



**GENERATION**  
**NUTRITION**

# **Global civil society coalitions**

## **Generation Nutrition and End Water Poverty**

**Bonn WASH Nutrition Forum, November 2015**

## THE ROLE OF WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD UNDERNUTRITION

NOVEMBER 2015



In 2014, 50 million children below the age of five were wasted & 159 million were stunted.\*

Infectious diseases & undernutrition operate in a vicious circle: a lack of nutrients weakens a child's defences against infection, while infection reduces appetite & prevents the body's normal absorption of food.

The World Health Organisation estimates that half of all cases of undernutrition are associated with repeated diarrhoeal or intestinal worm infections - a direct result of unsafe water & poor hygiene & sanitation.\*

Around one quarter of all cases of stunting can be attributed to five or more episodes of diarrhoea before the age of two.\*

Diarrhoea can also be a major cause of the rapid weight loss associated with acute malnutrition.

1.8 billion people use a source of drinking water that is contaminated by faeces & 2.4 billion people lack adequate sanitation. Among this latter group, nearly a billion defecate in the open.\*\*



THIS FACTSHEET IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES BY GENERATION NUTRITION LOOKING AT THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF PREVENTING CHILD UNDERNUTRITION, AND FOCUSES ON WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH). IT EXPLAINS HOW WASH AND NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN ARE INTIMATELY LINKED AND HOW IMPROVED WASH REDUCES UNDERNUTRITION, THEREBY HELPING TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND TRANSFORM PEOPLE'S LIVES.

# Generation Nutrition

## Prevention factsheet 1:

The role of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the fight against child nutrition

Download online:

<http://bit.ly/1Nxx9uW>

# GENERATION NUTRITION

Ben Hobbs, Campaign Manager:  
[b.hobbs@actionagainsthunger.org.uk](mailto:b.hobbs@actionagainsthunger.org.uk)  
[www.generation-nutrition.org](http://www.generation-nutrition.org)



Megan MacGarry, Campaigns and Communication Officer:  
[meganmacgarry@endwaterpoverty.org](mailto:meganmacgarry@endwaterpoverty.org)  
[www.endwaterpoverty.org](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org)