

# NUTRITION FOR GROWTH PARIS 2025

Side Events, CSO Pavillion, Village of Solutions held March 24-28  
Main Summit: March 27-28





## INTRODUCTION

The Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in Paris was a landmark event aimed at addressing global malnutrition and promoting sustainable development by aligning policies and resources, closing the funding gap and setting bold targets on nutrition. The summit emphasised commitment to measurable national nutrition plans, establishment of funding targets, and implementation of robust tracking systems to ensure accountability.<sup>[1]</sup>

As part of its efforts to facilitate structured spaces for conversations and action on early childhood development in emergencies, the Moving Minds Alliance hosted a side event at the N4G Summit CSO Pavillion. This crucial session emphasised the need for a holistic approach to child nutrition, particularly focusing on the early years, the most critical years of childhood, described as 0-8 years as captured in the MMA advocacy brief prepared for engagements at the summit.<sup>[2]</sup>

The discussion at the side event highlighted the plight of children at risk of - or experiencing - malnutrition in crisis settings, and emphasised the importance of integrating prevention and treatment strategies within comprehensive early childhood development (ECD) frameworks.<sup>[3]</sup> Speakers included local and global experts from various organisations: Dan Irvine, Veronica Kirogo, Francesca Erdelmann, Abdu Shukkur, Awurabena Quayeba, Manka'ah Yvonne and Tricia Young.

[1] [About Nutrition for Growth Summit](#)

[2] [Moving Minds Alliance 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit Advocacy Brief - The Early Years: A Critical Window for Nutrition and Development - Moving Minds Alliance](#). [online] Moving Minds Alliance

[3] [Moving Minds Alliance \(2025\). #N4GParis: Integrating Malnutrition Treatment and Prevention in Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts](#). [online] YouTube



## KEY DISCUSSIONS

Dan Irvine from World Vision began the session by pointing out the pitfalls of concentrating predominantly on treatment interventions amidst dwindling foreign aid. He illustrated this with examples from Sudan, where integrated health and nutrition programmes produced notable improvements. Tricia from the Moving Minds Alliance emphasised the striking statistic that 75% of the world's stunted children are in conflict zones, stressing the connection between malnutrition, cognitive function, and immune health.<sup>[4]</sup>

Contributors Yvonne from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) pointed out challenges such as limited resources and the necessity of flexible funding, while Abdu, a Rohingya refugee advocate, highlighted the dire nutritional situation in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. Additionally, Veronica Kogo from the Kenya Ministry of Health, highlighted coordination challenges - as well as successes - in integrating nutrition and childhood development efforts in Kenya. The session resonated with a call for a multisectoral response to effectively tackle malnutrition and support holistic development in children affected by crises.

Key discussions also revolved around integrating climate considerations into nutrition programming in fragile contexts like Ghana, where alarmingly high rates of child malnutrition persist. Panelists underlined the importance of community engagement and tailored approaches in developing effective interventions. The session concluded with a call to action, inviting all key stakeholders to persist in efforts to integrate nutrition and ECD to support the welfare and development of children in the most vulnerable contexts.

[4] Gebregziabher, M., DeLargy, P., Jumaan, A., Kapila, M. and Rubenstein, L. (2022). War prevention and mitigation are public health imperatives of our time. *eClinicalMedicine*, 47, p.101385.

# PROGRAMME MODELS



A series of programme models demonstrating a comprehensive approach to integrating ECD and nutrition were discussed. These models emphasise community involvement, caregiver education, and the utilisation of local resources to improve outcomes for children in both crisis and non-crisis contexts. The programmes include:

1. **Brighter Future Approach:** Created by the Nutrition and Child Protection Technical Units and IRC Country Programmes when famine threatened the lives of thousands of children in Northeast Nigeria. The initiative integrates ECD into nutrition programming, providing a structured curriculum with stated competencies and indicators of success. This approach employs community health workers trained on the Brighter Future curriculum to implement ECD activities, focusing on caregiver education and local tools for play and stimulation.<sup>[5]</sup>
2. **Supplementary Feeding Programme:** Implemented by World Vision in South Darfur, the programme was designed for children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating women at risk. This initiative includes a series of 11 counseling sessions focused on health, nutrition, water and sanitation, child protection, caregiver interactions, learning through play, and self-care.<sup>[6]</sup>
3. **School Meals Programmes:** School feeding was highlighted as a critical strategy to keep children, particularly girls, in school and significantly improve their nutrition and cognitive outcomes. Initiatives in Kenya to strengthen school meals promotes cognitive development among children while addressing malnutrition.<sup>[7]</sup>
4. **Digital and Hybrid Programming:** The IRC in Bangladesh utilises a hybrid programming model that combines digital platforms with in-person programming, which enhances cost-effectiveness, and leads to improved cognitive and physical development in children.<sup>[8]</sup>
5. **Positive Deviance Approach:** Applied in Ethiopia, Ghana and Zambia to rehabilitate malnourished children through locally available, nutrient-dense meals and community engagement.<sup>[9]</sup>

