

Statement to the 158th Executive Board on Agenda item 25 – Maternal, infant, and young child nutrition

February 2026

World Cancer Research Fund International, with support from Union for International Cancer Control, welcomes this update from the Director-General, but expresses their concern that progress for achieving all six impact targets by 2030 remains off-track. As reported by UNICEF: obesity is now the most prevalent form of malnutrition for school-aged children and adolescents globally (with the exception of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia). Obesity increases the risk of 13 different types of cancers, and without intervention countries will face lifetime health and economic impacts.

We urge Member States to accelerate the implementation of policies that support item 25's proposed actions, particularly improving food environments through the implementation of comprehensive food and nutrition policies (including restrictions on marketing breastmilk substitutes), and increase investment commitments. Member States should utilize multisectoral approaches, but strictly manage conflicts of interest to achieve optimal policy outcomes.