

**Statement by Ireland on Evaluation of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition**  
**at UNICEF Executive Board Annual Session June 2014**

Thank you Mr. President,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Canada, Germany and my own country Ireland.

We very much welcome the Evaluation of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition report and UNICEF's management response. This is an area in which we have invested considerable funds and leadership over the past twenty years and it is encouraging to see the approach endorsed in a cross country synthesis report.

We fully support the overall recommendation that UNICEF continues to promote and support Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) as a viable approach to preventing and addressing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). We see CMAM as a crucial model that saves lives and we also favour using a holistic approach to tackling acute malnutrition, which includes both preventative measures as well as treatment. In this regard, we fully support the recommendation calling for an increased emphasis on prevention, through strengthening community outreach and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) management.

We also encourage UNICEF to work with other partners to explore opportunities for leveraging CMAM platforms to deliver prevention services, such as behaviour change messaging to promote breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding, and the provision of essential vitamins and minerals.

We have been encouraged by the degree to which CMAM has been integrated into national health systems. To ensure the sustainability of CMAM, as well as its cost effectiveness and efficiency, it is also important to promote domestic financing and the appropriate use of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) by care givers and clinics.

Ireland, together with Canada, funded a study on CMAM financing which was published last year. The study identifies a role for donor agencies to make available funding which allows for longer term support for CMAM outside of crisis mechanisms. This is in line with our shared objective of linking better our relief and development programmes.

We strongly believe that coordination among stakeholders is a key component of successfully scaling up nutrition interventions. We particularly welcome the actions included in the management response related to lowering the costs of ready-to-use therapeutic foods and strengthening a joint vision on acute malnutrition among UNICEF, WFP, WHO, implementing partners and Ministries of Health. We would also welcome an update to the Executive Board in 2015 on progress made on actions agreed in the management response.

Thank you.