[5] [International Rescue Committee, Brighter Futures: integrated child protection and nutrition intervention in humanitarian settings](#)

[6] [Wvi.org. \(2021\). World Vision uses community-led complementary feeding and learning sessions to address malnutrition](#)

[7] [How Kenya's school meals programme is feeding minds and building resilience](#)

[8] [International Rescue Committee, Evidence for Investment: The Impact of the Gindegi Goron Programme on Early Childhood Development](#)

[9] [People in Need, Positive Deviance for Nutrition: A grassroots approach to reduce and prevent malnutrition](#)



Youth Leader, Shanerisse Tamondong shows the ideal meal plate drawn by a child during participatory consultation in the Philippines at the N4G Paris Nutrition Dialogues.

### Barriers to Implementation

Challenges including resource limitations and insecure contexts highlight the importance of tailored, adaptable and contextually relevant solutions to enhance programme efficacy.

## KEY INSIGHTS

### Importance of Prevention

The session highlighted that immediate humanitarian aid overshadows preventive measures, which ultimately risks long-term child health. A shift to proactive strategies is crucial to ensure children have access to essential nutrition and care to support their development.

### Focus on Cognitive Development

There is a critical need to address cognitive development alongside nutrition in ECD programmes to promote healthier, better-adjusted children in adverse environments.

### Interlinked Sectors

A coordinated multisectoral approach is pivotal. The successful interlinked model in Sudan demonstrates that integrating various service components can yield improved health and nutrition results, serving as a blueprint for other crisis-affected areas. By effectively linking nutrition, health, education, and social protection, stakeholders can create comprehensive strategies that foster improved outcomes for children facing malnutrition.

### Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection Programmes

Various projects, including cash transfer initiatives aimed at improving child nutrition, are essential to support vulnerable families.

