

Honourable Member States, this statement is delivered by CARE USA on behalf of the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition.

Preventing and treating malnutrition in all its forms, especially during the first 1,000 days, is critical to realize Universal Health Coverage (UHC), meet the World Health Assembly 2025 nutrition targets and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. Undernutrition, overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) underlie 45% of all child deaths, and 71% of global deaths.

Affecting every third person, malnutrition disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable, aggravating intergenerational cycles of ill-health and poverty. High-impact, low-cost essential nutrition services like breastfeeding and dietary counselling, hygiene promotion, wasting treatment, deworming and micronutrient supplementation promote healthy development, protect from infection and illness and prevents NCDs.

We urge Member States to prioritize nutrition in national UHC plans and commit to:

- Integrate, scale-up and resource nutrition interventions in primary health care, focusing on women and girls, and prioritizing the most vulnerable;
- Train and support community health workers to deliver key nutrition services;
- Ensure essential medicines include products to prevent and treat malnutrition;
- Coordinate UHC and multi-sectoral nutrition plans to work across sectors to end malnutrition in all its forms.

