

SUBMISSION TO THE IDC INQUIRY:

THE UK GOVERNMENT'S WORK ON ACHIEVING SDG2: ZERO HUNGER

Introduction

United Against Malnutrition and Hunger is a not-for-profit organisation campaigning for UK action on global malnutrition and hunger. We believe that access to good nutrition is not only a right that should be enjoyed by all around the world but also a vital pre-requisite to achieving wider developmental goals.

We bring together leaders from scientific, business, finance, military, diplomatic, philanthropic, and faith backgrounds who want to see a world in which everyone has access to the nutrition they need to thrive and to contribute to prosperous and stable communities.

Our mission is to press for UK action on global malnutrition and hunger by mobilising cross-sector expertise and championing solutions that can end it. This will require the UK to:

- mobilise British expertise in support of international efforts to provide sustainable solutions to hunger and malnutrition;
- create new partnerships between government, business, private finance, and science to drive innovation and maximise impact; and
- restore UK funding for nutrition programmes and use that renewed support to leverage additional finance and drive international action.

The effectiveness of the FCDO and UK Government's approach to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) in countries eligible for official development assistance (ODA), including

- **relevant strategies, aid spending and programming, and other work.**
- **approach and work over the short-, medium- and long-term.**
- **whether the FCDO sufficiently targets and reaches the most in-need communities.**

Summary

Good nutrition is the cornerstone of development, playing a critical role in health, education, gender equality, and economic advancement. Malnutrition is a pressing issue, responsible for 45% of deaths in children under five. Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) of Zero Hunger includes ensuring everyone has access to safe, adequate, and nutritious food and ending all forms of malnutrition. This includes achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, as well as enhancing the resilience of food systems to climate change. While significant progress has been achieved in the past, this has now gone into reverse. Ongoing challenges such as conflict, escalating climate change, and the persisting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic have led to an increase in hunger and food insecurity since 2015.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP) over a quarter of a billion people across 58 countries and territories are facing acute food insecurity or worse.¹ Severe reductions to WFP funding have meant scaling back assistance in many of the world's hotspots including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Jordan, Palestine, South Sudan, Somalia, and Syria.² Current projections suggest that nearly 600 million people will still be facing hunger by 2030.³ 45 million children suffer from wasting (7% of children under five globally), more than double the SDG 2 goal of less than 3%.⁴

Progress to achieve SDG 2 will require integrated approaches across the short medium, and long-term which should include:

- **Scaling up treatment of severe malnutrition and preventing future cases** by increasing coverage of proven and cost-effective interventions for mothers and children. With an estimated two million children dying of malnutrition every year,

¹ FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises (2023) GRFC 2023.

Rome. <https://www.fsinplatform.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/GRFC2023-compressed.pdf>

² Bryant, E. & Khorsandi, P. (2023) Cost of cuts: Funding shortfalls threaten to push millions facing hunger to brink of starvation. World Food Programme. <https://www.wfp.org/stories/cost-cuts-funding-shortfalls-threaten-push-millions-facing-hunger-brink-starvation>

³ United Nations (2023) Goal 2: Zero Hunger. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

⁴ United Nations (2023) Goal 2: Zero Hunger. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

there is an urgent need to expand access to treatment with therapeutic foods and scale up proven interventions to prevent malnutrition occurring in the first place.

- **Investing in sustainable food systems** to ensure access to nutritious food and prevent malnutrition. Research and development (R&D) into affordable nutritious and climate resilient crops should be prioritised, starting with a reversal of the 36% cuts to nutrition-sensitive spending on agricultural research which took place in 2021. With global food demand projected to increase by 50% by 2050 and crop yields projected to decline by 30%, urgent action is required to supercharge R&D efforts.
- **Maximising global resources** available to address the nutrition crisis, through World Bank financing reform to release urgently needed finance; ramping up mechanisms such as the Child Nutrition Fund which can mobilise international and domestic resources through match funding; and leveraging the expertise of the City of London to draw in private capital through innovative financing initiatives.

The *Hunger to Health* initiative, launched in October 2023, offers a helpful integrated model on which to base this approach.⁵ Such interventions will need to be accompanied by concerted efforts to rebuild trust which was damaged after the abrupt cuts to funding following the decision to reduce Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.5% of GNI. To achieve this, the UK should establish enduring partnerships which draw on local knowledge and co-create programming. Long term nutrition contracts should be developed which commit to shared outcomes with partners, provide predictable financing with guarantees that funding will not be abruptly withdrawn, and underpin policy consistency. New approaches to partnerships should utilise match funding mechanisms to leverage in additional funds and crucially align priorities with partner countries. The International Development White Paper provides a welcome commitment to a reinvigorated partnership approach.

