**WASTING**

**The Goal**
By 2025, reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.

**Why it Matters**
- Children become wasted when they lose weight rapidly because of infection or food insecurity.
- Wasting increases risk of stunted growth, impaired cognitive development & non-communicable diseases in adulthood.
- Wasting increases risk of deaths from infectious diseases such as diarrhea, pneumonia and measles.
- Wasting is linked with the other global nutrition targets: stunting, anaemia in women, breastfeeding, low birth weight, childhood overweight.

**Recommended Actions**

**Scale up Treatment**
- **What?** Scale up coverage of services for the identification and treatment of wasting.
- **How?** Improve the identification, measurement and understanding of wasting.

**Coordination**
- **What?** Improve coordination between key government ministries.
- **How?** Link treatment strategies for acute malnutrition to prevention strategies for wasting and stunting throughout the life-course.

**Build the Evidence**
- **What?** Develop evidence for effective prevention strategies.
- **How?** Rapidly develop evidence to reduce the burden of wasting, which can then be translated into policy actions.

**Scope of the Problem**
- Globally nearly 51 million children under 5 are moderately or severely wasted.
- The current global levels of severe wasting are responsible for up to 2 million deaths annually.
- A child that is wasted is 11 times more likely to die than a healthy child.