

Debate Pack

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2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth summit

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1 Background

On 2 December 2021, there will be a debate in Westminster Hall on the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit. The debate has been initiated by David Mundell MP.

This Debate Pack briefly sets out incidence of malnutrition worldwide, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and global plans for the Tokyo Summit.

It also details UK Government strategy and aid spending to reduce malnutrition globally, and evaluations of the Government's strategy and its intentions for the summit.

2 The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit

From 7-8 December 2021, the Japanese Government will host the [Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit](#) (N4G).¹

The summit is being held half-way through the [UN Decade of Nutrition](#), which aims to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms worldwide by 2025, four years away from the World Health Assembly's [targets on improving maternal, infant and child nutrition](#), and nine years away from the [UN's Sustainable development goal](#) for zero hunger by 2030.²

2.1 Country progress against previous commitments on nutrition

Several countries have made pledges at previous N4G summits. In November 2021, the [Global Nutrition report](#) found that by 2020:

- 42% of country financial commitments had been reached or were on track
- 41% of country impact commitments (eg, policy efforts to improve diets or reduce malnutrition) were on course
- 43% of all country commitment goals were negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic (see above, section 1.1).³

¹ Nutrition for Growth, [Tokyo nutrition for growth summit 2021](#), accessed 23 November 2021

² UN, [Decade of action on nutrition](#), accessed 23 November 2021; World Health Organization (WHO), [Global nutrition targets 2025: Policy brief series](#), 20 December 2014; UN, [Sustainable development goals, goal 2](#), accessed 23 November 2021

³ Global Nutrition Report, [From promise to action: Progress towards the 2013 and 2017 nutrition for growth commitments](#), chapter 4, chart 4.2

The [report](#) called for participants of the Tokyo summit to address the impact of the pandemic by ensuring sufficient resources continue to be committed to nutrition, and ensuring any commitments are measurable, specific, time-bound, and relevant.⁴

2.2 UK commitments and plans for N4G

The Global nutrition report of November 2021 said the UK had met its [three commitments](#) made at previous N4G summits.

These included pledges to reach 50 million people with nutrition-related programmes by 2020, increasing spending on such programmes, and promoting research and private investment in nutrition and agriculture.⁵

On 15 November 2021, the Government said it was [“actively considering”](#) its approach to the summit.⁶ It plans to set out [future ambitions](#) at the summit.⁷

The International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition, which includes Save the Children and Unicef, has [published recommendations](#) for the Government at the summit, including renewing their commitment to reach 50 million people with nutrition-relevant programmes by 2025.⁸

The Foreign Office Minister, Lord Ahmad, said the report is [“very much part of our thinking.”](#) The Government also plans to talk to the US State Department about N4G.⁹

The [APPG on Nutrition for Growth](#) has called for the Government to play a “leadership role” in ensuring the success of the summit.¹⁰

3 Key statistics: Incidence and mortality

Malnutrition [takes several forms](#), including:

- Undernutrition, which includes wasting (low weight-for-height), stunting (low height-for-age) and underweight (low weight-for-age);

⁴ Global Nutrition Report, [From promise to action: Progress towards the 2013 and 2017 nutrition for growth commitments](#), section 4.9

⁵ Global Nutrition Report, [N4G commitments: UK, financial commitments](#), accessed 23 November 2021

⁶ PQ 71432 [[Developing countries: Nutrition](#)], 15 November 2021

⁷ PQ HL3398 [[Developing countries: Children](#)], 3 November 2021

⁸ Unicef, Save the Children and others, [Time for action: A renewed UK commitment to nutrition](#), October 2021

⁹ HL Deb, [13 October 2021](#), c1825

¹⁰ APPG on Nutrition for Growth, [The goal](#), accessed 23 November 2021

- Micronutrient-related malnutrition, which includes micronutrient deficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals) or micronutrient excess; and
- Overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers).¹¹

In June 2021, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) said among adults globally:

- 1.9 billion were overweight or obese
- 462 million were underweight

Amongst children:

- 149 million under-fives were estimated to be stunted (too short for their age)
- 45 million were wasted (too thin for their height)
- 39 million were overweight
- 45% of deaths among the under-fives were linked to undernutrition, mostly in low- and middle- income countries.¹²

In 2020, around 9.9% of the global population were undernourished, up from 8.4% in 2019. 484 million in Asia, 282 million in Africa, and 60 million in Latin America and the Caribbean were estimated to be undernourished.¹³

3.1

Impact of the coronavirus pandemic

The [World Food Programme](#) has said it is not possible to account for the impact of the pandemic on malnutrition at present. However, it said that 2020 saw a rise of 118 million in the number experiencing hunger, bringing the global total to 768 million.¹⁴

In December 2020, [Unicef](#) cited research [published in Nature](#) that estimated the pandemic could, by 2022, result in an additional 9.3 million wasted and 2.6 million stunted children, and 2.1 million maternal anaemia cases.¹⁵

¹¹ WHO, [Malnutrition](#), 9 June 2021

¹² WHO, [Malnutrition](#), 9 June 2021

¹³ World Food Programme, [UN report: Pandemic year marked by spike in world hunger](#), 12 July 2021

¹⁴ World Food Programme, [2021 state of food security and nutrition in the world—in brief](#), July 2021 sections 2.1 and 2.2.

¹⁵ Unicef, [Remarks by Unicef director Henrietta Fore at the Nutrition for Growth kick-off event](#), 14 December 2020; S. Osendarp et al, [The potential impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on maternal and child undernutrition in low and middle income countries](#), Nature, 2, 2021

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the underlying causes of malnutrition, such as poverty and poor access to services, and threatens the potential for global nutrition targets to be achieved.

For example, school closures affected access to healthy meals—in November 2021, the UN said more than 150 million children were still missing out on school meals and school-based health and nutrition services. In July 2020, the figure was estimated to be 370 million.¹⁶ In November 2021, five UN agencies joined the [Schools Meals Coalition](#), who aim to provide every child in need the opportunity to receive a nutritious school meal by 2030.¹⁷

A WHO [report on health services](#) also found that, of the 145 countries and territories surveyed between January and March 2021, 41% had seen at least some disruption to services to manage moderate and acute malnutrition, and 39% disruption to antenatal services.¹⁸

3.2 Potential impact of climate change

In 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published a report on climate change and land, which included [discussions on food security](#).

