

Recommendations: U.S. Leadership for the G8 Summit – Chicago

“Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture must remain a priority issue on the political agenda...”

“L’Aquila” Joint Statement on Global Food Security, 2009

The 2012 G8 Summit in Chicago is a key moment for the Obama Administration to reaffirm its global leadership to confront the challenges of hunger, poverty and disease by ensuring a **strong focus on nutrition** in the global food security agenda. Nutrition creates a foundation for sustainable economic growth and good health. There is solid evidence that demonstrates that improving nutrition—particularly early in life, in the 1,000 days between a woman’s pregnancy and a child’s 2nd birthday—can have a profound impact on a country’s long-term economic development and stability.

Because of the role that early nutrition plays in accelerating development and in the success of global food security, agricultural development and health efforts, we recommend that the Obama Administration build on Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiative to:

- 1. Lead G8 and other partners in significantly reducing malnutrition over the next 5-10 years by putting nutrition on the agenda; communicating its priority; and forging bold, global action commitments on nutrition.**
 - a. In order to catalyze global action, the U.S. should lead a global nutrition forum in Chicago around the G8 Summit, as well as food security event(s) that include nutrition as a core focus during the G8 Summit. Clear, deep, actionable commitments must be made at both the national and international levels to leverage current political momentum and support for bringing nutrition solutions to scale.
 - b. In such a commitment, the U.S. should encourage that all governments prioritize a focus on improving nutrition during the critical 1,000 days from pregnancy to age two.
 - c. As part of their commitment to food security, we urge President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and USAID Administrator Shah to use this opportunity to illustrate a government-wide focus on global nutrition and the 1,000 day window of opportunity in speeches, public materials and summit meetings.
- 2. Ensure current and future investments in food security and maternal and child health are held accountable for improving nutritional status, particularly that of women of child-bearing age and children under the age of two.**
 - a. In the Chicago Accountability Report, explicitly measure and report on funds that are currently being spent on scaling up maternal and child nutrition and the impact of these resources on early nutrition.
- 3. Secure a strong and sustainable response to malnutrition in the G8 communiqué by:**
 - a. Putting greater emphasis on approaches to food production and food security that not only improve agricultural productivity, but also improve nutritional status—ensuring that investments are made in rigorous program impact evaluation and research, and implementing findings.
 - b. Emphasizing and facilitating private sector investment in food systems that deliver improved access, availability and affordability of nutritious foods. Initiatives are needed that strengthen nutrition, including the promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices, dietary diversification, fortification of staple foods with essential vitamins and minerals, reducing the use of trans fats and increasing both supply and demand for high-quality fortified complementary foods and supplements, among others interventions.
 - c. Endorsing best practices in addressing the behavioral, health and poverty related determinants of malnutrition, and working to integrate across sectors and programs (e.g., health, water/sanitation, agriculture, safety nets) to increase impact and scale of programs.

Recommendations: U.S. Leadership for the G8 Summit – Chicago

Justification

- In L'Aquila, G-8 and other countries committed to address malnutrition as part of a comprehensive approach to food security. Moreover, the President's Global Development Policy recognizes that "by improving nutrition outcomes, Feed the Future invests in helping people achieve their potential – the true foundation for sustainable growth and development."
- The Chicago G-8 must continue this recognition of nutrition as integral to food security and as a foundation for economic growth and development.
 - Malnutrition early in life can impede a human being's cognitive, physical and emotional development—the damage caused is largely irreversible.
 - Malnutrition is an enormous drain on a country's financial and human resources. It can cost a country more than 3% of its GDP, translating into deficits of several billion dollars per year.
 - Malnutrition contributes to more than 1 out of 3 child deaths per year.
 - Malnutrition is both preventable and treatable, and highly cost-effective solutions exist.
- Without concerted effort to tackle malnutrition—particularly in the 1,000 day window between pregnancy and age two—progress toward poverty reduction, economic growth, food security and improving global health will be harder, more costly and more limited.

Supported by members of the 1,000 Days Advocacy Working Group and InterAction Food Security/Agriculture, Health and WASH Working Groups, including:

**Alliance to End Hunger
Bread for the World
ChildFund International
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
Concern Worldwide U.S.
Congressional Hunger Center
GAIN-Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
Global Health Council
Heifer International
Helen Keller International
The Hunger Project
International Medical Corps
PATH
ReSurge International
Save the Children
Self Help Africa
University Research Co., LLC
Women Thrive Worldwide**