



Department  
for International  
Development



## Nutrition for Growth: one year on

Tackling undernutrition – progress made by the UK since  
8 June 2013



### **Nutrition for Growth: The bicycle trader's tale**

Mukwasi lives in a village called Kagali in the Mukono district of Uganda. He cultivates orange sweet potato and also buys from other farmers to sell in Mukono town.

Picture: Martin Malungu/HarvestPlus

## Introduction

On June 8 2013, the UK Prime Minister, the Government of Brazil and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation co-hosted the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit. The aim was to transform millions of lives worldwide by galvanising global efforts to tackle undernutrition. A Global Nutrition for Growth compact was endorsed by more than 100 stakeholders from science business, civil society, private foundations and governments, all committing by 2020 to:

- Reach at least 500 million pregnant women and young children with effective nutrition interventions;
- Reduce the number of children whose growth is stunted due to undernutrition by at least 20 million;
- Save the lives of at least 1.7 million children by preventing growth stunting and by increasing the numbers of infants that are breastfed and providing lifesaving treatment for the most severe form of undernutrition.

To play its part in achieving these goals, the UK committed to:

- Provide an additional £375 million for direct nutrition programmes between 2013 and 2020 (a tripling of 2010 funding levels).
- Provide matched funding for new financial commitments for nutrition made by other actors, up to a value of £280 million.
- Increase funding to prevent undernutrition through other sectors (such as social protection, agriculture and water, sanitation and hygiene) by approximately £604 million between 2013 and 2020.
- Launch new business and science initiatives, including a Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, to provide global research and policy leadership on nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

These commitments were made within the framework of the UK's Position Paper on Scaling Up Nutrition, launched in 2011. This has four objectives:

1. Increase coverage of nutrition-specific programmes
2. Leverage more nutrition outcomes from nutrition-sensitive programmes
3. Generate new solutions to undernutrition, including through expanding the evidence base
4. Promote a more effective international response

As part of this, the UK also committed to reach 20 million pregnant women and young children with nutrition programmes between 2011 and 2015.

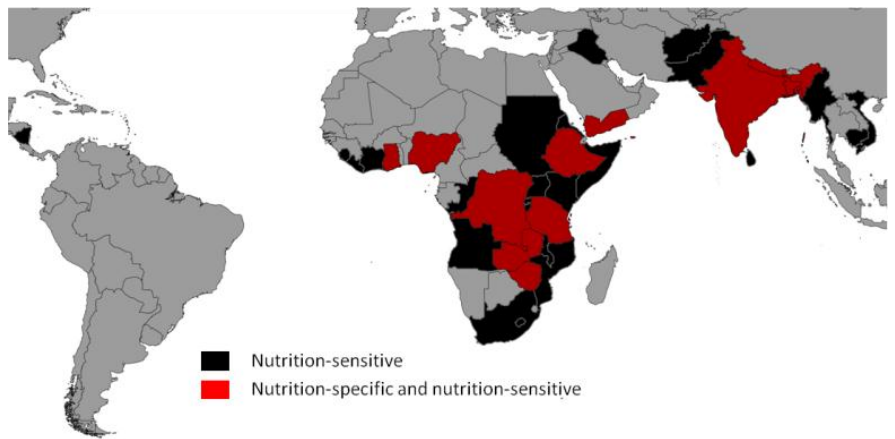
## Tracking and planning scale up of nutrition programmes

Our ability to track and report spending on nutrition has improved significantly since the Nutrition for Growth Summit. In early 2014, DFID commissioned Development Initiatives (DI) to conduct a detailed analysis of its spending on nutrition from 2010 to 2012 using the approach agreed by the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement donor group in late 2013<sup>1,2</sup>. The DI report showed

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<sup>1</sup> <http://devinit.org/report/dfids-aid-spending-nutrition-2010-2012/>

that DFID's spend on nutrition-specific programmes increased by 58% from 2010 to 2012. Nutrition-sensitive spend increased by 37% over the same period. According to this report, DFID programmes reached 37 countries (see map) and investments have been particularly concentrated in countries with the highest burden of undernutrition.



Based on data from 2010 to 2012, DFID is currently on track to meet its increased spending commitments. Analysis of nutrition spend in 2013 will not be possible until the end of 2014 when donor financial data will become publically available through the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System.

The profile of scale up of nutrition investment to 2020 has also been planned; this includes an annual incremental increase, establishing nutrition as a priority for the Department to 2020 and beyond. Figure 1 illustrates how the projected annual spend on nutrition specific programmes will have to increase from the 2010 baseline of around £25m/year to over £100m/year by 2020<sup>3</sup> in order to deliver the cumulative £375m Nutrition for Growth commitment.

From 2010/11 to 2013/14 the UK reached 19.3 million pregnant or breastfeeding women and young children with nutrition-related interventions.

## New programmes

Four new nutrition specific programmes have been launched since June 2013; five more were started earlier in the year. Box 1 summarises some of these alongside new nutrition sensitive programmes.