Depending upon the trajectory of climate change and policy responses, the [IPCC references research](#) suggesting a 1-29% rise in cereal prices by 2050, and that between one and 183 million additional people will be at risk of hunger compared to a situation where climate change did not occur.¹⁹

Following the COP 26 summit, hosted by the UK in November 2021, the [World Food Programme](#) argued that the conference “fell far short” of taking the steps needed to keep temperatures rises to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels.²⁰ The [UK’s COP President](#), Alok Sharma, has argued the agreement will keep “1.5 degrees within reach” and participants had agreed to improve their commitments further at next year’s meeting.²¹

For a summary of the outcomes of COP 26, see the BBC’s [What was agreed at the Glasgow climate conference?](#), 15 November 2021.

¹⁶ Unicef, [Child nutrition and Covid-19](#), July 2020

¹⁷ WHO, [UN agencies back bold plan to ensure every child in need has a regularly healthy meal in school by 2030](#), 16 November 2021

¹⁸ WHO, [Tracking continuity of essential health services during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), April 2021

¹⁹ IPCC, [Special report on climate change and land: Food security, Executive summary](#), 2019

²⁰ World Food Programme, [Act now on climate crisis or millions more will be pushed into hunger and famine](#), 18 November 2021

²¹ UK COP 2021, [COP 26 President remarks at closing plenary](#), 13 November 2021

4 UK aid and malnutrition

4.1 UK aid spending

UK aid for nutrition-related sectors					
£ millions, net bilateral aid, not adjusted for inflation					
	Basic nutrition	Agriculture	Food security policy and administrative management	Food assistance	Emergency food assistance
2009	12.4	68.2	0.0	9.2	82.8
2010	24.7	70.0	0.0	107.0	87.5
2011	28.4	99.6	0.0	94.9	123.4
2012	40.4	149.6	0.0	65.6	119.3
2013	66.7	142.1	0.0	93.8	272.9
2014	56.2	154.5	0.0	23.8	212.4
2015	69.4	299.3	0.0	23.7	284.9
2016	114.3	278.3	0.0	35.4	303.5
2017	146.2	285.9	0.0	48.6	317.3
2018	117.6	254.9	0.4	35.5	313.8
2019	130.3	293.8	0.0	71.0	324.9
2020	98.5	190.4	0.1	65.3	261.4

Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development](#), multiple editions

The UK has provided about £6.6 billion in bilateral aid for various sectors related to nutrition since 2009 (see table above—there is no recorded aid sector specifically for malnutrition). The sector with the largest spending in most years is emergency food assistance, with support to agricultural sectors usually the second largest.

In 2020, the individual country receiving the most aid under these sectors was Yemen (£67 million), followed by Ethiopia and South Sudan (£46 million each).

The UK also provides support for nutrition via aid to multilateral organisations. In particular, it provided a total of £518 million to the World Food Programme in 2020, slightly below the £523 million it provided in 2019.²²

UK aid also goes to support healthcare in developing countries – the equivalent sectoral breakdown since 2019 is given in the table below (note that “basic nutrition”, from the table above, is also part of healthcare and is therefore included within “other health” in this table).

²² FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021

UK aid for health-related sectors

£ millions, net bilateral aid, not adjusted for inflation

	Medical research	Covid-19 control	Infectious disease control	Health policy and administrative management	Basic health care	Other health
2009	21.0	-	118.3	119.1	59.0	76.0
2010	55.6	-	63.5	123.3	64.8	140.9
2011	68.0	-	157.5	58.8	138.7	127.7
2012	84.0	-	111.3	93.8	203.6	158.6
2013	78.0	-	224.0	128.9	231.3	284.3
2014	65.9	-	110.4	100.6	213.5	263.1
2015	85.6	-	122.1	116.3	140.9	196.2
2016	102.7	-	110.2	121.4	142.0	240.0
2017	247.1	-	116.4	157.9	162.3	241.8
2018	344.2	-	120.4	168.6	126.4	189.5
2019	334.1	-	182.2	148.8	115.7	211.8
2020	373.1	316.7	169.1	143.3	103.0	179.8

Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development](#), multiple editions

Spending on medical research is usually the largest single area of health spending. Total aid on health has generally increased over the years, with a particularly large increase in 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Spending reductions

In November 2020, the [UK Government announced](#) that it intended to spend 0.5% of Gross National Income on ODA in 2021, down from 0.7% in the seven years from 2013.²³

The NGO Brac, which works in Bangladesh, said in June that [UK aid funding for its strategic partnership would end](#). This, the NGO said, would result in the UK no longer providing 12 million under-twos with additional nutritional support.²⁴

4.2

UK nutrition strategy

In 2017, the Department for International Development (DFID) published a [global nutrition strategy](#), running to 2020. This included commitments to focus on preventing malnutrition in the first 1,000 days of life, addressing the

²³ House of Commons Library, [The 0.7% aid target](#), SN03714

²⁴ Brac, [Written evidence to the International Development Committee into UK aid cuts](#), 2021, p4

nutritional needs of women and girls, and a focus on undernutrition (rather than obesity).²⁵

In September 2020, following the creation of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Department [announced a new £119 million fund](#) to address famine resulting from the coronavirus pandemic as part of the UK's pledge to "lead a global call for action" on the issue. It also announced the UK's first special envoy for famine prevention and humanitarian affairs, Nick Dyer.²⁶

The FCDO intends to [depart from a stand-alone nutrition strategy](#), and has said it intends to publish an action plan on ending preventable deaths in 2021. This will include integrating nutrition services with other health services, focus on women, girls, and young children, and aim to empower governments to address malnutrition.²⁷

4.3

Evaluations

Both the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) and International Development Committee (IDC) have published recent reports on UK aid and addressing malnutrition worldwide.

