

Talking points

Some talking points for your letter.

The month, we are asking you to write to Secretary of State for International Development Alok Sharma to ask him to commit £800 million per year for the next 5 years to combat malnutrition. These talking points should help you draft your letter, plus you can use the information in this month's Action Sheet and this [nutrition glossary](#).

- Undernutrition contributes to around half of the 5 million deaths of children under five. 149 million children globally are too short for their age ('stunted'), often due to lack of nutrients, impairing their physical and mental development.
- Poor nutrition harms a child's early development, increasing susceptibility to diseases and reducing the child's ability to learn at school and to earn a living later in life.
- Malnutrition in childhood reduces an individual's earning capacity by 10% and costs the global economy around \$3.5 trillion each year.
- The world is way off track to meet the global targets on nutrition. An extra US \$7 billion every year is needed to continue the fight against malnutrition.
- To continue its strong leadership in the fight against malnutrition, the UK should pledge £800 million each year for the next 5 years. This is only a small increase on the amount that DfID has spent on nutrition since 2013.
- As well as pledging funds, the UK should commit to increasing the impact of its nutrition portfolio by better embedding nutrition sensitivity across DFID's work.
- The Prime Minister should attend the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) event at the Tokyo Olympics in July.

What is the Global Nutrition Summit?

The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2020 provides a historic opportunity to transform the way the world tackles the global challenge of malnutrition.

The Summit comes at a critical time, midway through the United Nations (UN) Decade of Action on Nutrition, with only five years left to achieve the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, and 10 years to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Summit will be held in December 2020 in Japan. The Summit will be preceded by a 'springboard' moment in Tokyo held on the eve of the opening ceremony of the Olympics on 23 July 2020, at which donors will have the opportunity to make commitments to help ensure that all people, including the most vulnerable, have access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food by 2030. More information at <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/>

Case Study: Suchana Programme



Fahima Begum and her 2 year old son in Sylhet, Bangladesh (left). Pronoti Rani showing Mola and other freshly harvested small fish from her pond in Moulavibazar, Bangladesh (right). Photos: Worldfish (2017)

In the Sylhet region of Bangladesh, rates of undernutrition are among the highest in the country and the world. Despite the local availability of nutritious food, it is not affordable to the poorest households. Many household diets are low in diversity and rely heavily on rice, contributing to the slow onset of an entrenched nutritional crisis.

To combat chronic undernutrition in Sylhet and neighbouring Moulvibazar, DFID is helping fund the [Suchana: Ending the cycle of undernutrition in Bangladesh](#) programme (2016–2022), which delivers nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, private sector actors and NGOs such as Save the Children.

One focus of the project is to help communities grow fish and vegetables around their homes. Fish, particularly small fish when eaten whole, are a source of micronutrients such as iron, zinc, calcium, vitamin A and vitamin B12.

Women and girls like Fahima Begum, a farmer and mother-of-two from Dithpur village (pictured), receive a two-day training which can help those with very little land to farm on. Fahima learned how to produce mola and other fish in her homestead pond. Mola is a small indigenous species that is found in most ponds and with the right care can grow and multiply easily, making it ideal for regular household consumption.

By 2022, the project aims to have trained around 75,000 women in fish farming and horticulture and another 50,000 women in horticulture. By 2019, the project had seen a 19% uplift in exclusive breastfeeding amongst participants, as well as significant gender-related benefits, such as a 50% increase in knowledge on legal age of marriage and consequences of early pregnancy among mothers.

Source: Save the Children and [ICAN UK](#).