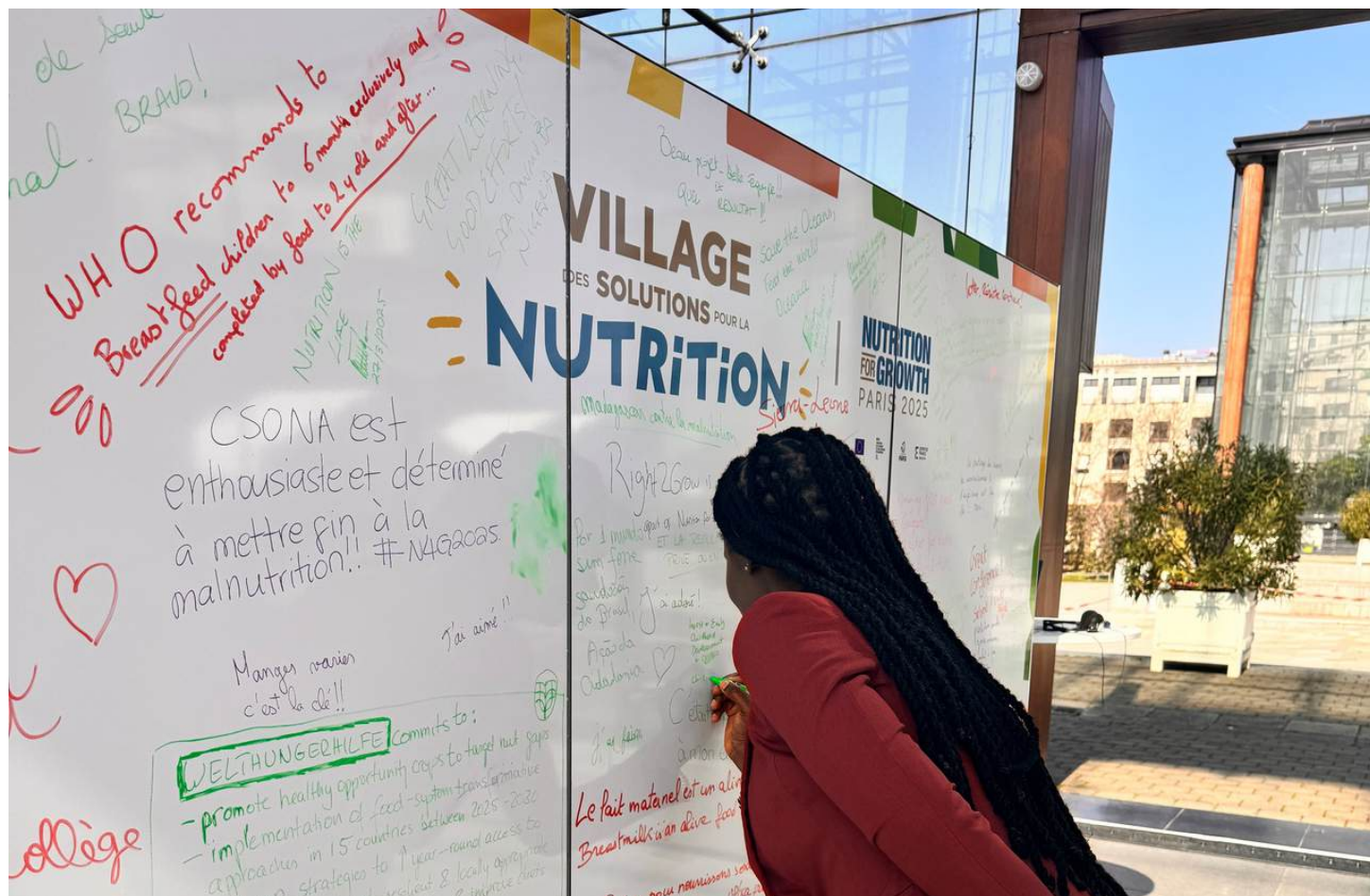
### Climate Resilience

Integrating climate-smart agricultural practices into nutrition initiatives not only tackles immediate food security concerns but also ensures sustainability in the face of climate change.

### Research Gaps

A pronounced need exists for continued research into the effectiveness of integrated ECD and nutrition efforts, emphasising the necessity for data-driven strategies for policymaking and programme development.

## OTHER INSIGHTS FROM THE CSOS SOLUTIONS VILLAGE



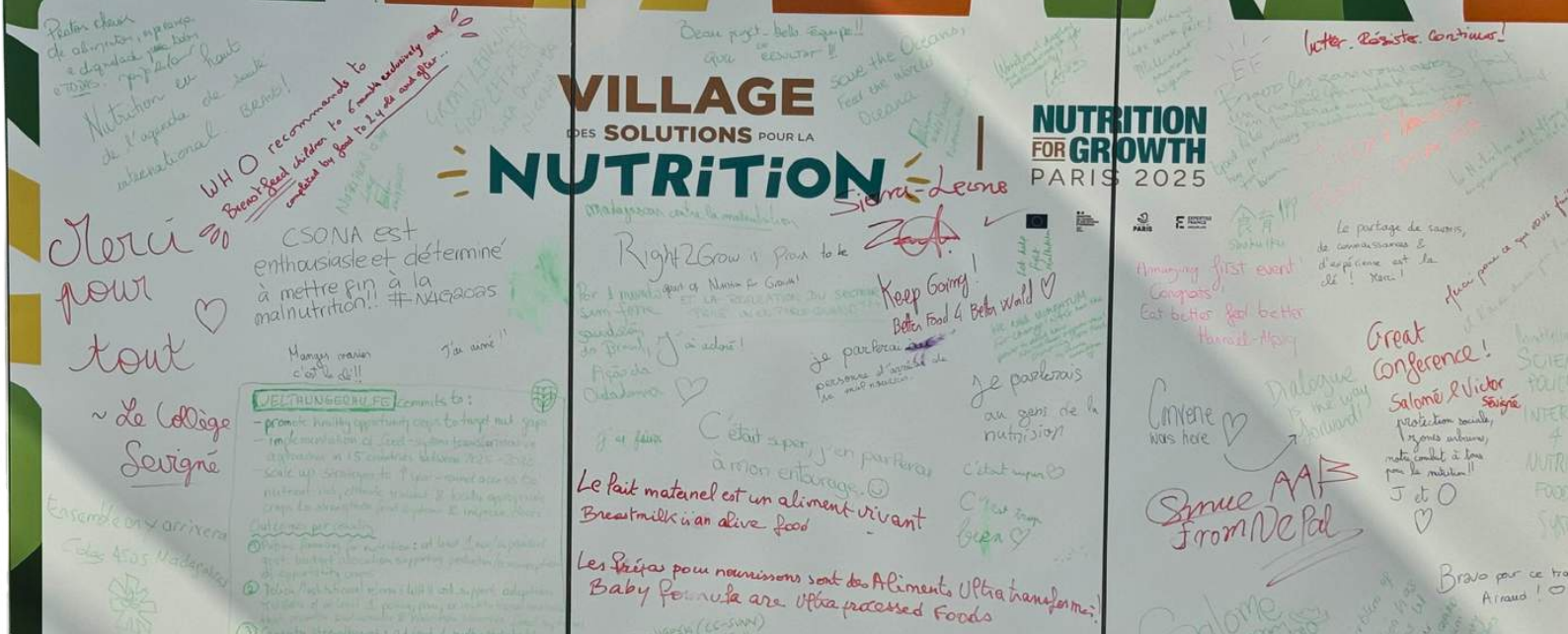
The "Village of Solutions", an innovation and engagement space on the sidelines of the N4G summit, provided insights on emerging local technologies and of the role of young people in tackling malnutrition.