ICAI report, 2020

In 2020, the ICAI concluded that [DFID's spending on nutrition](#) was making a "significant contribution" to reducing malnutrition. It noted that the Department had surpassed its target to reach 50 million people with nutrition services from 2015 to 2020.²⁸

It made [six recommendations](#), focusing on improving data capture, better targeting of women and children, and aligning work on nutrition with other-related development goals, such as improved access to sanitation:

1. FCDO should capture and communicate progress against all goals in its nutrition strategy
2. FCDO should strengthen statistical capacity and quality assurance in-country and centrally [...] and to use the data to improve nutrition programming.

²⁵ DFID and FCDO, [Saving lives, investing in future generations and building prosperity: The UK's global nutrition position paper](#), October 2017, sections 3.1 and 3.2

²⁶ FCDO, [New FCDO will lead global action to ensure world's poorest are protected from the ravages of coronavirus and famine](#), 2 September 2020

²⁷ International Development Committee (IDC), [Oral evidence: ICAI's review on assessing DFID's results in nutrition](#), 25 February 2021, Q7

²⁸ ICAI, [Report: Assessing DFID's results in nutrition](#), 16 September 2020

3. FCDO should strengthen systems for identifying and reaching the most marginalised women and children within its target groups.
4. FCDO should more consistently gather citizen feedback to help improve and tailor its nutrition programmes.
5. FCDO should scale up its work on making sustainable and nutritious diets accessible to all, to help address the double burden of malnutrition, through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and private sector development.
6. FCDO should work more closely with its partners to achieve the convergence of nutrition interventions, by aligning different sector programmes to focus on those communities most vulnerable to malnutrition.²⁹

The “[double burden of malnutrition](#)” relates to the co-existence of undernutrition and obesity, at both the population and individual level.³⁰

The FCDO [accepted all six recommendations](#). It committed to sharing best practice on cross-programme work to improve nutrition and support the transition towards farming practices which are sustainable and protect the environment.³¹

The ICAI intends to conduct a [follow-up review in 2022](#).³²

IDC report, 2021

In 2021, the International Development Committee published a [follow-up report](#) on the ICAI’s work. It raised concerns on the impact of the pandemic on rates of malnutrition and services designed to improve nutrition. It also argued that one of the “less satisfactory features” of UK aid was a greater emphasis on the amount of food rather than its quality.³³

The [FCDO said](#) the department was working with Unicef to strengthen the resilience of services to treat and prevent malnutrition in the wake of the pandemic and climate change. It has also taken steps to improve food quality and diversity, with new guidance due to be finalised by the end of 2021.³⁴

²⁹ ICAI, [Report: Assessing DFID’s results in nutrition](#), 16 September 2020

³⁰ WHO, [Double burden of malnutrition](#), accessed 23 November 2021

³¹ FCDO, [FCDO response to the ICAI recommendations on assessing DFID’s results in nutrition](#), October 2020

³² ICAI, [Report: Assessing DFID’s results in nutrition](#), 16 September 2020

³³ IDC, [Assessing DFID’s work in nutrition review: Report from the sub-committee on the work of ICAI](#), 21 July 2021, paras 25 and 31

³⁴ FCDO, [Response to the IDC’s report on the work of the ICAI](#), 22 October 2021

5

Press releases

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[From Counting Calories to Calculating Cost: How can USD 6 billion really help end world hunger?](#)

Ceres2030

David Laborde, Jaron Porciello and Carin Smaller

25 November 2021

[Under half of Nutrition for Growth commitments were kept, report finds](#)

Devex

Teresa Welsh

23 November 2021

[Poor diets and resulting malnutrition continue to be unacceptably high, finds Global Nutrition Report 2021](#)

Scaling Up Nutrition

23 November 2021

[Food for thought: Why school meals are critical to global recovery](#)

Forbes

Michael Sheldrick

19 November 2021

[Madagascar: 'World cannot look away' as 1.3 million face severe hunger](#)

UN News

18 November 2021

[Greener and more sustainable food systems should be at the centre of climate action](#)

The Independent

Ban Ki-moon

11 November 2021

[Child stunting from malnutrition could increase in Pacific in wake of Covid, experts warn](#)

The Guardian

Joshua McDonald

17 October 2021

Half of Afghanistan's children under five expected to suffer from acute malnutrition as hunger takes root for millions

World Food Programme
5 October 2021

New coalitions announced at the UN Food Systems Summit to increase access to healthy diets from sustainable food systems

World Health Organisation
23 September 2021

The COVID-19 crisis will exacerbate maternal and child undernutrition and child mortality in low- and middle-income countries

Nature Food
Saskia Osendarp et al
19 July 2021

Japan follows UK's lead in securing child nutrition against Covid

Financial Times
Shinichi Kitaoka
15 July 2021

Child malnutrition should be top of the G7 agenda

The Times
Henrietta Fore and David Miliband
11 June 2021

Opinion: Revealing the costs of 'hidden hunger' and combating anemia

Devex
Nadra Franklin
10 June 2021

'Today is the starting line': Nutrition for Growth kicks off year of action

Devex
Teresa Welsh
15 December 2020

6

Press releases

[UN Agencies Back Bold Plan To Ensure Every Child In Need Gets A Regular Healthy Meal In School By 2030](#)

World Health Organisation

16 November 2021

United Nations agencies have announced their strong support for an international coalition aiming to rapidly improve the nutrition, health and education of school-age children around the world following pandemic-driven school closures.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused extensive disruption to schools and education worldwide and millions of children were unable to get their school meals or benefit from school-based health and nutrition services such as deworming, vaccination and psycho-social support. Globally, more than 150 million children are still missing out on meals and essential health and nutrition services.

In a joint declaration, five agencies committed to assisting the School Meals Coalition, a grouping of more than 60 countries led by France and Finland, whose vision is to give every child in need the opportunity to receive a nutritious meal in school by 2030. The coalition is also committed to ‘smart’ school meals programmes, which combine regular meals in school with complementary health and nutrition interventions for children’s growth and learning.

“School health and nutrition programmes are impactful interventions to support schoolchildren and adolescents’ growth and development”, the UN agencies’ leaders said in their declaration. “They can help to combat child poverty, hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. They attract children to school and support children’s learning, and long-term health and well-being.”

