

Oral Statement

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by Pierrette J Cazeau MBA MHA

Submitted by Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc. (HCRFF)

Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc welcome the 60th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development underlining the priority theme “*Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.*”

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launch The Zero Hunger vision reflects five elements from within the SDGs, which taken together, *can end hunger*, eliminate all forms of malnutrition, and build inclusive and sustainable food systems. HCRFF in Florida launched Infant and Toddler Nutrition Program for low-income Hispanic migrants below the poverty level.

Why Infant and Toddler Nutrition!

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends “the introduction of nutritionally-adequate and safe complementary (solid) foods at 6 months” Those following a more traditional baby-led weaning approach will typically introduce finger foods around 6 months. Those following a traditional weaning approach (starting with spoon-feeding purees first) will typically introduce finger foods around 8-9 months after a period of feeding purees.

For this reason, the precise age for introducing finger foods will vary based on the age of the baby and the approach taken, as 6-8 months is an average range. Introducing finger foods should not be necessarily delayed, as one study discovered that babies introduced to lumpy solids after 9 months ate less of the food groups at 7 years of age, as compared to babies introduced to lumpy foods between 6-9 months.

Children’s physical health and brain development rely on a diet of being well-fed, especially in the early years of life. Children’s health can be jeopardized by hunger and malnutrition, as well as development, education and career readiness. Yet the reality reveals 1 in 6 children or 12.5 million lived in food-insecure households in 2017, lacking dependable access to adequate food which then places them at an increased risk of obesity. During this same year, more than 1 in 4 children were overweight or obese in 41 states as well as the District of Columbia.

On the basis of this, we therefore request member states and UN Agencies to support us financially in these infant and toddler endeavors, and secondly help us set up education programs such as *Finger Foods for Baby* that will ultimately guide finger foods to avert choking and undernourishment.