

Writing a Letter to the Editor on World Poverty Day

Talking points and case studies for your Letter to the Editor of your local paper.

Why take a local media action?

It is very important to gain public and political support for the UK's international development efforts, which enable the poorest people to gain access to health, education and economic opportunities. Public understanding of what overseas aid actually achieves is low, and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) provides a perfect moment to talk about the importance of the issues RESULTS is working on.

Writing a Letter to the Editor is no trickier than writing any other letter! There are tips on finding who to write to, and on finding and creating a 'hook', in our [handy guide](#). Most local newspapers will have a website with contact details for writing a Letter to the Editor.

Please feel free to use any of the information in this month's Action Sheet in your letter. Here are some talking points you may wish to use in your letter – **though please make it personal to you.**

- The world has been making huge strides in eradicating extreme poverty in recent years, and poverty has halved in a decade.
- Poverty is changing, and more and more of the poorest people live in middle income countries, which are less eligible for less international aid than low-income countries, and increasingly support their own people with basic services.
- Progress has been impressive, but eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 is not guaranteed. Progress on the Global Goals is very mixed, and on some goals, progress is far too slow. Much more effort and political will is needed.
- Global partnerships are helping to drive change, such as Gavi the Vaccines Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and the Global Partnership for Education. We must continue to support such efforts in order to 'leave no one behind'.
- The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) is a great opportunity to show politicians and the public how much the world has been changing, and how much there is still to do.
- The theme of this year's World Poverty Day is '[peaceful and inclusive societies](#)'. You may want to include your own thoughts about how the work of these institutions contributes to that goal (Goal 16). *Though don't assume people will know what the Global Goals are!*



Photo credit: Mark Bushnell / Send My Friend

Education in Malawi

Melvin Karunga (left) is 12 years old and attends Nazombe Primary School in Palombe, Malawi. Melvin's parents are police officers, and he wants to become a police officer too. Melvin says: "When children go to school they can be independent and can help their parents. When I was young I admired people at school. I didn't know how to read and write and now I do." There are between 70 and 100 pupils in Melvin's class. He thinks his school would be better if there were "more well qualified and dedicated teachers. We do not have enough teachers here."

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) supports access to education around the world, including Malawi. Next year, GPE will be replenished for the next three years, so that it can continue its vital work. The UK's share should be \$500 million.

Malnutrition in Madagascar

Miranto (left) and Sitraka are both 5 years old, born on the same day in the same village in Madagascar. Miranto has been in school for two years and has lots of friends, but Sitraka is chronically malnourished ('stunted') – he's much shorter than Miranto and looks half his age. He can't speak or go to school. Miranto's family fed him a variety of nutritious foods, but Sitraka's family was too poor, and malnutrition has irreversibly harmed his development.

The UK funds many nutrition programmes around the world, and since 2013 has been a leader of the 'Nutrition for Growth' agenda, which aims to reduce child stunting by 20 million by 2020. However, there is much still to do, and nutrition programmes are significantly under-funded.



Photo credit: Tom Maguire/RESULTS UK



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Polio eradication in Nigeria

Aminu Ahmen el-Wada contracted polio as a child and now makes hand-operated cycles, employing 20 people, 15 of them polio survivors. "Otherwise we would be beggars", he says. "This is because in Africa nobody can help you if you are disabled."

Earlier this year, a polio eradication campaign in Nigeria sought to reach the most remote children to vaccinate them against polio. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) aims for a polio-free world by 2020, and in August this year, the UK pledged £100 million to support its efforts, which will not only fight polio, but also leave networks of trained health workers who can deliver other forms of healthcare.

Tackling TB in Cambodia

Since it was established in 2002, the Global Fund has helped achieve some pretty amazing things: 8.1 million more people are now on antiretroviral treatment for HIV, 548 million mosquito nets have been distributed to help prevent malaria, and over 13 million people have been treated for TB. People like Sam Moeum, a father of four in Cambodia, who recently completed treatment for TB at home in Proy village in Mamot district, Cambodia. The Global Fund provides over half of the funding for Cambodia's National TB Programme. Without this support, just a fraction of people with TB would be diagnosed and treated, and millions of lives would hang in the balance.



Photo credit: Tom Maguire/RESULTS UK