School children are not the only ones who benefit. The leaders of the five agencies noted that school meals can serve as “springboards” for food system transformation. Where possible, they can use locally grown food, supporting national and local markets and food systems, improving opportunities for smallholder farmers and local catering businesses, many led by women. These programmes can contribute to the achievement of at least seven of the SDGs.

Each of the five UN agencies -- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) -- will bring a specific set of expertise

to the coalition. More than 50 partners, including NGOs, civil society, foundations, and other organizations have said they will also provide support.

The coalition will work to restore the school meals and other health and nutrition programmes that were in place before the COVID-19 pandemic, expand these to reach 73 million children who were not covered before COVID, and raise their quality in part by establishing standards and linking them to local food production where possible.

In their declaration of support, the leaders of the five UN agencies committed to work with governments to achieve the coalition's goals, providing technical and operational support where it was needed, as well as advocating for funding and helping gather better data about the impact of school health and nutrition programmes.

UN report: Pandemic year marked by spike in world hunger

World Health Organisation

12 July 2021

There was a dramatic worsening of world hunger in 2020, the United Nations said today – much of it likely related to the fallout of COVID-19. While the pandemic's impact has yet to be fully mapped, a multi-agency report estimates that around a tenth of the global population – up to 811 million people – were undernourished last year. The number suggests it will take a tremendous effort for the world to honour its pledge to end hunger by 2030.

This year's edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World is the first global assessment of its kind in the pandemic era. The report is jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Previous editions had already put the world on notice that the food security of millions – many children among them – was at stake. “Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to expose weaknesses in our food systems, which threaten the lives and livelihoods of people around the world,” the heads of the five UN agencies write in this year's Foreword.

They go on to warn of a “critical juncture,” even as they pin fresh hopes on increased diplomatic momentum. “This year offers a unique opportunity for advancing food security and nutrition through transforming food systems with the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit, the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the COP26 on climate change.” “The outcome of these events,” the five add, “will go on to shape the [...] second half of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition” – a global policy commitment yet to hit its stride.

The numbers in detail

Already in the mid-2010s, hunger had started creeping upwards, dashing hopes of irreversible decline. Disturbingly, in 2020 hunger shot up in both absolute and proportional terms, outpacing population growth: some 9.9 percent of all people are estimated to have been undernourished last year, up from 8.4 percent in 2019.

More than half of all undernourished people (418 million) live in Asia; more than a third (282 million) in Africa; and a smaller proportion (60 million) in Latin America and the Caribbean. But the sharpest rise in hunger was in Africa, where the estimated prevalence of undernourishment – at 21 percent of the population – is more than double that of any other region.

On other measurements too, the year 2020 was sombre. Overall, more than 2.3 billion people (or 30 percent of the global population) lacked year-round access to adequate food: this indicator – known as the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity – leapt in one year as much in as the preceding five combined. Gender inequality deepened: for every 10 food-insecure men, there were 11 food-insecure women in 2020 (up from 10.6 in 2019).

Malnutrition persisted in all its forms, with children paying a high price: in 2020, over 149 million under-fives are estimated to have been stunted, or too short for their age; more than 45 million – wasted, or too thin for their height; and nearly 39 million – overweight. A full three-billion adults and children remained locked out of healthy diets, largely due to excessive costs. Nearly a third of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia. Globally, despite progress in some areas – more infants, for example, are being fed exclusively on breast milk – the world is not on track to achieve targets for any nutrition indicators by 2030.

Other hunger and malnutrition drivers

In many parts of the world, the pandemic has triggered brutal recessions and jeopardized access to food. Yet even before the pandemic, hunger was spreading; progress on malnutrition lagged. This was all the more so in nations affected by conflict, climate extremes or other economic downturns, or battling high inequality – all of which the report identifies as major drivers of food insecurity, which in turn interact.

On current trends, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World estimates that Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger by 2030) will be missed by a margin of nearly 660 million people. Of these 660 million, some 30 million may be linked to the pandemic's lasting effects.

What can (still) be done

As outlined in last year's report, transforming food systems is essential to achieve food security, improve nutrition and put healthy diets within reach of all. This year's edition goes further to outline six "transformation pathways". These, the authors say, rely on a "coherent set of policy and investment portfolios" to counteract the hunger and malnutrition drivers.

Depending on the particular driver (or combination of drivers) confronting each country, the report urges policymakers to:

- Integrate humanitarian, development and peacebuilding policies in conflict areas – for example, through social protection measures to prevent families from selling meagre assets in exchange for food;
- Scale up climate resilience across food systems – for example, by offering smallholder farmers wide access to climate risk insurance and forecast-based financing;
- Strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity – for example, through in-kind or cash support programmes to lessen the impact of pandemic-style shocks or food price volatility;
- Intervene along supply chains to lower the cost of nutritious foods – for example, by encouraging the planting of biofortified crops or making it easier for fruit and vegetable growers to access markets;
- Tackle poverty and structural inequalities – for example, by boosting food value chains in poor communities through technology transfers and certification programmes;
- Strengthen food environments and changing consumer behaviour – for example, by eliminating industrial trans fats and reducing the salt and sugar content in the food supply, or protecting children from the negative impact of food marketing.

The report also calls for an "enabling environment of governance mechanisms and institutions" to make transformation possible. It enjoins policymakers to consult widely; to empower women and youth; and to expand the availability of data and new technologies. Above all, the authors urge, the world must act now – or watch the drivers of hunger and malnutrition recur with growing intensity in coming years, long after the shock of the pandemic has passed.

Download the report: [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#)

New Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office will lead global action to ensure world's poorest are protected from ravages of coronavirus and famine

**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
2 September 2020**

The UK will lead a global call to action to protect the world's poorest people from coronavirus and the increasing threat of famine, the Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced today (2 September 2020).

The coronavirus pandemic, conflict, locust swarms and climate change have left 250 million people worldwide facing extreme hunger this year, with parts of Yemen, South Sudan and Burkina Faso on the brink of famine. Without international attention, many more will die from hunger and disease, and the pandemic will continue to spread in developing countries and to the wider world.