⁵ Hunger to Health (2023) <https://www.hunger2health.org/>

UK track record of action

The UK has been at the heart of international efforts to tackle global malnutrition and hunger over many decades. The establishment of the Department for International Development (DFID) in 1997, and the uplift in ODA spending which accompanied it, released significant funds to invest in action to tackle malnutrition, allowing the UK to develop expertise in global nutrition solutions.

In the 2010s, action to tackle global malnutrition and hunger was further prioritised by the UK Government. In 2012, the UK hosted a Global Hunger Summit during the London Olympic Games and convened the world's first Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, which saw donors collectively commit \$23 billion for nutrition between 2013-20, with the UK pledging a total of £1.2 billion for that period.⁶ With this investment, the UK reached over 50 million people with nutrition services between 2015 and 2020.⁷

Regrettably, the UK's reputation as an excellent and expert partner on global nutrition was undermined by the reduction in ODA from 0.7% of GNI to 0.5% in 2021, just at the point that the world was facing an unprecedented food and nutrition crisis. The ODA reduction led to rapid and drastic cuts to the UK's global nutrition funding, with severe and disproportionate impact on nutrition programming. Research conducted by Development Initiatives for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) indicated that nutrition spending was cut by more than 60% in 2021.⁸ The 2021 budget cuts were accompanied by the

⁶ Nutrition For Growth (2023) About N4G. <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/about/>

⁷ International Development Committee. (2021). Assessing DFID's results in nutrition Review: report from the Sub-Committee on the Work of ICAI. House of Commons. <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6824/documents/72297/default/>

⁸ Development Initiatives. (2023). FCDO's aid spending for nutrition: 2021. [https://devinit.org/resources/fcdos-aid-spending-for-nutrition-2021/#:~:text=Constant%202021%20prices.-,Source%3A%20Development%20Initiatives'%20calculations%20based%20on%20DAC%20CRS%20data.,%E2%80%93%20a%20decrease%20of%2061.8%25"](https://devinit.org/resources/fcdos-aid-spending-for-nutrition-2021/#:~:text=Constant%202021%20prices.-,Source%3A%20Development%20Initiatives'%20calculations%20based%20on%20DAC%20CRS%20data.,%E2%80%93%20a%20decrease%20of%2061.8%25\)

Government's de-prioritisation of action on global nutrition, with the 2022 International Development Strategy making no reference to the issue.⁹

Since the end of 2022, there has been a renewed focus on global nutrition and food security by the Government. The Integrated Review Refresh identified nutrition as a key priority and this has been reiterated by the Minister for International Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell, on many occasions. The recent Global Food Security Summit and the International Development White Paper have further reinvigorated the UK's approach, underlining the UK's recognition of the foundational nature of nutrition to other development outcomes. The commitment to champion a Global Compact on Nutrition referenced in the White Paper could also be significant in creating global momentum behind nutrition.

Nevertheless, despite the welcome reprioritisation of action to tackle malnutrition and hunger, there has been little new funding, with the UK's global nutrition budget still severely reduced from pre-2021 levels, despite the scale of the global nutrition crisis. In the context of pledges to return to ODA funding of 0.7% GNI when fiscal conditions allow, it is important to note the conclusion of ICAN UK's Stocktake Report on Nutrition¹⁰ that, if UK ODA was restored to this level and increases were applied evenly across portfolios, nutrition financing would still lag behind pre-cut distributions because of the initial disproportionate nature of the cuts.¹¹ It is crucial therefore that the Government's renewed focus on global nutrition is supported by increased funding overall and prioritises high-impact and cost-effective interventions.

