

Talking about healthy lives

Talking points for your letter to the Secretary of State

The month we are asking you to write to Secretary of State for International Development, Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP, thanking her for her commitment to nutrition, and asking her to make an announcement during 2017, including an ambitious financial commitment from the UK to nutrition programmes.

Please feel free to use any of the detailed information in this month's [Action Sheet](#) to back up your arguments. Try to keep your letters short and focused on your reasons for supporting the issues. Below are some talking points you may wish to use in your letter – though **please ensure you use your own words**.

- Undernutrition kills 3 million children under five every year, and damages the development of millions more. Poor nutrition harms almost every aspect of children's early development, making them more susceptible to deadly diseases, and reducing their ability to learn at school and to earn a living later in life.
- Improving nutrition not only saves lives; it transforms the lives of women and girls, helping them lead better and more productive lives, free from poverty.
- Aid to nutrition is only 1% of total aid and of national budgets. This underfunding of nutrition costs the global economy around \$3.5 trillion each year.
- The world is way off track to meet the global targets on nutrition. At the current rate of effort, we won't reach the ambitions of the Global Goals. To change to the lives of millions of women and children worldwide, and to promote economic prosperity, we need to increase investments in nutrition now.
- Every £1 invested in nutrition can yield at least £16 in return.
- Please thank the Secretary of State Priti Patel for her interest in nutrition and for her Department's ongoing work to champion the Nutrition for Growth agenda. The UK should continue to ensure the momentum to tackle malnutrition globally is not lost.
- 2017 is the time to demonstrate leadership by making concrete commitments, including an ambitious financial commitment, and encourage others to do the same.