As the new Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is inaugurated today, the Foreign Secretary pledged to use the UK's diplomatic levers and aid expertise to build a stronger international consensus to fight back against the devastating impacts of coronavirus, conflict and climate change.

The UK will commit a new £119 million aid package to tackle the combined threat of coronavirus and famines, which is expected to help alleviate extreme hunger for over 6 million people in Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia, Central African Republic, the Sahel, South Sudan and Sudan.

Alongside the aid package, Dominic Raab has appointed Nick Dyer as the UK's first Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs to work in partnership with other donors, UN agencies, NGOs and foundations to help prevent catastrophic famine.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

Coronavirus and famine threaten millions in some of the world's poorest countries, and give rise to direct problems that affect the UK, including terrorism and migration flows.

Global Britain, as a force for good in the world, is leading by example and bringing the international community together to tackle these deadly threats, because it's the right thing to do and it protects British interests.

We can only tackle these global challenges by combining our diplomatic strength with our world-leading aid expertise.

As the UK takes on the presidencies of the G7 and COP26, the Foreign Secretary will urge other countries to step up and help the developing world, as it faces a series of devastating challenges.

The UK is already leading the way in the international search to find a coronavirus vaccine and has committed to equitable access for all to a successful vaccine, treatments and tests. It is the largest donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which is helping to make sure the poorest countries can access any COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition, the UK will continue to use its seat on the UN Security Council to call for life-saving humanitarian access for everyone who needs it and hold countries to account on their international legal obligations to allow aid workers to operate impartially in conflict zones.

The UK has committed to spending 0.7% of our national income on aid, and the formation of the FCDO today will make sure our diplomatic influence and development expertise are combined to the best effect on the global stage.

The ongoing Integrated Review will inform the strategic priorities of the new department, to make sure UK aid and diplomatic efforts are a force for good and support the national interest.

[Saving lives, investing in future generations and building prosperity: the UK's Global Nutrition position paper](#)

Department for International Development

13 October 2017

Malnutrition is a major challenge to human development and to the future economic growth of developing countries. Malnutrition affects one in 3 people globally, particularly women and children.

The new global nutrition strategy sets out how the UK plans to deliver results and show leadership on tackling global under nutrition.

This will include scaling up work to address the needs of young children, particularly focusing on the first two years, to prevent stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies. The UK will also put girls and women at the heart of our work on global nutrition; particularly targeting unequal access to food, water and other essential services. Alongside this, the UK will take action to prevent famine by helping countries to build their resilience to drought and other shocks.

Download the report: [Saving lives, investing in future generations and building prosperity: the UK's Global Nutrition position paper](#)

7

PQs

Developing Countries: Nutrition

15 Nov 2021 | 71432

Asked by: Sarah Olney

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether she plans to renew the Government's commitment to help 50 million people access nutrition services over the next five years.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Government is actively considering its approach to the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, following the conclusion of the Spending Review. We will set this out as early as possible as part of the business planning process.

The FCDO is continuing to work closely with the Government of Japan to make sure the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit supports meaningful action by governments, donors, businesses, the UN and civil society.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

10 Nov 2021 | HL3623

Asked by: Lord German

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to influence children's healthy nutrition needs in the developing world at the United Nations for Growth Summit in Japan in December.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

FCDO is working closely with the Government of Japan to make sure the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit supports meaningful action by governments, donors, businesses, the UN and civil society.

Following the conclusion of the Spending Review, the Government is actively considering its approach to the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit and will set this out as early as possible as part of the business planning process.

Developing Countries: Children

02 Nov 2021 | 64749

Asked by: Feryal Clark

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent steps she has taken to help ensure that the economic impacts of the covid-19 pandemic do not reduce children's global access to (a) health, (b) education and (c) nutrition services.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK is committed to mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on children's global access to essential health, nutrition, and education services. We do this through our ambitious global health agenda as set out in the Integrated Review, and the government's manifesto commitment to end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-borns, and children by 2030. We are the largest donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and have pledged £1.65 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the provision of vaccines to 300 million children, saving up to 8 million lives. The Nutrition for Growth summit in Tokyo in December will be a key moment for galvanising international support for access to nutrition for children, and the UK will set out its future ambitions there.

The Prime Minister has launched the UK Girls' Education Action Plan, which sets out the UK's leadership and further commitments on girls' education in the face of the challenges presented by COVID-19, including getting 40 million more girls into school, and 20 million more girls reading by the age of 10 by 2026. The UK and Kenya co-hosted the refinancing summit for the Global Partnership for Education in July in London. The replenishment raised \$4 billion on the day to help education systems build back better following COVID-19, and ensure girls return to school and learn.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

28 Oct 2021 | 62794

Asked by: Rupa Huq

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of reinstating funding for international nutrition programmes.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Government is actively considering nutrition programming as part of its approach to the forthcoming Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit, including any new nutrition commitment, and will set out its approach following the conclusion of the Spending Review.

Tackling malnutrition remains a core focus of our work on global health, humanitarian response and in support of UK goals on girls' education and climate. It is critical for reducing preventable deaths and ensuring children get the best start in life in the poorest countries of the world.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

26 Oct 2021 | 903846

Asked by: David Mundell

When she plans to announce her strategy for the Nutrition for Growth Summit taking place in Tokyo in December 2021.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The prevention and treatment of malnutrition remains important for the UK as part of our work on global health, humanitarian response and in support of our goals on girls' education.

The Government is actively considering its approach to the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit, including any new nutrition commitment, and will update the house following the conclusion of the Spending Review.

Nutrition for Growth Summit

13 Oct 2021 | 814 c1824-7

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce their strategy for the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo in December.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, the United Kingdom continues to work closely with the Government of Japan to make sure that the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit generates meaningful action by Governments, donors, businesses, the UN and civil society. A decision on a UK commitment and wider strategy will be made following the conclusion of the spending review.

