

Results achieved by sector – Nutrition

Malnutrition is a global challenge that affects one in three people worldwide¹ Undernutrition causes children to have stunted growth, limiting their brain development and robbing them of significant life opportunities. Achieving food and nutrition security for everyone is at the forefront of accomplishing this challenge. It will support poverty alleviation and promote economic development².

Global Goal 2 aims to End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. It includes a specific target to end malnutrition in all forms by 2030. The world is currently off track to meet this targeted; there is currently an estimated 159 million children under 5 suffering from stunted growth³ and a further 50 million who are wasted. The pace of change is insufficient to meet targets for stunting, wasting, anaemia, low birthweight and overweight / obesity. There are marked regional differences in projections for the coming 15 years with sub-Saharan Africa predicted to experience increases in malnutrition over this period. Concerted effort will be required to address the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition and to engage political leadership and commitment to address malnutrition effectively.

DFID commitment

In 2015, the UK Government committed to improve the nutrition of 50 million people by 2020.

Indicators used to measure progress

- Number of children under 5, women (of childbearing age) and adolescent girls reached through DFID's nutrition-related interventions.

Results achieved

In 2015-16 DFID achieved the following results:

- Reached 13.3 million children under 5, women of childbearing age and adolescent girls through our nutrition-relevant programmes.

In all cases, those reached benefited from a range of nutrition-related services. For example in Ethiopia, 5.7 million women, adolescent girls and children under 5 received a combination of direct nutrition support, essential health services and nutrition-sensitive social protection. In Nigeria, 2.6 million benefited a range of direct health and nutrition services, agriculture support and nutrition-sensitive child grants.

Over the past year, DFID has continued to support global action and leadership on nutrition, including by supporting the launch of the 2015 and 2016 Global Nutrition Report that tracks progress to reduce malnutrition worldwide. This flagship report remains an important mechanism to foster stronger leadership and accountability for nutrition.

¹ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2016. Global Nutrition Report 2016: Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030. Washington, DC.

² Hoddinott, J., 2016. Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. Working Paper - The economics of reducing malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Cornell University. Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition*. Funded by DFID. Available at: http://glopan.org/sites/default/files/Global_Panel_Working_Paper.pdf.

³ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2016. Global Nutrition Report 2016: Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030. Washington, DC.