

# ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE

## What is Save the Children doing?

### Zero stunted children less than 2 years

Save the Children is taking a multi-sector, multi institutional approach to the reduction of stunting. It is working at the international level, through launching campaigns are brining political pressure to bear on political and industry leaders. Save the Children's IF campaign was instrumental in the success of the Nutrition for growth summit on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Save the Children is also working at the community level. In Ethiopia, through Save the Children's ENGINE project, a Kebele and Woerda level nutrition steering committee involves the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and health. A coordinated approach has been adopted. The steering committee structure is mutually reinforcing messages from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. Agriculture provides the agricultural products, which the Ministries of Health (Dept. of Nutrition) are promoting. The foods promoted change seasonally. Good quality diet is the key to ending stunting.

### 100% access to adequate food all year around

Rainfed agricultural production is seasonal; with irrigation there is more control. Imports are available, but expensive. Save the Children has developed the cost of the diet programme that calculates the nutritional value of the diet whilst simultaneously calculating the least cost for a good quality diet. The programme takes the foods that are available now and in the immediate future. The diet will be calculated on the combination of foods available and their cost per unit. All interventions made by Save the Children emphasise dietary diversity and the need to take food from different sources. With the Cost of the Diet programme, what is seasonally available, both on farm and off farm, it is possible to calculate the least cost for the most nutritious diet available.

### All food Systems Sustainable

Save the Children adopts a value chain approach. Many food systems are not sustainable. Save the Children tries to ensure that the production of the agricultural product uses all relevant soil and water conservation practices. There is an increased focus on meeting quality standards, which on itself will reduce waste along the value chain. Greater emphasis is placed on behaviour change, in providing information on the types of agricultural products to consume, how to prepare the food, how to cook the food, whilst conserving energy, preserving the food value and ensuring all practices have sustainability inbuilt.

### 100% increase in Smallholder productivity and income

Production increase is difficult to achieve, when fertiliser usage is low, poor soil and water conservation practices, allowing erosion and soil impoverishment to occur. However, to achieve a reduction in stunting, a balanced diet is required. To provide a balanced diet agriculturally, there has to be a high degree of agricultural diversity. Save the Children is implementing projects encouraging a high degree of diversification into different crops, in the enterprise mix. Greater diversity will reduce the risk of catastrophic failure. Save the Children is focused on enhancing smallholder income, through the development of bulk marketing structures and adherence to quality standards.

### Zero loss or waste of food

Save the Children focuses not only on food waste, but is very concerned about energy conservation. Post-Harvest losses are a serious concern. Save the Children have a number of projects which seek to reduce post-harvest losses (Ethiopia and Malawi). Waste occurs not only during storage, but during food preparation, cooking and consumption. Save the Children emphasise food waste being recycled as compost or energy. Energy for cooking is being undertaken through programmes that distribute fuel efficient stoves as well as dietary change, through training women and men in the use of other, alternative foodstuffs.