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, I co-chair, with David Mundell MP, the Nutrition for Growth APPG. At the first summit in 2013, the UK played a pivotal leadership role. For this summit, the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition, which includes Save the Children, UNICEF and other important NGOs, set out recommendations for the FCDO at Tokyo in its document Time for Action. I strongly recommend that the noble Lord reads that document because its key recommendation is that the Government should renew their commitment to

reach 50 million people with nutrition interventions by 2025. Does the noble Lord agree?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, I assure the noble Lord that I have read the documents in advance of this Question. Indeed, the recommendations made by ICAN are very much part of our thinking as we look to complete the spending review. I cannot give a specific commitment, but I recognise the work of the noble Lord and my right honourable friend David Mundell in this respect. We will work very constructively to ensure that we remain committed to this important priority.

Asked by: Baroness Jenkin of Kennington

My Lords, of course it is not only the UK Government whose job it is to end global malnutrition; others have roles to play, and we will be effective only if we work in partnership with like-minded allies. Which Governments are the FCDO speaking to ahead of the summit to ensure that our strategy is aligned with that of our closest allies, in particular the United States?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, my noble friend raises a very important point. I assure her that we are talking to all our allies. Indeed, this has been part of our feature—talking about tackling, for example, famine, as part as our leadership under the G7 agenda. I hope to travel to the United States shortly to meet some of the new members of the State Department team and this will certainly feature in those discussions as well.

Asked by: Baroness Boycott

My Lords, I remind noble Lords that the ODA specific nutrition spend from 2016-19 was almost £110 million; this year it is projected to be only £37 million. Does the Minister not agree that maintaining good nutrition is one of the easiest and best ways to ensure a healthy population? This cut is not just drastic but extremely short-sighted. Once again, food has been penalised over other areas. Can the Minister tell the House when this budget will be restored and, indeed, increased to £120 million, which is what global experts recommend?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, I can assure the noble Baroness and your Lordships' House that this remains an important part of our thinking. As I said in response to the noble Lord, Lord Collins, I cannot give a financial commitment at this stage because of the ongoing spending review, but I agree with the noble Baroness that the investment we have made over the current programme has seen great benefits, including on my patch. For example, in Bangladesh we have seen real achievements on the nutrition agenda.

Asked by: Baroness Chakrabarti

My Lords, estimates suggest that we are currently on course to cut overseas funding for nutrition specifically by as much as 70%. That will inevitably cost lives and devastate the lives of millions of children in particular. Will the Government please take the opportunity of the summit to reconsider, if not reverse, that decision?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, obviously a decision was taken on the reduction of the overall ODA spend but, as I have already said, we are working constructively with key partners and are supportive of the summit that will take place in Japan in December. Once the spending review has been completed, I will be able to share with your Lordships the nature of the exact spend. There are various streams to this funding, including the match funding. Again, on reviewing this area, I have seen the net benefit of how UK funding helps support generate further funding, including from the private sector.

Asked by: Baroness Brinton

My Lords, The Power of Nutrition charitable foundation says:

“The Summit is a unique opportunity to accelerate financial commitments ... With concerted, bold actions ... from all sectors, we can make 2021 the year where progress on nutrition is not reversed but accelerated”.

Can the Minister say whether the Government, under their chairmanship of G7, will set an example and increase their aid budget for nutrition to £120 million, reversing cuts made by the Chancellor earlier this year?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, I believe I have already answered part of that question but let me reassure the noble Baroness that we are leading on this issue, including in discussions with G7 partners.

Asked by: Baroness Sugg

My Lords, my noble friend is, of course, aware of the significant cuts to the aid budget but implementing the OECD policy marker for nutrition at programme design stage will cost the Government nothing and make the remaining aid—what is left for nutrition—much more impactful. Do the Government have any plans to do this by creating nutrition objectives across broader development programmes?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, my noble friend speaks with great insight and expertise. Let me assure her that the Government have worked with other key donors to promote adoption of the new OECD nutrition policy marker. Indeed, the UK’s 2019 ODA spend data that was published recently included the nutrition

policy marker for the first time. She makes an important point, and it is very much part of our thinking.

Asked by: Lord Krebs

My Lords, are the Government prepared to show global leadership by tackling the massive problem of malnutrition in this country, in particular by bringing forward a food Bill in response to the recent Dimpleby report?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

Speaking to foreign policy, it is always important that, when we stand up and raise issues of prioritisation on the international stage, we do not forget what is happening at home. The noble Lord makes an important point, which I will discuss on my return with colleagues across other departments.

Asked by: Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston

My Lords, following on from the question from the noble Baroness, Lady Sugg, is the FCDO looking at its own key performance indicators when it assesses mortality rates for under-fives? Does it give a high importance to nutrition?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, the noble Baroness raises an important point. I assure her that the issue of KPIs, in terms of our development spend, is consistent across many areas of budget. I used the example of Bangladesh earlier. We have seen infant mortality fall there from the direct support we have provided on various programmes, particularly among those under the age of five. That shows the real benefit of our investment in such parts of the world.

Asked by: Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

My Lords, the cruel and short-sighted cuts to official development assistance already implemented will have a significant impact on nutrition and other life-saving programmes. That budget is now further threatened by the suggestion that the Chancellor might include IMF special drawing rights against the ODA budget rather than as additional aid. Can the Government give a cast-iron guarantee that there will not be further cuts to official development assistance programmes as a result of this proposal from the Chancellor and that the rest of the Government will stand up to him and this time say no?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

My Lords, as the noble Lord may have noticed, we have a new Foreign Secretary. One of the areas that I know my right honourable friend has prioritised is to look again at the issue of the aid budget. The noble Lord makes an important point about SDRs and I can assure him that we are engaging in very robust discussions with the Treasury.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

26 Feb 2021 | 155339

Asked by: David Linden

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what funding commitment his Department plans to make at the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is working closely with the Government of Japan to make sure the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit supports meaningful action by governments, donors, businesses, the UN and civil society.

The FCDO is undertaking a rigorous internal prioritisation process in response to the spending review announcement. We will update on the implications of this for any new commitment to nutrition in due course.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

22 Feb 2021 | 151786

Asked by: Liz Saville Roberts

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will use the 2021 Nutrition for Growth summit to emphasise that the UK is committed to reaching over 50 million children, women and adolescent girls through nutrition-specific programmes by 2025.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Between April 2015 and March 2020, the UK reached 55.1 million young children, women and adolescent girls through our nutrition programmes.

