

Response to Concern Worldwide (Honour the UK Nutrition for Growth pledge and Spend) campaign

The UK is leading the way to transform lives globally through its work on tackling undernutrition. We hosted two high profile international events within 10 months to drive progress: the Olympic Hunger Event in 2012 and the Nutrition for Growth event in June. In June, we committed to work with others to meet the targets set out in the “Global Nutrition for Growth Compact” which has now been endorsed by over 100 governments, businesses and organisations (including Concern Worldwide) to:

- improve the nutrition of 500 million pregnant women and young children
- reduce the number of under-fives who are stunted by a further 20 million, and
- to save the lives of at least 1.7 million children.

The UK is committed to spend £375 million of core funds over the period 2013 to 2020. I understand the urgency of the call by the campaign to spend this money faster - to both save lives and tackle undernutrition. I hope you will be encouraged that this investment represents a tripling of previous levels and we think a realistic timescale to do this is over eight years.

Our next steps are that over coming months, DFID will be reviewing its existing investments in light of the burden of maternal and child undernutrition to target future investments so that they deliver the greatest impact on the nutrition targets announced in June. I anticipate we will finalise our new bilateral programmes to be implemented by DFID country offices shortly after that.

JUSTINE GREENING