Prioritising evidence-based and cost-effective interventions

Achieving zero hunger and tackling malnutrition inevitably requires a broad approach that addresses its root causes as well as encompasses actions that treat the condition and save lives – as highlighted in the Lancet's action framework for optimal foetal and child nutrition

⁹ FCDO. (2022). The UK Government's Strategy for International Development. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/628208d68fa8f5562179576f/uk-governments-strategy-international-development.pdf>

¹⁰ ICAN UK. (2023). ICAN UK Stocktake of UK aid for nutrition. <https://www.concern.org.uk/ican-uk-stocktake-uk-aid-nutrition>

¹¹ ICAN UK. (2023). ICAN UK Stocktake of UK aid for nutrition. <https://www.concern.org.uk/ican-uk-stocktake-uk-aid-nutrition>

and development.¹² These interventions include both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes. The latest evidence in the Lancet series specified several high-impact and evidence-based interventions.¹³ Among these are key nutrition-specific interventions that stand out for their scalability and effectiveness. These include emergency therapeutic foods such as Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), Vitamin A supplements, support for breastfeeding, and prenatal multiple micronutrient supplementation ('Power 4' interventions). Although progress has been made, there are significant gaps in coverage that require action to effectively make progress towards SDG 2. Less than one in four children with wasting have access to treatment such as emergency therapeutic foods, only 41% of babies are exclusively breastfed globally, over one third of children don't receive Vitamin A supplementation, and, despite about 195 million pregnancies needing multiple micronutrient supplementation in 2019, just five million received them.¹⁴

Despite the strong evidence base, there has been a significant disparity between funding allocated to nutrition-specific programmes compared to nutrition-sensitive programmes. In 2020 spending on nutrition-specific programmes decreased by 25%, whereas spending on nutrition-sensitive programmes increased by 19.5%.¹⁵ The most recently published nutrition spending review showed nutrition-specific spending to be at the lowest level since 2011.¹⁶ This shift in funding suggests that the UK is not addressing malnutrition as effectively as it could. As noted above, the UK surpassed its previous goal of reaching 50 million people with nutrition services ahead of schedule. This success was achieved during the same period which witnessed a peak in nutrition-specific spending. Although the UK pledged £1.5 billion over eight years at the last N4G Summit, the pledge notably lacked a target for the number of people to be reached with nutrition interventions, or a commitment on the proportion of the

¹² The Lancet. 2021. Maternal and child undernutrition progress. Vol. 397, No. 10282. <https://www.thelancet.com/pb/assets/raw/Lancet/stories/series/nutrition-eng.pdf>

¹³ The Lancet. 2021. Maternal and child undernutrition progress. Vol. 397, No. 10282. <https://www.thelancet.com/pb/assets/raw/Lancet/stories/series/nutrition-eng.pdf>

¹⁴ Hunger to Health. 2023. <https://www.hunger2health.org/>

¹⁵ ICAN UK. (2023). ICAN UK Stocktake of UK aid for nutrition. <https://www.concern.org.uk/ican-uk-stocktake-uk-aid-nutrition>, pg. 9

¹⁶ Development Initiatives. (2023). FCDO's aid spending for nutrition: 2021. <https://devinit.org/resources/fcdos-aid-spending-for-nutrition-2021/#:~:text=Constant%202021%20prices,-,Source%3A%20Development%20Initiatives'%20calculations%20based%20on%20DAC%20CRS%20data.,%E2%80%93%20a%20decrease%20of%2061.8%25>.

pledge dedicated to nutrition-specific funding, which had been the case for the previous N4G pledge (20%).¹⁷

While both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific funding are required, without safeguarding commitments to nutrition-specific spending there is a danger that these high-impact, evidence-based programmes will be deprioritised. UAMH urges the FCDO to specify the proportion of the £1.5 billion pledged at N4G that will be spent on nutrition-specific interventions, as it has done previously, with a floor of 20%, representing the figure specified in the previous N4G pledge, in line with ICAN UK best practice.¹⁸

Improvements in current practices

The majority of children suffering from wasting (over 75%) have little or no access to RUTF. This lack of access is often due to RUTF not being included in the essential medicines and commodities lists of countries, coupled with low procurement levels.

During the recent Global Food Security Summit, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched their new global guidelines, supported by the FCDO, for the treatment and prevention of wasting. A key change in these guidelines is the addition of RUTF to the WHO's Essential Medicines List (EML) for the first time, a list that outlines the most vital medicines needed in a healthcare system.

The inclusion of RUTF on the EML not only underscores its vital role in effective health systems but also empowers local nutrition advocates to push for RUTF's incorporation into national EMLs. Successfully adopting and applying these guidelines will necessitate committed diplomatic efforts within countries, a role that the UK is well placed to support.