We remain committed to the Nutrition for Growth process and will continue to work closely on preparations for the 2021 Summit with the Government of Japan. Options for any new Nutrition for Growth commitment will be reviewed once the internal business planning process is complete.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

11 Feb 2021 | 150899

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2021 to Question 145834, which Ministers in his Department met with (a) the International Coalition for

Advocacy on Nutrition and (b) members of the Action for Global Health network; and what the agenda items were for those meetings.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I met with 4 representatives from the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN) on 4th May 2020. The topics covered were:

- COVID-19 and nutrition;
- ICAN's recommendations to the UK government as set out in their paper 'Nutrition: The key to unlocking UK Aid's Impact';
- The International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes;
- Plans for the Nutrition for Growth Summit; and
- The UK government's commitment to Ending Preventable Deaths.

I met with the CEOs from the Action for Global Health Network on 24th June 2020 to discuss the UK's response to COVID-19 and the indirect impacts of COVID-19 on health essential services. The meeting also covered ODA prioritisation and the DFID-FCO merger.

Developing Countries: Malnutrition

08 Feb 2021 | HL12544

Asked by: Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential impact of the end of their funding under the Nutrition for Growth Summit 2013 commitments on malnutrition in the global south.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK has been the largest nutrition donor globally over the past few years. The UK has invested £3.7 billion in tackling malnutrition since the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2013. From 2015-2020, 55.1 million young children, women and adolescent girls have been reached through our nutrition programmes.

The Department is undertaking a rigorous internal prioritisation process following the spending review announcement. We will update on the implications of this for any new nutrition commitment in due course.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

03 Feb 2021 | 145834

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2020 Question 139097 on

Developing Countries: Nutrition, on what dates roundtables with Civil Society Organisations (a) are planned and (b) were held; which organisations were (i) in attendance and (ii) invited to those roundtables; and what the agenda for discussion was for each roundtable.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

FCDO officials regularly hold roundtables with Civil Society Organisation networks that have an interest in nutrition. In the last 12 months, officials met with members of the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition eleven times and with members of the Action for Global Health network five times. Both networks also met with FCDO Ministers once over that period. Our next meeting with ICAN is planned for 24 February. Invitations to meetings are extended to all members of the respective networks with members themselves agreeing which representatives will meet with the FCDO. The Action for Global Health network ensures at least one attendee represents the nutrition agenda.

The timing and agendas for these meetings are agreed in discussion between FCDO officials and the respective networks. Topics have included the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit; the World Bank Spring meetings; the Independent Commission for Aid Impact review of the UK's work on nutrition; COVID-19 and the impact on nutrition; UK plans to support ending preventable deaths of mothers newborns and children; and the role of the UK's Special Envoy on Famine.

Global Malnutrition

19 Jan 2021 | 687 c765

Asked by: David Mundell

It was excellent to see UK leadership on global nutrition acknowledged by world leaders at the Canada nutrition for growth event in December, which launched 2021 as a year of action for nutrition. That could hardly be more timely, given that covid-19 is causing rates of malnutrition worldwide to rise for the first time in decades. So nutrition must be central to my hon. Friend's new Department's objectives for aid spending. For example, it is impossible to meaningfully progress girls' education while rates of malnutrition among girls are on the rise. Will the Government therefore urgently review their commitment to tackle malnutrition as part of their participation in the year of action?

Answered by: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I know my right hon. Friend has taken a keen interest in this and has been trying to get a question at Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office orals for some time. It is evident that good nutrition underpins education and

health outcomes, and adult learning, in developing countries. That was the rationale for the UK playing a lead role on nutrition over the past decade. The prevention and treatment of malnutrition remain key to achieving the Government's commitment to ending the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children. The Department is, of course, beginning a rigorous internal prioritisation process in response to the spending review announcement, and we will update on the implications of that for nutrition as soon as is feasible.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

13 Nov 2020 | HL10088

Asked by: Baroness Mone | Party: Conservative Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support global nutrition beyond the Nutrition for Growth Commitments.

Answering member: Baroness Sugg | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Prevention and treatment of malnutrition remains a priority for the UK as part of our commitment to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children. The FCDO remains committed to working closely with the Government of Japan to make sure the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit generates meaningful action by governments, donors, businesses, the UN and civil society. We are looking carefully at options for a new UK commitment post-2020 and will provide an update on our plans in due course.

Developing Countries: Children

18 Sep 2020 | 84707

Asked by: Owen Thompson

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if his Department will publish a response to the 10 recommendations set out in UNICEF UK's September 2020 report entitled A Future at Risk.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I welcome the publication of the UNICEF UK report 'A Future at Risk', it presents a comprehensive set of recommendations and a rich set of resources to highlight the negative impact COVID 19 has had on education and health in developing countries. Many of the recommendations highlighted in the report are closely aligned with FCDO priorities as we build back from COVID-19.

The UK is committed to ensuring children around the world return to school when it is safe to do so. We have adapted our bilateral education

programmes in 18 countries in response to the pandemic and have stepped up funding for education including a £5 million uplift to the Education Cannot Wait fund for emergency education in fragile contexts, and over £5m of new funding to UNHCR to enable over 5500 teachers to provide vital education for children in 10 refugee-hosting countries over the crucial next seven months. We are also getting behind UNICEF's Reopening Better Campaign, both globally and in country.

The UK is committed to supporting developing countries' health systems to respond to COVID-19 and to achieving the health-related SDGs. We will do this with a particular focus on ending the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030 and also through increasing UK leadership on malaria. The UK remains committed to preventing and treating malnutrition, including work with the Government of Japan to ensure the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit is a success, and advancing and defending comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights. The UK is actively working through the ACT-Accelerator and its partners to realise the aim of ensuring that COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests, once available, are accessible to all who need them.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

21 Jul 2020 | 74465

Asked by: David Mundell

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if she will make it her policy to maintain the Government's commitments under the Nutrition for Growth global pledging moment after December 2020.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Department for International Development

The UK has been a global leader on nutrition since 2013 and remains committed to address malnutrition, particularly as the indirect impacts of COVID-19 are set to increase malnutrition significantly in the poorest countries of the world. We are looking carefully at options for a new UK commitment post 2020 and will provide an update on our plans in due course.

