

Statement to the 142nd session of the WHO Executive Board: Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health: early childhood development. Agenda item 4.3/ [EB142/19](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of World Cancer Research Fund International, supported by NCD Alliance and 1,000 Days.

The Global Strategy provides an important framework for coordinated action, including actions to address malnutrition in all its forms and prevent NCDs. Good nutrition, especially in the 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday, provides a critical foundation for health and well-being throughout life.

Malnutrition is on the rise in all countries, including childhood obesity which affects over 41 million children under age five. Overweight and obese children are likely to remain thus into adulthood, and are at greater risk of developing NCDs such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in later life.

We welcome the development of a global framework for nurturing care for early childhood development (ECD). As organisations working on ending malnutrition in all its forms and preventing NCDs, we call on Member States to participate in the consultation process and ensure that nutrition in the first 1,000 days is reflected as an integral component of ECD. Furthermore, we call for the scale-up of double-duty nutrition interventions (like breastfeeding), that address both undernutrition and overweight & obesity, to be included within the framework.

Finally, we encourage the Global Financing Facility (GFF) to increasingly prioritise countries that implement interventions and programmes that deliver multiple benefits, including for nutrition and NCD prevention & control, thus maximising return on investment. Since nutrition is an explicit priority of the GFF, we call on the WHO as an active partner of the facility, to ensure that it remains a priority during this year's replenishment and that nutrition in GFF programming is strengthened and results monitored.

Please be assured of our full support in implementing the objectives of the Global Strategy and the Framework for nurturing care.