Statement

The COVID-19 crisis and measures to contain it are hitting the poorest and most vulnerable the hardest – risking the progress made on nutrition and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The pandemic is already increasing hunger and malnutrition. For many in the 61 Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement countries, a day without work means no income and no access to nutritious food. Many are pushed deeper into poverty, and essential health and nutrition services are disrupted.

Nutrition is key to build immunity, protect against illness and infection, support recovery and build resilience. Malnutrition is an underlying cause of almost half of child deaths, and negatively impacts children’s cognitive and physical development.

I call on all stakeholders to ensure that malnutrition is adequately addressed in the COVID-19 response and recovery through a multi-sectoral approach.

We must act now to prevent the COVID-19 crisis to spiral into a global malnutrition crisis. We cannot fail a generation of children.

Thank you.