Food Supply and Nutrition: Overseas Aid

17 Jun 2020 | 57926

Asked by: David Mundell

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, with reference to the Global Nutrition Report 2020, what steps the Government is taking to help prevent hunger and malnutrition throughout the world.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Department for International Development

The UK has been a global leader on nutrition since it hosted the first Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in 2013. The Summit generated £15 billion in new financing for nutrition up to 2020. Between 2015 and March 2019, DFID reached 50.6 million women, adolescent girls and young children with nutrition services in 25 countries, including Bangladesh, Somalia, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Yemen.

The UK remains committed to preventing and treating malnutrition as part of our commitment to end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-borns and children. Continued investment to prevent and treat malnutrition is important, particularly as countries face worsening levels of malnutrition in the face of COVID-19. The Secretary of State reiterated the importance of nutrition in her endorsement for the DFID-funded Global Nutrition Report 2020, which was published in May.

Overseas Aid: Malnutrition

09 Jun 2020 | 55050

Asked by: Zarah Sultana

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if she will make it her policy to pledge £800 million a year from 2021 to 2025 for tackling malnutrition at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo, December 2020.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Department for International Development

The UK remains committed to preventing and treating malnutrition as part of our pledge to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children. Addressing malnutrition is also important as developing countries experience the impacts of COVID-19. We will provide an update on our nutrition commitments after 2020 in due course.

Covid-19: Overseas Development Assistance

22 Apr 2020 | 803 c307

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

A key element of nutrition-sensitive spending is universal health coverage, which is vital to building resilience to such pandemics. It is likely that the Nutrition for Growth summit will be delayed. Can the Minister assure the House that, if this year's summit is delayed, she will ensure either that the Government pledge early, or will ensure a continuation of nutrition finance at current levels for another year to avoid a cliff edge in such financing at the start of 2022?

Answering member: Baroness Sugg | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The noble Lord is right to highlight that global commitments on nutrition financing are indeed ending this year, and I agree with him that this continued investment is needed to prevent and treat malnutrition, particularly as countries face worsening levels of malnutrition in the face of Covid-19. We are looking carefully at the options for the UK commitment now that both the Olympic pledging event and the main Nutrition for Growth summit have been postponed, and we will provide an update on our plans when we are able to. Yesterday, the World Food Programme reported that Covid-19 could push 265 million people into acute hunger by the end of this year, so maintaining our commitment to nutrition is more important than ever.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

03 Mar 2020 | 19850

Asked by: Matthew Offord

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much Official Development Assistance her Department has allocated to Nutrition for Growth.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Department for International Development

The UK has been a global leader on nutrition since hosting the first ever Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in 2013. We are making progress against our 2013 N4G commitments as follows:

- DFID has already exceeded its commitment to invest £2.13 billion from 2013 to 2020 in nutrition sensitive programmes – to date we have spent £2.7 billion on this type of programme;
- We have also unlocked the full amount of nutrition matched funding committed in 2013 – this has leveraged £560 million more for nutrition from other donors; and
- We are working to ensure we reach the target to invest £575 million on direct nutrition services by the end of this year.

DFID officials are working closely with the Government of Japan to prepare for the 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit. This will be an important opportunity to secure new commitments to nutrition, to set the world on a better track to achieve the Global Goals and to help achieve our ambition of ending preventable deaths by 2030. We are considering what commitment the UK Government will make at the Summit.

Developing Countries: Children

18 Feb 2020 | 530

Asked by: Rosie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment he has made of the effect of funding replenishment for (a) Gavi, (b) the Vaccine Alliance and (c) Nutrition for Growth on ending preventable child deaths by 2030.

Answering member: Wendy Morton | Department for International Development

The UK's ambition to end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-borns and children by 2030 is supported by our commitment to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and addressing malnutrition through Nutrition for Growth.

The UK's £1.44 billion of support to Gavi between 2016-2020 has saved 1.4 million lives from vaccine-preventable diseases in 68 of the world's poorest countries. The UK-hosted pledging conference for Gavi on 3-4th June 2020 is an opportunity for the UK to use its global leadership to secure Gavi the funds it needs to immunise 300 million more children and save at least 7 million lives between 2021 and 2025.

The 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit will be an important opportunity to secure new commitments to nutrition, to set the world on a better track to achieve the Global Goals and to help achieve our ambition of ending preventable deaths by 2030.

Developing Countries: Nutrition

27 Jan 2020 | 6785

Asked by: Alex Norris

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether it is his Department's policy to make a financial commitment at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth 2020 summit.

Answering member: Andrew Murrison | Department for International Development

DFID officials are working closely with the Government of Japan to prepare for the 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit. This will be an important opportunity to secure new commitments to nutrition, to set the world on a better track to achieve the Global Goals and to help achieve our ambition of ending preventable deaths by 2030.

We are in the process of identifying the most appropriate and impactful commitment the UK Government can make as part of the 2020 Summit.

8 Further Parliamentary material

8.1 Debates

[Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit](#)

28 Jan 2020 | 801 cc106-1435

Lords question for short debate on what consideration they have given to formulating their pledge at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth 2020 summit, and what they are doing to build commitments from other countries.

8.2 Early Day Motions

[Nutrition aid](#)

EDM 297 (session 2021-22)

8 July 2021

Alyn Smith

That this House urges the Government to recognise the importance of investment in nutrition to support its aims for girls' education; notes that impacts of malnutrition are particularly heavy on women and girls and that cases of anaemia, stunting and malnutrition are correlated with poor school performance; stresses that the UK was previously considered a leader in combatting malnutrition and now risks undermining its international reputation in addition to putting millions of lives at risk; and calls on the Government to incorporate nutrition aid into its focus area of girls education.

8.3 Committees

[UK aid for improving nutrition](#)

October 2021

The International Development Committee held a one-off oral evidence session on nutrition with evidence from development policy experts, ahead of the third Nutrition for Growth Summit in December. This session focused on the impact of malnutrition in childhood, what can be done to improve global nutrition levels, and the impact of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic on nutrition and food security.

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