

Sponsor: Ethiopia

The topic of reducing malnutrition and stunted growth in Africa using Ethiopia as a pilot programme

The World Health Assembly,

Declaring that according to the United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), undernutrition is the outcome of insufficient food intake and recurrent infectious diseases, undernutrition is a group of disorders that includes stunting, wasting and underweight,

Deeply regretting that malnutrition is estimated to contribute to more than one third of all child deaths, although it is rarely listed as the direct cause, which is contributing to more than half of deaths in children worldwide, child malnutrition was associated with 54% of deaths in children in developing countries in 2001,

Taking into consideration that child undernutrition continues to be a key public health problem in developing countries including Ethiopia, although Ethiopia has demonstrated promising progress in reducing levels of undernutrition over the past decade, however, the baseline levels of undernutrition remain so high that the country still needs to continue substantial investment in nutrition

Having studied that according to Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey, there is a substantial variation of undernutrition in Ethiopia. For instance, there is regional variation in the prevalence of stunting in children, the estimated prevalence of chronic malnutrition is above the national average in Afar (49%), Tigray (44%), South Nation and National People (44%) and Amhara (42%) compared with a national average of 40%,

Having examined a report by United Nations International Children's Emergency fund (UNICEF) Ethiopia has seen a steady reduction in stunting from 58 per cent in 2000 to 38 per cent in 2016, in the percentage of underweight children from 41 per cent to 24 per cent during the same period, and in wasting from 12 per cent to 10 per cent these trends indicate an improvement in chronic malnutrition over the past 15 years, yet 28 per cent of child deaths in Ethiopia are associated with under-nutrition,

Viewing with Appreciation that since 2005, the Government of Canada has invested more than CAD \$90 M in Ethiopia through Nutrition International, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Health, Nutrition International and the Government of Canada continue to improve the nutrition status of Ethiopia's most vulnerable citizens, including adolescent girls, pregnant women, children and new-borns,

Noting with grave concern that newly released nutrition report by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa has revealed that undernutrition is still persistent in the region and the number of stunted children has increased,

Taking into account the nutrition targets call for a 40 percent reduction in the number of children under-five who are stunted, 50 percent reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age, 30 percent reduction in low birth weight, no increase in childhood overweight, increasing the rate of exclusive breastfeeding to at least 50 percent and reducing wasting to less than 5 percent,

1. Calls upon the United Nations Children Emergency funds to set up medical check-up camps for children in Afar, Tigray, South Nation and National People and Amhara;
2. Urges donor nations, Non-governmental organizations and other donating firms to donate a total sum of US \$23.12 million which will be used in the following ways:

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- a) US \$12 million to upgrade the Adigrat hospital in Tigray, Alatiyon Hospital in Hawassa, Felge Hiwot Hospital in Bahirdar and Dessie Hospital in Desse, and equip them with highly modified laboratory test to enhance the current facilities and provide more accurate screening and also install facilities such as MRI machines and CT scans;
 - b) US \$2 million to buy 80 mobile clinic vans that will be going into the rural areas of Afar, Tigray, South Nation and National people, Desse and Amhara region to make healthcare accessible in those backward areas;
 - c) US \$4.62 million that will be used to pay the salary of 80 doctors and 160 nurses that will work on the mobile clinic vans for a period of 3 years after which the Ministry of Health will take over, the payment of doctors and nurses will be as follows;
 - i. US \$ 600 per month for the specialist doctor for a period of 3 years;
 - ii. US \$ 500 per month for the nurses for a period of 3 years;
 - d) US \$500,000 to be used to educate the people on the side effects of poor nutrition by the use of posters, banners, flyers, radio and news;
 - e) US \$4 million to arrange for 7000 bottles of the Recombinant Human Growth Hormone that can be administered to the children diagnosed with stunted growth;
3. Requests the Ministry of health of Ethiopia and other Non-Governmental Organizations to provide free meals to children in the rural areas that cannot sustain themselves to help curb the spread of malnutrition and stunted growth;
 4. Appeals the United Nations Children's Emergency Funds(UNICEF) to act as a watchdog for the project and make sure there is no misuse of funds or corruption taking place;
 5. Instructs that the Ministry of health to improve its current National Food and Nutrition Policy(NFNP) and make it more effective;
 6. Further Recommends the Ministry of health to appoint a specialized nutritionist in all government hospitals in Ethiopia;
 7. Directs the Ministry of Health to send a weekly progress report of the project to UNICEF office in Ethiopia and New York;
 8. Trusts that the project will run for a period of 3 years and by then the percentage of children with malnutrition and stunted growth will fall below the target set the World Health Organization to eradicate malnutrition and stunted growth;
 9. Welcomes further suggestions to strengthen the quality of this resolution.