants is financing technical support and capacity building for nutrition in these countries.

This support has already contributed to countries achieving significant nutrition results. For example, prior improvements in the coverage of nutrition services for children, such as growth monitoring and promotion, has helped reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under five years of age in Bangladesh from 36 percent in 2014 to 28 percent in 2018, and from 31 percent in 2018 to 28 percent in 2019 in Indonesia. The GFF has also cofinanced a government project that helped Cambodia withstand the impacts of the pandemic, with the percentage of women receiving micronutrient supplementation increasing from 80 percent in 2018 to 89 percent in 2020.^{iv} The number of GFF partner countries reducing stunting among children under five years of age has increased from six to eight, while a total of nine countries (up from seven) are reducing moderate to severe wasting among children under five years.

Action is urgently needed. The COVID-19 crisis is threatening to reverse years of progress, and to take the number of people who are — or are at risk of being — acutely food insecure to 272 million.^v In 2020, GFF partner countries saw up to a 25 percent drop in coverage of lifesaving health and nutrition interventions compared to pre-pandemic levels. This crisis underlines the urgent need to build functional and resilient health systems that fully integrate nutrition intervention into UHC.

The GFF is leveraging its unique position to support effective nutrition interventions into the continuum of maternal and child health services. Investments include supporting countries to (1) build their capacity at community and health facility levels; (2) train health workers to improve child feeding practices; (3) strengthen supply chains to integrate and deliver nutrition commodities, including micronutrients and ready-to-use therapeutic foods; and (4) assist in the preparation, internal resource mobilization, data production and rollout of nutrition plans.

Equity is central to GFF's investment in nutrition, with the needs of women and girls and the most fragile populations prioritized.

STEPS TO ROAD MAP SUCCESS

The GFF country-led process promotes global partner alignment – including with donors, civil society organizations and others – with country priorities, plans and budgets. To accelerate the integration of nutrition and UHC, the GFF Nutrition Road Map will leverage the GFF partnership by:

- **Maximizing the impact of new contributions to the GFF Trust Fund**, which urgently requires US\$1.2 billion to implement new programs and support partner countries to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on their health and nutrition services.
- **Aligning priorities and funding from partners around countries' women, children and adolescent health investment cases, which integrate nutrition as a core component.** While spending on high-impact, life-saving nutrition investments has traditionally accounted for less than 1 percent of global development assistance, investment cases, which countries develop through the GFF process, provide a powerful tool to leverage additional funding from IDA/IBRD, donors and governments in support of a single, prioritized plan for primary health care and nutrition.
- **Supporting policy dialogue on nutrition.** The GFF will enhance how it works with civil society organizations as well as with regional and global partnerships and organizations, such as the Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition, in order to prioritize and make nutrition more attainable.

WHILE INTEGRATING NUTRITION AND UHC, THIS PLAN SPECIFICALLY SEEKS TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Catalyze more and better financing

By 2025, commit up to 30 percent of GFF country investments on nutrition activities

- Incentivize governments to increase investment and integration of nutrition as part of their essential health packages as well as strengthen frontline delivery systems. For example, by prioritizing growth monitoring and promotion, along with positive nutrition care practices, such as feeding children a minimal acceptable diet within results-based financing; building human resource capacity at the community and health facility levels; and strengthening supply chain to ensure the integration and delivery of nutrition commodities, such as micronutrient supplements and ready-to-use therapeutic foods

2. Improve accountability for nutrition financing

Provide the financing and technical assistance to build budgeting systems inclusive of nutrition in at least five additional countries by 2025

- Support countries to strengthen budget analysis on nutrition funding by including nutrition in mainstream technical assistance for budget management and internal resource mobilization. This will help to drive the efficiency of investments.
- Develop nutrition-specific guidelines and best practices for health budget decision makers and practitioners.

3. Strengthen data for decision making

Support countries to strengthen performance monitoring systems that track evidence-based nutrition interventions as well as quality and reach of service implementation at national and subnational levels in at least five additional countries by 2025

- Ensure disaggregated data and analytics on nutrition are integrated into health data monitoring systems.
- Break silos between data management systems for nutrition and other health-related interventions.
- Leverage nutrition data – including from the [GFF Data Portal](#) – to analyze best practices and implement performance-based interventions for nutrition.

4. Enhance stronger collaboration

Increase synergies with the Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition with priority given to enhancing research and evaluation collaboration

- Increase collaboration between the Trust Fund of Scaling Up Nutrition and the GFF, including through joint knowledge generation of the most effective nutrition investments and nutrition policies.

ⁱ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-and-covid-19>

^{iv} https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/documents/GFF-Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf

^v <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-and-covid-19>