The Minister of Health, Ms. Hanny-Sherry Aryittey, has called for a multi-sectoral approach towards addressing malnutrition among children in the country.

She said the approach would ensure the successful implementation of a legal framework on nutrition while empowering stakeholders in child health and nutrition strategically to address basic causes of malnutrition.

Ms. Aryittey said the ministry was collaborating with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to set up a Nutrition secretariat to facilitate the initiative.

Ms. Sherry Aryittey said these when she launched a child health programme, dubbed “the Child Health Now Campaign, an initiative of the World Vision of Ghana, in Accra yesterday.

As part of the launch, the organisation donated drugs worth $77,378 to the Ministry of Health.

The campaign, which is under the theme “Together we can end preventable deaths”, aims at preventing sicknesses and providing quality health among children across the country.

Ms. Aryittey mentioned the prevalence level of malnutrition as a major challenge confronting the ministry for which reason the government has designed a policy framework to address the situation.

She said, government has finalised the National Nutrition Policy, which would provide the framework for prioritising interventions to solve the nutrition problems in the country.

Ms. Aryittey assured of government’s commitment to collaborate with local and international partners towards providing quality health care for pregnant women and children.

She said the ministry was optimistic that infant and under-five mortality rate would drop from 82 per 1000 births to 40 per 1000 by 2015.

The National Director of the World Vision, Ghana, Mr. Hubert Charles commended government for its support and gave the assurance that World Vision would help to prevent death is among children.

He said the launch of the campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) and the establishment of additional midwifery training schools were landmark initiatives which would go a long way to prevent deaths among children.

He said the World Vision would commit an estimated amount of 9 million dollars to health, nutrition and HIV interventions this year.

Ms. Sherry Aryittey (second from right), Mr Charles Hubert (right) and other dignitaries, responding to the slogan of the Child Health now campaign. Photo: Ebo Gorman