

## **World Vision Recommendations for the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit March 2016**

### **Introduction**

The Ise-Shima Summit is taking place at a crucial time for the world's most vulnerable children. We are at the start of a new era of international cooperation, with the 1 January commencement of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The importance of the promise of this Agenda for those who have been left behind, including ending extreme poverty and hunger, cannot be overstated.

The G7 has made decisive commitments in past Summits that have catalyzed international action to address some of our most pressing global challenges. We have seen this on debt relief, aid to Africa, HIV and AIDs and child and maternal health. 2016 must be another year when the G7 demonstrates its leadership as we begin to implement the commitments made in Agenda 2030. Learning the lessons of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) era, we know that we must immediately begin the implementation of those commitments if we have any chance of reaching them by 2030. The Ise-Shima Summit is a timely opportunity for 7 of the world's wealthiest and most powerful countries to do just that.

As a child focused relief, development and advocacy organization, World Vision calls on the G7 to ensure that its initiatives include a strong focus on the world's most vulnerable children.

### **Health – Universal Health Coverage**

We are pleased that the Japanese government has agreed to put Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a key priority for the Ise-Shima Summit. It is essential that women's, newborn's, children's and adolescents' health is a core element of the UHC agenda for the G7 and that the Ise-Shima Summit delivers an ambitious outcome. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and the Global Financing Facility in support of Every Woman Every Child (GFF) were launched last year to continue the effort to tackle the unfinished business of the MDGs—maternal, newborn and child mortality.

G7 countries should:

1. make explicit commitments to supporting women's, children's and adolescents' health through Universal Health Coverage;
2. support health-related national SDG implementation plans and promote accountability for realization of SDG targets, with particular attention to the unique realities of fragile contexts;
3. work in partnership with national governments to ensure health systems are fully financed in line with the economic value of health;
4. call for UHC to support equity and rights by focusing on the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, including in fragile contexts, delivering comprehensive maternal, newborn, child and adolescent primary health care services and ensuring services are provided free at the point of use;
5. ensure community participation in strengthening accountability under the UHC structure. In order to build a truly credible public health and medical care service and realize UHC at the national level, evaluation should be inclusive of independent assessment by recipients. , The G7 should commit to establishing/reinforcing frameworks to support this type of social accountability.

## Nutrition and Hunger

World Vision welcomed the ambitious commitment on nutrition and hunger made at the 2015 Elmau Summit.<sup>1</sup> Now that the Agenda 2030 era has begun it is critical that G7 countries come forward with specific, costed and time bound plans to initiate the momentum on SDG 2 - ending hunger and malnutrition for all. As such, we call on the G7 to deliver a plan at the Japan summit that spells out how its commitment to end hunger and malnutrition for 500 million people will be realized, including regular reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

G7 countries should:

1. develop an accountability and financing framework to implement the goal of lifting 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition and to measure progress in line with SDG targets for reductions in child stunting and wasting;
2. Increase investment in sustainable and resilient smallholder livelihoods and national social protection systems to ensure the most vulnerable children and their families have sufficient access to affordable, nutritious food year-round, even in the hardest-to-reach places (i.e. fragile contexts);
3. seize the opportunities of Nutrition for Growth in Brazil, and subsequently the lead-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to demonstrate the G7's global leadership on nutrition by making concrete, time bound commitments to help meet internationally agreed WHA 2025 Nutrition Targets and nutrition relevant SDGs.

## Syria

The war in Syria has now passed the 5-year mark—five years of devastating suffering and unspeakable hardship for millions of children, women and men. A staggering 8.2 million children are affected by the conflict in the region, experiencing displacement, interrupted schooling, broken health systems, food insecurity and limited protection from serious harm and abuse. Life expectancy in Syria has been reduced by 15 years, and the economy has lost hundreds of billions of dollars already. The recent cessation of hostilities, whilst far from a full ceasefire, has created some hope that parties to the conflict may be moving closer to serious peace talks—but these remain fraught with risks and challenges.

G7 countries should:

1. increase and sustain efforts to bring all parties to the conflict to the peace table, and work with other actors (Russia, Iran, etc.) with significant influence on some of these parties to do the same;
2. swiftly and fully translate commitments made at the recent London conference to funding for the 2016 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan and the 2016–17 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan;
3. ensure that commitments to invest in the resilience of affected communities are further detailed, and a strategy and timeline developed for reconstruction in line with the ongoing peace process to start as quickly as possible once a political settlement has been achieved. Development grants must be prioritised over loans, with capacity

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<sup>1</sup> “As part of a broad effort involving our partner countries, and international actors, and as a significant contribution to the Post 2015 Development Agenda, we aim to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.”

- building for local Syrian civil society and implementing agencies prioritised within donor plans: and
4. in light of the massive flow of refugees and migrants into Europe, European members of the G7 must work with humanitarian actors, including UN agencies, civil society and national governments to put in place a protection mechanism across migration routes to and through Europe for unaccompanied children to ensure their protection from exploitation and abuse.

## Responsible Supply Chains

World Vision was pleased that the Elmau Communiqué included a commitment for G7 countries to address Responsible Supply Chains, and acknowledged that both government and business has a role to play. As a child focused organization, we are deeply concerned that some 168 million, or 11% of the world's children are child labourers.<sup>2</sup> Inclusive and equitable growth must, inter alia, work to eliminate this scourge, both for the well-being of child labourers themselves and the economies developing around them.

G7 countries should:

1. report on progress made to set up National Action Plans, based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
2. implement practical policy solutions to encourage supply chain transparency and private sector implementation of due diligence to address the risk of child labour in their global supply chains, in keeping with the Elmau commitments, and in light of SDG 8.7<sup>3</sup>;
3. release a comprehensive G7 action plan to strengthen National Contact Points (NCPs) for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, building on the Elmau summit commitments,

At the beginning of new era in international cooperation, when we have achieved global consensus on a set of ambitious and universal Sustainable Development Goals, business-as-usual is no longer an option. Many governments, businesses and civil society organizations look to the meeting of seven of the richest and most powerful nations to give a clear and unequivocal signal that this new consensus will change the way the world conducts business, toward a central focus on those most disadvantaged and vulnerable. It is our hope that the coming Summit at Ise-Shima will be worthy of these expectations and that G7 leaders will rise to the task with clear and measurable plans for those left behind in the MDG era, especially mothers and children in the most disadvantaged places of this planet.

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<sup>2</sup> Child Labour can be defined as “work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.”

<sup>3</sup> *Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.*