

Ready for Rio?

Ask David Cameron to attend a nutrition summit next summer

RESULTS
the power to end poverty

Last week, a day after the new Sustainable Development Goals, now known as the 'Global Goals', were formally adopted at the Global Goals summit in New York, David Cameron took to the stage to call on the world to make sure the new Global Goals leave no one behind. This month, he has the opportunity to show the world how to turn these words into action. Here's how.

Right now, Justine Greening, Secretary of State for the Department of International Development (DFID), is working with her team on a new position paper that will guide DFID's work on nutrition for the next 5 years. This month we want you to write to David Cameron, copying in Justine Greening, and ask him to make sure the principle of 'Leave no-one behind' is at the heart of the paper.

This is just the start. In August 2016, world leaders will gather in Rio de Janeiro for a crucial summit on nutrition to pledge new resources to tackle all forms of malnutrition. We want David Cameron to attend the summit and commit new resources in the fight and encourage other donors to come to the table. So join us and in asking David Cameron if he is #ReadyforRio and if he will be attending the summit next year.

The scale of undernutrition

Undernutrition is a huge global problem affecting hundreds of millions of children worldwide. Around 3 million under-fives lose their lives due to undernutrition each year. More broadly, poor nutrition negatively impacts almost every aspect of a child's early development; from making them more susceptible to deadly illnesses such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, through to reducing their ability to learn at school, and earn a living later in life.

Undernutrition as an 'invisible' issue

Despite the clear negative consequences of widespread undernutrition, it has been a relatively neglected area for governments and development agencies over the past decade. Major efforts have been made to reduce 'hunger' (the availability of food) but without a specific focus on adequate nutrition. Reports suggest that current international funding to tackle undernutrition only provides 1.4% of the finance we need to effectively tackle it worldwide.

Until recently, acute malnutrition was seen primarily as a feature of humanitarian emergencies rather than as a development and public health priority – in other words, it's an 'everyday emergency'. This is despite the clear long term economic and human costs associated with acute malnutrition.

Growing momentum for tackling undernutrition

In 2008, the Lancet (Europe's foremost medical journal) published a series on the subject detailing the

impact of undernutrition globally; and provided the evidence for 13 high impact interventions that could be deployed to tackle it. Then, in 2012, a group of world-leading economists examined the issue and concluded that nutrition-specific interventions deliver some of the best value for money of all development spending. In the same year, the World Health Assembly also set 6 targets to reduce global malnutrition.

Many RESULTS volunteers will remember the 'Hunger Summit' the UK Government co-hosted with Brazil and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation on the 8th of June 2013 to bring together governments, businesses, scientists, and civil society working to bring an end to hunger and undernutrition, and for them to pledge new resources in the fight. The event was titled '**Nutrition for Growth: Beating Hunger through Business and Science**' (N4G).

What were the outcomes of 'Nutrition for Growth'?

It was a major success! \$4.1 billion in new money for tackling undernutrition was pledged. The UK Government led the way with a pledge of £655 million for direct interventions to improve nutrition, and an additional £604 million to improving nutrition through investments in 'nutrition sensitive' programmes that have an indirect (but significant!) impact on reducing undernutrition. The pledges made at the Nutrition for Growth aimed to achieve the following:

- Improve the nutrition of 500 million pregnant women and young children;

- Prevent 20 million children under five from being stunted;
- Save the lives of at least 1.7 million children by preventing stunting, increasing breastfeeding and better treatment of severe acute malnutrition (wasting).

A long way to go

While Nutrition for Growth was an excellent moment that put undernutrition back on the global agenda, progress overall has been slow and uneven. According to the 2015 Global Nutrition Report, just 39 (out of the 114 countries for which data is available) are on course to meet the World Health Assembly chronic malnutrition (stunting) reduction target and just 67 out of 130 countries are on course for acute malnutrition (wasting) reduction. Despite strong evidence of the importance and cost-effectiveness of investing in nutrition, current spending on nutrition is still low. Recent calculations show that if global financing for nutrition continues at its current rate, we will miss the global targets on tackling malnutrition and it will take around 150 years to end children dying from acute malnutrition (wasting).

DFID's position on nutrition

In 2011, DFID published "Scaling up Nutrition: The UK's position on undernutrition", which established the UK's priorities for nutrition for the period 2011-2015. Here, DFID committed to reaching 20 million children under-5 with nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. With the existing position paper expiring at the end of the year, DFID are now in the process of developing a new position paper that will guide their work on nutrition for the next 5 years. As Justine Greening and her team begin working on the paper, we want to make sure David Cameron's call to 'Leave no-one behind' is translated into action.

Whether or not a child receives nutritious food is not a random occurrence, it is a function of their socio-

economic status, where they are born and live in the world, their mother's education and their ethnic group, amongst many other factors. It is therefore crucial that DFID's new position paper puts equity at its heart. **You can help make that happen.**

The road to Rio

In August 2016, weeks before the world tunes in to watch the Olympic games in Brazil, world leaders and ministers will gather for the second Nutrition for Growth Summit to assess progress towards reducing undernutrition. This summit represents a historic opportunity to commit new resources to tackle the issue and shift the world onto a path where every child receives the nutrients they need to live healthy, happy, and productive lives. Let's make it a success!

The UK Government is already one of the leading donors to nutrition globally and has demonstrated what can be achieved working in partnership with developing countries. To ensure this leadership continues, we want the UK to send a high-level representative to Rio, commit new resources to tackle the issue and encourage other donor Governments to come to the table. Who better for the job than the Prime Minister himself? **Help us get him there.**

Take action

With all good development work, it is important to make sure the right policies are in place before scaling up funding. With the right policies, the investments will reach the people who need it most and have a greater impact. That's why this month we are asking you to write to David Cameron with the following two asks

- **Work with DFID to put equity at the heart of their new position paper on nutrition.**
- **Attend the second Nutrition for Growth summit, commit new resources to tackle undernutrition and encourage other world leaders to attend and pledge.**

Take action

1. **Write a letter to David Cameron thanking him for his involvement with the UN High-level panel on the Sustainable Development Goals and his commitment to ensuring that the new Global Goals leave no-one behind.**
2. **Ask him to translate these words into action by working with DFID to put equity at the heart of its new position paper on nutrition that will be launched when the current position paper expires at the end of the year.**
3. **Ask him to commit to attending the second Nutrition for Growth summit in Brazil ahead of the Olympic games and encourage other world leaders to join him.**
4. **Tweet at @David_Cameron and ask him if he is will be attending the second Nutrition for Growth summit using the hashtag #Ready4Rio. For example, Next summer world leaders will head to Rio to commit new resources to tackle malnutrition. Are you #ReadyforRio @David_Cameron ?**