- The Village showcased the transformative role of youth in addressing malnutrition. The Nutrition Dialogues demonstrated how young people from marginalised communities can lead impactful dialogues, identifying barriers to nutrition and co-creating actionable policy recommendations.
- The Village showcased several innovative tools designed to support communities in crisis and improve overall well-being. One such tool is the PharmaBox, a mobile, energy-efficient medicine storage unit tailored for crisis zones. This unit ensures that life-saving treatments are accessible to malnourished children during emergencies.<sup>[10]</sup>
- Additionally, the Civil Society Organisation Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) Malawi showcased several innovative apps enhancing both agricultural productivity and child health in local communities. The Zaulimi (Farmers) App educates users on pest and disease control measures, livestock management, and connects farmers to markets, thereby enhancing their agricultural practices and economic opportunities. Another significant tool is the Child Growth Monitoring App for Nutrition, which helps determine if a child is stunted or wasted by tracking growth metrics. This app provides notifications for early intervention and offers nutritional advice, aiming to improve child health.<sup>[11][12]</sup>

[10] The CMA CGM Foundation launches PharmaBox: a converted container for the storage of medicines in crisis zones

[11] Zaulimi App

[12] Child Growth Monitor



## POST SUMMIT COMMITMENTS

Thanks to the combined efforts of the French government and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, the summit successfully mobilised over \$27 billion to support nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>[13]</sup> This remarkable achievement highlights the renewed commitment to multilateralism and the global fight against malnutrition.

Notably, while many global leaders stepped up, the U.S. was noticeably absent.<sup>[14]</sup>

- The European Commission, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Slovenia, and Spain cumulatively pledged €6.5 billion to fight global malnutrition.<sup>[15]</sup>
- Global Philanthropic Partners including Gates Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Aga Khan Development Network, Bezos family, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation and Kirk Humanitarian, announce more than \$2 billion in funding for malnutrition.<sup>[16]</sup>
- Save the Children committed to \$663 million to support child nutrition.<sup>[17]</sup>
- World Vision International committed \$1 billion in private funds for nutrition, as well as an additional \$1.1 billion in microfinance support for small scale farmers and entrepreneurs - mostly women - between 2025 and 2029.<sup>[18]</sup>

## CONCLUSION

In summary, the MMA side event and other CSO engagements at the N4G summit Paris laid bare the complex landscape of child nutrition in crisis settings while providing actionable insights from existing programmes for future initiatives aimed at ensuring the well-being of the youngest children in humanitarian settings. The commitment to collaborative discourse, mobilised resources and new methodologies indicates a hopeful path forward for the Moving Minds Alliance vision of a world in which families and communities affected by crisis can nurture the wellbeing and development of their young children and uphold their rights.

[13] [Nutrition for Growth Summit Mobilises over US\\$27 Billion to Reach Nutrition-Related Sustainable Development Goals: Nutrition for Growth.](#)

[14] [Results Canada, Turning absence into action: Advocating for U.S. leadership post-Nutrition for Growth \(N4G\).](#)

[15] [Team Europe pledges €6.5 billion at N4G Paris Summit to fight global malnutrition](#)

[16] [Global Philanthropic Partners Announce More Than \\$2 Billion in Funding For Malnutrition](#)

[17] [Save the Children commits US\\$663 million to support child nutrition](#)

[18] [World Vision Commitments at the Nutrition for Growth Summit 2025](#)

Moving Minds Alliance is multi-stakeholder alliance advocating for early childhood development in every crisis response, leveraging the strengths of diverse actors from the local to the global.

Contact Us



## **Acknowledgements**

This report was written and designed by Lola Ayanda, with inputs from Victoria Murphy & Tricia Young

