



U.S. Government and African Leaders Affirm Commitments to Nutrition in Africa on the Sidelines of the 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit

On Monday, December 12, 2022, the [Nutrition CEO Council](#) and partners from the African Development Bank Group, African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative, and the African Union Commission hosted “Nutrition Investment in Africa” on the occasion of the [2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit](#) in Washington, D.C, where U.S. and African leaders engaged around regional and global health, food security, and nutrition, among other issues.

“Nutrition Investment in Africa” featured remarks from The Honorable Prime Minister Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane of Lesotho, USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman, and Dr. Beth Dunford, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, African Development Bank Group. Ambassadors and high-level officials from African Countries; the AU Commission; the International NGO community, including Nutrition CEO Council members; U.S. Government agency officials, including those from USAID and the State Department; and leaders from Africa who attended the summit united, at the side event, around opportunities for continued investment and prioritization of nutrition.

Nutrition is an essential part of development and is inseparable from the current global food and hunger crisis. Nutrition plays a foundational role in a child’s development and a country’s ability to prosper, which was reinforced throughout the side event program.

“We know that access to affordable, safe, nutritious food is essential to address the crisis of malnutrition and famine that many parts of the African continent are experiencing. Strong health systems with capacity to support those most vulnerable to malnutrition - women, adolescents and children - are also essential,” said Dr. Beth Dunford, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development at the African Development Bank Group.

USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman said “with sufficient targeted resources and simple, evidence based interventions, this [malnutrition] crisis is not only treatable but preventable.”

Prime Minister Matekane of Lesotho focused on recent regional commitments to nutrition: “the African Year of Nutrition is an opportunity to recognize the progress made and outline additional steps that need to be taken to address child malnutrition.”

These regional commitments formed part of the recently adopted [Abidjan Declaration](#) released on the 8th of December 2022 at the end of a high-level meeting in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, where Member States of the African Union met for three days. The declaration calls for accelerated investment, implementation, and coordination to improve nutrition and food security in Africa. The declaration also calls on the global nutrition community to make nutrition a development agenda with a particular focus on increasing investment in Africa and a resolve by Member States to ensure alignment of national strategic objectives with the continental and global nutrition and food security agenda for mutual implementation and accountability.

In line with these commitments on the part of the U.S. government and partners and governments across the African continent, Prime Minister Metakane said, "our meeting here today is a great move toward mobilizing the global nutrition community to invest in the African continent and continue to work to achieve the targets by 2025."

We, members of the U.S. Nutrition CEO Council, applaud the investments and commitments made by governments to collaborate on the shared goal of improving food and nutrition security in Africa. We know more is needed. The Nutrition CEO Council looks forward to ongoing engagement with our partners in Africa and with the U.S. government to continue to prioritize nutrition and investments to improve food and nutrition security across the continent of Africa.