**Nutrition specific spend profile to 2020**

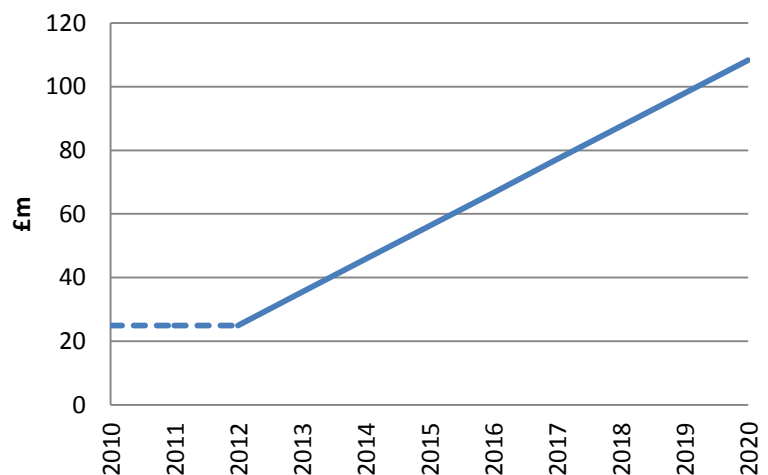


Figure 1: the profile of DFID's nutrition-specific scale up from 2010 to meet 2020 spending commitments

<sup>2</sup> [http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/RESOURCE\\_TRACKING\\_METHODODOLOGY\\_SUN\\_DONOR\\_NETWORK.pdf](http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/RESOURCE_TRACKING_METHODODOLOGY_SUN_DONOR_NETWORK.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The nutrition specific graph does not include the matched funding commitment in the commitment data. The nutrition sensitive graph is based on an additional cumulative commitment of £604m. Our projections for nutrition sensitive spending commitment will be updated by the end of the year to take into account the newly agreed SUN Donor methodology.

## **Box 1: examples of new nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes that have started since June 2013**

### **Nutrition-specific programmes**

A new 3-year, £4.8 million programme in Mozambique aims to improve nutrition practices among more than 600,000 women, adolescent girls and young children. Activities include promoting good practice on nutrition among women, raising awareness of nutrition issues among farmers and identifying ways to improve production of and access to nutrient-dense foods. The programme will also support local production of ready-to-use therapeutic foods to treat children with acute malnutrition<sup>4</sup>.

A 2-year programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is designed to deliver high-impact nutrition interventions to more than 1.6 million children. This includes essential micronutrient supplements and de-worming treatment. The programme will also provide treatment for severe acute malnutrition for approximately 63,000 children.<sup>5</sup>

In July 2013, a strategic health and nutrition programme began implementation in India. This technical assistance programme aims to accelerate India's progress towards universal coverage of health and nutrition services, particularly in the poorest states. This will enable the development of an evidence-based health and nutrition strategy and appropriate resource allocation.<sup>6</sup>

### **Nutrition-sensitive programmes**

A new programme in Uganda aims to increase resilience to extreme climate and weather events in the semi-arid region of Karamoja. One of the objectives of this programme is to reduce the impact of climate shocks on the nutrition of women and children. Public works and livelihoods programmes will address the economic barriers to improved nutrition among vulnerable communities. Promotion of optimal young child feeding and provision of treatment for severe acute malnutrition will protect the growth and development of young children. The programme is also supporting nutrition-sensitive surveillance and early warning for the region<sup>7</sup>.

A second-phase of support for a Kenyan national safety net programme was approved in 2013, focusing on reducing poverty and hunger among the poorest households in Kenya, and improving the nutritional security of vulnerable children by reaching 40,000 households<sup>8</sup>.

A new 4-year food security and livelihood programme underway in Zimbabwe aims for better nutrition outcomes by improving agricultural practices, fostering new ways of linking farmers with commercial markets and stimulating demand and supply of affordable and nutritious foods<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> *Linking Agribusiness and Nutrition in Mozambique*. Project number 203981.

<sup>5</sup> *Delivering direct nutrition interventions in the Democratic Republic of Congo*. Project number 204116.

<sup>6</sup> *Strategic Health and Nutrition Partnership, India*. Project number 203224.

<sup>7</sup> *Enhancing resilience in Karamoja Uganda*. Project number 203603.

<sup>8</sup> *Kenya Social Protection Programme Phase 2*. Project number 203439.

<sup>9</sup> *Zimbabwe Livelihoods And Food Security Programme*. Project number 203429.

