



PRESS RELEASE

African Leaders Make Economic Case for Increased Nutrition Investment

24 May 2016, LUSAKA – Yesterday, key African leaders at the African Development Bank (AfDB) Annual Meeting, in partnership with the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, outlined a vision for a new high-level effort and shared new data strengthening the economic case for investment in nutrition across Africa.

On the opening day of the AfDB Annual Meeting in Lusaka, AfDB President and Global Panel Member Dr. Akinwumi Adesina hosted a discussion among influential leaders, philanthropists, and businesses on how Africa can achieve nutrition security through increased investments and public-private partnerships.

The Global Panel's working paper "[The economics of reducing malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)" shows increased investments to meet the World Health Assembly target of reducing stunting by 40 percent by 2025 could add US\$83 billion in additional GDP growth in just 15 sub-Saharan African countries.

Highlighting the critical need for political leadership to take action and invest in these opportunities, Dr Adesina and H.E. John Kufuor, former President of Ghana and Co-Chair of the Global Panel, outlined intent to create the [African Leaders for Nutrition \(ALN\)](#), which aims to bring together heads of state, finance ministers, and leaders from key sectors across the continent to champion and increase investment in nutrition.

"The African Leaders for Nutrition will be an opportunity for heads of state and ministers to use their voices to commit, their actions to invest, and their positions to truly lead. Not only is it about health, but it is also about economics. The potential gains are significant and lasting. That's why we're calling on leaders across Africa to join us in elevating the issue of nutrition on the continent and to make investment a priority." - John A. Kufuor, former President of Ghana and Global Panel Co-Chair

H.E. Kofi Annan, Founding Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation, praised the effort while highlighting the role agriculture can play in defeating malnutrition: *"We need agriculture to be nutrition-smart, and I look forward to opportunities for collaboration with the African Leaders for Nutrition on creating agriculture and food production systems that are diverse, efficient and resilient in order to meet the nutritional needs of every community and nation."*

On the launch of the working paper, **Sir John Beddington**, Global Panel Co-Chair commented: *“On behalf of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, I am delighted to give the panel’s full support to African Leaders for Nutrition. President Akinwumi Adesina’s leadership on nutrition through this initiative is commendable. The Global Panel is ready to help African leaders move forward to invest in nutrition.”*

UK DFID Minister Nick Hurd said: *“The UK shares the Global Panel’s commitment to improve nutrition across Africa and I am encouraged by this joined-up approach to tackling this ongoing challenge. Poor nutrition not only has a major, lifelong impact on health, it can also hold back entire economies. That’s why the UK government made it a manifesto commitment to improve the nutrition of 50 million people over the next four years.”*

The full Global Panel working paper is available for download at http://glopan.org/sites/default/files/Global_Panel_Working_Paper.pdf

END

Notes to the editors:

About the Global Panel:

The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition is an independent group of high-level, influential experts with a commitment to tackling global challenges in food and nutrition security. It works to ensure that agriculture and food systems support access to nutritious foods at every stage of life.

Funded by the **UK Department for International Development** and the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, the Global Panel aims to stimulate a stronger evidence-base for how changes in agriculture and food systems can improve nutrition and catalyse collaboration to help provide healthy and sustainable diets for all. The Panel is chaired by H.E. John Kufuor, former President of Ghana (2001-2009) and Sir John Beddington (former UK Chief Scientific Advisor) and has its headquarters in London.

About the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN)

The African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) seeks to elevate the issue of nutrition on the continent and encourage government ministers, philanthropists and businesses to champion and increase investment in nutrition. Created by Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the AfDB, and John Kufuor, Former President of Ghana and Global Panel Co-Chair, the ALN is envisioned to be an African-led effort of current and former heads of state, finance ministers and other leaders that aims to catalyse and sustain political will and leadership on nutrition investment and the economic case for nutrition investment.

For more info, please contact Catherine LeBlanc: Catherine.leblanc@glopan.org - +44 (0) 2030738349