

Talking points for your letter to the UK Executive Director to the World Bank

Please write to the UK Executive Director at the Board of the World Bank Group [Richard Montgomery](#) asking him to help ensure that investing in 'human capital', including through nutrition programmes, is a priority for IDA investments, at the Board's June meeting.

Please also ask him to contact the new World Bank President, David Malpass, urging him to continue the Bank's strong support for investing in human capital.

These talking points can help you write your letter – but please ensure you say in your own words why investing in nutrition programmes matters to you.

- The World Bank has a key role in overcoming extreme poverty and increasing shared prosperity.
- Investing in people through nutrition, health care, education, jobs and skills helps develop human capital.
- Human capital is key to creating economic growth, ending poverty, and creating more equitable societies.
- Nutrition is a vital aspect of developing human capital, and reduction in stunting in children under five, is one of the indicators of the World Bank's Human Capital Index.
- As one of the biggest funding source for Nutrition for Growth (N4G), the International Development Association (IDA) should continue to strongly focus on investments in human capital, including in nutrition programmes.
- Please make the case at the Executive Board's next meeting for human capital investments, including nutrition, to be a priority for IDA replenishment.
- Please urge the new World Bank President David Malpass to continue to support the Bank's focus on investing in human capital.

Case study: Marshall Islands early childhood development project

In April 2019, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the World Bank launched a US \$13 million 'Multi-sectoral Early Childhood Development Project' in Majuro.

The project will support areas such as reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health and nutrition services, with a focus on the first 1,000 days of life. The project also aims to promote primary school readiness by enhancing support to parents and increasing access to early learning services.

“By investing in our children and ensuring they are afforded the best opportunities to learn and thrive, we are ensuring a sustainable and rich future for the Republic of the Marshall Islands,” said Marshall Islands President, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda Heine. “As a former educator, I have seen first-hand what good, early investments in a child’s future can mean so I am very pleased to see this project launched ... This is just one part of a more holistic wide-spread early childhood development program in Marshall Islands.”

Poor nutrition and a lack of early learning opportunities have posed major obstacles for some Marshallese children which has had a detrimental effect on the country’s development. The new program will address this by focusing on:

- Increasing access to effective and quality maternal and child health services
- Creating opportunities for early stimulation and learning
- Piloting a social protection system and support for families with young children
- Addressing the limited affordability of nutritious diets, especially for children in vulnerable families.

While technical assessments and planning are required before wider activities begin, the investment in the health and education of Marshallese children will contribute to a brighter future for the country. This is also representative of an increasing focus on health, nutrition and education support as a wider economic imperative for more sustainable futures for Pacific economies. The project represents a wider focus on human capital throughout the Pacific.

The project is funded through a US \$13 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank’s fund for the most in-need countries, in partnership with the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Source: [World Bank](#)