

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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African leader honored for support of homegrown school feeding recognizing its importance to prosperous and safe communities

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) is proud to announce Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the 2017 recipient of the Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Nutrition. Dr. Adesina is the President of the African Development Bank Group, elected in 2015. A champion of nutrition, Dr. Adesina co-hosted the first official meeting of the African Leaders for Nutrition in 2016, and serves on the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition.

“I strongly believe that effective school feeding programs are crucial to sustainably addressing the problems of hunger and malnutrition. School feeding that focuses on nutrient rich crops, fisheries and dairy products, produced by farmers within their localities, opens up huge institutional markets for farmers while feeding their kids with healthy school meals,” said Dr. Adesina.

Dr. Adesina joins the ranks of previous award recipients and champions of child nutrition such as Howard G. Buffett; former U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretaries Tom Vilsack and Dan Glickman; former U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah; Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole; and former World Food Programme Executive Director Catherine Bertini.

“Powerful things happen when parents, educators, community organizers, local businesses, and government officials within a school system share a common vision for healthy children. A child’s prospects are changed but it is far more than that. Local farmers work with purpose knowing there’s a ready market for their goods. Jobs are created to distribute and produce food. Local economies grow stronger as children grow up to be healthy, productive citizens who can access and create opportunities,” said Gene White, founder and board president of the Global Child Nutrition Foundation. “Today, we recognize that Dr. Adesina’s lifelong work to advance agricultural development has contributed significantly to food security, particularly in Africa.”

Dr. Adesina served as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011-2015 and prior to that was Vice-President (Policy and Partnerships) of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He was also Associate Director (Food Security) at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked for a decade in senior leadership positions.

Dr. Adesina has received several global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals, along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by *Forbes Africa* magazine in 2013.



The GCNF Annual Awards Ceremony raises funds for GCNF's efforts to end child hunger by assisting countries to establish sustainable, nutritious school meal programs sourced—when possible—from local farmers. Hunger has an enormous impact on a child's ability to learn – kids who go to school hungry may suffer an inability to concentrate and can fall behind academically. Nutritious, home-grown school meal programs draw children into school and provide them with the nutrition they need to learn and grow. But school meal programs can also be a catalyst for development. Locally sourced national school meal programs build local jobs and economies that allow families to thrive.

The GCNF Annual Awards Ceremony is in its 14th year. Please visit www.gcnf.org for the latest updates and details.

