

**Statement to the 79th World Health Assembly on
Agenda item 15.4 – Maternal, infant, and young child nutrition**

22 May 2026

World Cancer Research Fund International notes its concern on the stagnating progress on global nutrition targets. Obesity, which increases the risk of 13 types of cancer, is now the most prevalent form of malnutrition among school-aged children and adolescents globally. Without intervention countries will face lifetime health and economic impacts.

We urge Member States to champion the WHO Acceleration Plan to STOP Obesity, integrate nutrition targets into national policies (including within national cancer control plans), implement and enforce fiscal policies (like sugar-sweetened beverage taxes), and protect breastfeeding (including restricting unregulated digital advertising of breast-milk substitutes). Multisectoral action, with robust conflict-of-interest safeguards, must be intensified.