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Honourable G7 Members,

Today - in the face of an unprecedented global hunger crisis, with an estimated **193 million people in urgent need of food assistance** in 53 countries alone – the health, safety and wellbeing of children, especially girls, all over the world are more at risk than ever before.

Among these dramatic figures, nearly 26 million children under the age of five are suffering from wasting, including **five million children at risk of dying from severe wasting**.¹ In hunger crises around the world, girls face disproportionate impacts as they are often the first to go hungry and the last to eat. This has already led to devastating knock-on effects on the rights of girls such as increases in gender-based violence, early or forced marriages, and barriers to education that risk becoming irreversible. Armed conflicts and insecurity, the impacts of climate change, and the economic fallout of COVID-19 exacerbate these effects and continue to drive people toward starvation. In the world's hunger hotspots, including Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Niger and Haiti, children, particularly girls, continue to face the brunt of the hunger crisis.²

Urgent action on hunger and the risk of famine is not only imperative given the scale and severity of this crisis, but also in line with last year's G7 commitments. Last year in the UK, all G7 members adopted the **G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crisis Compact**. However, despite their pledges, the G7 has not yet met the commitments of their Famine Compact. Plan International now calls on the G7 Member States to:

- 1. Urgently contribute towards the USD \$21.5 billion needed to avert almost 49 million people from the brink of famine** and promote the resilience of 137 million people.³ Funds need to be readily available, immediately provided, flexible and unearmarked. Failure to do so will likely result in widespread starvation as well as a complete collapse of agricultural livelihood strategies and assets. It is for this reason that Plan International applauds the recent decision by the US Congress to approve \$5 billion for global food security and calls on other G7 members to also make significant funding available.
- 2. Fulfil their gender commitments within the Famine Compact and ensure gender, age and disability-sensitive funding, including:**
 - Ensuring their funding is gender, age and disability-sensitive and includes support for sexual and reproductive health and rights;
 - Supporting action to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, economic harm and health impacts experienced by women and girls in conflict and crises;
 - Supporting partners to ensure food security analyses are fully disaggregated by gender, age and disability.

¹ [Global Report of Food Crises 2022](#)

² [Global Report of Food Crises 2022](#)

³ Information from the WFP 2022 report on Unprecedented Threatened Needs - Hunger A Catastrophe [WFP 2022](#)

3. **As promised in the G7 Compact, act early on a “no regrets basis”⁴ to save lives even when robust data is not available.** A “no regrets” policy of early action to prevent famine has clearly not been followed this year: halfway into 2022, and the UN’s humanitarian appeals are only 18% covered globally, with countries at the risk of famine experiencing massive funding shortages. Funding for anticipatory action and emergency preparedness based on early warning indicators is critical, and where appropriate should use forecast-based financing.
4. **Promote and provide evidence of efforts to facilitate humanitarian access, conditions of peace in conflict-affected hunger hotspots and new actions in the UN Security Council to address the use of starvation as a method of warfare.** Conflict and insecurity have caused 60% of hunger worldwide; however, there has been a lack of public reporting from the G7 on the implementation of their commitments to address the use of starvation as a method of warfare, as promised by the Compact.
5. As pledged in the Famine Compact, **support governments to reinforce and scale-up gender-responsive, unconditional social protection and income support measures** for the most affected and vulnerable people and families, including child- and female-headed households, families with young children, displaced populations, and where relevant, to create an enabling environment for humanitarian actors to complement the national response.
6. While Plan International thanks states for their commitment to “*establish a baseline of our individual funding and subsequently report on our financial support to anticipatory action in the future*”, to build trust and galvanise positive action from others too, it is vital that the **G7 leaders are held accountable by publicly reporting on progress on commitments**, especially in financing.

Children, especially girls, pregnant and lactating women bear the brunt of this global hunger crisis. Despite this, they remain at risk of being neglected by the G7 and the wider international community. We request that the G7 leverage the upcoming G7 Leaders' Summit in Germany to push for implementation of the Famine Compact, providing urgent funding now and ensuring a transformative endorsement of age and gender within humanitarian crises while improving reporting on the implementation of its commitments.

Sincerely,



Stephen Omollo
Chief Executive Officer
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Serap Altinisik
Head of EU Office, EU Representative
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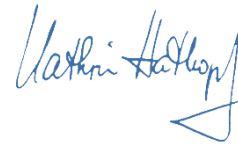
⁴ No regret commitments are actions and resources that are secured regardless of whether or not the dangers occur. Learning from past lessons, a slow, delayed or insufficient humanitarian response risks thousands of deaths and high rates of starvation and food insecurity.



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