¹⁷ ICAN UK. (2023). ICAN UK Stocktake of UK aid for nutrition. <https://www.concern.org.uk/ican-uk-stocktake-uk-aid-nutrition>

¹⁸ ICAN UK. (2023). ICAN UK Stocktake of UK aid for nutrition. <https://www.concern.org.uk/ican-uk-stocktake-uk-aid-nutrition>

Gender-sensitive programming

More than one billion adolescent girls and women worldwide suffer from undernutrition¹⁹ and there are 150 million more women and girls facing hunger than men and boys.²⁰ However, overall spending cuts have led to the FCDO significantly reducing spending on gender-relevant nutrition programmes from almost US\$850 million in 2020 to less than US\$350 million in 2021.²¹ To make improvements to gender-sensitive programming and improve reaching those most in need, we recommend that the FCDO:

- ensure their data collection methods are gender-sensitive including disaggregating data by sex and age to identify gender-specific needs and coverage trends in programme planning as well as evaluation;
- develop and publish a clear framework that outlines how it uses the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gender-equality marker amongst other gender-relevant indicators to ensure clearer tracking and greater adaptability of relevant programmes where needed; and,
- support the inclusion of gender-equitable policies and strategies at local, national, and international levels and recognise their relevance during crisis responses.

The way the FCDO assesses its work in tackling hunger and malnutrition and if these measures and markers are adequate

Tracking and assessment of nutrition markers are essential to ensuring transparency and understanding of the FCDO's priorities. Some key indicators from SSDG 2, such as stunting and wasting levels, are notably included in the monitoring framework of FCDO's Ending

¹⁹ UNICEF. (2023). Undernourished and Overlooked .<https://data.unicef.org/resources/undernourished-and-overlooked/>

²⁰ CARE International. (2022). 150 million more women than men were hungry in 2021 – CARE analysis finds .
<https://www.care-international.org/news/150-million-more-women-men-were-hungry-2021-care-analysis-finds>

²¹Development Initiatives. (2023). FCDO's aid spending for nutrition: 2021. <https://devinit.org/resources/fcdos-aid-spending-for-nutrition-2021/#:~:text=Constant%202021%20prices,-,Source%3A%20Development%20Initiatives'%20calculations%20based%20on%20DAC%20CRS%20data.,%E2%80%93%20a%20decrease%20of%2061.8%25>.

Preventable Deaths strategy. However, while this is a welcome alignment, there are some limitations that should be noted in programmatic monitoring.

Stunting rates, which change over extended periods, are not easily linked to short-term projects.²² To measure short- to medium-term progress, tracking the coverage of high-impact interventions such as the Power 4 would provide a clearer indication of reach and overall effectiveness of FCDO's programming. Including such coverage metrics in monitoring frameworks is essential for a comprehensive understanding of progress towards achieving SDG 2.

The UK's past success in delivering effective nutrition programmes can be attributed to several factors but critical amongst them was the establishment of a clear target to reach 50 million people by 2020 (which was achieved ahead of schedule) and the associated increase in relevant ODA spending.²³ As previously referenced, a specific reach target was absent from the 2022 N4G pledge of £1.5 billion. This is regrettable given the bi-directional relationship between monitoring frameworks and progress. While appropriate markers are key in effectively monitoring progress (for example, how many people are reached with high-impact interventions, such as multiple micronutrient supplementation), Government should not overlook the role that a public commitment to specific reach targets can play in driving progress by ensuring accountability for outcomes and incentivising the provision of appropriate funding to reach them.

Therefore, to improve FCDO's measures and markers in tackling hunger and malnutrition, UAMH urges the UK to commit to a reach target attached to its 2022 financial pledge of £1.5 billion, as well as any future pledges. Additionally, it is recommended that FCDO include coverage targets and corresponding indicators, using select high-impact interventions in future strategies and programme planning.

²² Nandita, P. et al. 2018. Use and Misuse of Stunting as a Measure of Child Health. *The Journal of Nutrition*. 148.3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S002231662210787X>

²³ ICAN UK. 2023. ICAN UK Stocktake of UK aid for nutrition. <https://www.concern.org.uk/ican-uk-stocktake-uk-aid-nutrition>

The FCDO or other Government departments' work with other country donors and multilaterally to work on achieving SDG 2 and food security

The UK Government has some key opportunities to work with other country donors and multilateral partners to advance the global nutrition agenda. We welcome the commitment in the International Development White Paper to champion a new Global Compact on Nutrition, mainstreaming nutrition in food and agriculture programmes, encouraging food industry accountability, and scaling up work on child malnutrition. We look forward to greater detail as the concept is developed.

