

9.2 Strengthening health workforce education and training in the Region

At World Vision, we believe every child deserves to be well-nourished and that good nutrition is the foundation of health and development. World Vision is a global leader in supporting Community Health Workers (CHW) to deliver essential health and nutrition services; we currently work with 184,000 CHWs in 40 countries, reaching over 826,000 women and almost 500,000 children. In Southeast Asia, we support large cadres of CHWs in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste to deliver essential nutrition and PHC services.

World Vision would like to point out that the committee resolution on strengthening health workforce failed to mention CHW. Without CHWs, achieving UHC is impossible. CHWs play a major role in delivery of essential healthcare services, and they are a powerful bridge between under-reached and vulnerable populations and the health care system, expanding coverage to families beyond the reach and capacity of health facilities in terms of promotion of nutrition, vaccination which is critical for early childhood development.

We also note with concern that nutrition training and education for healthcare workers need to be emphasised in the Regional Strategy on Strengthening Health Workforce Education and Training in South-East Asia Region. It is essential that all countries prioritise nutrition training and education for their health workforce to implement Essential Nutrition Actions. Nutrition must be prioritised within the health workforce strengthening to prevent, detect, and treat malnutrition, and to mitigate the significant economic and social losses caused by malnutrition.

CHWs need should be fairly compensated for their work and provided with reasonable workloads. We urge this committee to prioritise strengthening of community health workforce within this resolution, and to enhance the focus on nutrition in health workforce training and education.

Through collective action, we can ensure there is enough to end child hunger and malnutrition. Join us in saying ENOUGH.