## Finding new solutions to undernutrition

The summit aimed to harness the best of business and science. DFID has continued to scale up investments in research, impact evaluation and taking new technologies to scale. Progress since June 2013 includes:

- The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition ([www.glopan.org](http://www.glopan.org)) has started to deliver key messages to decision makers on policy changes needed in agriculture and food systems to address undernutrition and the burgeoning problem of overweight, obesity and associated non-communicable diseases. The Panel has reached representatives from research, government and civil society through a number of international meetings, explaining how agriculture policy can be reoriented towards development and delivery of nutritious foods. The Panel is now developing policy briefs that will identify policy actions in agricultural and food systems that have the potential to promote better nutrition outcomes.
- DFID published an evidence paper entitled 'Can Agriculture interventions improve nutrition' in 2014<sup>10</sup>. This provides a critical review of the quality of the evidence based linking five agricultural interventions to nutritional outcomes and is informing DFID agriculture programming.
- New DFID programmes launched at N4G are taking biofortified crops to scale. By the end of 2014 more than 2.3 million farmer households will be growing micronutrient-enriched pearl millet, cassava, beans, maize and sweet potatoes. Biofortification has been integrated into national policies in India, Rwanda, Nigeria and Zambia; commitments that were cemented publically at the 2014 Global Biofortification Conference in Kigali.
- The AgResults programme, launched by the Prime Minister at the G20 Summit in Mexico in 2012, aims to develop and test new results-based payment mechanisms to stimulate innovation and scale up new technologies in agriculture. Since N4G, several nutrition-related programmes have been initiated, including aflatoxin control in Nigeria, on-farm storage in Kenya and scale-up of biofortified crops in Zambia.
- A new, multi-country mNutrition programme has been launched to develop, test and scale up a sustainable business model for agriculture and nutrition extension using mobile phone services. In particular, messaging will be developed to help farmers adopt agricultural practices that have a positive impact on nutrition outcomes. mNutrition will also test mobile phone services for use by health workers to support behaviour change among families affected by undernutrition. It aims to reach more than 3 million people in 14 countries in Africa and Asia within five years and to build evidence of the impact of mobile phone services for nutrition.
- A research programme to build evidence of how to protect nutrition outcomes in humanitarian emergencies using food and cash assistance has recently been established. The Research on Food Assistance for Nutritional Impact (REFANI) programme will test cash and food-based interventions in multiple countries to identify what works to prevent acute malnutrition in emergencies.
- A new research programme which aims to stimulate new indicators and metrics for measuring the impact of agriculture programmes on nutrition is ready to launch in July 2014.
- A joint research programme between DFID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation started in January 2014 in Nigeria to increase access to zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS) for children with diarrhoea. DFID support is training private health providers in Nigeria to understand the benefits and appropriate use of zinc/ORS, to strengthen production of high-quality, affordable zinc/ORS and to include the product in supply chains.
- The Nutrition Embedding Evaluation Programme, which was announced in the run up to the N4G summit, recently approved grants for seven impact evaluations of innovative CSO-led nutrition programmes as part of efforts to build evidence of what works. We are supporting a

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-agriculture-interventions-promote-nutrition>

further nine impact evaluations of nutrition-sensitive programmes through the World Bank-led Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund. These investments are in addition to the 16 impact evaluations currently being undertaken directly through DFID's own programmes.

## Supporting international leadership and coordination

In line with our commitment in the N4G global compact, DFID has helped to convene a Stakeholder Group to steer the production of an annual global progress report on nutrition. This report will track the commitments made at N4G as well as provide an update on progress towards the World Health Assembly targets agreed in 2012. The report will be written by an Independent Expert Group and is due to be launched in November 2014<sup>11</sup>.

The UK has been working in close partnership with the Government of Brazil to develop a roadmap and strategy for the N4G follow up event during the Rio Olympics in 2016. We now have dedicated staff based in Brazil to help this process.

DFID has continued to provide support to the Scaling Up Nutrition movement including providing technical experts to support SUN countries to finalise costed plans and to track financing for nutrition.

## Priorities for the coming year

To keep on track with N4G commitments, our priorities now are to:

- Develop more multi-sector, integrated programmes in DFID focal countries – building on our work in Bangladesh, Zambia and Nigeria – to ensure we are having maximum impact on nutrition outcomes. We will work with our partners, including the multilateral organisations, to achieve this, and to capture and replicate best practice.
- Continue to identify ways to protect nutrition outcomes from shocks and disasters and to strengthen nutrition services in fragile and conflict-affected states. We will work with humanitarian, resilience and preparedness experts across DFID and continue to capture and disseminate experiences from innovative programmes in Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.
- Work with new partners and other donors to unlock our N4G matched funding commitment, including working closely with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) on detailed design for the Catalytic Financing Facility announced at N4G. In addition, we will explore other opportunities to leverage other donors' resources for nutrition in the coming year.
- Identify new ways for DFID to support business to take a stronger role in efforts to prevent malnutrition.
- Galvanise support for the flagship Global Nutrition Report - to drive greater accountability from all stakeholders, to encourage governments to invest more domestic resources in nutrition and to inform future action.
- We will also strengthen nutrition capabilities within the organisation by sharing best practice across country programmes, encouraging peer-to-peer support and supporting nutrition training.

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<sup>11</sup> See [http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/3477#.UwOSCfl\\_tQB](http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/3477#.UwOSCfl_tQB) and soon on [www.globalnutritionreport.org](http://www.globalnutritionreport.org)

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