Financing mechanisms

The World Bank Group is one of the largest sources of funding in low- and middle-income countries and has increased its nutrition commitments significantly in the past decade. However, there remain significant further opportunities for the World Bank to create greater leverage and invest in key interventions to maximise their impact.

Replenishment of the World Bank International Development Association: The forthcoming negotiations on the replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) present a key opportunity for the UK to engage with partners to ensure that countries have access to the resources they need to address nutrition and food security crises.

The IDA is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries by providing zero- to low-interest loans and grants for programmes that aim to boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions. IDA Donor Partners meet every three years to determine IDA policies and financial commitments.

The IDA Mid-Term Review, which takes place in December this year, is an assessment of midway progress on the delivery of policy and financial commitments in the current IDA20 financing cycle. It kickstarts what will be a year of negotiations for the next financing cycle, known as IDA21. In partnership with other donors, the UK should take up calls for action in a number of areas in these negotiations:

- **Include a special theme on Nutrition and Food Security in in the next financing cycle for the International Development Association (IDA):** The UK should press for a special theme of Nutrition and Food Security to be included in IDA21 to underscore the critical role of nutrition in development. This could include committing to invest in evidence-based maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) interventions in at least 30 countries with high prevalence of stunting, wasting, low birth weight and/or anaemia in women.
- **Increased funding for the IDA’s Crisis Response Window (CRW) and Early Response Financing (ERF):** The CRW provides funding to help IDA countries respond to exceptionally severe crises. Three types of severe crises are covered: natural disasters, public health emergencies, and economic crises. The CRW also provides **ERF** to help IDA countries respond early to slower-onset food insecurity and disease outbreaks. ERF can help prevent these events from escalating into major crises. It also helps incentivise resilience building.

The UK should work with other donor nations to increase the CRW and ERF and urge countries to address acute malnutrition in their crisis preparedness and response plans. The triggering criteria for food security crises in the CRW should also be revised to be more sensitive to earlier signs of a potential crisis and ensure they clearly reflect malnutrition.

- **Reform the IDA21 Results Measurement Systems (RMS)** to ensure that nutrition is reflected more clearly through stronger indicators.
- **Increase IDA funding levels and increase the pace of disbursements** given the ongoing food and nutrition security crisis and extraordinary needs countries still face.

The Child Nutrition Fund is a key mechanism which can help the UK Government leverage match funding, build partnerships and buy-in from partner countries, and mobilise additional resources to fund immediate nutrition-specific interventions for the most vulnerable children affected by malnutrition. It is a coordinated global effort to support ending child wasting

through an innovative financing mechanism. Led by UNICEF with support from the UK and other partners, it incentivises country-led efforts to accelerate the scale up of essential actions for the early prevention, detection, and treatment of child wasting in early childhood, including breastfeeding support, emergency therapeutic foods, and micronutrient supplementation support.²⁴

We welcome the inauguration of the fund and the initial investment of £16 million at the Global Food Security Summit. However, this level of funding is not significant enough to meet the current global need. The investments of philanthropists and other donors is an important element of the fund, but the UK Government should consider increasing its investment in the CNF to meet those of philanthropic donors, as well as continue to champion the fund at international fora.

Innovative Financing: The UK should also utilise the City of London’s reputation as a world-leading financial centre and global hub for innovative financing to attract more investment into tackling hunger and malnutrition. Significant potential exists for innovative financing in nutrition but unlocking it is not straightforward. To do so will require the Government to create a proactive and supportive policy environment and get behind efforts to bring together the specific set of technical skills in finance and nutrition which are required.

Trillions of dollars have flowed into ‘Environment, Social and Governance’ (ESG) investments in recent years, with sectors developing across a range of innovative financing categories, including impact investing, results-based financing, blended finance, insurance, guarantees, and capital market bonds. The nutrition sector is lagging in this space, for example, there have only been two capital market bonds with nutrition components issued compared to 634 green bonds.²⁵ There is huge potential then for creative innovative financing solutions to be led by the City of London and expanded internationally.

²⁴ Child Nutrition Fund. (2023). <https://www.childnutritionfund.org/>

²⁵ Power of Nutrition. (2023). MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR NUTRITION. https://www.powerofnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Nutrition-Ventures_innovative-finance-in-nutrition.pdf, p. 2

Reform of the Global Financial System: The UK's support for Global South-led initiatives such as the Bridgetown Agenda, which aims to reform the global finance system to leverage in additional resources to support sustainable development, is welcome and should be continued. The UK should also use its voice in international organisations to champion initiatives led by high-burden countries to unlock resources specifically aimed at tackling hunger and malnutrition.

The FCDO's work on achieving food security over the short, medium, and long-term including its work on food systems, climate resilience, and agricultural sustainability

Research and innovation are crucial to achieving sustainable, long-term financing of climate resilient food systems. The UK has world-leading research and innovative practices in food systems and next-generation agriculture across academia, NGOs, and the private sectors. For example, University College London (UCL)'s research on women's diets and foodborne diseases; FCDO-funded Drivers of Food Choice research programme; Queen's University, Belfast's world-leading Institute for Global Food Security; and, other significant investments have ensured a leadership role for UK institutions in improving food systems. The Government's 2017 Industrial Strategy committed to spending 2.4% of GDP on R&D by 2027, and the 2020 R&D Roadmap acknowledged the commitment to develop the R&D ecosystems in ODA-eligible countries.²⁶ There is significant potential in these commitments which the UK should capitalise on.

Furthermore, there is more work to be done on unlocking climate finance for nutrition purposes and ensuring those who are most vulnerable, such as small holder farmers, are able to access this. Climate-induced undernutrition is highest in communities which have high levels of climate-sensitive livelihoods, such as small holder farmers or pastoralists. These farmers know best what is needed in their communities (such as the distinction between the use of climate resilient seeds and the additional benefits of nutrient rich soil) but currently small-scale farmers only receive 1.7% of climate finance.²⁷ The UK should ensure that

²⁶ Global Commission on Adaptation 2019, Verhage et al 2018, Springmann 2016, EAT-Lancet 2019, Fanzo 2019

²⁷ IFAD (2020) Financing climate adaptation and resilient agricultural livelihoods. <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/publication/examining-the-climate-finance-gap-for-small-scaleagriculture>

international climate finance, which is additional to ODA, is made available to small holder farmers to ensure holistic climate resilient food systems are funded.

Summary recommendations

To improve effective progress towards SDG2, the UK should:

- **Support scaling up of high-impact and cost-effective interventions** as part of wider efforts to increase support for nutrition-specific interventions. These interventions include emergency therapeutic foods, vitamin A supplementation, breastfeeding support, and prenatal multiple micronutrient supplementation (Power 4), amongst others.
 - This should also be accompanied by a commitment of a target spend on nutrition-specific interventions, as it has done previously, with a floor of 20%, representing the figure specified in the previous N4G pledge.
- **Continue to support country national plans** as part of efforts to improve the effectiveness of nutrition programmes. This entails supporting countries through strong partnerships in successfully adopting and applying the WHO guidelines for the treatment and prevention of wasting.
- **Improve monitoring and evaluation practices** to effectively track progress.
 - Increase gender-sensitivity of their nutrition programmes as part of reaching those most in need. This includes improving FCDO's data collection methods to ensure they are gender-sensitive including disaggregating data as appropriate, developing and publishing a clear framework outlining how FCDO's current markers and indicators are used, and supporting the inclusion of gender-equitable policies and strategies at local, national, and international levels.
 - Include tracking coverage of key high-impact interventions such as the Power 4 to provide a clearer indication of the reach and overall effectiveness of FCDO's programming.

- **Outline a reach population target (coverage)** as part of any future and existing financial pledges, as it has done previously to encourage greater efficiencies in programming.
- **Invest in sustainable food systems** to ensure access to nutritious food and prevent malnutrition. The UK has world-leading research and innovative practices in food systems and next-generation agriculture across academia, NGOs, and the private sectors which the UK should capitalise on.
- **Be a key voice** in maximising global resources available to address the nutrition crisis. This includes support for Global South-led initiatives such as the Bridgetown Agenda, which aims to reform the global finance system to leverage additional resources to support sustainable development. The UK should also use its voice in international organisations to champion initiatives led by high-burden countries to unlock resources specifically aimed at tackling hunger and malnutrition.
 - The UK should utilise its key position on innovative financing mechanisms such as the Child Nutrition Fund which can mobilise international and domestic resources through its match funding mechanism.
 - In partnership with other donors, the UK should join calls for reform of World Bank financing to release urgently needed finance for nutrition and food security.